



183rd Annual Convention
Episcopal Diocese of Florida

Pre-Convention Meeting



Prayer and Welcome

Agenda



- Overview of the Annual Convention Agenda
- Overview of Nominations
- Financial Summary
- Resolutions Summary
- Q&A and Adjournment



Overview of the Annual Convention Agenda

Annual Convention Agenda



Friday, September 11, 2026

10 a.m.

Morning Worship

Convention Called to Order and Opening Business

Election of the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Florida begins

- The First Ballot is taken, and balloting continues, with prayer before each ballot

Midday

Noonday Prayer and Prayer for Mission and Ministry

Lunch

Afternoon

Convention Resumes

Recess

Evening

Holy Eucharist

Fellowship and Dinner

Annual Convention Agenda



Saturday, September 12, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship

Convention Resumes

- Completion of the episcopal election as needed; Address of the President of the Standing Committee; Resolutions and Diocesan Elections

Midday

Noonday Prayer and Prayer for Mission and Ministry

Lunch

Afternoon

Convention Resumes; Remaining Business

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Nominations





2026 Nominations Overview

Diocesan Council: Lay

- 1 Lay: First Coast East (3-Year Term)

Disciplinary Board

- 2 Clergy (3-Year Term)
- 2 Lay (3-Year Term)



2026 Nominations Overview

Standing Committee

- 1 Clergy (3-Year Term)
- 1 Lay (3-Year Term)

Sewanee Board of Trustees

- 1 Clergy (3-Year Term)

Diocesan Council



Diocesan Council Nominees at a Glance



Name	Parish, City	Region
Lay Nominees, 3-Year Term (Elect 1: First Coast East)		
Kathleen McLean	St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Fernandina Beach	First Coast East
John Cooksey	Episcopal Church of Our Savior, Jacksonville	First Coast East
Laura Ammons	Redeemer Episcopal Church, Jacksonville	First Coast East

Diocesan Council
Lay Nominees, 3-Year Term
(First Coast East)

Diocesan Council: Lay Nominees (3-Year Term)



Kathleen McLean



John Cooksey



Laura Ammons



Disciplinary Board

Disciplinary Board Nominees at a Glance



Name	Parish, City	Region
Clergy Nominees, 3-Year Term (Elect 2)		
The Rev. Catherine Montgomery	St. Mary's Episcopal Church & Outreach Mission, Jacksonville	First Coast West
The Rev. Sarah Minton	St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Fernandina Beach	First Coast East
The Rev. Andreis Diaz Dorta	Christ Episcopal Church, Ponte Vedra Beach	First Coast East
Lay Nominees, 3-Year Term (Elect 2)		
Matthew Wolfe	Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Jacksonville	First Coast West
David (Dave) L. Spaulding	St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, St. Augustine	River
Ernest Driscoll	St. Paul's, Federal Point	River



Disciplinary Board Clergy Nominees (3-Year Term)

Disciplinary Board: Clergy Nominees (3-Year Term)



The Rev. Catherine Montgomery



The Rev. Sarah Minton



The Rev. Andreis Díaz Dorta



Disciplinary Board Lay Nominees (3-Year Term)

Disciplinary Board: Lay Nominees (3-Year Term)



Matthew Wolfe



David (Dave) L. Spaulding



Ernest Driscoll



Standing Committee

Standing Committee Nominees at a Glance



Name	Parish, City	Region
Clergy Nominees, 3-Year Term (Elect 1)		
The Rev. William Stokes	St. James Episcopal Church, Lake City	Santa Fe
The Rev. Thomas P. Reeder	Christ Episcopal Church, Ponte Vedra Beach	First Coast East

