

# PROFILE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

## THE ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE TWELFTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD



JUNE 2021

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## **THE ELECTION OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD:** **AN INVITATION TO DISCERNMENT**

The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield invites qualified candidates to discern whether God may be calling them to serve the church of Jesus Christ as the 12th Bishop of Springfield. The Diocese also invites its faithful members to dedicate time in prayer and meditation to discern what God is calling the Diocese of Springfield to be and do in order to further God's kingdom of love and light within our churches, communities, and region.

It is particularly important for qualified nominees, as well as delegates and alternates to the nominating and electing synods, to engage in spiritual practices supportive of the discernment process. This involves more than a perfunctory ticking of boxes to determine whether a nominee's own beliefs, preferences, skills, and personal qualities align with the expectations of the Diocese.

The Bishop Election Committee, in consultation with the Standing Committee, presents this profile as raw data for potential nominees, delegates, alternates, and the faithful of the Diocese to "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest." It is the story of the Diocese thus far. The story speaks to who we are, what we think, and what we have done. There is little analysis and interpretation provided. You are invited into a prayerful process of discernment for nominees and the Diocese. Ultimately God provides the interpretation of and insight into our story.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon all concerned to approach the election of the 12th Bishop of Springfield with an attitude reflected in the words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta: "Come, Holy Spirit, guide me, protect me, and clear out my mind that I can pray." With a prayerful heart, we can complete the election process and, as the Psalmist writes, "Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

It is our hope that our next Bishop, under the influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit, will help us write the next chapter in the story of our Diocese. With God's help, the next chapter of our story will be greater than our past – for in Jesus the best is yet to be.

The Election Committee for the 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

The Very Reverend Sherry Black, *Chair (March 2020 – May 2021)*, St. Mark's, West Frankfort, IL

The Very Reverend Zachary Brooks, Trinity, Jacksonville, IL

Mary Ann Denney, St. Luke's, Springfield, IL

Jan Goosens, St. Thomas', Glen Carbon, IL

William Jackson, St. Luke's, Springfield, IL

James Keith, St. John's, Decatur, IL

Don Kensell, St. John the Baptist, Mt. Carmel, IL

Roy Laws, St. Matthew's, Bloomington, IL

Rod Matthews, *co-Chair (March 2020 - May 2021)*, *Chair (June 2021 -)*, Christ the King, Normal, IL

Charles Rice, St. Paul's, Carlinville, IL

Fredna Scroggins, St. Andrew's, Edwardsville, IL

Norm Taylor, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield, IL

Bill Techau, Emmanuel Memorial, Champaign, IL

Kelley Wegeng, The Chapel of St. John the Divine, Champaign, IL

The Reverend David Wells, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield

## OUR UNIQUE ELECTION PROCESS

Part of the story of the Diocese of Springfield is its uniquely transparent process for electing a bishop. There is no search committee that assembles a slate; instead, anyone who completes the nomination process and passes the required reference and background checks will be a nominee.

A letter from the Very Rev. Ronald H. Clingenpeel, elections consultant from the Office of Pastoral Development of the Episcopal Church speaks to our process:

*Greetings in Jesus Christ,*

*The Diocese of Springfield is a wonderful and special place in the Episcopal Church. It is like no other diocese – which, frankly, is true of every diocese. Each has its own history and life and culture. This diocese does things a bit differently, and that is good, because by working with and viewing others we find ways in which we can grow. Besides, would it not be boring if every diocese were exactly the same? We learn from one another and the election ministry of the Diocese of Springfield is helpful to the rest of the Church.*

*I am a search consultant with more than 20 years of experience in Episcopal elections. Working with more than 25 dioceses, I have discovered many new and helpful ways in which to improve the process. When Springfield began this current process, the Office of Pastoral Development of the Episcopal Church asked to place an election consultant here to learn from this diocese and bring these learnings to the Church. Already, that participation has paid dividends as the Diocese of Ecuador Central will be using a very similar process in their election. Your ministry is affecting another part of the Church.*

*Your process leaves the nominating up to the people. There is no Search Committee, but rather an Election Committee that surveys the diocese, prepares a profile, receives nominations, conducts background checks and references, and then presents the nominees to the diocese. Then the diocese meets in convention to choose the final candidates. Those candidates visit the diocese and then an Electing Convention chooses the next bishop. This allows for transparency in the process and also proves to be cost effective when searching for a new bishop.*

