



TO: Active Clergy, Wardens and Parish Administrators
FROM: The Rev. Canon Augusta Anderson
RE: Resources for the 99th 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. We appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and following the provided links in preparation for our Annual Convention in November.

The 99th Annual Convention, November 12-13, will be held in Hickory, NC. We will gather on Friday, November 12 at Ascension Episcopal Church for both the pre-convention workshop and Convention Eucharist. On Saturday, November 13, St. Albans Episcopal Church will host the business sessions of our annual Convention. We are deeply grateful for the clergy and lay leadership of both Ascension and St. Albans as well as all the leaders of the Foothills Deanery for helping host Convention 2021.

We are thrilled to share that we have four distinguished speakers at Convention! As we prepare to celebrate our Centennial as a Diocese, Bishop José believes that an integral part of our discovery of who we are and discernment of where God is calling us as a Diocese, is the vital learning and honoring of the indigenous land we are blessed to live on and the Indigenous peoples who have called WNC home for millennia before the establishment of the Episcopal Church in Western North Carolina. It is our pleasure to introduce you to Mr. James Bradley, Dr. Trey Adcock, the Rev. Dr. Bude VanDyke and the Rev. Dr. Brad Hauff. To learn more about our Convention Speakers, please visit our [Speaker Bio page](#).

We will offer a pre-convention workshop at Ascension Episcopal Church with our speakers on Friday, November 12. This workshop begins at 9:30 am with registration and concludes at 3:30 pm. Registration for this event can be found on our Convention webpage.

We also want to share that we will host a ***Pre-Convention Budget Road Tour*** on the following dates and locations:

Tuesday, September 28, 6pm at Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Newton
Wednesday, September 29, 6pm at St. Georges Episcopal Church, Asheville
Thursday, September 30, 6pm at Grace Episcopal Church in the Mountains, Waynesville

The Treasurer of the Diocese and other members of Bishop José's staff will present the proposed 2021 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.

New Delegate Orientation meeting will continue to be a virtual event on Monday, November 8 at 6:30 pm. 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 12 for our Convention worship service at 6:00 p.m. at Ascension Episcopal Church, where the bishop will offer his Convention Address. Convention convenes on Saturday morning promptly at 9:00 a.m. at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Hickory and we will conclude all business by Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

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). There, you will find all secondary registrations; Budget Road Tour, New Delegate Orientation, and Pre-Convention Workshops. Please know there is a fee for each person attending Convention; this fee helps defray the costs associated with hosting this important event. You will also find links to area hotels that are providing a convention rate for those who need lodging. You will need to reserve hotel accommodations prior to October 1, 2021 when the hotels will release the reserved rooms to the general public.

Likewise, on the convention web page is information regarding 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 at (828)225-6656.

In Christ,

Augusta Anderson

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