

September 13, 2016

Dear Clergy and Delegates to Diocesan Convention,

I invite you to the 2016 Diocesan Convention which will be held November 11 and 12 in Superior, Wisconsin. I thank Fr. Steven Burns, the Wardens, Vestry, and People of St. Alban's who are hosting the Convention. Fr. Burns will be sending a separate letter to you outlining the hotel and meeting spaces. Fr. Aaron Zook will include an agenda and nominations report in a later mailing.

There will be three pre-convention hearings. Tentatively I want to meet at St. Alban's Spooner at 10:00 am on Saturday, October 22. On Saturday morning, November 5 at 10:00 am Christ Church LaCrosse will host the second hearing. The third hearing will be that same Saturday at 4 pm at Grace Church Menomonie. Clergy and delegates can attend any of the three hearings. This is an expanded opportunity to discuss the budget, resolutions, and nominations.

The program leader for this year's Convention is the Reverend Canon Ernie Bennett. For many years Ernie served as Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Central Florida. He currently is rector of St. James Church in Ormond Beach, Florida. The theme is "Being Made Whole for the Sake of the Gospel." As Ernie explained to me, "Often we have not fully appropriated what it means to be one in Christ. Often what people outside the Church see of us and what we are supposed to be are different. The reality and the ideal are at odds."

In addition to the normal elections, this year we will be electing deputies to the 2018 General Convention. We will elect four clergy and four lay deputies. There will be several alternates elected as well. Alternates need to know they are obligated to attend General Convention if one or more of the deputies cannot attend.

I look forward to seeing you at Convention. I hope all our congregations will be represented! With my love and best wishes, I am,

Your brother in Christ,
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