*Our Annual Convention* | video by Bishop Brown November 3, 2021 Video text

Hello, beloved of God in Delaware.

In just a few weeks, we will gather again for our annual convention. Episcopalians in Delaware have been gathering together to meet and discuss the ministry and mission of the church since 1791. That first convention happened in Dover, and there were three priests and 11 lay people present. Our entire diocese only had 14 churches. We now have 34.

Since that time, Episcopalians have met faithfully to consider what is it that the church is about? What are our priorities for the coming year? What is it that Christ is calling us to do?

Convention this year, in 2021, will be, as last year, completely online. That is, of course, out of an abundance of caution. We are in a time of pandemic and, even as things are getting a little bit better out there, we still want to do everything we can to be as safe as possible. It just doesn't make sense to gather a hundred plus people into the same room for many hours on end, not if we can do this safely online. We can do it safely online, and we can do it well.

The good thing about having a fully online convention is that anyone can participate. That is, anyone can watch and see what is happening in real time. So, I want to invite you, even if you're not a priest or deacon of this diocese, even if you're not an official delegate of your parish, I invite you to drop in. Come for the whole thing. It's on Saturday, November the 20th. Come for part of it. However much you'd like to see and hear — join us!

You'll find more information about our annual convention at our website, <u>delaware.church.</u> It has all the information you need. Look and see and come and join us! Just like the first Episcopalians did back in 1791, we do now. We gather, we pray, and we listen for the spirit to help us make the next step forward.

May Christ be with you, always.