



THE RIGHT REVEREND M. KEITH ANDREWS
BISHOP

The Kingdom Among Us House of Delegates - 2017

My friends and partners in the gospel,

As we work through these last days of Eastertide and prepare for our celebration of Pentecost, some advance preparations prior to summer vacations will help us all to assist our leaders for our Annual Diocesan Synod: House of Delegates Assembly to be held October 27-28, 2017. I realize that when we gather so infrequently, we are tempted to think that we can do with less—less time, less effort, less money. What I want to say is that less is just that—less. As Anglicans we believe that ‘we’ and ‘us’ matters. So, please make every effort to make an investment in the community of mission that Jesus is building among us as members of the Diocese of Western Anglicans.

As we begin preparations for our HoD Assembly following our Annual Clergy Retreat, we are asking you to complete the form [HERE](#) and identify all clergy and lay participants (delegates) by mid-July. We also ask that you identify Alternate Delegates, in case a chosen delegate cannot attend, and Guests (both described below). This will allow the Diocese to communicate with the delegates to provide relevant materials for the meeting and to allow the delegates a period of time for reflection and consideration to join our Executive Committee (Board of Directors) who are elected during the HoD Assembly meeting.

Before completing the delegate form, it is necessary to determine how many and who are delegates for your congregations.

First, every congregation has a delegation number that is comprised of the number of active clergy (8+ hours/week in congregation-based ministry) and laity (1 for every congregation + 1 for each additional increase in ASA according to Canon 2 Concerning the House of Delegates and Section 2.02 and Section 2.03). These two numbers are added together to identify the congregation delegation number.

Example 1: A church plant with a part-time priest who is working for 8+ hours per week with the congregation that sees 25 in average Sunday attendance, is entitled to 1 clergy delegate and 1 lay delegate. Congregation delegation # is 2.

Example 2: A congregation with 1 full-time stipendiary priest and a part-time active priest (8+ hours per week) and a congregation of 65 in average Sunday attendance is entitled to 2 clergy and 2 laity. Congregation delegation # is 4.

Example 3: A congregation with 2 full-time stipendiary priests, 1 part-time active priest (8+ hours per week), 2 assisting priests (less than 8+ hours per week) and 190 in average Sunday attendance, would be entitled to 3 clergy and 5 laity. Congregation delegation # is 8.

Clergy who are not active according to our canons (less than 8 hours per week in ministry through the local church) are welcomed and invited to participate as Guests with voice, but no vote on matters that come before the Delegates.

Second, every congregation is expected to cover the costs by providing financially for their delegates to participate in the Annual Synod: House of Delegates through their operating budget. The costs are:

1. \$15 per delegate times the Delegation # and this is for the meeting itself (this defrays some of the cost). This cost remains whether or not the delegate participates.
2. \$ for travel costs
3. \$ for lodging costs

All delegates are invited to participate fully. This is an essential means for building the Kingdom among us.

Third, should a congregation choose not to send delegates, but participate via our online meeting software, each Deanery will provide a single-hosted location, so that Deanery members may meet together as an alternative to traveling to Southern California. We are not offering the option to view the gathering from home or office, as the whole purpose of the gathering is to gather with one another in God's Presence. Consequently, the choices for gathering are in Southern California at the diocesan location or at the Deanery hosted site.

Fourth, in order to maximize the value of our time together, we are adding Friday evening to our schedule. It is expected that our clergy and lay delegates prepare themselves to be present for the Friday evening session. This will mean that congregations will need to plan for at least one night of lodging for their delegates. In Southern California, we have already made arrangements at a nearby hotel for rooms. The deaneries with a hosted site will need to assist their members who choose the hosted site option.

We are communicating this process well in advance of our October gathering so that we may maximize this year's opportunity to be together, pray together, work together and advance together for the sake of God's Kingdom.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25

The Lord bless you!
+Keith

