



# THE DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.  
(Isaiah 43:18-19)*

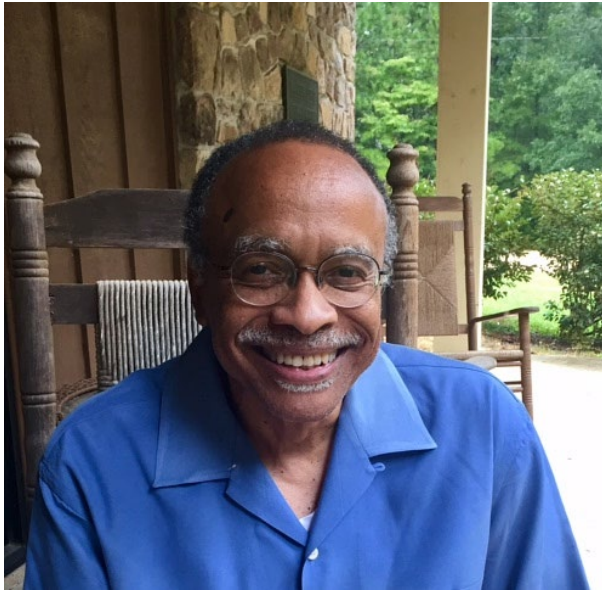


### **235th Annual Diocesan Convention November 6-8, 2025**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina will be hosted by the Peninsula Deanery at the Christ Episcopal Church, Mt. Pleasant, November 6-8, 2025. From the earliest days of the diocese until its most recent, the Spirit has been working in our midst to direct us through the tests and trials of our times toward a more just and more joyful future. Inspired by the words of the prophet Isaiah, we commit ourselves to contemplate the new things of God and to take up the work of this year's convention theme, "A New Season."

## *Guest Speakers*

We are delighted to have two very special guest speakers to accompany us in this endeavor. The Rev. Luther E. Smith, Jr., PhD, will be our keynote speaker, and the Rev. Carter Heyward, Ph.D., will preach at the convention Eucharist. Both speakers will also offer workshops and participate in a panel discussion with Bishop Woodliff-Stanley. The speakers' latest books will be available for purchase at convention, thanks to the Gifts of Grace Cathedral Bookstore.



Dr. Smith is professor emeritus of Church and Community at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University. He writes, teaches, and speaks extensively on issues of church and society, interfaith cooperation, child advocacy, congregational renewal, Christian spirituality, and the thought of Howard Thurman. He is an ordained minister of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, cofounder of the Interfaith Children's Movement, cofounder of the International Community School, and Coordinator for the "Pan-Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty." His latest book is, *Hope Is Here! Spiritual Practices for Pursuing Justice and Beloved Community*. Dr. Smith will already be known to many in the diocese, as he was one of the guest speakers at our clergy retreat and his book was commended by the bishop for reading during Lent.

The Rev. Carter Heyward is an Episcopal priest, professor, theologian, activist, and writer, known as a pioneer in the areas of feminist liberation theology. At a time in which neither the Episcopal Church—nor any other part of the world-wide Anglican Communion—would ordain women as priests, Heyward was ordained on July 29, 1974 along with 10 other women at the Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia, a group that would come to be known as the "Philadelphia Eleven." As a professor at Episcopal Divinity School, Heyward's primary teaching concentrated on 19th century Anglican theology, feminist liberation theology and theology of human sexuality. Throughout her vocation she has sought to transform consciousness, proclaim the possibilities for women to be

priests, for LGBTQ+ people to be theological, and make way for new approaches to connecting the divine to intimacy, justice, and activism. Her primary work these days is with her local chapter of the NAACP. Heyward's latest book, her eighteen published work, is *The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism*, which the bishop also commended for Lenten reading.

### ***Important Information***

Diocesan convention this year presents opportunities to do the necessary yearly work for our diocese and to gather the Episcopal community of eastern South Carolina at our annual “family reunion.” This year’s format continues in an expanded model, including worship, workshops, business, and fellowship.

**Two Preconvention Meetings** (formerly known as deanery meetings) will be held prior to convention. These meetings will include all clergy, delegates, and alternates for the convention, as well as other interested members of the diocese. Attendance at one of these meetings is important for all delegates, as they are an opportunity for discussion of proposed resolutions, the 2026 budget, and an introduction of nominees for diocesan offices.

**This year, all preconvention meetings will be held online. You are welcome to attend the one that is most convenient for you.**

Tuesday, October 21 at 1:00 pm

Monday, October 27 at 6:00 pm

### ***Preliminary Schedule of Convention***

Thursday, November 6

2:00 pm	Registration opens at Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant
4:00 pm	Call to Order followed by Plenary Session
5:20 pm	Opening Eucharist: The Rev. Carter Heyward, preacher
6:45 pm	Reception

Friday, November 7

8:00 am	Registration continues
9:00 am	Morning Prayer followed by Plenary Session Keynote Address: The Rev. Luther Smith
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Workshops
2:00 pm	Plenary Session
5:00 pm	Festive Reception with Music

Saturday, November 8

8:00 am	Registration continues
9:00 am	Morning Prayer followed by Plenary Session and Panel Discussion
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);
- General Convention Deputies: 4 Clergy Deputies, 4 Clergy Alternates, 4 Lay Deputies, 4 Lay Alternates (The 82nd General Convention will take place July 3-8, 2027 in Phoenix, Arizona);
- Trustee, Sewanee: University of the South: 1 lay member (3-year term)

**A note about Diocesan Council:** The Constitution & Canons Committee, in consultation with the Bishop, members of the Council, and the regional deans, are considering a proposal to amend the canons this year so that 1) each regional dean will serve as a member of Council; and 2) two other seats—at least one of which must be a lay person—will be elected by deanery convocations. Should this amendment pass, the 235th Annual Convention will not elect members of Diocesan Council. An informal poll of delegates will be conducted during the pre-convention meetings. If there is no clear consensus in favor of the proposal at that time, the Nominations Committee will work to recruit nominees willing to be nominated for Council from the floor of the convention and stand for election should the amendment fail.

All nominations must have the approval of the person being nominated, and be received by the Secretary of Convention by **Tuesday, October 7, 2025** 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 here on our [convention webpage](#).

## *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](#). All resolutions are to be received by the Secretary of Convention by emailing them to [convention@episcopalchurchsc.org](mailto:convention@episcopalchurchsc.org) no later than **Tuesday, October 7, 2025** in order to be included in pre-convention materials. Resolutions affecting the Constitution and Canons will be submitted to the Committee on Constitutions and Canons and should be received by the same date.

## *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 convention webpage at this link: [235th Diocesan Convention](#).

The cost of registration is \$165 per person for delegates, which includes the Thursday reception, Friday lunch and Friday reception (heavy hors d'oeuvres). 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.

***Registration for delegates must be received no later than October 7 and for all visitors by October 25.***

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 Betsy Pritchard at [bpritchard@episcopalchurchsc.org](mailto:bpritchard@episcopalchurchsc.org).

### ***Hotel Accommodations and Guest Lodging***

Clergy and delegates are responsible for making their own arrangements for lodging, if needed. Two area hotels are offering special conference rates for our group: the Holiday Inn Express & Suites at 1104 Stockade Lane; and the Hampton Inn & Suites Charleston-Mt. Pleasant-Isle of Palms at 1104 Isle of Palms Connector. Reservation links at these hotels are available on [the convention webpage](#).

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 with a 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