

11th Bishop of Oregon Transition Information

Due to the continued threat of COVID-19, and out of an abundance of concern for the health of our Candidates and the entirety of the Diocese, the Standing Committee has directed the Transition Committee to create both Walkabout and Electing Convention plans that abide by State of Oregon distancing guidelines, including limiting the number of individuals gathering in one place. This has been done and the plans have been approved by the Standing Committee and Board of Trustees.

Electing Convention Information

It is the goal of the Transition Committee to structure an Electing Convention that will allow all eligible voters to have a voice in the election of our next Bishop, while also protecting everyone's health. With the increased restrictions recommended by our State authorities, it was determined that an all-remote Electing Convention would be advisable.

In order to participate in this Electing Convention, each Lay and Clergy Delegate will need

- a device on which to connect with Zoom (desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone)
- a reliable Wi-Fi connection
- a unique email address (one address per Delegate)

It is the responsibility of the clergy-in-charge or senior warden (if no clergy is present) of each congregation to ensure that members of their delegations have the tools they need to attend and participate in the Electing Convention.

Practice Sessions

Practice Sessions will be held during the first week of August. On **Monday, August 3rd**, you will receive an email inviting you to attend your choice of the following sessions:

- **Wednesday, August 5th, 7pm**
- **Thursday, August 6th, 3pm**
- **Saturday, August 8th, 10am**
- **Saturday, August 8th, 11:30am (Spanish)**

Please make every effort to attend at least one practice session so that you will be prepared for the actual Electing Convention and so that the Diocesan staff and Transition Committee can ensure that all functions run smoothly.

Delegate Registration Deadline

Deadline to submit Lay and Clergy Delegates was March 31, 2020 or within 30 days of Annual Meetings. All Lay and Clergy Delegates must be registered with the Diocesan Office no later than **Monday, August 24th, 5pm**. No changes to registration can be made after this time. This includes, but is not limited to, changes in Delegates as well as email address changes. Prior to the August 24 deadline, changes may be submitted by clergy-in-charge using the change form found here: <https://tinyurl.com/DelegateChange>.

- If you are a Lay Delegate who will not be able to attend, please notify your clergy-in-charge immediately so that an alternate can be certified.
- If you are a Clergy Delegate and will not be attending Electing Convention, please send your request to be excused to the Bishop (bishop@diocese-oregon.org) at your earliest convenience.

Invitations to Convention

On **Thursday, August 27th**, individual invitations to attend the Electing Convention will be emailed to each Lay and Clergy Delegate. These emails will be sent to the email address that has been provided to the Diocesan Office for each Delegate.

Electing Convention

We will gather on **Saturday, August 29th**, starting at 8:30am on Zoom. Each Delegate must enter the meeting on an individual device through the registration link contained in that email and must provide the same email address to verify themselves upon entry. Votes will be taken and tallied separately for Lay and Clergy Delegates via the Zoom polling function until a Bishop is elected. Each vote will be preceded by prayer and meditation. Once the election is certified and attested to, we hope that our Bishop Elect will join the Zoom meeting.

We encourage delegations, when possible, to gather together for Convention. Perhaps your church or some other convenient venue has reliable Wi-Fi and enough space for the delegation to be well distanced one from another. In such a setting, assistance could be at the ready and conversation among the delegates can occur between votes. Under no circumstances do we recommend having more than 10 people assembled together, foregoing the wearing of face masks, or failing to observe appropriate physical distancing.

We appreciate your understanding of the necessary changes in the Walkabout and Electing Convention in order to keep health and safety of the Candidates as well as the people of the Diocese of Oregon as a top priority. We are asking each and every member, Clergy or Lay, to do what is needed to avail yourself of the information on the Candidates as well as prepare to attend Electing Convention. This is truly a team effort!

More so than in most election circumstances, we especially ask your prayers for this process. We must not forget that, ultimately, the election of a Bishop is the work of the Holy Spirit, and so we ask you to call upon that Holy Spirit in preparation for our Election.

Yours in Christ+

11th Bishop of Oregon Transition Committee