*Working with your Standing Committee and Election Committee has been a joy and I believe we have learned much from one another. Not only is your process being shared with other dioceses, but the hard work of the communication audit done by your Elections Committee may become a standard recommendation for other dioceses. Your process, and especially the people who are working hard to make it happen, is something that smaller dioceses can use to streamline what they do; it is something that requires a different focus on selecting a bishop; it is something that brings a tradition forward and still accepts the necessary changes to make it work in the 21st Century.*

*What happens here makes a difference, not only in the Diocese of Springfield, but in the whole Church. Choosing a bishop affects the rest of the Church, but also, the way in which that person is called affects the Church. What you do here is important.*

*The Very Rev. Ronald H. Clingenpeel, Elections Consultant*

The Profile is available, and Nominations are open on June 4, 2021. Nominations close on June 30, 2021. The nominees who pass the required reference and background checks and their relevant application materials will be made public to the people of the Diocese no later than September 14, 2021.

A Nominating Synod, in conjunction with our Annual Synod, will be held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Springfield, Illinois, on October 15 and 16, 2021. It will narrow the field to three candidates.

Between October 25 and November 20, 2021, we anticipate providing opportunities for us to meet the three candidates during visits to locations around the Diocese. During that time, each candidate will take part in separate video interviews responding to several additional questions.

Finally, there will be an Electing Synod on December 11, 2021, leading to the consecration of the 12th Bishop of Springfield on May 21, 2022, pending final checks and consents. The chief consecrator will be The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church.

### ***Year 2021***

June 1 (Justin, Martyr, 167)

Profile, Guidelines, and Nomination Packages are posted and distributed

June 30

Deadline for receiving completed Nominations for Bishop from the nominators and nominees.

September 14 (Holy Cross Day)

Booklet with qualified Nominees distributed to Nominating Synod Delegates and posted to the Bishop Election website.

October 15/16 (Teresa of Avila {15th}, Hugh Latimer & Nicholas Ridley, Bishops and martyrs, Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury {16th}):

Regular Diocesan plus Nominating Synods convene to select candidates for the 12th Bishop of Springfield. Cathedral Church of Saint Paul the Apostle, Springfield, Illinois

October 25 (Tabitha (Dorcas) of Joppa) - November 20 (Edmund, King 870):

Meet the Candidates

December 11:

Electing Synod convenes to elect the 12th Bishop of Springfield. Cathedral Church of Saint Paul the Apostle, Springfield, Illinois

### ***Year 2022***

January 14 (Richard Meux Benson, Priest, and Charles Gore, Bishop, 1915 and 1932):

The Bishop Elect's required or supplemental background checks plus required physical and psychological exams completed

Consent Process begins

*Holy Week – April 10 Palm Sunday – April 17 Easter Sunday*

• May 21 (Lydia of Thyatira, Coworker of the Apostle Paul)

Ordination of the 12th Bishop of Springfield, The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, chief consecrator. Location: TBD

**\*\* NOTE - Dates are subject to change given the Covid19 pandemic and any unforeseen circumstances**

## **HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE**

The story of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield begins as early as 1821, when the General Board of Missions sent the Reverend Amos Baldwin to evangelize the American western frontier. During his journeys, Baldwin reportedly organized a congregation in Albion, Illinois. However, both the congregation and any records of it disappeared. A congregation did reemerge in Albion and today St. John's Episcopal Church is the oldest surviving Episcopal house of worship in Illinois. Faithful disciples of Jesus Christ have worshipped there since Christmas 1842.

The story continued as other missionary priests evangelized Illinois, organizing parishes in communities like Jacksonville (Trinity, 1832) and Chicago (St. James, 1834) and establishing congregations in other areas. In 1835, three priests, and six laypersons from Peoria, Rushville, and Beardstown met in the upper room of a tavern to organize the Episcopal Diocese of Illinois. The Diocese began with 28 communicants and congregations in Jacksonville, Peoria, Rushville, Beardstown, Chicago, and Galena. Subsequently the Right Reverend Philander Chase became first Bishop of Illinois.

By 1876, the task of evangelizing the State of Illinois became so great that the Diocesan Convention established the mechanics by which the statewide diocese could grow into three separate regional dioceses. The General Convention of 1877 approved the division. Later that year, in December, the Primary Convention of the new Diocese of Springfield met in the city for which it was named. With Bishop Edward M. McLaren presiding, 13 clergy and 31 laypersons attended the meeting and elected Diocesan officers. The Very Reverend George Franklin Seymour, Dean of General Theological Seminary in New York was elected the Bishop of Springfield.

