

Diocesan Communications Report to the 184th Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

Submitted by Janis Greenbaum, Communications Director

The goal of our diocesan communications is to share the mission of our diocese with our members and the community at large. We accomplish this goal through many creative and informative platforms and with the help of many wise and generous communicators throughout the Diocese.

Communications Advisory Team

Our Diocesan Communications Advisory Team (CAT) helps create a network for sharing ideas, solving problems, and spreading the Good News. New members have joined the team in 2023, while others previously serving have stepped away. My sincere gratitude goes to the following communicators for sharing their time and talents in this ministry:

- Sophia Anderson, Calvary Episcopal Church, Columbia
- Connor Bryant, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ladue
- Jessica Gerth, Episcopal Church of the Advent, Crestwood
- Katie Gregston, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Webster Groves
- Teresa Lee, Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Poplar Bluff
- Kate McCormick, Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, Lake St. Louis
- Mimi Shipp, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Webster Groves
- Christ Sturgeon, Hope Episcopal Church, Town & Country

Diocesan Communications Tools

We use several platforms to communicate our messages, including:

- **Website:** www.diocesemo.org
Our website is the center of all our communications. This is the best tool for individual members, parishes, ministries, and visitors to find the most useful and current information about DioMO. We began a project to refresh the look and organization of the diocesan website this year and hope to reveal the results by the end of this year or first of 2024.
- **Newsletter: Proclaim**
We reformatted and renamed our digital and printed newsletters in 2023. What was iSeek (weekly digital publication) and Seek! (seasonal print publication) are now called Proclaim. Our email newsletter is published monthly (on the last Wednesday before the

new month begins), with abbreviated weekly updates throughout the month. We are also printing an annual Proclaim, to be distributed at the 2023 Diocesan Convention. These newsletters are a wonderful way to keep up with what's happening, share ministry ideas, and feed your spirit.

- **Digital Projects: Social Media, Podcasts, Livestream**

AhSa-Ti Tyehimba Ford is our Digital Projects Manager. She does a wonderful job of sharing our message through social media, including posts on Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, and YouTube. She also produces special projects with the Bishop, including his "11 in 11" podcast and the "We're Sorry" campaign, which was directed at people in the LGBTQIA+ community who may have been hurt by the Church.

- **Storytelling: Articles, Photography, Videography**

We love to tell the stories of the Diocese of Missouri! We encourage you to share your stories, news, and events with us so we can share them with the world!

Parish and Ministry Resources

The Diocesan Office is here to help you make the most of your church communications. I have helped church and ministry leaders in the past year with the following projects:

- Created and updated several church websites.
- Created parish brochures and event flyers for parishes, missionaries, and ministry leaders.
- Wrote articles, took pictures, and recorded video for many special projects.
- Became a diocesan member of Caffeinated Church, which is a collaboration of church communicators offering excellent resources and ideas to other church communicators, parish administrators, and clergy communicators. We are providing discounted memberships to this service and are excited about attending an in-person conference in Denver in 2024! Learn more about Caffeinated Church at caffeinatedchurch.org.
- Started the "Idea Toolbox," which is a way to curate and share good ideas between our churches and ministries. You can share ideas and learn from others on our website: diocesemo.org/idea-toolbox/.
- Maintained the diocesan website with resources, news, and events for clergy, individuals and parishes.
- Publish the Clergy Connections newsletter each Tuesday, keeping our clergy informed and connected with information from the Bishop's Office.

As the old saying goes: Communications is a two-way street! I welcome your engagement as we all work to share the Good News of the Diocese of Missouri!