

Annual Convention Report

The 132nd Annual Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri



What are the highlights of your ministry since the 2020 Diocesan Convention?

The work of the Chaplains to the Retired Clergy and Surviving Spouses goes on with regularity. We have clergy that retire and we seek to bring them into the retired community. Perhaps the most significant events that have occurred for us in the past year has been the death of several clergy and spouses. Marcia Biggs, Ruth Parham and Kay Jenista, all clergy spouses, have died in this past year. Chaplain Jerry Miller has ministered to John Biggs and Phillip Parham following their spouse's deaths. Jerry Kolb and Kent McCall were able to minister to the family of Kay Jenista.

Our more "routine" work includes remembering birthdays, anniversaries and other events and sending e-cards and occasional humorous emails. Of most importance this year is the change in health care plans for the CPG. Chaplains have been sources for information about these changes and encouragement to learn about the proposed changes before the change happens.

Describe how these activities have furthered the work of the diocese and strengthened parishes and congregations?

There are 105 clergy and surviving spouses listed as belonging to The Diocese of West Missouri. Not all of those listed live in the diocese but they are still ours to be ministered to. The diocesan chaplains try to maintain some form of contact with them through the phone, birthday greeting cards, or emails. It helps these people to know that they are still a part of the diocese regardless of where they may reside. For those living in the diocese, maintaining contact with the retired helps them to feel 'active' in the diocese and available for parish supply. National statistics indicate that retired clergy are a significant resource that help keep our parishes (especially smaller congregations) open and operating. Chaplains are a resource for questions regarding Church Pension policies and benefits and help reduce anxiety about financial security. Chaplains' also try to keep track of retired clergy or surviving spouses that may have unusual financial needs that may be covered by emergency requests to the CPG through the bishop's office.

What are your plans for ministry in 2022?

We plan to continue our ministries as we have in the past. We would like to know in advance when clergy are planning their retirement so we can assist them in making that transition.

Jerry and Brenda Kolb
Jerry and Betty Miller

Chaplains to the Retired Clergy and Surviving Spouses
Diocese of West Missouri