

Diocesan Leadership Conference on Saturday March 7th 2015

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."
John F. Kennedy

We have faced a lot of change in the last few months within the Diocese of Missouri. We have faced new challenges and stepped up to face them in ways we could not have expected.

"For the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: 'If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?' And whenever the answer has been 'No' for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something."
Steve Jobs

In 1994 at our 154th Convention, we adopted a mission. It is the mission of all baptized Christians: to teach and to spread the Gospel and its knowledge of salvation to all people; and to make the love of Christ known in the world through our own actions as individuals, as congregations, and as the Diocese, by feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, housing the homeless, caring for the sick, visiting the prisoner, and comforting those in times of trouble. [This was adopted at the 154th Convention, February 1994.] Yet the status quo changed this past August and we realized that maybe we had not been as aware of the changes going on around us in Missouri as we could have been.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."
Frederick Douglass

Since August we have seen struggles taking place across our diocese, not just in North St. Louis County, not just in the Tower Grove Neighborhood of the City of St. Louis, but across the entire Diocese where changes in age, lifestyle, community, and faith are taking place affecting every single one of our churches. Changes are taking place in many ways. In some places it's an aging community. In another it may be the changes of a more diverse community. In another it may be to answer the needs of a more faith seeking community. In all of them we are charged to bring equality and fairness to the lives of all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."
Leo Tolstoy

This year's Diocesan Leadership Conference on Saturday March 7th 2015, from 9am – 2pm is going to explore the dynamics of change within American society and the church, and potential leadership strategies to address them. Our keynote speaker will be **Dr. Matthew Price**, Church Pension Group's Vice President for Research and Data. Matthew works closely with the Episcopal Church Center to collect and analyze demographic trends and other data on the growth of the Church. Their work on the State of the Church has sparked quite a lot of conversation among the CPF Trustees and Executive Council – conversations that will likely continue throughout the year. We will have an opportunity to have him address the changes going on inside and outside of the church, and how it is leading change in the church.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."
Mahatma Gandhi

During the conference we will also have the opportunity of breaking out into small groups to look at what change means to our differing roles in the church. We will look at change as it affects all aspects of being church from music to liturgy, from facilities management to community relationship.

"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom. A man can't ride you unless your back is bent."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

This will be a one day conference you will not want to miss, as we look at how our diocese can experience change to grow and to teach and to spread the Gospel throughout Missouri.

LOCATION: St Martin's Episcopal Church, 15764 Clayton Road, Ellisville, MO 63011 [for map and directions] www.stmartinchurch.org

RESERVATIONS:

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Cost is \$20, check payable to Diocese of Missouri. Deadline for registration (for caterer) is Friday, February 13, 2015.