

## *The Diocese of Olympia*

### 2019 Convention Guide

#### *About this guide*

This Convention Guide is intended to provide Convention members with practical information concerning the Convention and how it functions. Additional questions concerning the Convention may be addressed to Canon for Governance & Human Resources, [Dede Moore](#).

#### *The Diocese of Olympia*

The Diocese of Olympia, encompassing the Episcopal congregations—parishes, missions, parochial missions and designated mission stations—in western Washington State, is bounded by the Cascade Mountains, Oregon, the Pacific Ocean, and Canada. Every baptized Episcopalian resident in western Washington is a member of the Diocese.

The authority of the Diocese is vested in and exercised by the Bishop, the Convention, and the Standing Committee. The Diocese is governed by its Constitution and Canons (laws). A copy of the [Constitution and Canons](#) is provided to each congregation and is available on the diocesan website.

The Diocese of Olympia is incorporated under the laws of Washington State, under the name of “The Diocese of Olympia, Inc.” This corporation has responsibility for the custody, control, and investment of all trust funds of the Diocese, and holds legal title to all diocesan property, including the property of all missions, and certain specialized ministries not separately incorporated. A Board of Directors, appointed by the bishop and approved by the Convention, governs the corporation.

#### *The Diocesan Convention*

The Diocesan Convention consists of the bishop, (and the bishop coadjutor or the bishop suffragan if there be one); canonically resident clergy who reside or work in the Diocese; lay delegates elected from each parish and mission congregation in union with the Convention; lay members of the Diocesan

Council, Standing Committee, and Board of Directors; lay conveners and assistant conveners of the ten regional ministries; one young adult (16–21) from each Regional Ministry; and the Officers of the Diocese (if lay persons) [*Article VII*].

Parish and mission representation is based on communicant strength of the congregation [*Canon Two*]:

Under 200	2 delegates
201–400	4 delegates
401–600	6 delegates
601–900	8 delegates
901–1200	10 delegates
Over 1200	12 delegates

#### *Current Officers of the Convention*

<b>President</b>	The Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickel
<b>Secretary</b>	Karen Gusse
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbara Fox
<b>Chancellor</b>	Judith Andrews, Esq.
<b>Historiographer</b>	Carle Griffin, OCP
<b>Archivist</b>	Diane Wells

#### *What the Convention Does*

The Convention elects certain officers, ratifies a budget, sets assessment levels for financing the operation of the Diocese, admits congregations as missions or parishes (and may suspend them), votes upon resolutions, elects General Convention deputies and alternates, hears the bishop’s annual address, and conducts such other business as the Convention may determine. In addition, the meeting of Convention provides an opportunity for worship, information sharing by exhibitors and others, and fellowship.

#### *Order of Business*

The Convention adopts an order of business upon recommendation of the Committee on Dispatch of Business.

## ***Rules of Order***

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Except when in conflict with the Constitution or Canons of the Episcopal Church or of the Diocese of Olympia, the latest revised edition of Robert's Rules of Order governs the conduct of Convention business. By unanimous consent, action may be taken that is not in contravention of any provision in the Constitution or Canons of the Episcopal Church or those of the Diocese of Olympia.

### ***Speaking on the floor of Convention***

Any Convention member, including those given Voice through the Committee on Privilege, may speak upon recognition by the president of Convention. Alternates do not have privilege to speak on the convention floor.

### ***Voting***

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Beginning in 2019, the convention will utilize and electronic "audience response system (ARS)" for votes. If needed, to confirm accuracy a hand vote may be taken. Electronic ballots using the ARS voting system will be used for the election of diocesan officers, members of the Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, and General Convention deputies and alternates. Laity and clergy deliberate in one body and vote as individuals, with each delegate present entitled to one vote. On most matters, a majority vote is decisive. In some instances, the votes of clergy and laity must be counted separately. This is called a "vote by orders." Upon the request of any five members of the Convention, the two orders vote separately.

### ***Resolutions***

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Canon Four requires that resolutions be submitted to the Resolutions Committee at least 45 days prior to the Convention. Resolutions submitted by September 25, 2019, will be considered by the Resolutions Committee and included in its report to Convention.

According to Canon Four, any resolution not submitted to the Resolutions Committee at least 45 days prior to Convention may be considered by the Convention only if submitted in writing to the Committee no later than six (6) hours after the convening of Convention, and if consideration of

such resolution is approved by a majority vote of the Convention. When any resolution is made on the floor of Convention, or a resolution is amended, a copy must be immediately provided to the Secretary of Convention.

### ***Annual Diocesan Operating Budget***

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The bishop and the Diocesan Council prepare the annual diocesan operating budget. In accordance with Canon Six, the operating budget is presented to the Convention for ratification; the budget may be amended by the following the guidelines for resolutions.

Any proposed amendment that calls for new or increased spending must include an estimate of the additional costs and must specify budget line item reductions or other revenue sources that would maintain a balanced budget. Any proposed amendment that calls for reduction in spending must specify the budget line items to be affected. Any proposed budget amendment must be submitted by written resolution at least 45 days prior to the Convention (September 25, 2019).

### ***Assessment***

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Canon Seven provides that an annual assessment be levied upon each parish and mission congregation of the Diocese, based on the "net disposable income" (NDI) available for general parish/mission purposes. Assessment calculation is based on real-time NDI for the previous month. Thus, January NDI is used as the basis for the February payment, February for March, etc.

The assessment rate is set by the Convention for the second succeeding year following the Convention. Thus, the 2019 Convention will set the assessment rate for 2021.

If it is necessary to increase the rate of assessment for a particular year, the Convention may, by two-thirds affirmative vote, levy a special assessment upon the parishes and missions. Such a special assessment is limited to one year.