



Diocese of the Atlantic States

(Anglican Province of Christ the King)

17 July, AD 2020

TO BE READ IN ALL PARISHES ON JULY 19th, AD 2020

Reverend Clergy and Delegate Members of Annual Diocesan Synod:

All of us have been dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic for five months now, both as a Province and individually. We have risen to the challenges it has thrown at us by modifying our worship services and utilizing technological means to continue to bring God's Word and Sacraments in an efficaciously as possible manner to you all. We also postponed our Annual Diocesan Synods until September to make travel to/from and the Synods, themselves, less dangerous regarding contracting the virus. While initial attempts seemed to be working, recent developments have revealed spikes in the virus across the US with a corresponding rising hospitalization and death rate in some areas. Some states have responded to this uptick in cases and are trying to subdue these spikes. States such as California and Illinois have re-imposed stringent restrictions to large gatherings and church services.

At a recent Council of Bishops Meeting held on Friday, July 17th, Bishop Ashman reported, because of the new restrictions California has imposed indefinitely, he has found it necessary to postpone the 2020 Synod of the Diocese of the Western States until 2021. The Council concurred and the Diocese of the Atlantic States followed suit. Therefore, the **Synods for 2021** are tentatively scheduled as follows: ***DWS – April 20th – 24th, 2021 in Chico, CA; DAS – May 11th – 14th, 2021 in Bolingbrook, IL; and DSWS – May 25th – 28th, 2021 in Las Vegas, NV.*** All Committees and Appointments will remain in effect and intact until the next Diocesan Synod. If any delegates have paid money to register for the 2020 Synod, rest assured it is safe in the Diocesan Treasury and the Dioceses will make up any difference should costs increase in the meantime. Please also be reminded that it is always our goal to keep Registration Fees and costs of our Synods as reasonable as possible for all delegates and guests.

The Bishops very much regret having to postpone the Diocesan Synods this year due to Covid-19, but it remains and has always been out of an abundance of caution that we try to keep the faithful safe from this deadly virus. Please continue to persevere and vigilant in your prayers and steadfastness. We will prevail against this pandemic and be stronger in the new year, God willing!

For the Love of God and the Sake of the Gospel,

The Most Rev. Dr. John E. Upham, Jr.
Bishop Ordinary and Archbishop

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