

# Annual Convention Report

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



For the year 2021 we had planned events that could be done both in-person, with proper safety precautions, and digitally. We were able to gather for a handful of regional events that utilized the outdoors. We believe we are still in a position of caution with in-person events that involve the indoors due to vaccination availability of the ages we serve. We have struggled to have participation with teens on Zoom events, not unlike others across The Episcopal Church. As we began to plan for 2022, it became apparent that we are in a position we haven't been in since the hiring of Kim Snodgrass.

The Diocese of West Missouri Youth Ministry is in a position to reimagine the vision, goals, and what success means for the future. Coming out of the pandemic, we are ready to reinvigorate ministry to students through the Episcopal church. The youth program is hoping to broaden its reach and increase its effectiveness in ministry at the same time. Because of this, we have partnered with Ministry Architects. Ministry Architects is a team of almost 90 pastors, teachers, executives, youth workers, children's pastors, writers, and professors. They're fanatical about results and helping ministries find clear direction and sustained momentum backed up by properly aligned resources. Ministry Architects has partnered with nearly 1000 ministries from 33 different denominations. They are currently working with The Episcopal Church to reimagine The Episcopal Youth Event.

By working with Ministry Architects, we hope to achieve the following:

- A Long-Term Vision that defines the mission, values, and goals of The Diocese of West Missouri in a way that aligns and inspires all those contributing to the youth ministries across the diocese, whether staff, volunteers, parents, or youth and guides the development and planning of diocesan events to support the mission.
- A Strategic Plan for Empowering the Youth Ministry Commission that both inspires the commission and supports the ministry coming out of the diocese for young people.
- Stronger Connections among children's, young adult, and adult ministries throughout the diocese that allow for seamless transitions, and collaborative support of ministries and events throughout the diocese.
- Ongoing Support for Ministry Leaders at the parish level as they build ministries to serve the youth and their families in their local congregations.

- A More Robust Marketing Plan that ensures that all youth, parents, and leaders throughout the diocese are informed and inspired to participate and support the programs and events offered.
- Implementation Support to guide the diocesan staff and lay leaders through the creation of sustainable systems and processes that results in a solid foundation on which the ministry can thrive.

In order to achieve the goals above Ministry Architects will partner with us on these 5 actions:

1. An evaluation of the diocesan youth ministry based on survey results from leaders, parents, staff and youth identifying ministry systems that are strong and those that need some shoring up, resulting in recommendations and a six-month timeline.
2. An onsite Vision Summit resulting in a mission statement, core values, and three-year goals with one-year benchmarks.
3. A game plan for empowering the Youth Ministry Commission resulting in a team of leaders who are inspired to lead, develop, and implement engaging support, programs, and events for the young people of The Diocese of West Missouri.
4. A Multi-ministry Integration plan resulting in strong communication among children's ministry, youth ministry, young adult, and adult discipleship ministries and fostering collaboration across all ministries so that transitions are seamless, and each ministry feels supported in a way that allows leaders to thrive and ministries to grow together.
5. Executive coaching for the Assistant to the Bishop for Youth Ministry Development for the duration of the project focused on leading the Youth Ministry Commission, development of events and programs in response to the mission, values, and goals developed during the vision summit.

Submitted by

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