The following clergy have served the Diocese in the capacity as indicated:

1. George Franklin Seymour (Bishop, 1878-1906);
2. Edward William Osborne (Coadjutor 1904-1905; Bishop, 1904-1916);
3. Granville Hudson Sherwood (Bishop, 1917-1923);
4. John Chanler White (Bishop, 1924-1947);
5. Richard Tuttle Loring (Bishop 1947-1948);
6. Charles Asa Clough (Bishop, 1948-1961);
7. Albert Arthur Chambers (Bishop, 1962-1972);
8. Albert William Hillestad (Bishop, 1972-1981);
9. Donald Maynard Hultstrand (Bishop, 1982-1991);
10. Peter Hess Beckwith (Bishop, 1992-2010);
11. Daniel Hayden Martins (Bishop, 03-19-2011 to 06-30-2021).

A more detailed history of the Diocese and our eleven episcopates can be found here:

<https://www.episcopalspringfield.org/our-history/>.

## **STATISTICAL TRENDS**

The region encompassed by the Diocese of Springfield provides the setting in which our story of endeavoring to do the work of Jesus Christ has developed since its early 19<sup>th</sup> century beginnings. The Diocese includes 60 counties in the lower half of the State of Illinois. It is bounded by the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers to the west; the Wabash River to the east; the Ohio River to the South; and Tazewell, McLean, Champaign, and Vermilion Counties to the north.

Although much of the region is rural, there are four major population centers including Springfield, Bloomington-Normal, Champaign-Urbana, and the Metro-East of St. Louis, Missouri.

The Diocesan administrative offices and the Cathedral Church of St. Paul are located in Springfield, which is also the seat of state government. Springfield is perhaps most notably known for being the hometown of the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. Historic sites associated with Lincoln as well as the annual Illinois State Fair attract many visitors to the capital city of Illinois. The University of Illinois at Springfield is located on the city's south side.

The largest population center in the northern part of the Diocese is Bloomington-Normal. These twin cities are located at the crossroads of Illinois commerce with three major Interstate highways (I-55, I-39, and I-74). Bloomington-Normal is known for the insurance industry (for example, State Farm), higher education (Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University), healthcare, agribusiness, and industry. The Bloomington-Normal community hosts the annual Shakespeare Festival every summer.

In the eastern part of the Diocese, the largest population center is Champaign-Urbana. This community is perhaps best known for being the home of the University of Illinois, one of the premier public universities in the world. The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Illinois campus attracts world class performances throughout the year. Champaign-Urbana hosts the annual Roger Ebert Film Festival at the historic Virginia Theater each April.

In the southern part of the state, the Metro-East of St. Louis is the largest population center and is comprised of two counties, St. Clair and Madison. The Metro-East is the second largest population center in the entire state with over 500,000 residents. Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville is located in this region.

Other noteworthy areas of population within the Diocese's boundaries include the communities of Decatur (home to large agricultural processing plants such as ADM), Mattoon-Charleston (home to Eastern Illinois University), Effingham (the crossroads of Interstates 57 and 70 and the geographical center of the Diocese), Marion (home to Aisin, manufacturer of automobile parts), and Carbondale (home to Southern Illinois University). Central and Southern Illinois are historically, culturally, and economically linked by agriculture, industry, transportation, and coal mining. Central Illinois boasts some of the richest farmland in the entire world. Southern Illinois is known for the 280,000-acre Shawnee National Forest.

**2010-2019 POPULATION TRENDS**  
**2019 AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE**

*Incorporated Eucharistic Community (IEC) = Parish*

*Eucharistic Community (EC) = Mission*

	2019 Population	% change 2010-19	2019 ASA
<b>Illinois</b>	12,671,821	-1.2%	
<b>Northern Deanery</b>			
<i>McLean County</i>	171,517	+1.1%	
St Matthew's, Bloomington (IEC)			88
Christ the King, Normal (IEC)			30
<i>Tazewell County</i>	131,803	-2.7%	
All Saints, Morton (EC)			25
St. Paul's, Pekin (IEC)			35
<i>Mason County</i>	13,359	-8.9%	
St Barnabas', Havana (EC)			18
<i>Logan County</i>	28,618	-5.6%	
Trinity, Lincoln (IEC)			46
<i>Champaign County</i>	209,689	+4.3%	
Chapel of St John the Divine, Champaign (IEC)			111
Emmanuel Memorial, Champaign (IEC)			115
St Christopher's, Rantoul (EC)			18
<i>Vermilion County</i>	75,758	-7.2%	
The Church of the Holy Trinity, Danville (IEC)			39
<i>Coles County</i>	50,621	-6.0%	
Trinity, Mattoon ((EC)			29
<b>Northwestern Deanery</b>			
<i>Macon County</i>	104,009	-6.1%	
St John's, Decatur (IEC)			63
<i>Sangamon County</i>	194,672	-1.4%	
Cathedral Church of St Paul, Springfield (IEC)			75
Christ Church, Springfield (IEC)			50
St Luke's, Springfield (EC)			37
<i>Morgan County</i>	33,658	-5.3%	
Trinity, Jacksonville (IEC)			52
<i>Macoupin County</i>	44,926	-5.9%	
St Paul's, Carlinville (IEC)			31



