



When the Church Comes Together

Diocesan Council is the annual business meeting of the Diocese held every February. It is a gathering of elected delegates from all congregations, youth delegates, college ministries, lay heads of congregations and canonically resident clergy. The 170th Council will be held at The Woodlands Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Thursday evening, February 21- Saturday, February 23.

On May 9, 1850, the First Annual Convention of the Diocese of Texas took place at Christ Church, Houston. The Convention was delayed three times due to the late arrival of the Rt. Rev. George W. Freeman, Provisional Bishop of the Diocese. Bad weather and muddy roads were said to be the reason.

This Convention was comprised of five priests and four parishes: Christ Church, Matagorda; Christ Church, Houston; Trinity, Galveston and St. John's, Brazoria County.

Fast forward to 2019, the Diocese now is composed of over 200 Episcopal congregations

and communities from Longview to Palacios. During this year's 170th Council, delegates from the Diocese of Texas will elect a new Bishop Suffragan of the West Region, replacing the Rt. Rev. Dena A. Harrison, who retired last year.

If you are not yet familiar with a Diocesan Council, here's what you need to know: Every year, elected delegates from all congregations, college ministries, and resident clergy vote on constitutional changes and stewardship of the diocese.

During the Council, participants will attend worship services, workshops, and business

A MONTHLY OFFERING FROM
★ The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Rt. Rev. C Andrew Doyle, ninth Bishop of Texas, serves as ex-officio president of the council. Elected delegates are required to be confirmed communicants in good standing of the congregation they represent and be at least 18 years of age. Council members vote on canonical and constitutional changes that have been submitted, the diocesan budget and resolutions put forward as well as consider other business that comes before Council. Delegates are usually elected at a church's annual meeting. The 2019 Diocesan Youth Delegates include: **Joy Ani**, St. Mark's, Richmond; **Andrew Batenhorst**, St. Andrew's, Bryan; **Caleb Carnes**, St. Mary's, Cypress; **Eva Cornelius**, All Saints', Austin; **Kaylan Johnson**, St. James', Houston; **Jimmy Tollett**, St. Francis', Tyler; **Wilson Ramirez**, San Mateo, Houston; **Anna Lee Williams**, Christ Church, Temple; **Gia Viggiano**, Trinity, Galveston. Other members of Council, with voice but no vote unless also elected as lay delegates, include: members of the Standing Committee, the Executive Board and the president of the diocesan Episcopal Church Women.

meetings. The community is invited to attend several activities such as the Opening Eucharist on Thursday, February 21, 5:30 p.m. This year, the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Ninth Bishop of Texas, is set to preach the sermon. This Episcopal service has a rich liturgy and beautiful music and

will be bilingual. The public is also invited to browse a wide variety of booths and exhibits by craft-makers, outreach ministries, booksellers, and jewelers.

We hope to see you at #Council19. For more information, visit: www.epicenter.org/council/

A prayer for Diocesan Council

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Calling All Former and New Exhibitors

Would you like to be an exhibitor at this year's Council? Approximately 950 people are expected to come attend. Exhibiting is a great way to introduce people to your work, products or services and meet members from around the diocese. So, join us in The Woodlands. Register today at www.epicenter.org/council.

Do you sing? Let's join together to raise our voices in worship at Diocesan Council

Rehearsal will be on Thursday, Feb. 21 from 2:15 to 3:45 p.m. at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott. Sign-up at www.epicenter.org/council.

Pre-Council Meetings

All lay and clergy delegates are encouraged to attend a pre-council meeting. We will go over the budget, take questions, and offer other information to help you prepare for Council.

Sunday, February 3, 2019

St. Michael's, La Marque 2-4 p.m.
Convocation: Galveston

Thursday, February 7, 2019

St. Matthew's, Henderson 6-8 p.m.
Convocation: Northeast

Sunday, February 10, 2019

Calvary, Richmond 4-6 p.m.
Convocation: Southwest

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Houston, Location TBD 6-8 p.m.
Make-up (Tentative)

Sweeping Advances Mark a Dozen Years of Bishop Harrison's Episcopal Ministry



The Rt. Rev. Dena A. Harrison served at All Saints, Austin; St. James', LaGrange; and St. James', Conroe before her election in 2006. Bishop Harrison helped develop Safeguarding training for the Diocese after it was mandated by the Church's General Convention in 2003 and helped set the standard for the rest of the Episcopal Church. She also chaired the boards of a number of diocesan institutions: El Buen Samaritano, a social service agency for immigrants in Austin; Seminary of the Southwest, Austin; St. Stephen's Episcopal School, Austin; and St. Luke's Episcopal Health System, Houston. She was key in the sale of the Health System in 2013, which established the Episcopal Health Foundation with a \$1 billion corpus, as well as the Great Commission Foundation with an additional \$126 million focused on planting new churches. Bishop Harrison was the first woman elected a bishop in Texas and in the Church's Province VII. When asked what moments she would treasure from her time in the episcopate, Bishop Harrison responded, "I will treasure the people of our Diocese, the work we have done together, and the life in Christ which we share. I am humbled by all the ways people have held me up in this work." To read more of the interview in the Texas Episcopalian visit epicenter.org/bishop-harrison.

★ The Episcopal Diocese of Texas