Standing Committee Nominees at a Glance



Name	Parish, City	Region
Lay Nominees, 3-Year Term (Elect 1)		
Jack Tull	Christ Episcopal Church, Ponte Vedra Beach	First Coast East
Anne Seraphine	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Gainesville	Santa Fe
Jim Salter	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Gainesville	Santa Fe
Jennifer Lasserre	St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Fernandina Beach	First Coast East
Carolyn Gosselin	St. John's Episcopal Church, Tallahassee	Apalachee
Julie Davis	Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Jacksonville	First Coast West
Edward "Ed" Snowden d'Avi	St. Francis in the Field Episcopal Church, Ponte Vedra	First Coast East
Simon Banks	St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Palm Coast	River
Paul Arrington	St. John's Cathedral, Jacksonville	First Coast West



Standing Committee Clergy Nominees (3-Year Term)

Standing Committee: Clergy Nominees (3-Year Term)



The Rev. William Stokes



The Rev. Thomas P. Reeder



Standing Committee

Lay Nominees (3-Year Term)

Standing Committee: Lay Nominees (3-Year Term)



Jack Tull



Anne Seraphine



Jim Salter



Jennifer Lasserre



Carolyn Gosselin



Julie Davis



Edward "Ed" Snowden d'Avi



Simon Banks



Paul Arrington



Sewanee Board of Trustees

Sewanee Board of Trustees Nominees at a Glance



Name	Parish, City	Region
Clergy Nominees, 3-Year Term (Elect 1)		
The Rev. Roy Tuff	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Gainesville	Santa Fe
The Rev. Victor Hailey	St. Paul's by the Sea Episcopal Church, Jacksonville Beach	First Coast East
The Rev. Christopher Dell	Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Jacksonville	First Coast West



Sewanee Board of Trustees Clergy Nominees (3-Year Term)

Sewanee Board of Trustees: Clergy Nominees, 3-Year Term



The Rev. Roy Tuff



The Rev. Victor Hailey



The Rev. Christopher Dell



Financial Summary

2025 Financials (unaudited)



	Actual	Budget	Variance
Operating Revenue	\$2.80 million	\$2.52 million	+\$280,000
Operating Expense	\$3.40 million	\$3.23 million	+\$170,000
Operating Bottom Line	-\$600,000	-\$710,000	+\$110,000
Non-Operating Revenue	\$675,000	\$727,000	-\$52,000
Bottom Line	\$75,000	\$17,000	+\$58,000

2026 Financials (through July 31st)



	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD	2026 Budget
Operating Revenue	\$1.68 million	\$1.50 million	+\$180,000	\$2.64 million
Operating Expense	\$2.21 million	\$2.10 million	+\$110,000	\$3.39 million
Operating Bottom Line	-\$530,000	-\$600,000	+\$70,000	-\$750,000
Non-Operating Revenue	\$165,000	\$305,000	-\$140,000	\$610,000
Bottom Line	-\$365,000	-\$295,000	-\$70,000	-\$140,000



2024-2026 Investment Balances (as of June 30th)

Investment Fund	2024	2025	% Change	2026	% Change	2024-2026 Change	% Change
Endowment	\$4,049,000	\$4,062,000	+0.3%	\$4,391,000	+8.1%	\$342,000	+8.4%
Nehemiah	\$2,904,000	\$3,018,000	+3.9%	\$2,167,000	-28.2%	-\$737,000	-25.4%
Former Foundation	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$504,000	N/A	\$504,000	N/A
Total	\$6,953,000	\$7,080,000	+1.8%	\$7,062,000	-0.3%	\$109,000	+1.6%

Key Takeaways from 2024-2026 Investment Balances



Our total investments have **dropped by 5.6%** from 2024 – 2026 (*excluding Foundation funds*).

Endowment Support

This drop included support for Diocese operations:

\$835,00

Nehemiah Loans

This drop also includes approved internal loans:

\$700,000+

Investment Returns

Endowment investment returns since 2023 averaged **11%**:

2023– 14.7%

2024– 9.2%

2025– 13.7%

YTD 2026– 6.6%



What “Debt” is there in Diocesan Finances?

