



The Episcopal Diocese of Western Kansas

FIFTY SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

October 16-17, 2026



July 30, 2026

TO: CLERGY, WARDENS, DELEGATES, AND TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN KANSAS FROM: TONI COTTRELL, DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF DIOCESAN CONVENTION

THE FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION of the EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN WESTERN KANSAS will be held on October 16-17, 2026. Our Hosts will be St John's Great Bend and Sts. Mary & Martha, Larned.

FORMS: (enclosed) **TO BE FILLED OUT AND RETURNED:**

NOTE: Please take a moment to look at the enclosed forms. They need your attention and must be returned by certain dates to help avoid delay and uncertainty in conducting the business of the Convention. ***To reduce postage costs, only one copy of each form is enclosed. Please make duplicates of any or all forms, as you may need these.***

IMPORTANT: Please place notice in your parish/mission newsletter to give your parishioner's opportunity to make nominations, submit resolutions, canonical changes, etc.

PLEASE OBSERVE DEADLINES – In the case of Proposed Resolutions or Canonical Changes, the deadlines must be observed according to the Canons.

1. **SUGGESTIONS TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE DEADLINE – SEPTEMBER 19, 2026.**

Please get permission of person to place his/her name into the nominating process.

2. **TO PROPOSE CANONICAL AMENDMENTS OR RESOLUTIONS**

PREFERRED DEADLINE – SEPTEMBER 19, 2026.

The Canons permit you to send these up to 21 days prior to the Convention.

3. **NECROLOGY LIST**

To be returned no later than **SEPTEMBER 19, 2026**...for clergy to report all deaths, in the churches they served since last Convention.

NOTICE: *Schedules and information about Convention will be sent to clergy and lay delegates. The sheaf of reports and other information will be available prior to the Convention. Please forward any address changes for your Convention Delegates to the Diocesan Office.*



The Episcopal Diocese of Western Kansas

1 North Main, Suite 411 – Hutchinson, Ks 67501
620-669-0006 Phone
tec.wks2011@gmail.com

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Cowell
Bishop

July 30, 2026

Greetings to the Beloved Community of Western Kansas,

And welcome to the Diocesan Convention coming soon, October 16-17, 2026. The convention will be held at the same venue as last year at the convention center in Dodge City, hosted by the congregations of Sts. Mary and Martha in Larned, and of St. John's in Great Bend.

We can't wait to see you all again as once more we meet for our annual family reunion. We will pray, sing, visit, and laugh together as we catch up on one another's lives. And yes, we will conduct our annual business meeting to wrap up the past year and look forward to the next year and the years to come.

The theme for this year's focus of discussion is "Who do you say that I am?" This question Jesus asked the disciples is one we would do well to meditate and pray about between now and the convention. If we do, then we shall be prepared for the Holy Spirit to work through us when we meet to consider and discuss our responses to the revelations of God to us through Jesus. Our understanding and faith in those revelations will guide our responses to God's specific calling for our community throughout the coming year.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bishop Mark, Mother Carolyn, and Mother Teresa



St. John's Episcopal Church
GREAT
BEND, KANSAS



SAINTS MARY AND MARTHA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LARNED, KS.

DUE IN DIOCESAN OFFICE – SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

DIOCESAN CONVENTION ELECTIONS NOMINATIONS FORM

This form is to be filled out for those persons being nominated for elected positions at the 2026 Diocesan Convention, held in Dodge City, KS. Those positions are:

TRUSTEES FOR THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN KANSAS – 2 Clergy and 2 lay persons for a two-year term, and 1 Clergy and one lay person for a 1-year term.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY – One clergy and one lay member, each for a two-year term. Bishop will appoint one lay member, one clergy members and a chairperson (from the clergy order).

DISCIPLINARY BOARD – 3 Members to be appointed by the bishop.

You can submit a nomination online at: <https://www.diowks.org/convention-forms-and-resources> or Send all nominations to the **Diocesan Office, 1 North Main, Suite 411, Hutchinson, KS 67501** or by email: tec.wks2011@gmail.com. Completed nomination forms will be duplicated and available during Convention. **PLEASE LIMIT THE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH TO THIS SIDE OF THE FORM.** Use one form per office.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Parish: _____

Nominated for which office:

Biographical Sketch:

2026 COMMITTEE ROSTERS AND YEAR OF TERM EXPIRATION

TRUSTEES FOR THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN KS:

The Rt. Rev. Mark Cowell – President

The Rev. Cameron Randle – 2026 (President)

Mrs. Carolyn Peterson 2026 (Secretary)

