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JANUARY 2026

ISSUE #1

CLERGY NEWS

NO NEWS

UPDATED DIOCESAN CONVENTION FEBRUARY 27-28

REGISTRATION is now open for all attendees to the 55th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast to be held February 27-28, 2026, at the Hilton Pensacola Beach, and hosted by St. Francis of Assisi, Gulf Breeze. For all convention-related details, forms, etc., please visit the convention webpage at www.diocgc.org/2026-diocesan-convention. **CLERGY AND LAY DELEGATE REGISTRATION IS DUE JANUARY 28.** All other registrations will remain open until February 12.

NOMINATIONS FOR STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS/GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTIES DUE JANUARY 28. Do you know someone who would be a good leader in our diocese? Clergy and Lay Delegates are eligible to nominate members in good standing to serve on the Standing Committee (the bishop's council of advice and planning) and deputies to the next General Convention of The Episcopal Church. More details and nomination form are available on the convention website listed above.

NEW 2025 PAROCHIAL REPORTS DUE (Filed in 2026)

Remember that 2025 Parochial Reports are due March 1, 2026. This is only one of two items that are canonically required by TEC, so please complete it in a timely manner. The Parochial Report is found online at: <https://reports.dfms.org>. Each church will log in to this site with their unique login (an email) and password. A reminder with your login ID was emailed to you by the General Convention Office in December. If you need your login ID again, please contact the diocesan office, and we can provide it. Instructions, blank forms, and helpful instructions can be found at: <https://www.generalconvention.org/pr-workbook-and-instructions>.

***A reminder that your reports are due online using the DFMS Filing website; paper documents are not accepted. If you wish, you can use the blank PDF version of the form as your working document; but it will need to be entered online for it to be officially submitted as complete.**

NEW BISHOP'S DISCRETIONARY ENVELOPES - UPDATED PRACTICE

As printing and mailing costs continue to rise, we are introducing a simpler approach for receiving the Bishop's Discretionary Fund offering during the annual Episcopal visit. We will no longer provide special envelopes for your bulletins. Please continue to announce the Bishop's Discretionary Fund offering and collect the loose offering on the Sunday of the Bishop's visitation. This practice remains an important expression of our shared ministry and care for those in need. Below are bulletin inserts for you to include on the visitation Sunday to help communicate this change and highlight the purpose of the fund.

[Full-page Insert](#) | [Half-page Insert](#)

UPDATE PLEASE VERIFY 2025 PLEDGES

As we near the end of 2025, please take a moment to look at the attached financials and verify that the total pledge listed received by December 31st matches your church records, and notify Kim (kim@diocgc.org) of any discrepancies. This will expedite accurate reports to Convention at year's end. December is the ONLY month that we extend a week into January in consideration of the holidays.

Also, the following **UTO funds** have been received to date:

St. Paul's, Daphne \$20	St. Mary's, Milton \$600	Holy Trinity, Pensacola \$32
Nativity, Dothan \$40	St. Patrick's, Panama City \$386	St. Andrew, Mobile \$446
St. Paul's, Mobile \$8,608		

UPDATE IMPUTED INCOME REPORTS SENT

Section 79 of the Internal Revenue Code requires that employers calculate imputed income for employees who receive group term life insurance coverage in excess of \$50,000. Clergy and Lay employees who have this type of group term life insurance coverage are required to pay taxes on the value of that insurance coverage in excess of \$50,000. We have done the calculations for you and mailed them to all church employers. Although the diocese provides this information to your employer, we want you to be aware of this additional income. It is important that you confirm with your employer both the figure provided in the letter mailed and that your employer will include an imputed income figure on your Form W-2. Questions? Call Kim in the diocesan office.

UPDATE BILL PAYMENT CHANGES BY CHURCH PENSION GROUP (CPG)

Remember that CPG now only accepts bill payments online (no paper checks). The Online Billing and Payment platform is provided through a new vendor partner, Paymentus. **Effective October 1, all billing and payments of CPG benefits and products will be done electronically only.** Any church institution that receives a bill (pension, group health/life/disability, and property/liability) will need a designated church administrator to access and pay their bills electronically (no checks). All our churches now have a bill pay administrator. If changes/additions are needed, please contact Kim Weinstein (kim@diocgc.org) to update your administrator access to the bill pay portal.