Diocese as Guarantor

As Owner of all Church Property, the Diocese is **Guarantor** of Church Mortgage Debts (technically liabilities of the Diocese)

Mortgage Guarantees

\$7,200,000

The Diocese has approximately \$7.2M in mortgage guarantees relating to three churches.

Terms

1 – 3 Years

Terms range from 1 to 3 years. The churches are responsible for paying the mortgages; the Diocese does not come out of pocket.

Supporting Net Assets

\$20,000,000

Net Assets (Assets minus Liabilities, a.k.a. net equity in the non-Church world) on the Diocesan balance sheet to support these mortgage guaranties.



The Story of the Foundation

Foundation Dissolution & Asset Transfer to the Diocese (Late 2025)

The independent Foundation Board voted to dissolve the Foundation with an asset balance of approximately **\$2.65 million**. Liabilities in the form of restricted and designated funds were close to the same amount.

The Board asked for and the Diocesan Council agreed to the following distribution of the assets:

Camp & Conference Center

\$1.65 in immediate repairs

\$500,000 for operational reserves

Trinity North

\$200,000

allocated to reduce debt

College Ministries

~\$300,000

Note: The funds were set up in a separate investment account to facilitate tracking and to ensure no co-mingling with other investments.



The Story of the Foundation (continued)

Current Status of Approved Foundation Asset Distribution

Camp & Conference Center

\$1.3 Million

provided for immediate repairs
(through June 30th).

\$250,000

of operational reserves have been used.

Trinity North

\$200,000

has been fully distributed.

College Ministries

~\$300,000

in allocated funds are currently
being worked on for distribution.

Finance Team Reconciliation

The Finance team is reconciling the designated and restricted funds that came with the assets to support these expenditures. Fortunately, many of the funds were designated for General Diocese Support and the Camp and Conference Center.



Other Finance & Accounting Notes

- **The 2024 Audit is complete.** At the November 2023 Convention, we had only completed the 2018 Audit. The team has completed **six audits in thirty months** – a Herculean task!!
- The 2027 budget process has started. We are adding four Diocesan Council members to the committee.
- The Finance & Investments Committee now has an Investment Policy to govern our investment decisions.
- Consideration is being given to combining the Finance & Investments and the Budget committees. If approved, it will be brought to next year's convention for approval.

Resolutions



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Why This? Why Now?

These resolutions are designed to guide our canonical updates through three key objectives:

1. Establishing a long-term plan for comprehensive canonical revision
2. Learning from past experiences to position ourselves for the future.
3. Enacting structural and institutional change that can't be perceived as personal

Read all 15 resolutions



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Document Colors Explained

- Minor edit (Dark Green)
- Bishop»Ecclesiastical (Light Green)
- Gov Changes/Deletions (Red)
- Deleted (Orange)
- Substantive (Blue)

CANON 12

Of Committees of ~~the~~this Diocese

SECTION 1. Establishment. There are hereby established ~~three~~the following four (4) committees of ~~the Diocese of Florida~~this Diocese: (i) Finance and Investment (ii) Congregational Development ~~and~~ (iii) Camp and Conference ~~Center. Such other committees may be established as Diocesan Convention deems necessary or, when applicable, by Diocesan Council, Center, and (iv) Common Ministry Budget.~~

- Finance.** ~~The~~ Finance and Investment Committee shall implement all policies relating to the financial affairs of ~~the~~this Diocese and shall have the powers provided for in Canon ~~12-13~~.
- Congregational Development.** ~~The~~ Congregational Development Committee shall implement all policies relating to the establishment of new congregations and shall assist the ~~Bishop~~Bishop-Diocesan Ecclesiastical Authority in overseeing the maintenance and growth of all congregations of ~~the~~this Diocese.
- Camp and Conference Center.** ~~The~~ Camp and Conference Center Committee shall establish and implement all policies regarding the establishment, financing, management and operation for ~~the~~this Diocese's Camp and Conference Center.
- Common Ministry Budget Committee.** ~~Diocesan Council will establish a Common Ministry Budget Committee to prepare for submission to Diocesan Convention a~~

Color-coded proposed changes to Canons



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 15

This resolution lowers the voting threshold for revising canons from a 2/3 supermajority to a simple majority.

