



NEWS & NOTES

News and notes from the Bishop's office

July 2018

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From the Bishop's Pen

The General Convention is the first two weeks of this month. I have been experiencing General Convention for years, but this will obviously be my first time to do so in the House of Bishops. I have very mixed feelings about General Convention. Part of the experience is a reunion of sorts, I see friends and colleagues I have not seen for three years, there are seminary class dinners, opportunities for glorious worship, good conversations over meals and during (short) breaks. There is also the time of endless resolutions. I find much of that process tedious at best. I also know that resolutions are how important work has been accomplished, such as the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and the ordination of women. I am not convinced that the process of opposing sides speaking for two minutes at a time and then a vote being taken is the best way to listen for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. I am not convinced that Robert's Rules of Order have anything to do with discerning what God is calling us to do. For better or worse, until we come up with a different way of gathering for General Convention it is what we use. Past conventions were longer and included time for bible study and table conversation with people other than one's own diocesan deputation. This was lost when the convention was condensed into a shorter time frame. I am not sure that losing bible study and conversation was helpful!

Even if a bit shorter than earlier times the length of time for convention is also a problem, it requires people take time off of work, or being free in the summer. This means that deputies are often either school teachers or retired. While both of those (school teachers and

retired) are good to be, neither are the full expression of our church. We are actually a young deputation in our diocese, with a number of folks under 50. Of course it might say something about our church that under fifty is considered "young."

So what does this deputation from our diocese need from all of you? Most of all your prayers. The convention consists of very long days. We take our first alternates so that clergy and lay deputies get at least one session off for a break, but the days are long and intense, and it is easy to get exhausted. Please keep all of us in your prayers for the work. Please also remember that not everything you might hear in the media represents accurately what our deputation is doing or how we are experiencing the convention. Hold off on making any assumptions or judgements about the work we are doing. We will be reporting on the diocesan facebook page every day, check it out and follow along with what we are doing.

Meanwhile other work continues. Camp Cross is going strong and I am delighted with the leadership team that is there. Plans are well underway for our diocesan convention, including for what I think is the first time at least in recent memory, a full morning on Saturday of work dedicated to responding to the call of God to each of us. Many people will take time this summer for some vacation, that is a good and holy thing we are in fact commanded by God to rest!

As we enter in the middle of summer my prayer for all of us is for continued faithfulness in our worship, ongoing dedication to the service of others, commitment to growing in our understanding of our faith. Blessings to you all.

+Gretchen

LOVED AND CALLED; LISTEN AND RESPOND. LET US NOW LISTEN!

During this year we are exploring our diocesan theme and spending time with each word. We have explored what it means to be loved and called by God and now we need to think about how we listen, and practice listening. All congregations are asked to do the following: in your worship service, at least once between now and September 15, take a full minute after the OT and NT reading to simply be in silence, allowing God to speak to you in the silence. Ask the congregation members how that period of silence impacted their worship and sense of listening to hear the words of God through the words of the scripture and in the silence. Your diocesan council representative will be in contact with congregations before the September council meeting to ask how this experience was received. Thanks for your participation!

FOLLOW US AT GENERAL CONVENTION!

Follow the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane Deputation as we do Holy work at the General Convention held in Austin, TX from July 5-11, 2018. You can check in on what resolutions we are discussing, who we are meeting and how we are praying online on our diocesan Facebook page, or check out the diocesan website to get a look at deputies and other information. <https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneDiocese/>



DIOCESAN CONVENTION

In the midst of summer, it can be hard to think about an event in October, but it is not too soon to be planning for our diocesan convention! Registration is up, [register now](#) and receive an early bird discount! Registration rate increases after September 1st. So don't wait, act now! For more information about our convention please see the Bishop's invitation letter and more on the diocesan website:

<http://www.spokanediocese.org/Convention/annual-convention.html>



PAULSEN HOUSE LAWN PARTY: MEET THE BISHOP(S)

July 17, 2018 from 5p – 7p

Meet the Bishops! Join the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane and The Eastern Washington and Idaho Lutheran Synod for an evening on the back lawn of the Historic Paulsen House (245 E 13th Ave, Spokane, WA 92202), with games, refreshments and food. We will only be having one opportunity for a lawn party this year so don't miss it! RSVP on Facebook

[\(https://www.facebook.com/events/175516076449408/\)](https://www.facebook.com/events/175516076449408/) or with Mallory Davis, malloryd@spokanediocese.org. Please RSVP to this party so we may prepare the right amount of fun and food.



Contact Us

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DIOCESAN MEN'S RETREAT

Hosted at Camp Cross August 17-19, 2018 – Our Life in Christ
 According to St. Paul: Join other men in learning from Paul about our life in Christ, while spending time relaxing and enjoying beautiful Camp Cross.

Paul was alert to how the Spirit gathers us into a community of faith, love, and hope. The Revs. Bill Osborne, Rick Matters, and John Palarine will shepherd this community by focusing on subjects germane to men's spirituality. We'll enjoy small group discussions, one-on-one spiritual direction, singing, laughing, praying, swimming, hiking and "holy" hanging out.

Return home renewed & equipped in new ways to follow Jesus. Register online, the subsidized cost is \$120 for the weekend.

https://spokanediocese.formstack.com/forms/diocesan_events

SILENT RETREAT ON CENTERING PRAYER

Lead by the Rt. Rev'd Gretchen M. Rehberg, July 29 - 31, 2018 at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Spokane, WA, 6:00 pm registration, 1 pm departure.

Centering prayer is a type of contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer, in the words of Fr. Thomas Keating - a Trappist monk and priest, is the opening of mind and heart to God, beyond thoughts and words and emotions. We open our awareness to the God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. Centering Prayer is one method, not the only method, of contemplative prayer. Centering Prayer never meant to replace other types of prayer; it simply adds to our prayer life and invites us into a form of prayer where we can be still and be with God in silence and listening. \$196 per person, \$302 couples, \$110 commuters. Please register with Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, (509) 448-1224. <https://ihrc.net/>

BISHOP'S JULY & AUGUST SCHEDULE

Find the diocesan calendar [online here](#).

Date	Itinerary Item	Location
7/2-14	General Convention	Austin, TX
7/22	Christ Church Celebration & Closing Service	Zillah, WA
7/24-25	Arts Camp	Camp Cross
7/29-31	Centering Prayer Retreat, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center	Spokane
8/1-2	Jr High	Camp Cross
8/5-6	Senior High	Camp Cross
8/5-11	College for Congregational Development	Cathedral, Spokane
8/24-26	Women's Weekend	Camp Cross
8/30-9/4	Bishop's Vacation	