

Report from Elizabeth Dyer Convocation

Greetings to the Diocese of Missouri!

The highlight of the year thus far was our convocation celebration held in August at All Saints in Farmington. People from across Elizabeth Dyer gathered as the Bishop celebrated the Eucharist followed by a generous potluck meal. There were approximately 36 in attendance. Certainly a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and connection. We are so thankful to the Bishop, the people of All Saints and to all those who were able to make the trip and bring food.

Greater connection and fellowship is one of our ongoing goals and struggles. Elizabeth Dyer is a geographically large convocation that ranges from Poplar Bluff and Sikeston in the south to Sullivan and Saint James in the north. Yet, while we cover such a large area, our churches and missions are small. This combination of large distances separating limited numbers make connection difficult. Being able to meet via zoom has certainly been helpful and I'm sure we will continue to use that technology when we can. I am also very much aware of a need to meet in person which provides connection in ways that are not possible through electronic media. We share an interest in building our relations as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are challenged with creating new opportunities to come together despite the distances that separate us. Outings to state parks, picnics and cookouts, hikes, floats, or visiting historic sites have all been mentioned. The idea is to sponsor events that offer a real hope for some joyful fellowship, to host gatherings that will make the drive worthwhile and encourage more participation.

Another goal is to encourage one another through the exchange of information regarding activities in each church and to look for ways to support one another and work together.

Elizabeth Dyer has a number of parishes that have been taking part in Requiem or Renaissance and are moving into phase 2. Others may be entering this diocesan sponsored discernment in the coming year. Perhaps this shared experience will provide an impetus for some real work together. Supporting one another by asking questions, expressing concerns, celebrating discoveries, grieving losses and learning from each other's experiences. Hopefully we will be a great help to one another and strengthen the Elizabeth Dyer Convocation.

Prayerfully submitted by Kent Miller,
Elizabeth Dyer Convocation Warden