



Diocese of Missouri
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

September 4, 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! This letter comes as an introduction to the other materials sent to help you prepare for the 176th Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Missouri. There is important legislative business to complete, but we will also continue, as in recent years, to provide space for learning from one another, for conversation, and for time to relish the company of friends from across the Diocese.

The entire Convention will be held at the Chesterfield Doubletree Hotel and Convention Center, in suburban St. Louis, November 20-21. Once again, Convention begins with the Eucharist, and will include the ordination of a deacon.

The theme for this Convention will be **Reconciliation**. 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 will inform our time together, and especially verses 18-19:

All this [good news] is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

God, who is putting back together a broken world through Jesus Christ, has also called us who are the Church to be servants of this reconciliation. We will hear stories of reconciliation, and its challenges, during the time at Convention.

Plus these other highlights:

- Updates on the missional life in the Diocese of Missouri, especially as it relates to *Making disciples | Building congregations | For the life of the world*
- News from the Diocese of Lui and Deaconess Anne House, two visible expressions of mission
- Reports about ministries about youth in the Diocese
- Election to Diocesan offices
- Consideration of a Diocesan budget for 2016

Finally, and most important, please accept my gratitude for your commitment to our Diocese and the building-up of our common life.

Ever faithfully, in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith
Bishop of Missouri