

ARCHDEACON

I. Congregational Development

I serve as chair of the Congregational Development/Urban Suburban Context Department. Committee. See that department's report for a review of its work over the past year.

I participate in the "affinity" group meetings of clergy who serve those differently shaped congregations. The five types are:

- Resource Congregation
- Program Congregations
- Pastoral Congregations
- Family Congregations
- Chaplains who serve in non-parochial settings

It has been my pleasure to work with and support the excellent work of The Rev. Jason Lewis, Vicar, on various opportunities and challenges at St. Mary Magdalene, and with the Chancellor in regard to various legal matters. The offices and several of the ministries of the congregation are held in Church House, the home which was on the property when purchased by the diocese. The congregation is now worshipping in its new space which was consecrated by Bishop Howe on July 31st

I convened a gathering of leaders from three mission congregations in the southwest corner of the diocese to begin with them conversations as to how the three congregations might pursue mutual regional ministry possibilities. Those conversations will continue this fall.

I continue to serve as our diocesan contact with Percept, the major church demographic and strategic planning organization, continues to provide demographic and growth tools for congregations. Access to many of these tools are available to clergy and lay leaders, through the site: Link2Lead.com. Just log-in and follow the prompts. MemeberView is one of those tools and provides a program whereby congregations may develop an virtual version of the old "stick pin in map" means of plotting where their communicants live. To date 36 congregations have registered with Link2Lead.com.

II. Communication

I worked directly the Bishop and the Editorial Board, of which I am a member, in launching the two new communication vehicles for the diocese. The first issue of the new quarterly publication *Spirit* appeared last fall with a feature story on Bishop Howe's retirement. *Spirit* has been well received in the diocese and has met the Editorial Board's expectation of providing a communications "product" which allows for significant coverage of key areas of mission and ministry in the diocese. *Spirit* features have taken us from parish community gardens in West Missouri to work and ministry in our companion diocese of Botswana.

eSpirt, was also launched in the past year and provides a bi-weekly connection via email with lay and clergy in all our congregations. eSpirt provides information and links to information about time sensitive events in the diocese, and other topical

news and information. The Editorial Board expresses its appreciation to the editor, Hugh Welsh, and to Angela Crawford, who is the design and lay-out expert.

The Editorial Board meets on a regular basis for review and to set theme and content for up-coming issues of Spirit and to determine how various feature articles should be designed.

I am the supervisory link between the diocese and the Publications Director

III. Commission on Ministry

I have had the opportunity to work with the Commission on Ministry in various aspects of its work. I participate actively in meetings of the Commission on Ministry, of which I am an ex officio member.

Board of Examining Chaplains. I work with the Board as it carries out its task of certifying that persons to be ordained have successfully completed the required course of study.

Vocations Process. I coordinate the annual Vocations Conference for our diocese. In addition, I manage the aspirancy process and keep track of all the various material and data for the persons who are aspirants for Holy Orders this year. Three persons attended the 2010 Vocations Conference.

Postulants and Candidates. At present our diocese has twelve persons in the ordination process, one for the diaconate and eleven for priesthood. On an administrative level I oversee postulant and candidate files, insuring that all the various canonical requirements are met. On the pastoral level I seek to assist and support all postulants and candidates as they work through various concerns and challenges “on the way.”

Ordinations. I coordinate the various elements of our diocesan ordinations, including the preparation and production of the service booklets for ordinations. Two persons were ordained to the vocational diaconate and one to the transitional diaconate in 2010. D.V. and with consents in place, our transitional deacon will be ordained to priesthood in December of this year.

George Herbert Institute and West Missouri School for Ministry – I have worked directly with the Dean of the George Herbert Institute and the Chair of the Board of the former WMSM in the merger of these two programs. The “new and improved” George Herbert Institute will become the program for the local preparation for persons studying for ordination. A new tri-member curriculum has been designed and will be implemented in January, 2011. The program of study will be three years.

IV. Transition Ministry

This year has seen major changes related to transition ministry in the Episcopal Church. The Office for Transition Ministry has replaced the old Church Deployment Office and diocesan deployment officers have become Diocesan Transition Ministers. This charge reflects the breadth of “transitions” – for clergy and for congregations – in our church.

One key transition which is in process involves the significant change from the old clergy profile to the new Ministry Portfolio, which will enable clergy to describe their ministry in much richer detail, with narrative comments, and with links to connections such as a cleric's Facebook page, YouTube videos, etc. A similar transition is in process for congregations and congregational profiles.

I will be meeting with each deanery clericus to conduct a tutorial on the new Ministry Portfolio to assist our diocesan clergy in the transition and will be available to assist clergy in developing a Ministry Portfolio that reflects not only what they do, but who they are, as they offer themselves for the mission and Ministry of the Church.

This fall I attended the annual Province V, VI, and VII Diocesan Transition Ministers Conference at St. Crispin's Conference Center in the Diocese of Oklahoma. The Rev. Victoria Duncan from the Office for Transition Ministry at 815 was the presenter. Much of the time together was spent on the new ministry portfolio documents for both clergy and for congregations in transition. The congregational ministry portfolio will replace the existing "Parish Search Request."

