

# Annual Convention Report

## The 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri



I have completed my eighth year as Canon to the Ordinary, and all five areas of Diocesan priority continue to drive and organize what I do. Growing Congregations, Growing Personally, Growing Community, Growing Compassion and Growing Leaders serve as the spinal cord of the departments and ministries that I interact with and serve. I serve and collaborate with The Departments of Congregational Development, Christian Formation, Communication, Stewardship, Youth Ministry, Diversity and Reconciliation Commission and Emergency/Disaster Response Committee as well as the clergy and their spouses as Transition Minister.

During 2021, and with collaborative efforts of the above listed departments and ministries, we have been able to offer multiple events to train and inform congregational leaders and members, intended to increase their capacity to be informed and empowered leaders for their respective parishes/missions and as resources for diocesan ministry. The unforeseen addition of Covid 19 virus and the overall Pandemic necessitated most of our work to go to virtual/Zoom formats to do our work and communication. Such events this year were:

Bishop's Day with Wardens, Treasurers, Administrators and New Vestry. February 25th in the evening and February 27th on Saturday morning. All were virtually attended.

Recovery of Hope Virtual Gathering April 20th in the evening.

In the role of Transition Minister and Church Developer, I have been engaged with the following congregations in their discernment and transition of clergy leadership. I am also involved with some of them in discussions that are evaluating the need for different roles and time frames of clergy/congregation relationships and internal systemic changes.

All Saints, West Plains, MO  
St. Luke's, Excelsior Springs  
St. Paul's, Kansas City, MO  
St. Paul's Lee's Summit, MO

St. Matthew's, Raytown, MO  
Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, KCMO  
St. Peter's, Harrisonville, MO

I also attended the "Office of Transitional Ministers virtual meetings for Provinces V, VI, & VII.

My normal weekly practice was to choose at random a congregation of the diocese to visit without appointment. My wife Mary may attend with me. First, I enjoy worshipping with you in your local congregations and getting the “feel” of an everyday Sunday experience from your perspective. I want to affirm what you are doing well and that is working! I also want to afford an “outsider’s” set of eyes that may be able to offer helpful suggestions for consideration and improvement of what may have become “stable and unseen” by the regular membership/leadership. In short, “I come in peace and offer my willingness to serve you and to help you become the best Episcopal presence wherever you are located!” If there is a specific need, I am more than glad to schedule a visitation to meet with you, your vestry and clergy leadership to discuss or work on any issue or topic that may help you better serve Christ in your specific context! Call or email me! The unfortunate addition of Virus Response Protocol meant that I had to put this practice aside and attend by virtual streaming of the services. I did not want to interrupt an already unstable quest to provide services for local members or take the place in a limited number of seating capacity from those who regularly attend.

I, along with other member of the Diocesan Staff have been involved in initial meetings and conversations to establish a closer relationship with our working counter parts in the ELCA Central States Synod located out of Kansas City, MO. We see this as a move to initiate collaborative sharing of resources and events with our Lutheran Brothers and Sisters. This year we continued exploring further sharing of clergy leadership in the Blue Springs and West Plains area of the diocese.

In Summary: I end my employment with The Diocese of West Missouri in this role as Canon to the Ordinary in tandem with the resignation of Bishop Field. I thank Bishop Field for his trust and support! I thank the Diocesan/Bishop’s Staff and the Deans for their support, help and mentorship! I thank those kind clergy and people of this diocese that have responded to me so warmly, allowed me to share a bit of my experience with them as well as to break bread and share the cup.

Faithfully Submitted in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Rottgers+  
Canon to the Ordinary