



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
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MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
414-272-3028

To: The Clergy of the Diocese of Milwaukee and the Wardens of the Parishes of the Diocese of Milwaukee

From: The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller

Date: June 23, 2020

Re: **Notice of Special Convention**

Each member of the Clergy entitled to membership in the Convention of the Diocese and Wardens of the Parishes in union with the Convention are hereby notified that as Bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee, I am convening a Special Convention (the “Special Convention”) on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 4 p.m., in the outdoor space at St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church, N27 W24000 Paul Court, Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072. I expect that the Special Convention will last no longer than 20 minutes. I am convening the Special Convention in order to satisfy legal and parliamentary requirements to permit the Annual Convention of the Diocese to be held in a virtual format this year.

The sole order of business of the Special Convention shall be to consider an amendment to Canon 4 to permit a virtual or electronic meeting solely for the annual Convention of the Diocese to be held in the calendar year 2020. The proposed amendment is to add the underlined language to Canon 4:

Canon 4 (Of the Meeting of Convention)

The Convention of the Church in the Diocese shall be held at such time and place as the Bishop, or the Ecclesiastical Authority, shall designate; provided that the annual Convention of the Diocese to be held in the calendar year 2020 shall be conducted through the use of remote meeting services designated by the Bishop, or the Ecclesiastical Authority, in consultation with the Dispatch of Business, the Parliamentarian and the Chancellor, that support anonymous voting and support visible displays identifying those participating, identifying those seeking recognition to speak, showing (or permitting the retrieval of) the text of pending motions, and showing the results of votes. The electronic meeting of such Convention shall be subject to all rules of order adopted by such Convention to govern them, which may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for Members’ participation. Any such rules shall supersede any conflicting rules in the parliamentary authority, but may not otherwise conflict with or alter any provision of the Constitution or Canons of this Diocese. An anonymous vote conducted through the designated internet meeting service shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the Canons or rules of order that a vote be conducted by ballot.

In light of continuing State and Diocesan restrictions on public gatherings, the Clergy of the Diocese are expressly excused from mandatory attendance at the Special Convention, and Parishes may chose not to send Lay Deputies to the Special Convention.

However, Article IV of our Constitution requires that this notice direct Parishes to elect Lay Deputies to the Special Convention. Each Parish is entitled to choose up to four Deputies from each Parish, who shall be adult communicants in good standing and resident in the Parish from which they are chosen. If a Parish does opt to send Lay Deputies to the Special Convention, the election of such Lay Deputies shall be certified to the Convention by the Rector, the Wardens, or the Clerk of the Vestry by completing the attached form and submitting it to Barbara Klauber, Administrative Assistant, by email at info@diomil.org or by fax to 1-866-499-1973 no later than Thursday, July 9, 2020.

Any Clergy or Lay Deputy attending the Special Convention must register in advance by completing the attached form and submitting to it to the Diocese by email at info@diomil.org or by fax to 1-866-499-1973 no later than Thursday, July 9, 2020. No late or walk-in registration will be permitted.

Each Clergy and Lay Deputy attending the Special Convention shall be required to comply with social distancing guidelines and wear a protective face mask. Clergy and Lay Deputies are asked not to attend if they have been exposed in the two weeks prior to the Special Convention to anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.

The Special Convention will be available for live-stream viewing on Facebook and YouTube. Please note that Clergy and Lay Deputies who view the Special Convention on the live-stream format will not have voice or vote.

Please know that you remain in my prayers during this challenging time.

SAM/bjk