



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MAINE

*Office of the Bishop*

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15 November 2018

Dear Friends in Christ:

This letter contains some information to help you prepare for the Special (Electing) Convention to be held on 9 February 2019 (snow date, 23 February 2019) at the Cross Center in Bangor. Information and updates will be available on our website: [www.episcopalmaine.org/convention/2019](http://www.episcopalmaine.org/convention/2019). I urge you to check the website and the DioLog regularly for updated and new information.

An Electing Convention is a Special Convention of the Diocese. At a Special Convention only the item(s) for which the Convention is called may be addressed, in this case the election of the Tenth Bishop of Maine. The organization of the Electing Convention is fairly straightforward and will be familiar to you as it closely resembles the way we go about the business of our Annual Convention.

Registration will be open in a few short days. Only canonically resident clergy and duly elected delegates may register. Late registration will close on 18 January 2019, and no later registrations will be accepted. Alternates may only register if they are replacing a delegate, and only after the change has been made.

Delegates registering must be the same as the delegates shown on the Certificate of Delegates that you provided (that list posted to the website (please check for accuracy). If you need to make a change to your delegation, or have yet to elect or submitted your Certificate, please be in touch with Teresa Pinney ([tpinney@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:tpinney@episcopalmaine.org)) as soon as possible to correct the official record. After registration closes, any changes to your delegation must be made on the floor of Convention at the Registrar's Desk in the usual manner (the signature of the Priest-in-Charge, or Senior Warden in the absence of a priest, is required). If neither a Priest-in-Charge nor Sr. Warden will be attending the Electing Convention, and there is a change to your deputation, please be in touch with Barbara Martin, Registrar, at [bmartin@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:bmartin@episcopalmaine.org).

At the Electing Convention, ballots will be cast by Order, that is, by clergy and lay delegates voting separately. Ballots will be cast electronically, and the outcome of the voting in both Orders for each ballot will be announced simultaneously. An election occurs when a single candidate has received a majority in both Orders on the same ballot. It is possible for a candidate to be elected in one Order, but not in the other, and balloting will continue until there is a simultaneous majority.

Clergy and lay delegates are encouraged to consult with the members of their faith communities about their discernment of the next bishop. However, at the time of voting, clergy and delegates are expected vote in the context of prayer and the Spirit's prodding.

To secure the Convention floor and to protect the voters from electioneering, there will be no Visitors' Gallery at this Convention. The entire Convention will be livestreamed so that all may witness the process. Information about how to access the livestream will be made available on the website and in the DioLog. The worship booklet (prayers and music) will also be available electronically. Congregations are invited to organize viewing events so interested parishioners can gather, watch, listen and pray together, and then celebrate a successful election. All results will also be posted as soon as possible to the official Diocese of Maine website and social media platforms.

I'm looking forward to sharing with you in the discernment and election of the Tenth Bishop of Maine. Please do all you can to prepare: read the materials prepared by the Candidates, view their videos, and attend the Walkabout. Engage your communities in thoughtful and prayerful conversation. Make sure you are well rested, and then come to Convention to share in the work of the Spirit.

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to be in touch with the Registrar, Barbara Martin, or me.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen T. Lane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane  
*Bishop of Maine*