



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

To: The congregations and clergy of the Diocese of Florida
From: Bishop Howard
Re: Postponement of 2023 annual Diocesan Convention
Date: December 21, 2022

Dear Diocese of Florida,

The canons of the Diocese of Florida provide that the Diocesan Bishop may for sufficient cause change the time or place of the annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention provided that reasonable notice be given to all clergy and congregations entitled to representation (Canon 1 Section 2(a)).

Accordingly, as Bishop of the Diocese of Florida, I have decided that the 2023 Convention of the Diocese should be postponed from January 28, 2023 to a date to be set later in 2023.

It is likely that an opinion of the Episcopal Church Court of Review will be returned to us on or about the date scheduled for our Convention and that the consent process for our Bishop Coadjutor-Elect among Bishops and Standing Committees of the Episcopal Church will be commencing at about that same time.

This means that our attention as a Diocese would not be as focused on Convention preparation and planning as it ought to be. Additionally, to proceed with our January date for Convention would mean that our Diocese would have gathered in Convention four times in one year, twice for annual Conventions and twice for Special Electing Conventions.

I have consulted with our Standing Committee, our Chancellor, and other leaders in our Diocese. I also had a good conversation with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry who agrees with the decision, saying “your decision to postpone Convention until a later date makes a lot of sense and gives you a prayerful and thoughtful way to come together as a diocese to discern a healthy and constructive way forward, whatever the result of discernment in the wider church.”

There is no urgency for us to hold Convention in January. Our Diocesan Council has passed a balanced budget for the coming year and our Canons permit us to delay elections until the date of convention. If personal circumstances prevent any current officeholders from continuing to serve, they may, of course, resign and we will follow canonical procedures for

replacing them. Please pay careful attention to scheduling annual congregational meetings and elections, which are set according to the date of our Diocesan Convention and therefore will be delayed.

We will carefully watch the consent process over the next few months and a date for our annual convention will be set and you will be given reasonable notice as soon as possible.

Please know that, as always, this message comes to you with my warmest best wishes and blessings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Johnson" or "S. Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping tail.

The Right Reverend Samuel Johnson Howard
Bishop of Florida