

## GREETINGS FROM EPISCOPAL PARISH NETWORK!

We are pleased you are planning to join us at the 39th Annual Episcopal Parish Network Conference in Houston from March 6-9, 2024. The EPN Planning Committee has programmed a fantastic set of keynote conversations, pre-conferences, and workshops for your time with us in Houston.

As you register for the conference, you might have some questions and we are providing the following information to help you as you navigate the site.

Please e-mail [info@episcopalparishes.org](mailto:info@episcopalparishes.org) if you have questions or concerns not addressed below.



**Conference Dates:** The 39th Annual Conference will begin with the Episcopal Preaching Foundation lunch on Wednesday, March 6 at 12:00pm CT. The conference closes on Saturday, March 9 following the final Keynote Conversation.

**Pre-conference Sessions:** The pre-conferences begin on Wednesday, March 6 at 2:00pm CT are open to everyone. These are generally role-based gatherings of lay and clergy leaders engaged in similar ministry. We encourage all attendees to take advantage of the intense-learning opportunity and deep networking available in these pre-conferences.

Note that some sessions are designed for and limited to individuals in a particular role (e.g., the Rector & Dean Pre-conference is limited to rectors, deans, priests-in-charge, interim rectors and others holding the senior clergy role in a congregation). Other pre-conferences are open to any attendee that wants to learn with and network among those with similar roles (e.g. the Vestry, Warden, and Lay Leader Pre-conference is open to all lay leaders with a call to and work in senior leadership roles in their congregation). This year, the Who is My Neighbor

Pre-conference is designed for any attendee who feels a call to join a pre-conference but doesn't identify with any of the eight role-based pre-conferences offered.

Pre-conferences are a great way to get to know others in the church doing work like yours or with similar interests. The pre-conference cohorts join for learning on Wednesday afternoon and share a meal and conversation on Wednesday evening and finish their time together on Thursday morning.

**Keynote Conversations:** The five Keynote Conversations (AKA Plenaries or Keynotes) are designed for all attendees. You will automatically be registered for all five sessions as part of your registration process.

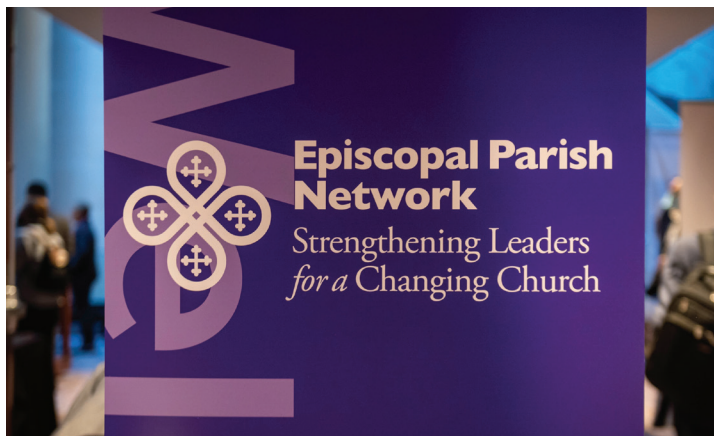
**Workshop Tracks:** The six workshop tracks are designed to educate and inspire on a variety of subjects including leadership, financial resiliency, innovation, strategy, inclusiveness, and real property management. You are welcome to pick and choose among the workshops to create an agenda that appeals to you.

If you are interested in real property management and leveraging your assets, we encourage you to join the Reimagining Property as Mission track. This is the only track where attending all three workshops in the track is encouraged (and, there is a field trip to a case study in Houston as part of this track).

**Women Clergy Gathering:** EPN is honored to host the Women Clergy Gathering (WCG) on Thursday, March 7 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the conference hotel. This gathering is open to women, women-identified, and non-binary clergy persons. There will be a pre-gathering online prior to the conference (if you register for the WCG you will receive details about this gathering in late-January). The WCG at the conference will feature a lite lunch for attendees. The WCG is offered to attendees at no cost (Meaning you will register for the WCG but do not need to register for the conference to attend.)



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**Exhibit Hall:** The Exhibit Hall is directly next to the mainstage (the location for all the Keynote Conversations). We hope you will find solution providers and vendors to meet your church's needs. The Conference Opening Reception will take place in the Exhibit Hall and you are invited to visit our sponsors and partners throughout the day. These generous organizations, through their sponsorship, help keep registration costs low and ensure we cover the costs for hosting you in Houston.

**Meals:** Breakfast is provided on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings in and around the Exhibit Hall.

The Episcopal Preaching Foundation hosts a lunch on Wednesday, March 6 before the pre-conference sessions begin. This lunch requires registration and sells out quickly. Please do register early if you intend to join EPF for thoughtful conversation and learning about their various programs.

Lunch on Thursday will be provided to women-identified clergy as part of the Women Clergy Gathering.

**First-time Attendees:** If this is your first time attending EPN's annual conference you might feel overwhelmed by the amount of programming and the size of the gathering. EPN will host a first-time attendee webinar approximately two weeks before the conference begins. You will receive a notice about the webinar and hope you will join to hear more and ask questions.

EPN is also creating a 'Conference Buddy' system this year. If you indicate in your registration that this will be

your first conference, you will be invited to request a buddy to be connected to. This buddy will be a member of our Planning Committee or an EPN Board of Directors member. They will be available for answering questions, meeting for coffee, or otherwise getting to know. Don't be shy about asking to for a buddy to help answer questions, meet you at the conference, or help with advice.

For those not attending the Women Clergy Gathering on Thursday, you are invited to lunch at St. Martin's Episcopal Church approximately one mile from the conference hotel. The team at St. Martin's is hosting lunch and tours of the church from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Registration for this lunch is required and we encourage you to register early if you want to attend.

Friday's lunch will be networking with friends and colleagues at a venue of your choice. EPN will provide a gift card you may use to purchase lunch (or use at some other time). There are numerous restaurants and cafes in the immediate vicinity of the conference hotel.

Coffee and snack breaks will take place through Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the conference hotel.

**Group Discounts:** Attendees consistently report that attending the annual conference with their lay and clergy colleagues makes the learning experience richer and encourages dialogue when the group returns home. EPN is pleased to encourage multiple attendees from the same church or institution. Once your group reaches five individuals, each person will receive an additional \$50 discount on their individual registration fee.

**EARLY IS GOOD Early-bird Pricing:** EPN is pleased to provide significant discounts for early registration. You can learn more about these discounts by referencing the pricing table [found here](#). Early-bird pricing ends on January 1, 2024.

**Questions:** EPN welcomes questions about the conference or registration. We encourage you to reach out to [info@episcopalparishes.org](mailto:info@episcopalparishes.org) with any questions.

We look forward to welcoming you to Houston in March 2024.

*Faithfully yours,*

**EPN Annual Conference Planning Committee**