	2019 Population	% change 2010-19	2019 ASA
<b>Darrow Deanery</b>			
<i>Madison County</i>	262,966	-2.4%	
St Thomas', Glen Carbon (EC)			21
St Bartholomew's, Granite City (EC)			9
St Andrew's, Edwardsville (IEC)			79
St Paul's/Trinity Chapel, Alton (IEC)			56
<i>St Clair County</i>	259,686	-3.8%	
St George's, Belleville (IEC)			70
St Michael's, O'Fallon (EC)			52
<b>Eastern Deanery</b>			
<i>Marion County</i>	37,205	-5.7%	
St. John's, Centralia (EC)			26
St. Thomas, Salem (EC)			12
<i>Crawford County</i>	18,667	-5.8%	
St Mary's, Robinson (EC)			7
<i>Wabash County</i>	11,520	-3.6%	
St. John the Baptist, Mt Carmel (EC)			24
<i>Edwards County</i>	6,395	-4.9%	
St John's, Albion (EC)			5
<i>Jefferson County</i>	37,684	-2.9%	
Trinity, Mt Vernon (IEC)			27
<b>Hale Deanery</b>			
<i>Jackson County</i>	56,750	-5.7%	
St Andrew's, Carbondale (IEC)			41
<i>Franklin County</i>	38,469	-3.8%	
St Mark's, West Frankfort (EC)			16
<i>Saline County</i>	23,491	-5.7%	
St Stephen's, Harrisburg (EC)			16
<i>Alexander County</i>	5,761	-30.1%	
Church of the Redeemer, Cairo (EC)			25
<b>Diocese</b>			1348

## **REFERENCES**

**Church Locator** <https://www.episcopalspringfield.org/our-churches/>

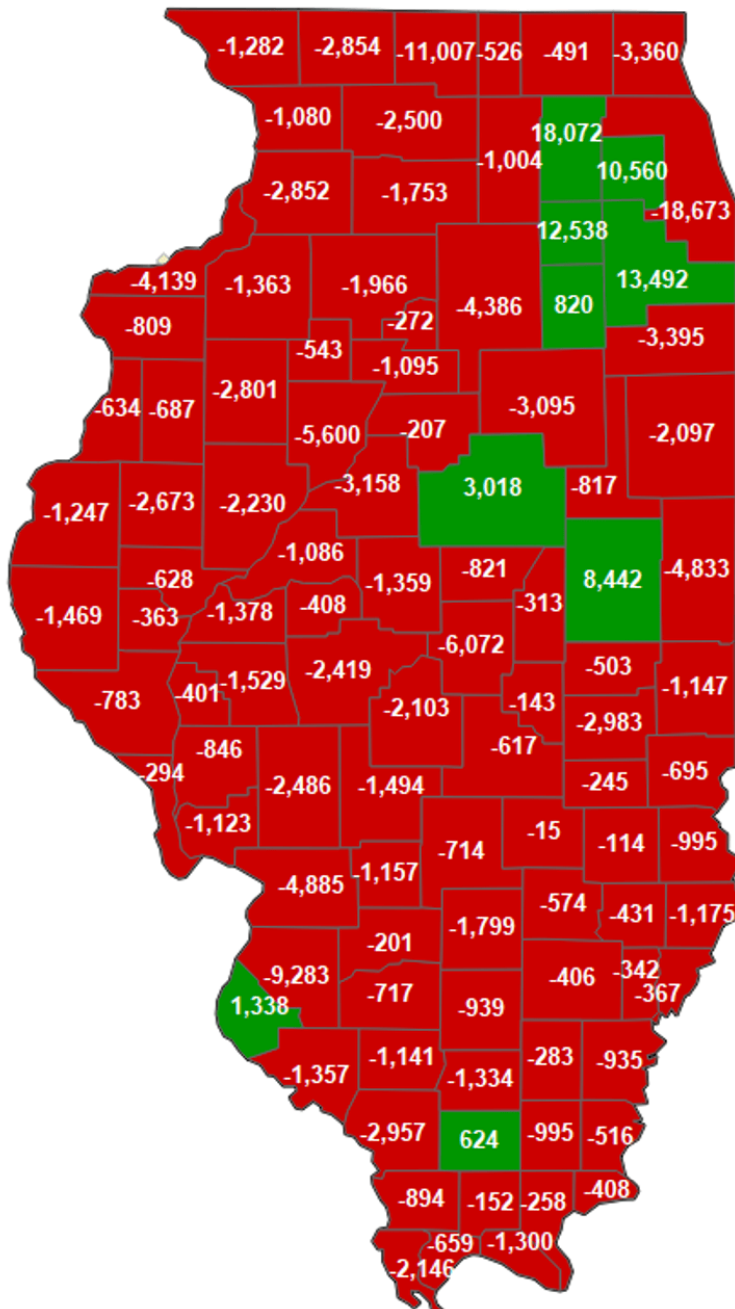
**US Census Quick Facts** <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/IL/PST045219>

