

Deaconess Anne House Report

Submitted to The Right Reverend Deon K. Johnson, Eleventh Bishop of
the Diocese of Missouri &
The 184th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri
November 2023



Mission: To be formed spiritually, to live deep in neighborhood, to be transformed by service!

This year the Deaconess House celebrates a decade of ministry in the Diocese of Missouri. This ministry has nourished the life of Young Adults into the diocese since 2013 as an Episcopal Service Corp program designed to shape the life of young faithful people through prayer, works, and worship. It has produced priests, deacons, administrators, missionaries, and powerful lay and clergy leadership in the diocese and across the Episcopal Church. Because of your wonderful support, Deaconess Anne House has not only given ten wonderful years, but ten impactful years.

In keeping with the value of its namesake, Deaconess Anne Pew, the Deaconess Anne House remains committed to its values of not just social presence, but social justice, deep spirituality that is both conspicuous and relevant, and a fresh commitment to creating space in the world for those without a voice. The witness of Holy Cross House and Grace Episcopal Church remind us of the enduring legacy of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri on the city of St. Louis and the Deaconess Anne House will continue to be a symbol of hope, help and hospitality.

In August of 2022, after a few wonderful years of dedicated service, The Rev Michaelene Miller transitioned from her role as Director the Deaconess Anne House to accept a calling back in her home diocese of Arkansas. Bishop Deon used this time of transition as moment to discern the next phase of Deaconess Anne House Episcopal Service Corp program. A task force was created later that year by Bishop Deon and led by The Rev. Jon Stratton to facilitate a review of the Deaconess Anne House ministry

and begin a process of re-envisioning the Deaconess Anne House. The task force hired the Vandersall Collective to do an audit of the Deaconess Anne House Episcopal Service Corps program. The Vandersall Collective produced a report in November of 2022 that was submitted to the Bishop's Office and was published to the diocese. Later in November, Fr. Jon Stratton relinquished his role as leader of the task force when he accepted a position in the Diocese of Bethlehem.

The Rev. Mike Angel was then selected to continue the work of the task force. Fr Mike Angel continued to work toward the development of a plan to re-launch Deaconess Anne House utilizing the findings from the Vandersall Audit, information from around the church on similar communities, and growing partners of the program. Fr. Mike continued this work until he relinquished his role and transitioned to ministry in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In June 2023, Aaron Rogers was hired as the Ministry Developer for Young Adults in the Diocese of Missouri and the Deaconess Anne House was placed under the auspices of Young Adult Ministry in the Diocese of Missouri. Aaron has began re-populating the Deaconess Anne House Advisory Council and in 2024 will began redeveloping the Deaconess Anne House Service Corps to continue to serve Young Adults in the Diocese of Missouri.

The re-launch of DAH will seek to make the program more diverse culturally and racially, develop a structure for financial sustainability, discover programmatic ways to include young adults in both the rural and metropolitan regions of the diocese, create long-term community partnerships, and further develop Young Adults for ministry and leadership in the Church. Advisory Council members will begin constructing the renewed program in February of 2024.

Please reach out to The Rev. Aaron Rogers, Ministry Developer for Young Adults, at arogers@diocesemo.org if you have any questions or would like to take part in the relaunch of the program.