Mr. Butch Pyle 2026

Mrs. Nan Pyle – 2026

The Rev. Todd Ray - 2026

The Rev. Chris Seaton – 2027

Mrs. Kathleen Malone Crouch - 2027

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY:

The Rt. Rev. Michael Milliken – Chair

The Rev. Dn. Todd Ray - 2026

The Rev. Dn. Scott Mentzer - 2026

Mrs. Debra Mentzer - 2026

Mrs. Margie Prewitt- 2026

The Rev. Ben Houchen – 2027

The Rev. Don Martin – 2027

Mrs. Jennifer Higgins - 2027

Mrs. Sara Kirkhart _2027

UNDERSTANDING THE NOMINATION PROCESS

- As members of the Episcopal Church, we all share in its leadership and oversight, often by serving on parish and diocesan teams and committees. Our church and our witness to the world are stronger when we are led by diverse and energetic folks from across our community. To elect diverse leadership teams, we must first nominate diverse slates of candidates! Therefore, we must nominate faithful women and men from across all of our diocese, varying ages, colors, orientations, and economic circumstances and from parishes small and large, to represent us on these committees.
- The positions open at this annual convention are listed in your Call to Convention paperwork.
- Any active Episcopalian in the Episcopal Church in Western Kansas may nominate someone to serve on a diocesan-wide body. You may nominate yourself as well. Please make sure that the person you are nominating is willing to serve and is a communicant in good standing with the church.
- Please prayerfully consider a person you know who might be ready to serve at the diocesan level. If you have questions, feel free to contact the Diocesan Office at: tec.wks2011@gmail.com
- The deadline for nominating someone else—or yourself—is September 19, 2026. The Nominations Committee is asked to review all nominees to confirm they are eligible and, for positions where insufficient numbers of nominees are received, to nominate candidates for these roles.

DUE IN DIOCESAN OFFICE – SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

1. The following Resolution(s) is submitted for recommendation and for consideration by Convention.
2. The following Constitutional Amendments are submitted for recommendation and first reading at Convention.
3. The following Canonical Amendments are submitted for recommendation and second reading for consideration by Convention.

NOTE: According to the canons, resolutions and constitutional and canonical changes may be submitted up to **21 days prior** to the Convention.

Submitted by:

NAME: _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ CHURCH _____

DUE IN DIOCESAN OFFICE – SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

NAMES OF PERSONS FOR THE NECROLOGY LIST

(Please list for all the churches you serve and identify the departed as to residence and date of death – since last Convention.)

You can also submit information online at:

Submitted by:

NAME: _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ CHURCH _____



**Episcopal Diocese of Western Kansas
56th Annual Diocesan Convention | October 16-17 | Dodge City, KS.**

Registration Information for all Delegates, Visitors, and Vendors

Attendee's name as it appears on badge _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Church _____

Type of Registration (circle one)

Clergy delegate

Lay delegate

Lay alternate

Visitor

Staff

Registration Costs

Convention & banquet		\$75.00/per person	\$
Convention Only (Delegates and Clergy)		\$35.00 per person	\$
Convention Only (Non-Delegates Only)		\$0/per person	\$
Banquet only		\$40.00/per person	\$
Thursday evening gathering (Please Check to let us know you will be coming)		St. Cornelius Church 200 West Spruce Street, Dodge City, Kansas 67801 6:00 p.m.	Free Will Offering
Display table		\$5/per table Exhibitor Form	\$
TOTAL			\$
Please list any Food Allergies			

Please return a completed copy of this form for each person attending the Convention, to the Diocese of Western Kansas, 1 N. Main, Suite 411, Hutchinson, KS 67501. *We prefer that you register on our website at <http://www.diowks.org/convention-registration>.* Please send only ONE CHECK payable to the Diocese of Western Kansas for all attendees from your congregation.

Return this form as soon as possible. Registration closes October 1, 2024. Payment must be included. If you have questions or special needs, food allergies, etc. you may call 620-669-0006 or e-mail tec.wks2011@gmail.com.

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION FORM

There is space for a limited number of exhibits during Convention, at Boot Hill Conference Center, 4100 W. Comanche, Dodge City, KS. (You may set up your exhibit from **8:00 – 9:45 a.m. on Friday morning, October 16, 2026.**) Please complete this form and return it as soon as possible to:

**Diocese of Western Kansas
North Main, Suite 411
Hutchinson, KS 67501**

Exhibitor Registration Deadline is September 30, 2026

EXHIBITOR _____

CONTACT PERSON _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

I will need _____ table(s) at a cost of \$5.00 apiece.

