



THE DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Call to Convention

233rd Diocesan Convention – November 2-4, 2023



From the First Letter of John:

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life.

This life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina will be hosted by the Peninsula Deanery at St. James Episcopal Church, Charleston (James Island), November 2-4, 2023. The theme of this year's convention is "Testify."

We are delighted to have Sophronia Scott and Michael Battle with us for Convention this year. Sophronia Scott, our keynote speaker, grew up in Lorain, Ohio, a hometown she shares with author Toni Morrison. She began her career as an award-winning magazine journalist for "Time" magazine, where she co-authored the groundbreaking cover story "Twentysomething," the first study identifying the demographic group known as Generation X. Scott was nominated as Best New Author at the African American Literary Awards for her first novel, *All I Need to Get By*, and hailed by Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. as "potentially one of the best writers of her generation." She is the author of *The Seeker and the Monk: Everyday Conversations with Thomas Merton*, *Unforgivable Love, Love's Long Line*, and *This Child of Faith: Raising a Spiritual Child in a Secular World*, co-written with her son Tain, a survivor of the Sandy Hook shooting. Her latest novel is *Wild, Beautiful, and Free*.

Our Convention preacher, The Very Rev. Michael Battle, Ph.D., currently serves as the Herbert Thompson Professor of Church and Society and Director of the Desmond Tutu Center at General Theological Seminary in New York. His vocation has been especially linked to the ministry of Archbishop Tutu, who ordained him to the priesthood, officiated his marriage, and baptized his children. His 11 books include *Desmond Tutu: A Spiritual Biography of South Africa's Confessor*, *Blessed are the Peacemakers: A Christian Spirituality of Nonviolence*, and *Practicing Reconciliation in a Violent World*. A

beloved spiritual guide to seminarians and the CREDO conference, Battle has served as chaplain to Archbishop Tutu, the House of Bishops, the Lambeth Conference, and Congressman John Lewis. In 2010, Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, named Battle as one of the Six Preachers of Canterbury Cathedral, an honorary appointment with an unbroken succession dating back to its foundation by Thomas Cranmer at the time of the English Reformation.

Books will be available for purchase and signing at Convention.

The Annual Convention this year presents opportunities to do our necessary yearly work and to gather the Episcopal community of the Diocese at our annual “family reunion.” This year’s format is expanded to accommodate the growth of our shared ministries and business, as well as to create special opportunities for formation and fellowship. One notable change is the addition of a variety of workshops offered by our Convention speakers, St. Christopher Camp & Conference Center, and an important new partner organization, the Foundation for Spirituality and the Arts. We are also blessed to collaborate with Bishop Gadsden Episcopal Retirement Community, located directly across the road from the St. James campus.

Two Preconvention Meetings will be held prior to Convention on Zoom. Previously referred to as Deanery Meetings and held in each deanery, these meetings will include all clergy, delegates and alternates for the Convention, as well as other interested leaders. Attendance at these meetings is important, as they are an opportunity for discussion of proposed resolutions, the 2024 budget, and an introduction of nominees for diocesan offices.

This year, all pre-convention deanery meetings will be held online on Zoom. Convention delegates are expected to attend at least one of the meetings. You are welcome to attend the one that is most convenient for you. If you are unable to attend, a video recording of the meeting will be made available to you on request from the Rev. Canon Ryan Currie (rcurrie@episcopalchurchsc.org). Zoom information will be distributed to delegates closer to these dates. The dates for the meetings are as follows:

Thursday, October 5 at 1 pm

Tuesday, October 10 at 6 pm

Preliminary Schedule of Convention

Thursday, November 2

2:00 pm	Registration opens at St. James Episcopal Church, Charleston
4:00 pm	Call to Order followed by Plenary Session
5:00 pm	Opening Eucharist at St. James
6:30 pm	Reception (heavy hors d'oeuvres)

Friday, November 3

8:00 am	Registration continues
9:00 am	Morning Prayer followed by Plenary Session
12:00 pm	Lunch, with working lunch meetings of select groups (TBD)

1:15 pm	Workshops
2:15 pm	Plenary Session
5:00 pm	Food Truck Social with Live Music

Saturday, November 4

8:00 am	Registration continues
9:00 am	Morning Prayer followed by Plenary Session
12:00 pm	Convention adjourns

Elections at Convention

The Convention will hold elections for the following positions:

- Standing Committee: 2 lay members and 2 clergy members, 3-year terms
- Diocesan Council: 2 lay members and 2 clergy members, 3-year terms
- University of the South Board of Trustees: 1 lay member, 3-year term

All nominations must have the approval of the person being nominated, and be received by the Secretary of Convention by **Wednesday, September 20, 2023**, in order to be included in pre-convention materials. Nominators must be members of the Convention (lay delegates or members of the clergy). A Notice of Election and Nomination Form will be available online on our [Annual Diocesan Convention 2023 page](#).

Resolutions

Members of the Diocese are invited to submit resolutions for consideration at the Convention. Please follow the format and guidelines described in the Notice of Submittal of Resolutions, which will be available on the [Annual Diocesan Convention 2023 page](#). All resolutions are to be received by the Secretary of Convention no later than **Wednesday, September 20, 2023**, in order to be included in pre-convention materials.

Resolutions affecting the Constitution and Canons are to be submitted to the Committee on Constitutions and Canons, and received by **September 20, 2023**. All may be submitted to convention@episcopalchurchsc.org.

Registration Procedures

Each Parish and Mission is asked to register online, and register all their lay and clergy delegates and alternates at the same time. Clergy who are not directly affiliated with a delegation and visitors may register individually. The Online Registration Link can be found on the <https://www.episcopalchurchsc.org/233rddiocesanconvention.html>.

Registration cost is \$100 per person. This includes the Thursday reception, and Friday lunch and reception. Payment may be made online or sent to the Diocesan Office by mail. There is no fee for those attending the Thursday night Eucharist only. Late registrations after the deadline will be an

additional \$20 per person. Visitors attending one day only may register at a reduced rate based on catering costs.

Registration for delegates must be received no later than September 29 and for all visitors by October 20.

All canonically-resident clergy serving in a parish are expected to attend the annual diocesan convention. If an unforeseen urgent parish or family event prevents you from attending, please write a letter to Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley and send it to her executive assistant, Betsy Pritchard, at bpritchard@episcopalchurchsc.org.

Hotel Accommodations and Guest Lodging

Clergy and delegates are responsible for making their own arrangements for lodging, if needed. Rooms have been reserved at two hotels for the Convention on November 2-4:

- [The Holiday Inn Charleston Riverview](#) \$189 per night, book by October 3
- [Tides Folly Beach](#) \$169 Thursday night, \$259 Friday night, book by September 25.

Additional hotel information is available here: <https://www.episcopalchurchsc.org/hotel-information-2023.html>. If you need financial assistance, please contact the Diocesan Office.

We look forward to seeing you at Convention in November.

Peace in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Woodliff-Stanley". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a small cross symbol at the beginning.

The Right Reverend Ruth Woodliff-Stanley
Bishop

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Diane Wilson
Secretary of Convention