The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane
ACTIONS OF THE 62nd CONVENTION: October 16, 2026

2026 Bishop's Address Can be Viewed Here:

https://youtu.be/R_iMSUUQVPU

Elected offices at this convention		**term expires**
Secretary of the Convention	The Rev. Kathy Lamphere	2027
Chancellor	Mike Church	2027
Registrar	The Rev. Kathy Lamphere	2027
Standing Committee, Lay	Katy O'Callaghan	2030
Standing Committee, Clergy	The Rev. Jonathan Myers	2030
	The Very Rev. Heather VanDeventer	2029
Disciplinary Board	The Rev. Jeremy Armstrong	2029
	The Rev. Rachel Jackson	2029
	Kate Rogers	2029
Commission on Ministry	The Rev. Chris Hagenbuch	2029
	Scott Oakshott	2029
	Lyn Megow	2029
Diocesan Council	The Rev. Linda Bartholomew	2029
	The Rev. John MacDonald	2029

Appointments at this convention		
Church Attorney	J. Scott Miller	2027
Diocesan Council	The Rev. David Gortner	2027
	Julie Henry	2027
	Katherine Karr-Cornejo	2027
Disciplinary Board Intake Officer	The Rev. Elaine Patrick	2027

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, DIOCESAN COUNCIL		term expires
Commission on Ministry	James DeDeaux	2027
	Margaret Drumm	2027
	The Rev. Kathy Lamphere	2027
	The Rev. Kimmy Meineke	2028
	Taylor Mather	2028
	The Very Rev. Heather VanDeventer	2028
	The Rev. Chris Hagenbuch	2029
	Scott Oakshott	2029
	Lyn Megow	2029
Diocesan Council	The Rev. Colby Roberts	2027
	Wayne Hawks	2027
	The Rev. David Gortner	2027
	Julie Henry	2027
	Katherine Karr-Cornejo	2027
	Theresa Grate	2028
	Sandi Peck	2028
	The Rev. Linda Bartholomew	2029
	The Rev. John MacDonald	2029
Disciplinary Board	The Rev. Linda Young	2027
	Kelly Clift	2027
	Katie Longinotti	2027
	The Rev. Arlan Farley	2028
	The Rev. Mary Beth Rivetti	2028
	Sheryl Shepherd	2028
	The Rev. Jeremy Armstrong	2029
	The Rev. Rachel Jackson	2029
	Kate Rogers	2029
Standing Committee	Rex Burns	2027
	The Rev. Chris Hagenbuch	2027
	The Rev. Jan Griffin	2028
	Pia Longinotti	2028
	The Very Rev. Heather VanDeventer	2029
	Marji Mack	2029
	The Rev. Jonathan Myers	2030
	Katy O'Callaghan	2030

Saturday, October 16, 2026

Resolution 2026-1: Responding to Christian Nationalism

Resolved, that the 2026 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane affirm that Christian nationalism, the belief that the United States is or should be a nation privileging Christians, and in its more extreme

forms white Christians, over others, is contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to our baptismal promise to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" (BCP, p. 305); and be it further

Resolved, that this Convention call every congregation and ministry in the Diocese of Spokane to prayer and reflection on the relationship between love of God and love of country, commending the statement of Christians Against Christian Nationalism and The Crisis of Christian Nationalism Report from the House of Bishops Theology Committee as resources; and may it be further

Resolved. That this convention encouraged that every congregation offer at least one adult formation opportunity and one youth where applicable, on Christian nationalism and difference from patriotism in 2027, including a report of such work at the 2027 diocesan convention.

Resolved, that this convention encourage continuing Christian formation for all ages that focuses on the Baptismal Covenant and our common life as citizens; and may it be further

Resolved, that this convention commend collaboration with local organizations and our ecumenical siblings to stand together in witness to the Gospel in our communities, paying special attention to efforts against hate, bigotry, white supremacy, and religious intimidation.

Explanation

Christian nationalism wraps a political ideology in the language and symbols of our faith. It confuses allegiance to Christ with allegiance to a nation, and too often is joined to white supremacy. It is a distortion of the Gospel, in which "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Our region knows this danger firsthand. For decades, the Aryan Nations compound at Hayden Lake, Idaho, spread hatred in the name of a false Christianity, and it took the courage of local people of faith and conscience to defeat it. Today, movements that openly promote Christian nationalism are active within the boundaries of this Diocese. As Christians, we have a particular responsibility to say clearly that this is not the faith we proclaim, and to equip our members to recognize and respond to it with both courage and love.

Financial implications

None to the diocesan budget. Sacred Ground and the "Christians Against Christian Nationalism" materials are available online at no cost.

Programming: Interdenominational Ministry and Congregational Partnerships

During the 2026 Diocesan Convention, congregations participated in a facilitated table discussion focused on building and strengthening relationships with neighboring churches from other Christian traditions, specifically the United Methodist Church (UMC), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and the Presbyterian Church (USA) (PCUSA).

Each congregation was asked to identify the nearest UMC, ELCA, and PCUSA congregations in their area; reflect on any existing relationships with these faith communities; and identify potential barriers to developing or deepening those relationships.

As a next step, each congregation was asked to commit to one concrete, achievable action to initiate or strengthen a relationship with at least one of these neighboring congregations between Convention and Easter

2027. Congregations were invited to share their commitments with the larger group, creating an opportunity for mutual encouragement and accountability.

Progress will be revisited at the spring gathering day, when congregations will be asked to report on the actions they took and reflect on opportunities for continued collaboration.

This initiative is intended to encourage congregations throughout the Diocese of Spokane to move beyond identifying neighboring faith communities toward taking intentional steps to build relationships, foster Christian unity, and explore opportunities for shared ministry.

New Call Approved

The Standing Committee and Convention approved the new call for a Latino Missioner and Assisting Bishop for Latino Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane. Bishop Gretchen shared that the individual being called is a Bishop, which is why approval of the Standing Committee and Convention was sought. This appointment represents an important step in supporting and strengthening Latino ministry throughout the diocese.