Total Amount owed: \$ _____. (Make your checks payable to the Diocese of Western Kansas).



2026 Proposed Fifty-Sixth Diocesan Convention Schedule

Thursday, October 15

1:00 PM: *Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament at **Mariah Hills Golf Course 1800 Matt Down Road Dodge City, KS 67801.***

6:00 PM: *Pre - Convention Event **St. Cornelius Church, 200 Spruce St. (Free-will donation)***

Friday, October 16

9:00 – 10:00 AM: *Early Registration for Convention at **Boot Hill Conference Center, 4100 W. Comanche.***

8:00 – 9:30 AM: *Exhibitors set up at **Boot Hill Conference Center, 4100 W. Comanche.***

10:30 AM: *Opening Eucharist at **Boot Hill Conference Center, 4100 W. Comanche.***

11:45 AM: *Lunch on your own.*

12:30 PM *Registration at **Boot Hill Conference Center, 4100 W. Comanche.***

2:00 PM: *Convention Opening Session at **Boot Hill Conference Center, 4100 W. Comanche.***

3:30 PM: *Break*

3:45 PM: *Workshop – TBA*

5:00 PM: *Convention Recess and Committee Meetings. (TBA)*

6:00 PM: *Social Time, banquet, awards, and raffle at **Boot Hill Conference Center, 4100 W. Comanche.***

Saturday, October 17

Morning: *Breakfast on your own at your hotel.*

9:00 AM: *Clergy Spouse Breakfast at the **Hampton Inn & Suites Dodge City***

10:00 AM: *Morning Prayer and UTO Ingathering at the **Boot Hill Conference Center, 4100 W. Comanche***

10:45 AM: *Conclusion of Convention Business*

CONVENTION HOTEL INFORMATION

Hampton Inn & Suites Dodge City 620-225-0000

4200 W. Comanche

Dodge City, KS 67801

When reserving a room by phone use ***Episcopal Convention*** for the discounted rate.

Reservation Cut-off date: September 15, 2026

There are other hotels in Dodge City which do not have any special rates for our group.

Comfort Inn 620-338-8700

2000 W. Wyatt Earp Blvd.

Dodge City, KS 67801

Holiday Inn Express 620-225-1000

201 4th Ave

Dodge City, KS 67801

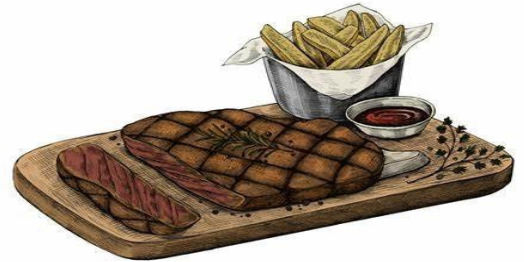
Days Inn 620-225-0231

1610 W. Wyatt Earp Blvd.

Dodge City, KS 67801

RESTAURANT INFORMATION

Central Station Bar & Grill
207 E Wyatt Earp Blvd
Dodge City



Dodge City Brewing Company
701 3rd Ave
Dodge City



Tacos Jalisco
412 E Wyatt Earp Blvd
Dodge City

Cowboy Capital Saloon & Grill
312 W Wyatt Earp Blvd
Dodge City



Follow or Post on Social Media

Facebook—Diocese of Western Kansas

Instagram: diowks

When you posting to social media (Facebook or Instagram) be sure to use the hashtag: **#diowks26**





2026 BISHOP'S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

WHERE: Mariah Hills Golf Course 1800 Matt Down Road Dodge City, KS 67801.

WHEN: Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION: \$65.00 registration fee (Includes Golf and Cart and contribution on your behalf to diocesan ministry)

Online Registration link: <https://www.diowks.org/bishop-cup-registration>

Or

Mail Check to: Diocese of Western Kansas

1 North Main, Suite 411

Hutchinson, KS. 67501

Anyone is welcome to join in the fun of our annual Nine-Hole Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament. All proceeds benefit ministries in the Diocese of Western Kansas. There is no certain skill level required. Come join in the fun!





EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Basket Raffle Fundraiser



BUILD A BASKET

Donations can be delivered during Diocesan Convention Registration. You can purchase tickets for \$2.00 each or five for \$5.00. Raffle drawing will be during the Diocesan Convention Banquet on Friday, October 16.

Basket Ideas: Spa, K-State, K.U. Fort Hays, Wichita State, Themed Dinner, Kids Basket, Gift Certificates, Coffee Baskets, or Wine Baskets.

Questions? Contact Toni Cottrell at tec.wks.2011@gmail.com