2026 CHURCH PLEDGES

The annual pledge requests have been mailed to all churches, and a follow-up email will be sent soon to church clergy/leadership as a reminder. The mailing includes a message from the Bishop that we ask you to share with your vestry. ***The pledge form has been updated to include a section requesting vestry sign-off.*** We ask that your contribution be a ten percent (10%) tithe of the most recent full year Operating Revenue (plate/pledge) as reported on your annual Parochial Report. If you believe that the most recent filed Parochial Report (completed in 2025 for the calendar year 2024) does not fully reflect your current financial status, use the comment section on the form to provide additional information. Please do your best to meet your annual pledge commitment for 2026; most of the annual diocesan mission/ministry budget (88%) comes from your direct financial contributions. Thanks again for your support.

CLERGY REMINDER: NEW ASSIGNMENT FORM

Remember that clergy/employers need to submit updated employment/compensation changes with CPG. Clergy/employers need to submit this form to CPG when:

- A cleric's employment status has changed, including retirement, beginning a new assignment, changing employers, etc.
- A cleric's or lay employee's compensation changes, including when a one-time payment is made (such as an end-of-year bonus or "love" offering).

You can find the CPG form at: <https://www.diocgc.org/administrative-resources> or call Kim at the diocesan office.

CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION (as of 1/1/2026)

Brewton, St. Stephen's	In process; starting transition
Destin, St. Andrew's	Very beginning of search process
Eufaula, St. James	Search committee formed; building profile
Monroeville, St. John's	In process; starting transition
Panama City, St. Andrew's	Accepting applications
Pensacola, St. Christopher's	Accepting applications
Santa Rosa Beach, Christ the King	Search committee formed; building profile; interim in place

Please do not contact the openings directly. For information, please contact the Rev. Ashley Freeman, Canon to the Ordinary, at ashley@diocgc.org.

ONLINE SAFEGUARDING / RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Our Safeguarding system uses a program from Presidium Academy. You can find links and guidelines on the diocesan website at: <https://www.diocgc.org/administrative-resources>. Each church must identify church Administrators; Admins can be added to the system by contacting the Diocesan Office. These Admins will add their church members to the Academy system and generate “invitations” to those needing to take Safeguarding modules.

1. **To Sign Up for the Safeguarding System:**
E-mail the Safeguarding Online Administrator assigned to your parish.
2. Your designated church Administrator will facilitate your access to Praesidium Academy by generating an "invitation email" which will be sent to you from donotreply@praesidiuminc.com.
3. Fill in the required information (including your desired password).
4. Click Accept Invite.
5. You will be redirected to the login screen - please log in with your email address and the password you just created.
6. You can now proceed to find and complete the required modules.

If your coursework is over 4 years old, it will be considered dated/expired and may not have been moved over into your new account. If you have any questions, please contact Dwight Babcock or Mary Poss at 850-434-7337.

STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM TENS

2025 password: **Luke1:46** (Note: a username is no longer required)

Annual pledge campaign materials are available on the TENS website. This year's theme is “Tell Out My Soul: Annual Pledge Campaign.” Resources include graphics and logos in various standard formats, customizable letters from clergy, the Stewardship Committee, and wardens, as well as customizable pledge/promise cards. All churches have access to TENS materials as they are included in our diocesan membership. The login credentials are changed annually for members. LOGIN at: <https://www.tens.org/>.

RESOURCE: LAY LEADERS DIRECTORY

The list of Lay Leaders who have been canonically certified as Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers is available on the diocesan website. We have provided this list for many of our smaller parishes that occasionally need assistance when supply clergy are not available. Bishop Kendrick and Dean Joy Blaylock work in conjunction with those who are invited to lead worship or preach at a church different than their own. This has been found to be a joyful fruit of the Lay School as it deepens the bonds of relationship and ministry across our diocese.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dean Joy Blaylock at joyblaylock@diocgc.org. You can find the Lay Leader list here: <https://www.diocgc.org/lay-ministry>.

SUPPLY CLERGY LIST

[Here is the link to the supply clergy list](#). Should you need help securing a supply priest for church services, please contact the Rev. Lydia Johnson at lydia@diocgc.org.

LINK TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE DIOCESAN EMAIL LIST

Please consider adding the link below to your regular church communications and website so that members can subscribe and stay connected to news from around the diocese. Thank you! [SUBSCRIBE TO DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS](#).

MUSIC LICENSING

If your church offers music during services, it is important to follow all copyright guidelines, which include maintaining a license to perform, broadcast, or print copyrighted music. Review your church’s licensing agreements, and be sure to add the streaming option if you are broadcasting services online. Recommended licensing companies include [One License](#), [Christian Copyright Licensing International](#)(CCLI), and [Christian Copyright Solutions](#).