**TEC Explore Parochial Reports Trends**

<https://episcopalchurch.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/76003689d9944d1cb82851513b0be2b3>

## 93 of Illinois' 102 counties have lost population since 2010

Change in total population of Illinois counties, 2010 vs. 2018

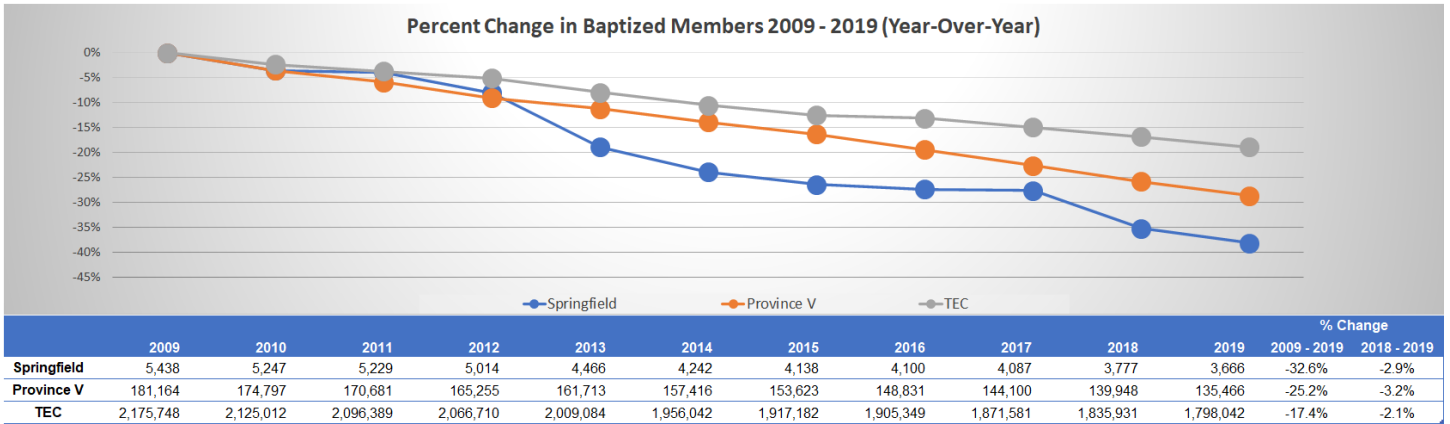
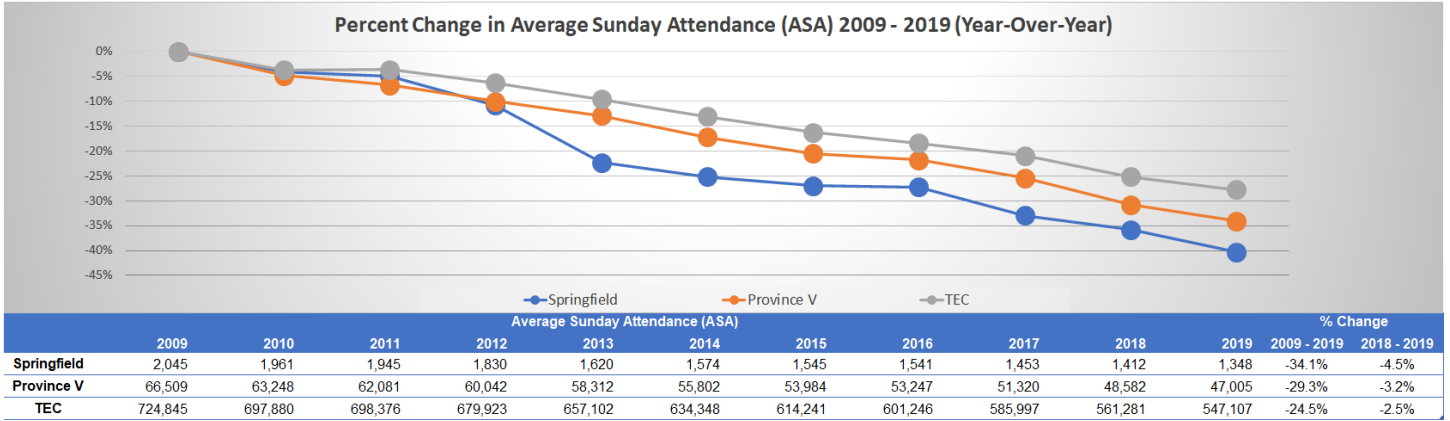


