

DioMO Convocation Report Elizabeth Dyer Convocation

Elizabeth Dyer Convocation held its annual meeting on February 3rd, 2024 at All Saint's Episcopal Church in Farmington. We celebrated the Eucharist, held our business meeting, enjoyed a presentation on pollinator gardens and shared a lunch together. The main order of business was the nomination and election of officers for the coming year. We were very excited to elect the Rev. Richard Wiskus as Dean of Elizabeth Dyer Convocation. The remaining officers are as follows:

Warden - Kent Miller

Clergy Delegate to Diocesan Council - Warren Crew

Treasurer - Bob Lowe

Secretary/Clerk - Angie Hollingshead

Webmaster/Communications - Michelle Hampton

Elizabeth Dyer Convocation is comprised of the following churches:

All Saints-Farmington

Christ Episcopal Church-Cape Girardeau

Holy Cross-Poplar Bluff

St. John's/ St. James-Sullivan

St. Paul's-Ironton

St. Paul's-Sikeston

St. Vincent's in the Vineyard-St. Genevieve

Trinity-DeSoto

Trinity-St. James

The purpose which has been established for our convocation is to support each other's rural ministry, to be a unifying force between small churches, to share best practices on how to manage with limited manpower and to identify similar problems which we can communicate to the Bishop.

We are a geographically large convocation with small churches separated by great distances. This creates some real difficulty in being able to gather in person for meetings and for fellowship. Communication becomes a real issue and it has been essential for us to rely on zoom for many of our meetings. Michelle Hampton volunteered in a newly established role as Webmaster/Communications Officer. She has created a Facebook group called Dyer Notes to provide another avenue of connection. Yet this convocation has expressed a heart for sharing personal space and we will continue to look for opportunities to gather together.

Another way in which we've moved to fulfill our purpose is that the Rev. Richard Wiskus crafted a ministry survey distributed to all the churches in our convocation. This survey consisted of questions concerning worship, fellowship, Christian formation and outreach. It was intended to create a snapshot of the various ministries that exist throughout our convocation and to be a vehicle for sharing this information. This shared information helped us to learn about one another and to realize that Elizabeth

Dyer is a convocation blessed with many creative, compassionate Christians practicing meaningful mission work with limited resources. Community meals, food pantries, care boxes, school backpack dries, visiting the sick and shut-in, safe spaces for the LGBTQA+ and an empowered laity sharing in leading worship and Christian formation are active throughout the convocation.

Our goal for the coming year is to continue working on fulfilling our purpose; finding ways to draw closer together, celebrate our ministries and to support the work of our diocese.

As I write this report, we are preparing for our annual celebration to be held on Saturday, September 28th at All Saints in Farmington. The Bishop will lead us in the Eucharist which will be followed by a potluck and fellowship.

Respectfully Submitted by
Kent Miller, Warden