CYCLES OF PRAYER FOR DIOCESE AND PRISON MINISTRY

Congregations are invited to include both our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and our Prison Ministry Cycle of Prayer in their Prayers of the People, newsletters, and/or bulletins, www.diocgc.org/cycle-of-prayer.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY - SUBMIT UPDATES

Annually, we request that churches update their leadership directory for the diocesan database. The update is especially important to report changes in vestry membership. Please submit your completed form, linked below, as soon as possible. Thank you! Direct questions to jenn@diocgc.org. [CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY FORM](#)

UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS Stay up-to-date on diocesan events by bookmarking our calendar: <https://www.diocgc.org/calendar-of-events>.

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Monthly Clergy Zoom Meeting	Jan 8	Zoom
Martin Luther King Jr Day Observance	Jan 19	Duvall Center Closed
Happening Staff Training	Jan 23-25	St. Christopher's, Pensacola www.diocgc.org/happening
Pre-Convention Zoom Meeting	Feb 1	Zoom
Happening #63	Feb 6-8	St. Christopher's, Pensacola www.diocgc.org/happening .

BISHOP RUSSELL’S SCHEDULE

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Visitation	Jan 4	St. James, Eufaula
Small Church Conversation	Jan 6	ZOOM
Monthly Clergy Zoom Meeting	Jan 8	ZOOM
Panama City Clericus luncheon mtg	Jan 8	Panama City Yacht Club
COM – Nominee Final Interviews	Jan 9-10	Beckwith
Visitation	Jan 11 am	Redeemer, Mobile

Vestry Meeting	Jan 11 pm	St. Mary's, Coden
Lay Worship Leader class	Jan 17	Duvall Center
Visitation	Jan 18 am	St. Andrew's, Panama City
Visitation	Jan 18 pm	St. Patrick's, Panama City
Standing Committee meeting	Jan 20	Duvall Center
Celebration of New Ministry [Carl Saxton]	Jan 21 pm	Nativity, Dothan
Happening Staff Training	Jan 22 – 24	St. Christopher's, Pensacola
Visitation	Jan 25	St. Paul's, Foley
Retired Clergy & Spouse & Surviving Spouse lunch	Jan 29	St. Christopher's, Pensacola
Visitation	Feb 1	St. John's, Pensacola
Province IV Bishops' meeting	Feb 3 am	ZOOM
Wilmer Hall Board meeting	Feb 3 pm	Wilmer Hall
Happening #63	Feb 6 - 8	St. Christopher's, Pensacola
Westminster Episcopal Community – Eucharist & lunch	Feb 11	Westminster Village
Monthly Clergy Zoom Meeting	Feb 12	ZOOM
Lay Worship Leader class	Feb 14	Duvall Center

DIOCESAN CONVENTION TIMELINE

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Registration opens	Dec 2	Online: https://www.diocgc.org/2026-diocesan-convention
Deadline for Election of Lay Delegates	Dec 29	Certification is made during the online registration process
General Resolutions due	Jan 13	SUBMIT USING THIS FORM
2026 Congregational Pledge Request due	Jan 13	Email to kim@diocgc.org
Standing Committee Member Nominations due	Jan 28	SUBMIT USING THIS FORM
General Convention Deputy Nominations due	Jan 28	SUBMIT USING THIS FORM
Voting Clergy and Lay Delegate Registration closes	Jan 28	
Pre-Convention Meeting	Feb 1	Zoom
Visitor Registration closes	Feb 12	
Diocesan Convention	Feb 27-28	Hilton Pensacola Beach Hosted by St. Francis, Gulf Breeze

Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
Green Sheet 2025
Treasurer's Report - December 2025
(Please Note: Report reflects funds received as of 12/31/25)

