



January 22, 2026

### **Did you notice a reduction in elected delegates for your church? Here's why.**

As they prepare for this year's Annual Meeting season, many congregations across the Diocese have noticed a change: many of their numbers of elected lay delegates to Diocesan Convention have been reduced by one. This adjustment is the result of a constitutional amendment approved at two successive Diocesan Conventions, as required by our governing documents. As a result, most of the congregations have had their number decreased.

The amendment updated the formula used to determine how many lay delegates each congregation may elect. While the previous structure allowed for a slightly higher baseline number of delegates, the revised language streamlines representation by reducing the minimum number of delegates allotted to each church by one. The goal of this change is to create a more balanced, proportional, and sustainable delegate body across the Diocese, especially as congregational sizes and demographics continue to shift.

Every church continues to elect delegates based on its number of confirmed communicants in good standing, ensuring that representation remains fair and reflective of actual membership.

As your congregation prepares for its Annual Meeting, please take note of the updated delegate count when finalizing elections, as per the emails from Diocesan Support Center that provide the delegate number. The number of delegates is based upon the last parochial report filed by each church, which was the report for 2024. We will have further guidance on parochial report preparation in future editions of The Hawaiian Church Chronicle.

These delegates (or elected alternate delegates) will represent your church at two major diocesan gatherings in 2026:

- \* May 16 - the Election of Hawai'i's 6th Bishop, and
- \* October 16-17 - the Annual Diocesan Convention, where both the newly elected bishop and our current bishop will be present.

In addition to attending the two conventions mentioned above, we are strongly encouraging all delegates to attend at least one of the "Ke Aloha Kakou" Meet and Greet sessions (either in person or online), prior to the election convention, so they have firsthand knowledge of the candidates for the Sixth Bishop of Hawai'i and an ability to ask questions of each candidate.

Please see the diocesan website (<https://www.episcopalhawaii.org/bishop-transition.html>) for details on the Ke Aloha Kakou sessions held within your county/island.

This constitutional update brings our delegate structure into closer alignment with the size and needs of the Diocese today, while preserving the collaborative spirit that defines our shared governance.

The Standing Committee  
The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i