

Diocesan Council Report to Convention 2021

The Diocesan Council Mission Statement of the Diocese of Missouri, developed January 17th, 1988 is as follows:

The Mission of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Missouri, in response to Christ, is to nurture, support and challenge congregations and institutions in the exercise of our common ministry by:

- Recommending policies to Convention
- Supervising Diocesan Mission Groups, commissions, committees and task forces
- Drafting the Diocesan Program Fund budget
- Overseeing the Program Fund Budget
- Acting as a communications network, keeping the Diocese in touch with one another.

The membership structure and responsibilities of the Diocesan Council are delineated in Canon 111.6. The Bishop serves as Chairman of the Diocesan Council with seat, voice and vote; the Vice-Chancellors and the Treasurer of the Diocese serve, ex officio, as members of the Diocesan Council with seat and voice, but do not vote; the voting members of the Council consist of elected and appointed members. The elected members shall consist of 6 at-large lay members elected by Convention and 1 lay and 1 clerical representative elected by Convocation. The appointed members consist of 3 persons selected by the Bishop, subject to ratification by the elected members. The Council prepares a proposed Diocesan budget and oversees receipts and expenditures under the budget adopted by the Convention. The Council plans, develops, reviews, and evaluates annually the programs of the Diocese and makes written recommendations concerning them to the annual meeting of the Convention.

The Council meets 6 times a year from December to December per Canon 111.6 Sec. 4. The current Council held 6 Zoom meetings in 2021.

It voted upon 19 resolutions to use funds from the Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund for out of pocket medical and/or dental expenses. It approved 6 Clergy Housing Allowance requests. It approved the use of money from the Kelton White Loan Fund to assist Christ Church Cathedral with a compensation package of a part - time curate. Emergency Grants were made to assist churches with cleaning expenses as they prepared to resume in person gatherings. Emergency Grants were also given to assist with the expenses of live-streaming equipment. A cap of \$2,500.00 per parish or mission was set for these grants. The Church Assistance Endowment Fund was also used to provide funds for 9 parishes. These Theological Education Fund Grants were made to 5 individuals. Finally, grants were awarded under the New Ventures in Community Ministry to Grace Gathering Worship Service at Holy Communion, University City and The Laundry Love program at Christ Church, Rolla.

Bishop Deon's goal of invigorating the Council's role as part of a communication network was pursued through the creation of 3 Standing Teams. The teams were Stewardship, Vital Communities, and Property & Facilities. Members of the Council were assigned to one of these three teams in the Spring of 2021. Each team worked with a member of the Bishop's staff. Specific responsibilities and objectives were provided. Reports on each team's activities were communicated back to the Council meetings. The work of these teams is ongoing.

Throughout the year the Council was involved in the Strategic Vision and Planning process. Introductions to Katie Ong and her team were made in the Spring. The Council was given an overview of the areas that Katie intended to focus upon. The Council accepted the areas of focus: Communication & Technology, Community Building & Structure, Evangelism & Justice, Formation & Worship, and Pastoral Care & Stewardship. Details of how these areas of focus would be examined were provided to Council members in order to communicate them to their Convocations and Parishes.

The Council gave much time to consider the Proposed 2022 Diocesan Budget. Canon Desiree Brattin, Al Ludwig, and Liz Yount gave tireless and wise direction in formulating and presenting a thorough Financial Report and a 2022 Budget. The Council voted to accept the Budget for presentation to the Diocesan Convention.

In keeping with the Strategic Vision and Plan unfolding in our Diocese the expectation that the Council itself will transform in 2022 is realistic. This Council holds an important representative role. As change takes the Diocese forward the Council will find opportunities to fulfill that role.

Respectfully,
Holly Maffitt
St. John's Eolia

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