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimated Components of Population Change, 2018

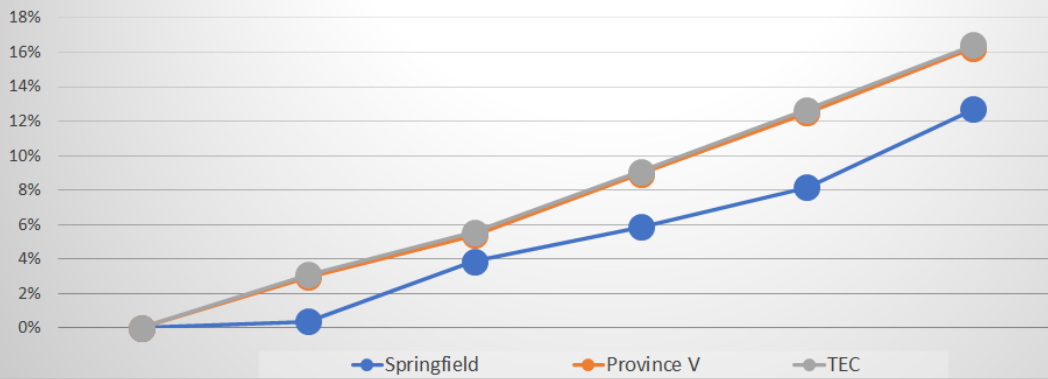


## ASA AND MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

<https://www.generalconvention.org/parochialreportresults>

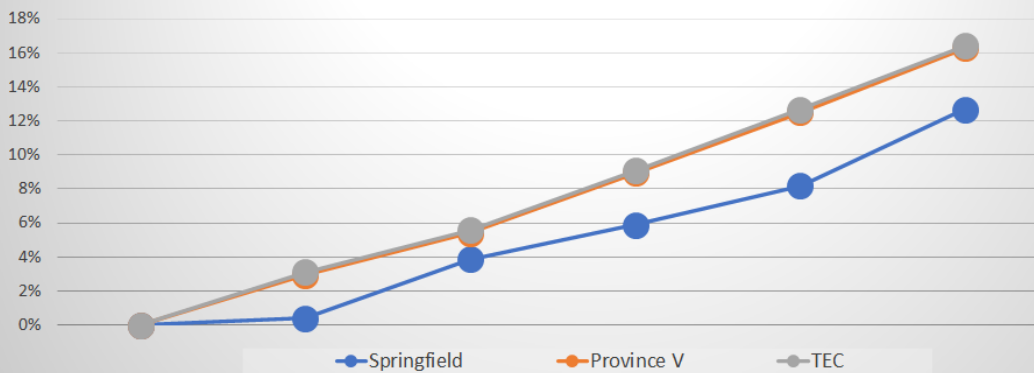


**Percent Change in Plate & Pledge Income 2014 - 2019 (Year-Over-Year)**



							% Change	
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5 Year	1 Year
<b>Springfield</b>	\$ 3,142,891	\$ 3,049,904	\$ 3,201,869	\$ 3,192,581	\$ 3,238,492	\$ 3,205,022	2.0%	-1.0%
<b>Province V</b>	\$ 116,778,449	\$ 116,807,530	\$ 116,350,927	\$ 117,748,120	\$ 116,140,669	\$ 117,100,864	0.3%	0.8%
<b>TEC</b>	\$1,304,575,079	\$1,313,719,167	\$1,312,430,692	\$1,334,300,323	\$1,328,306,349	\$1,355,002,672	3.9%	2.0%

