

Subject: BISHOP'S REMINDER: The annual meeting of all Parishes and Missions must be in January and this includes election of delegates to the Special Meeting of Convention (May) and to the Annual Meeting of Convention (October)

Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 at 2:02:12 PM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

From: Nani Carroll

To: Nani Carroll

TO: All Clergy-in-Charge and Wardens of Parishes, Missions and Aided Parish
CC: Standing Committee and Diocesan Council

I write to remind you now that the Annual Meetings of all Parishes and Missions are canonically required to happen in January.

The Episcopal Church in Hawai'i (TECH) Canon 22.3: "The annual meeting of a Parish shall be held not later than the thirty-first day of January, the day and hour being determined by the Vestry" and TECH Canon 31.1: "... the manner of giving notice of and the conduct of meetings of Missions shall be the same as are prescribed by these Canons for the meetings of Parishes, except as otherwise provided."

Please, no fudging in January 2026! Please don't call to ask forgiveness! Please have your Annual Meeting in January! Plan for it and announce it early!

We formally changed the Constitution of the Diocese at the Annual Meeting of Convention on Saturday (October 25) to read:

TECH Constitution III.2.c

Lay delegates from each Parish and Mission in union with Convention. Each such Parish and Mission shall be entitled to be represented by two lay delegates and in addition thereto, another lay delegate for each additional one hundred communicants or fraction thereof as established by the last Parochial Report duly filed before the annual meeting of the electing Parish or Mission. All delegates shall have attained the age of no less than sixteen years at the time of election, shall be communicants of the Parish or Mission which they represent, and shall be elected at the annual meeting of each Parish or Mission for a term which shall commence following the adjournment of the annual meeting at which elected and which shall end at the adjournment of the next subsequent annual meeting of the electing Parish or Mission, or their duly qualified successors shall have been elected. (As used in this Constitution and the Canons of the Diocese, the word "communicant" shall be construed to mean "communicant in good standing" as defined in the General Canons.)

With this change, you will be electing delegates to the Special Meeting of Convention to elect the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Hawai'i (scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026) and to the regular Annual Meeting of Convention (tentatively scheduled for:

October 16-17, 2026, Island of O‘ahu).

Delegates must be prepared to attend both meetings and to attend the gatherings to meet candidates before the Special Meeting in May.

What is a “communicant in good standing”?

The Canons of the Episcopal Church explain “Communicant” and “Communicant in Good Standing” as follows (emphasis added):

I.17.2.

a. All Members of this Church who have received **Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the previous year are to be considered Communicants of this Church.**

b. For the purposes of statistical consistency throughout the Church, Communicants sixteen year of age and over are to be considered Adult Communicants.

c. In cases of pastoral sensitivity, with the approval of the Bishop, these requirements may be waived for good cause

I.17.3.

All Members of this Church who for the previous year have been **faithful in corporate worship**, unless for good cause prevented, and have **been faithful in working, praying, and giving** for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered **Communicants in Good Standing.**

There is a slight change in the revision to the Constitution as to the number of delegates. You will see that each congregation has two delegates for the first 100 members who are Communicants in Good Standing and then an additional delegate for each additional 100 (or fraction of 100) members. This means a Parish or Mission with under 100 members will have two delegates.

How can you determine the number of delegates to be elected in January?

The number to be elected in January 2026 will be based on number of “Communicants in Good Standing” as reported in the “last filed” Parochial Report and that means the one filed earlier this year for 2024.

The Diocesan Support Center will provide each Parish and Mission with the number of delegates to be elected.

This is an important election. Please prepare as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
Bob

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick
(Pronouns: *he, him, his*)

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HE LANAKILA MA KE KE'A: Victory through the Cross

"No ia mea, e nā hoahānau, e kūpa'a 'oukou, me ka nāueue 'ole, me ka ho'omau i kā 'oukou hana nui 'ana i ka hana a ka Haku, no ka mea, ua 'ike nō 'oukou, 'a'ole i make hewa kā 'oukou hana 'ana ma ka Haku." Korineto I 15:58

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." I Corinthians 15:58

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