This has been a very active year for transitions in our diocese. I work directly with vestries and search committees to offer guidance and direction, support and resources, as those bodies seek to be about the work of discernment and call.

Three congregations have called new full-time rectors this year. Grace Church, Chillicothe, has called the Rev. Denise Vaughn to serve as that congregation's next rector. Mother Vaughn comes to West Missouri from the Diocese of Texas; St. Matthew's, Raytown has called the Rev. Bill McVey, formerly rector of Calvary, Sedalia, to be the congregation's next rector. St. James', Springfield has called the Rev. Charles Uhlik from Minnesota to serve as its next rector. Fr. Uhlik is returning to West Missouri, the diocese through which he entered into the Episcopal Church. My thanks to the vestries and search committees of these congregations for their good and effective work. It is a pleasure to work with such dedicated and committed persons.

In addition, Shepherd of the Hills, Branson, has called the Rev. Greg Hoover, who was ordained in June, to serve as rector on a part-time basis. This is a wonderful "match" between a congregation eager to grow with a newly ordained cleric with energy and enthusiasm for growth.

The Rev. Virginia Brown, who had served both Branson and Kimberling City, continues to serve as Priest-in-Charge of St. Mark's, Kimberling City.

St. Augustine's, Kansas City, has moved forward in its life and ministry with the call of the Rev. Mary Jacobs as Priest-in-Charge.

Calvary Church in Sedalia, upon the departure of Fr. McVey to St. Matthew's in Raytown, has called the Rev. Harv Sanders to serve as Interim Rector. Fr. Sanders is a retired priest who lives in Sedalia.

At present we have the following active searches:

- Church of the Redeemer, Kansas City, which is being ably served by the Rev. Jess Reeves, Interim Rector, has now actively begun the formal search process for its next rector.

- Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral has also begun the search process which will ultimately lead to the selection of the next dean.
- Christ Church, Warrensburg has not yet begun a search process as the congregation assesses its situation and circumstances following the retirement of The Rev. Al Jewson.
- Trinity, Lebanon, is in a similar situation of assessment of circumstance that preclude the congregation from continuing to be served by clergy on a full-time basis. The Rev. Christian Gilson had served as vicar for over seven years.

In addition, preliminary conversations have been held with leaders from St. Stephen's, Monett; St. John's, Neosho; and St. Thomas a Becket, Cassville as to possible joint or regional ministry possibilities. Those conversations will continue this fall.

I assisted clergy in developing and updating their Church Deployment Office personal ministry profiles (which will transition to the new Ministry Portfolio), handle transition ministry contacts from other dioceses, and attend national and provincial transition ministry conferences.

V. Safe Church Ministry

I continue to serve as the Diocesan Safe Church Officer and lead seminars on the prevention of child abuse and the prevention of harassment and exploitation. During this past year I conducted misconduct prevention seminars throughout the diocese.

The Diocese continues to be a judicatory member of the Nathan Network. I also keep up-to-date with the *Clergy Tax and Law Report* which provides clear and concise review of all legal cases throughout the country as those cases relate to churches and judicatories. My office also handles all background checks through the Oxford Document.

The Diocese continues to use ChoicePoint as well as Oxford Document Co. for our background checks. I process all the ChoicePoint checks and handle the management of that information.

In addition, I continue to review and update our *Handbook for Misconduct Prevention*.

Much of this material is on-line through our diocesan website. From the homepage scroll down the left column and place your cursor on "Resources" and from the pop-out menu select and click on "Misconduct Prevention." Our hope is that by having this material on-line it will be readily accessible to individuals and congregations throughout the diocese.

VI. Specialized Ministry/Other Work

I am a member of the Conference of Diocesan Executives (CODE). CODE is an international (U.S. and Canada) organization of lay and clergy who serve the Church on the diocesan level.

I am a member of Diocesan Council and serve as Registrar of the Diocese.

I serve on the Finance Department and oversee the development of the various editions of our diocesan financial plan. I serve on the Assessment Review Committee.

I serve on the Clergy Compensation Committee which develops compensation guidelines and makes recommendations to Council and Convention as to clergy compensation for the coming year.

I serve on the new eSpirit and Spirit Editorial Boards

I serve on the Editorial Board of the Diocesan Website. An extensive review of the website is currently in process with anticipated upgrades and changes anticipated shortly after the first of the year.

Sunday Supply - I have been able to supply in from time-to-time in various congregations in the past year.

I provide substantial pastoral support to clergy, laity, and congregations on a variety of concerns and issues.

I serve as the primary planner for matters related to the Diocesan Convention. In addition, I have the responsibility for the planning and arrangements for the spring College of Presbyters meeting, the Fall Clergy Conference and other clergy gatherings.

I consult on a regular basis with the Chancellor on many varied matters.

N.B. I give thanks for the ministry of Angela Crawford, whose commitment to the work and ministry of the diocese is outstanding. Much of Angela work takes place behind the scene but I can assure all that her efforts keep things running smoothly.