

Rural Ministries Report to Convention

"It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples,"
Deuteronomy 7:7

Rural Ministries formed a team in April and started meeting. This team is made up of Maria Morris from Trinity DeSoto; Cathy Plunkett Schneider from Holy Cross Poplar Bluff; The Rev. Maria Evans from Trinity Hannibal; and The Rev. Mary Korte from Christ Church Rolla. We determined the biggest need for rural congregations is connection. We are so far from the metro area we sometimes feel as if we are navigating this path on our own.

Just this past August we set up the Rural Ministries Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/566791661513908> . I see this group as one way in which we can connect with one another. Show off the things we are doing which make a difference to our communities. Show off our unique brand of the Jesus movement to others.

While I was exploring other pages for Rural Ministries in other places, I ran across one which had features on every single rural ministry. This is one of my dreams. To put us out there in what is uniquely us. Whether it is a feeding program, a joint worship day, a way we have reached out beyond our doors and challenged ourselves. These features can show what is true and vital about us.

I visited Holy Cross in Poplar Bluff this August. I would like to come and visit you. Talk over ideas or plans for your church and where you are uniquely planted.

I looked into a program from FaithX to work with rural ministries but after consultation with Canon Whitney it seemed too much in tandem with Requiem or Renaissance right now. I hope maybe we can do this program at looking at our demographics in our area at another time.

If you would like to join us, we meet monthly on zoom the fourth Tuesday of the month. Please email me at ajoseph@diocesemo.org.

Respectfully Submitted

The Very Rev. Annette Joseph, Rural Missioner