



Dancing into a New Season of Ministry: Growing Community to Seed God's Mission

**51st Annual Convention
Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
October 8-9, 2021
Radisson Hotel
605 E. Broadway Avenue, Bismarck, ND**

Recommendations of COVID-19 Task Force for Diocesan Convention

Approved by Diocesan Council for diocesan-wide distribution – August 14, 2021

COVID-19 has been with us for some time. It appeared infections were decreasing and that we could totally back off, but now we face a resurgence of infections from the delta variant. On August 2 we recommended that each congregation decide their policy since they know their own situation. Vaccinations were strongly encouraged as the best way to prevent further spread of COVID, and masks should be worn at indoor services if community transmission is substantial or high.

In the meantime, more of our state has increased the risk of transmission to substantial or high. We are called to love God and love our neighbor including the weak and vulnerable. Our task force offers its recommendations concerning gathering for Diocesan Convention.

1) – Meet in person

It is important for us to meet in person. We missed this opportunity last year and much is gained being together in convention.

2) – Covenant together

We ask each congregation and member of the clergy to covenant with each other to:

- a. Send only delegates, clergy, and guests who are vaccinated
- b. Discuss issues in advance among members so delegates can represent all
- c. Everyone wears masks when in groups indoors
- d. Maintain a proper distance (3 to 6 feet) when unmasked, such as for meals
- e. Maintain safe distancing and masking for any children who are not yet vaccinated

3) – Limit exposure during meals

We will have a plated dinner, buffet breakfast, and a Saturday box lunch. Try to keep a distance when eating and be unmasked for the short time needed to eat.

4) – Holy Communion to be distributed in one form

Distribute only bread for communion of those at the worship service

5) – Live stream highlights

Use livestreaming for the bishop's address Friday night, the Holy Eucharist, Saturday morning and to share the larger plenary gatherings of Diocesan Convention on Saturday. It is too cumbersome to have a 2-way discussion or voting via live stream. Delegates should be prepared to discuss issues their congregation may want brought up.

6) – Check with the Radisson

See if they have mask signage and if they have any requirements for groups.