



TO: Active Clergy, Wardens and Parish Administrators

FROM: The Rev. Canon Augusta Anderson

RE: Resources for the 98th Annual Convention of the Diocese

Bishop José and I are grateful for the many ways you serve Jesus in your parish and the wider Church, especially during these unique times. Earlier this summer, in consultation with the Executive Council of the diocese, Bishop José announced that we will hold the 98th Annual Convention, November 13-14, virtually. As you can imagine, we are attending to many new logistics and details in order to host this event. Over the next couple of weeks, we will provide additional information to you and your parish delegates so that everyone is equipped and empowered to participate in convention. We appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and follow the provided links in preparation for our Annual Convention in November.

We are thrilled to share that Dr. Catherine Meeks will be our guest speaker at Convention! Dr. Meeks, PhD, is the Founding Executive Director of the [Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing](#). Prior to the center's opening she chaired its precursor, Beloved Community: Commission for Dismantling Racism for the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. A sought-after teacher and workshop leader, Catherine brings four decades of experience to the efforts of transforming the dismantling racism work in Atlanta. Catherine is the retired Clara Carter Acree Distinguished Professor of Socio-Cultural Studies from Wesleyan College. She is the author of seven books including her recently co-authored book, *Passionate for Justice: Ida B Wells as Prophet for Our Times* and is the editor of the bestselling book, *Living Into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America* which focuses on racial healing and reconciliation, published in 2016. She is a regular contributor to *Hospitality*, a newspaper published monthly by the Open Door Community. Catherine is involved with prison work and faithfully visits a person who was formally on death row and she is committed to working for the abolition of the death penalty, writing and helping to create spaces where transformation and rebirth can occur. Catherine holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Clark Atlanta University and a PhD from Emory University.

We also want to share that we will host a Pre-Convention Virtual Road Tour and it will roll out on Wednesday, September 9, Thursday, September 17, and Monday, September 28. The Treasurer of the Diocese and other members of Bishop José's staff will present the proposed 2020 budget. This will be a time for clergy and lay leaders, especially lay delegates, to offer feedback and suggestions to the funding of our mission in the next year. Please know pre-registration is required for this Zoom gathering. Prior to the event, we will email all registered participants the Zoom link. You will find the link for registration on the diocesan website and in the weekly diocesan e-news.

Likewise, New Delegate orientation meeting will be a virtual event on Monday, November 9 at 7pm. New delegates will need to register for this orientation event and we will then email all new delegates the Zoom link. More information is on our website.

Bishop José looks forward to gathering with everyone beginning Friday, November 13, when we will live stream our Convention worship service, where the bishop will offer his Convention Address. Convention convenes on Saturday morning at promptly 9:00 a.m. sharp on Zoom and we will conclude all business by Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

This year, we continue to simplify both the process as well as all platforms used to prepare for Convention, including registration, communication and delivery of any convention materials. This year we will once again utilize the Whova App for communication, voting, and posting documents or other media presentations. Likewise, information and materials will be located on the designated convention page of our diocesan website. One of the essential documents that your parish will need to complete in order to send delegates is the **Vestry Certificate of Election; this will be due no later than October 18, 2020.**

On the convention web-page you will find the primary [registration link](#) for anyone who attends Convention (clergy, delegates, spouses, non-voting visitors). You will also find all secondary registrations (for Budget Road Tour, New Delegate Orientation, and Pre-Convention Workshops) on the diocesan website.

Likewise, on the convention web page is information and the form for nominating persons to elected positions. We encourage everyone to prayerfully discern qualified and passionate individuals who are willing to serve and actively participate in the ministry of our diocese.

Again, thank you for your ministries. If you have questions, please feel to contact me at the Diocesan Offices (828-265-6656).

In Christ,

Augusta Anderson

The Rev. Canon Augusta A. Anderson
Canon to the Ordinary & Chief of Staff