



The *Episcopal* Diocese of Louisiana

August 26, 2015

Dear Clergy, Priest-in-Charge and/or Senior Warden:

We will hold a Special Meeting of the 178th Convention of the Diocese on October 31, 2015 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge. More information is set forth in the enclosed Notice of First Special Meeting of the 178th Convention and proposed Order of Business. Because this is a Special Meeting the business at the meeting will be abbreviated and limited to what is set forth in the Notice pursuant to the Canons of the Diocese. The fee for each person attending, whether delegate, alternate or guest, will be \$10. We will not have a space for vendors or exhibitors at this meeting nor will we have special presentations (there will not be a screen for video or slides). The meeting is anticipated to end early in the afternoon on October 31.

We will be electing a Treasurer for the Diocese and a Lay Trustee for the University of the South. If you are interested in either of these positions or would like to nominate someone, please complete the enclosed nomination form and return it to the Diocese office. The deadline for nominations is September 30.

You will have an opportunity to ask questions and have your voice heard about the Budget and other proposed actions at Pre-Convention Meetings at Christ Church in Covington (September 15 at 6 pm), St. Augustine's in Metairie (October 20 at 6 pm) and St. Luke's in Baton Rouge (October 21 at 6 pm). Because the Special Meeting will be a short one, there will not be time for a break in the meeting to hold a hearing on the Budget on October 31, so a Budget hearing will be held at 8:45 am on October 31.

The number of delegates your congregation will send to the Special Meeting is determined pursuant to Article V.5.a of the EDOLA Constitution and is based upon the number of communicants in good standing stated in the congregation's most recently filed Annual Report. EDOLA Canon 2.2 provides that the delegates and alternates who were elected or appointed for the Annual Meeting of the Convention (held February 27-28, 2015) will serve as the delegates and alternates to any special meeting. Therefore, the same delegates and alternates who served at the February 2015 meeting will also serve at the October 31 Special Meeting. However, if delegates or alternates have moved away or are now otherwise not able to serve, replacements may be elected or appointed.

A copy of your Delegate Certification Form from the 178th Convention is enclosed for your convenience. Please review the names of your delegates and alternates. Should any changes need to be made, please complete a new Delegate form (showing **all** delegates and alternates

for the Special Meeting). If no changes are necessary, nothing needs to be done, and we will use the Delegate Certification on file from the February Convention.

Enclosed with this letter is the Notice of Special Meeting, proposed Order of Business (which is subject to change), Nomination Form, Necrology Form, Delegate Certification Form, and Registration Form, all of which are due **September 30, 2015**.

Please make sure a copy of this letter is distributed to all clergy, delegates and alternates in your congregation. We look forward to seeing you at the Special Meeting on October 31st.

Yours in Christ,

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The Rt. Rev'd Morris K. Thompson, Jr.
Bishop of Louisiana