Passage today requires a two-thirds vote.

Read Resolution No. 15





Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons

Resolution 1 – The Omnibus Resolution

This resolution bundles nine routine, non-controversial items into a single vote to save convention time.

Any individual item can be removed from the package for separate debate and vote upon request.

Covers the following resolutions:

Resolution 2
Resolution 3
Resolution 4
Resolution 7
Resolution 9
Resolution 10
Resolution 12
Resolution 13
Resolution 14

Proposed Resolutions – The Omnibus Resolution

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution	Core Change
Resolution 2	Minor corrections, wording fixes and ecclesiastical authority updates
Resolution 3	Substantive wording changes and minor procedural changes
Resolution 4	Merging, consolidating and clarifying Canons
Resolution 7	Removing assistant officer roles
Resolution 9	Removing redundant requirement for treasurers
Resolution 10	Expanding Standing Committee presidency
Resolution 12	Clarifying Diocesan Council responsible for compensation decisions
Resolution 13	Clarifying Standing Committee roles for diocesan property
Resolution 14	Removing mandatory layers of governance

Read Resolution No. 1



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 2

This resolution updates the Canons by making minor corrections, wording fixes, and ecclesiastical authority updates.

Read Resolution No. 2



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 3

This resolution updates canonical language by making substantive wording refinements and minor procedural adjustments.

Read Resolution No. 3



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 4

This resolution updates the Canons by merging, consolidating, and clarifying existing canonical text.

Read Resolution No. 4



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 5

This resolution updates the definition of "Cure"—revised and expanded following a July 29 hearing—by including supply priests, clarifying clergy Eucharistic participation to require being vested, and setting Annual Clergy Reports as the standard for determining cure.

Read Resolution No. 5



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 6

This resolution repeals remote participation (Zoom access) for convention, keeping remote access distinct from electronic voting due to high per-person monetary and procedural costs.

Read Resolution No. 6



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 7

This resolution updates the Canons by removing assistant officer roles.

Read Resolution No. 7



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 8

This resolution changes the selection method for diocesan positions from elections to drawing lots from a pool of pre-qualified candidates, with the Standing Committee setting the selection process. Inspired by the biblical selection of Matthias (Acts 1:12–23) and mirroring parish-level vestry and delegate selection, this update removes the contest of elections in favor of structured discernment.

Positions filled via sortition include five lay Diocesan Council members, two clergy at-large Diocesan Council members, one youth Diocesan Council member, nine Disciplinary Board members, and Deputies to General Convention.

Read Resolution No. 8



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 9

This resolution updates the Canons by removing a redundant requirement for treasurers.

Read Resolution No. 9



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 10

This resolution updates the Canons by expanding the role for the Standing Committee presidency.

Read Resolution No. 10



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 11

This resolution transitions Regional Canons to advisory, non-voting members of Diocesan Council, reflecting that they are appointed rather than elected, serve at the pleasure of the bishop, and are compensated by the diocese.

Read Resolution No. 11



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 12

This resolution clarifies that Diocesan Council is responsible for compensation decisions.

Read Resolution No. 12



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 13

This resolution clarifies the specific roles and authority of the Standing Committee regarding diocesan property.

Read Resolution No. 13



Proposed Resolutions

Convention Committee on Charters and Canons



Resolution 14

This resolution updates the Canons by removing mandatory layers of governance.

Read Resolution No. 14



This is your project. These are your canons.



Our Proposals

bring forward our best ideas
for convention consideration.

Our Goal

invites early feedback and
questions to allow for
discussion and debate in
advance and save floor debate
time at convention.

Our Process

puts modern parliamentary
procedure into practice.

Q&A

Let's Stay Connected



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See You at Convention!

September 11-12, 2026

Camp Weed & Cervený Conference Center