



The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

13 February 2026

MEMORANDUM TO: Delegates to the 55th Annual Convention
FROM: The Rt. Rev. J. Russell Kendrick
REFERENCE: 2nd Packet Study Material for the 2026 Diocesan Convention

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Russell".

Enclosed is study material for Diocesan Convention which includes: a Schedule of Events; List of Delegates; Reports; Budgets; and Standing Committee member and General Convention deputy nominations. **A PRINTED COPY OF THIS MATERIAL WILL BE IN YOUR CONVENTION REGISTRATION CHECK-IN PACKET.** If you find that you will be unable to attend the Convention, please forward this email to the alternate taking your place. Please refer to the reverse of this memorandum for some notes regarding the 2026 Diocesan Convention activities.

Also enclosed is general event information.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION – Please check-in during the scheduled times: Friday, February 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and Saturday, February 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Convention Center Lobby. If an alternate attends in place of a delegate, the alternate must register to be certified as a delegate. Attendees will receive their name badge and convention packet. Be sure to access our VPOLL voting system on your tablet or smartphone immediately following check-in. Details will be included in your packet.

NECROLOGY – Please complete the on-line form on the Diocesan website 2026 Diocesan Convention Necrology Reporting Form or email/hand to **Mary Poss** at the Convention registration desk [mary@diocgc.org], names of former clergy or lay delegates to Diocesan Conventions (including the Dioceses of Alabama and Florida which once included this diocese) who died since the 54th Annual Convention last year.

SPECIAL NOTE TO CLERGY – SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Holy Eucharist (Rite II). Clergy WILL VEST in alb or cassock/surplice with RED stole. We will have Renewal of Vows during the service.

Clergy, please assemble immediately following the close of Convention for the CLERGY PHOTO.

JRK/jdr

Notes regarding 2026 Diocesan Convention

YOUTH DELEGATES – Upon arrival to the convention, Youth Delegates are asked to gather in the **Convention Center Lobby** with the Youth Shepherd, Cecilia Archer.

REPORTS – Other than select presentations, Agency and Commission/Committee reports will be filed by title. Delegates are encouraged to read the reports included in this packet.

RULES OF ORDER – To assist first-time delegates, and possibly even some veterans, the Rules of Order for the Diocesan Convention are included in this packet for reference.

FIRST-TIME DELEGATE GUIDE – Also to assist first-time delegates is a guide created by Convention Secretary Rev. Katie Gillett which should answer questions you may have about the convention process.

ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS – There are pre-filed nominations for Standing Committee members. The Convention will be electing two (2) lay representatives and one (1) clergy representative for the Standing Committee, plus the bishop's nominees for Standing Committee.

ELECTION OF GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTIES – There are pre-filed nominations for General Convention deputies. The Convention will be electing four (4) lay representatives and four (4) clergy representatives to the General Convention of The Episcopal Church. More details about the GC are available at www.generalconvention.org.

DELEGATE CHANGES – Please report delegate changes to Jenn Roberts at by completing and emailing the delegate change form found in this packet.

PRAYER REQUESTS – The Order of the Daughters of the King®, will be praying for us all throughout the convention. There will be a basket in the main room to place your prayer requests.

CLERGY SPOUSE BRUNCH – All clergy spouses are invited to attend the Clergy Spouse breakfast on-site at the Hilton's main restaurant, *Salt*, hosted by Robin Kendrick, on Saturday, February 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH BANNERS – All congregations are invited to bring their church **banner with its stand**. Banners should be placed in the main ballroom. Please designate a member of your delegation to process with the banner during the Closing Eucharist on Saturday.

Other Important Details to Note

PRE-CONVENTION MEETING RECORDING – The recording of the Pre-Convention Meeting held on February 1, is available at www.diocgc.org/post/2026-pre-convention-meeting-recording.

BUDGET HEARING ON ZOOM – From **5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, February 26, 2026**. The proposed budget for 2026 will be presented online via ZOOM. This will provide an opportunity for delegates to better understand the Diocese's finances and have answered any questions they may have. All delegates are invited and encouraged to attend this hearing. The Convention Committee on Finance will present its report to the Convention Friday afternoon, for a vote on the 2026 budget and Convention offerings.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87029215774>

Meeting ID: 870 2921 5774

PRINTED MATERIALS – All registered delegates will receive printed versions of all the documents in this packet which will also be available on our website at www.diocgc.org/2026-diocesan-convention.

QUORUM AND VOTING – All voting delegates are required to sign into the VPOLL system by the start of each day's business sessions. Your log-in credentials will be provided in your registration packets that you will receive upon check-in at the Convention Center on Friday, February 27.

HEARING, MOBILITY, OR OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS – Anyone needing assistance with hearing, mobility, or any other accommodation, please contact Jenn Roberts at jenn@diocgc.org. We will make every effort to ensure your full participation in the convention.

YOUTH LOCK-IN – All youth in grades 9th-12th are invited to the overnight Youth Lock-in hosted by St. Francis. Youth should be registered at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/55t78pv5>. Drop off is Friday, February 27, at 6 p.m. at St. Francis, 1 St. Francis Dr. Pick up is Saturday, February 28, at 12 p.m. at Hilton Pensacola Beach. Transportation will be provided for the youth from St. Francis to the Hilton.

BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLES – To eliminate single-use, plastic water bottles at our convention, please bring your own water bottle for use!

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jenn Roberts at jenn@diocgc.org.