Congregational Pledges	MTD Actual (2025)	YTD Rec'd (2025)	YTD Budget Variance	Annual Pledge (2025)
Pledges				
Andalusia, St. Mary's	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0	\$12,000.00
Apalachicola,Trinity	\$1,837.00	\$22,000.00	\$0	\$22,000.00
Atmore, St. Anna's	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
Atmore, Trinity	\$100.00	\$500.00	(\$700)	\$1,200.00
Bay Minette, Immanuel	\$342.10	\$6,380.29	\$1,150	\$5,230.00
Bon Secour,St. Peter's	\$0.00	\$7,779.08	(\$1,899)	\$9,678.00
Brewton, St. Stephen's	\$0.00	\$16,792.13	(\$3,507)	\$20,299.00
Cantonment,St. Monica's	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0	\$10,000.00
Chickasaw,St.Michael's	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
Chipley, St. Matthew's	\$476.00	\$5,712.00	\$0	\$5,710.00
Citronelle, St. Thomas	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
Coden, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$5,470.00	\$0	\$5,470.00
Crestview, Epiphany	\$250.00	\$3,000.00	\$0	\$3,000.00
Daphne, St. Paul's	\$5,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0	\$30,000.00
Dauphin Isld, St. Francis	\$0.00	\$12,350.00	\$950	\$11,400.00
DeFnk Spgs, St. Agatha's	\$514.10	\$5,590.75	\$341	\$5,250.00
Destin, St. Andrew's	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	(\$6,000)	\$8,000.00
Dothan, Nativity	\$14,250.00	\$57,000.00	\$0	\$57,000.00
Enterprise, Epiphany	\$925.00	\$11,031.00	\$6	\$11,026.00
Eufaula, St. James'	\$1,275.00	\$15,300.00	\$0	\$15,300.00
Fairhope, St. James'	\$6,666.64	\$73,333.22	(\$6,667)	\$80,000.00
Foley, St. Paul's	\$2,399.42	\$28,793.04	\$0	\$28,793.00
Ft.Wltn Bch,St. Simon	\$4,234.00	\$50,808.00	\$0	\$50,808.00
Greenville, St. Thomas	\$1,551.90	\$22,422.32	\$2,117	\$20,305.00
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis	\$941.00	\$12,119.00	\$772	\$11,347.50
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	\$0.00	\$30,937.50	(\$2,813)	\$33,750.00
Jackson, St. Peter's	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0	\$1,500.00
Laguna Beach, St.Thomas	\$4,097.60	\$6,069.30	\$282	\$5,787.00
Lillian, Advent	\$795.00	\$9,540.00	\$288	\$9,252.00
Magnolia Spgs, St. Pauls	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0	\$25,000.00
Marianna, St. Luke's	\$9,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$4,000	\$10,000.00
Milton, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$7,815.00	\$0	\$7,815.00
Mobile, All Saints'	\$1,666.67	\$20,000.04	\$0	\$20,000.00
Mobile, Christ	\$3,383.37	\$41,800.00	\$0	\$41,800.00
Mobile, Good Shepherd	\$1,300.00	\$15,600.00	\$0	\$15,600.00
Mobile, Redeemer	\$1,002.00	\$12,024.00	\$0	\$12,024.00
Mobile, St. Andrew's	\$274.00	\$6,637.00	\$2,753	\$3,884.00
Mobile, St. John's	\$2,648.10	\$13,889.84	(\$310)	\$14,200.00
Mobile, St. Luke's	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$6,000)	\$6,000.00
Mobile, St. Paul's	\$16,576.00	\$198,912.00	\$0	\$198,912.00
Mobile, Trinity	\$1,041.63	\$12,500.00	\$0	\$12,500.00
Monroeville, St. John's	\$334.88	\$3,198.75	(\$10,135)	\$13,334.00
Navarre, St. Augustine's	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0	\$5,000.00
Niceville, St. Jude's	\$3,264.87	\$39,178.00	\$0	\$39,178.00
Ozark, St. Michael's	\$0.00	\$1,460.00	\$0	\$1,460.00
Pnma City, Holy Nativity	\$3,634.50	\$43,000.00	\$0	\$43,000.00
Panama City, St. Andrew's	\$1,264.00	\$16,635.81	(\$4,765)	\$21,401.00
Panama City, St. Patrick's	\$484.90	\$4,140.90	\$1,141	\$3,000.00
Panama City Beach, Grace	\$1,079.92	\$12,958.96	(\$0)	\$12,959.00
Pensacola, Christ	\$23,185.00	\$135,500.00	\$0	\$135,500.00
Pensacola, Holy Cross	\$6,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$0	\$24,000.00
Pensacola,Holy Trinity	\$1,178.78	\$14,145.36	\$0	\$14,145.00
Pcola, St. Christopher's	\$6,331.50	\$76,000.00	\$0	\$76,000.00
Pensacola, St. Cyprian's	\$750.00	\$3,050.00	(\$236)	\$3,286.00
Pensacola, St. John's	\$14,500.00	\$17,000.00	\$0	\$17,000.00
Pt St. Joe, St. James'	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,500)	\$1,500.00
Robertsdale, St. John	\$270.00	\$1,620.00	\$0	\$1,620.00
SRB, Christ King	\$0.00	\$50,614.59	(\$4,385)	\$55,000.00
Troy, St. Mark's	\$833.00	\$10,000.00	\$0	\$10,000.00
Wewahitchka, St. John's	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0	\$2,000.00
Total Pledges	\$151,658	\$1,286,108	(\$35,117)	\$1,321,224