



# EPISCOPAL DIOCESE of FLORIDA

## July Updates from the Standing Committee

If you are experiencing issues with viewing the full communication that follows below, please [click here](#) to read the full letter. Additionally, you may also find all Standing Committee notices on the Diocesan website [here](#).

July 17, 2024

Dear people of God,

We pray your summer is going well and you are staying out of the extreme heat. Currently, much of our efforts at the diocesan office and with the Standing Committee are focused on our upcoming Annual Diocesan Convention. **Please make sure all clergy and lay delegates are registering for this two-day event on September 20-21, 2024.** To register, please [click here](#).

### Pre-convention

There will be four pre-convention meetings held at four locations at the following churches. Each event will begin at 6 p.m. Registration is not required.

- Tuesday, September 3, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Palm Coast
- Thursday, September 5, at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Tallahassee
- Tuesday, September 10, at St. John's Cathedral, Jacksonville
- Thursday, September 12, at St. James Episcopal Church, Lake City

### Calling All Diocesan Ministries

At our Diocesan Convention from September 20-21, we will have a ministry tent. We invite any and all ministries to set up a table to "get the Word out" about what you do. Camp Weed, Cursillo, Happening and St. John's Bookstore will all have a table at Convention.

If you would like to be represented at Convention please contact Hannia Reyes [hreyes@diocesefl.org](mailto:hreyes@diocesefl.org) by September 5 to reserve your table.

The Regional Canons, Nominating Committee, Convention Committee on Charter and Canons, and Resolutions Committee can be accessed at the buttons below and on our [Convention page](#) on the website.

Regional Canons

Nominating, Resolutions and  
Convention Committees

Journals

The Annual Diocesan Journals from 2020-2022 are complete and have been uploaded to the [Convention page](#) of the website. We anticipate publishing the 2023 Journal soon. If you would like to view a printed version of a journal from these years or previous years, please email Hannia Reyes [hreyes@diocesefl.org](mailto:hreyes@diocesefl.org) at the diocesan office.

### **Youth Delegation**

Youth are the future. Youth are the present, too!

At the 181st Annual Diocesan Convention in the Diocese of Florida, we will have an official Youth Delegation. Youth going into grades 10, 11, and 12 are encouraged to apply. Two youth from each of our five regions will be selected to represent the youth in our diocese. All ten members of the youth delegation will have Seat and Voice at the convention. We want to hear from you!

Please submit nominations to your Regional Canons or directly to the Standing Committee at [standingcommittee@diocesefl.org](mailto:standingcommittee@diocesefl.org). Nominations should include the name, contact information, and a paragraph describing the youth's involvement in their parish and in our diocese and beyond.

**Nominations will be accepted until August 16.**

### **Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)**

Hurricane Beryl has devastated parts of the Caribbean Islands as well as parts of Texas. ERD continues a long history of disaster relief. We encourage you to [donate to ERD](#) and earmark the funds for hurricane relief.

Also, our long-time ERD Diocesan Director, Jack Tull, will be stepping down from this position. Please let us know if you are interested in this very vital position in our diocese.

### **Call to Prayer: August 29**

We are calling for a day of prayer on **Thursday, August 29**. As we prepare for our Annual Diocesan Convention on September 20-21, we want to gather in prayer for our diocese. Parishes, schools, and ministries are asked to gather together on this day to pray for the healing and wholeness of our people, for the ministry and mission of our diocese, and for the upcoming Diocesan Convention. We also want to pray for those who have been nominated for positions in our diocese who will be on the ballot at the Convention. (The ballots will be released the following day on Friday, August 30.)

We encourage parish and regional gatherings to happen on this day. One opportunity is to join with us at St. John's Cathedral in Jacksonville at 6 p.m. for a Prayer Vigil. We will gather together to lift up our diocese as we prepare for our Diocesan Convention.

### **Audit Update**

The Audit Committee is scheduled to meet this week to review the 2021 audit. We anticipate the 2021 audit to be complete in the coming weeks. Preliminary work has begun on the 2022 audit. All audits will be published as soon as they are complete. As of this writing, all audits to date are clean.

### **Other Financial Processes and Procedures**

In an effort to have consistent policies and procedures, we continue to identify areas of priority. We are currently working on our final drafts for both the *Sale and Purchase of Diocesan Property* as well as applying for *Nehemiah Funds*. Both of these checklists will be available on the website as soon as they are finalized.

### **Bishop Updates**

The question we are most often asked is in regards to the status of having a bishop in the Diocese of Florida.

First, with joy we have entered into an amended agreement with Bishop Scott Benhase. Bishop Benhase will increase his time in the Diocese of Florida from one-third of his professional time to half of his professional time beginning August 1. This will mean that he will be even more available to the Standing Committee and Diocesan Office staff, and more physically present in our diocese.

Secondly, since November 1, 2023, the Standing Committee has been working on steps to allow us to call for a bishop election. Much progress in this area has been made, which will be more fully articulated at our Annual Diocesan Convention.

In the meantime, please continue to keep the elected members of the Standing Committee in your prayers as we seek to make Christ known in our diocese and in our world.

Jesus, continue to guide us as brothers and sisters in Christ and as a diocese.

Blessings,  
The Standing Committee

The Rev. Teresa Seagle    Ms. Jackie Jones  
The Rev. Sarah Minton    Ms. Heather Prox  
The Rev. Justin Yawn

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The Episcopal Diocese of Florida | 325 N. Market Street | Jacksonville, FL 32202 US

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