**Percent Change in Average Pledge Income 2014 - 2019 (Year-Over-Year)**

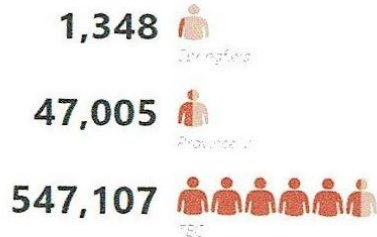


							% Change	
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5 Year	1 Year
<b>Springfield</b>	\$ 2,580	\$ 2,590	\$ 2,680	\$ 2,734	\$ 2,797	\$ 2,923	13.3%	4.5%
<b>Province V</b>	\$ 2,507	\$ 2,581	\$ 2,634	\$ 2,727	\$ 2,837	\$ 3,130	24.9%	10.3%
<b>TEC</b>	\$ 2,607	\$ 2,688	\$ 2,754	\$ 2,851	\$ 2,953	\$ 3,064	17.5%	3.8%

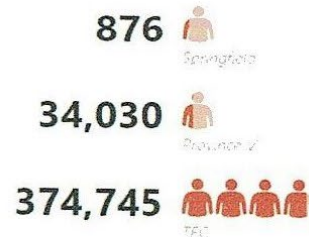
# 2019 Parochial Report Summary

## Diocese of Springfield, Province V & The Episcopal Church

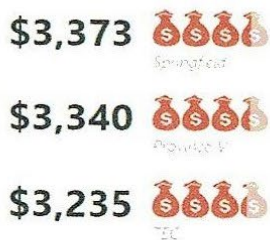
### AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE



### PLEDGING UNITS



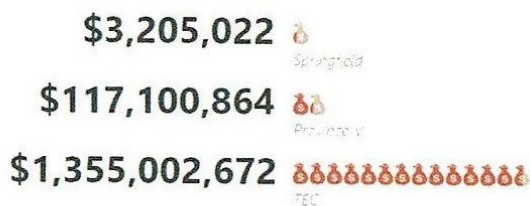
### OPERATING REVENUE PER ASA



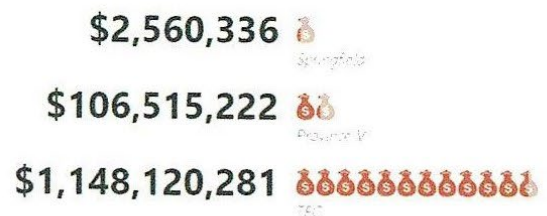
### TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE



### PLATE & PLEDGE TOTAL



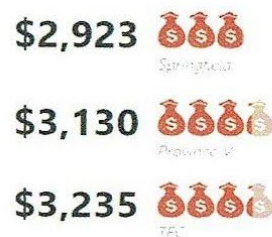
### TOTAL AMOUNT PLEDGED



### PLATE & PLEDGE PER ATTENDEE



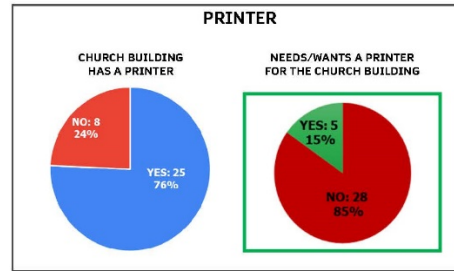
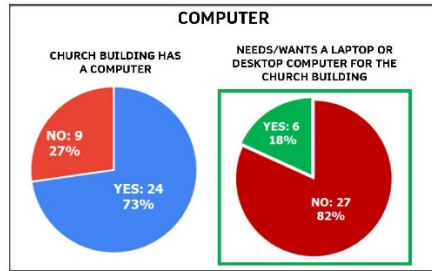
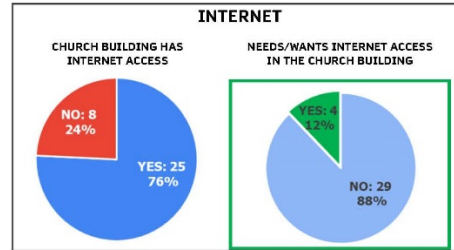
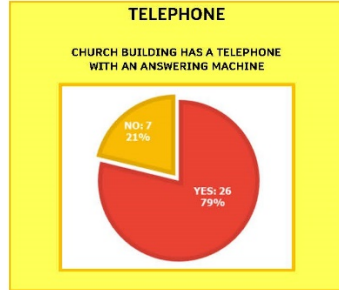
### AVERAGE PLEDGE



## COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

Episcopal Diocese Of Springfield

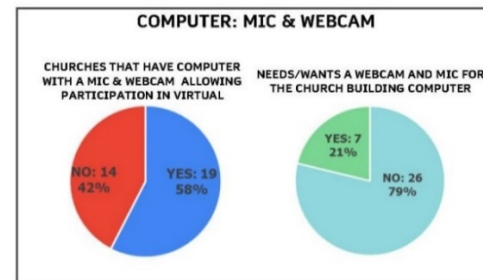
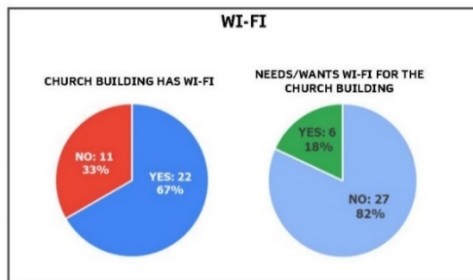
## Technology Survey Results January 2021



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Episcopal Diocese Of Springfield

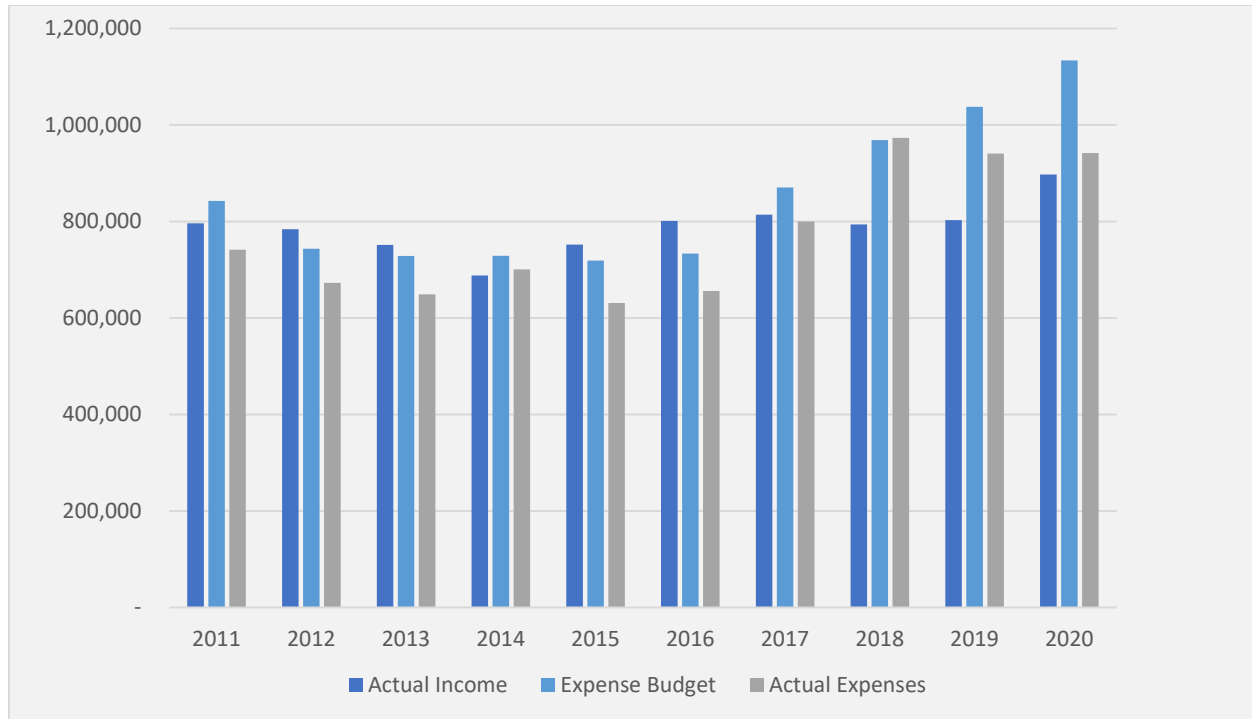
## Technology Survey Results January 2021



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## FINANCIAL TRENDS 2011-2020

### ACTUAL INCOME AND EXPENSES TO BUDGET



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Actual Income	796,179	783,764	751,269	688,048	751,959	801,190	814,200	793,793	802,695	897,224
Actual Expenses	741,413	672,881	649,047	700,564	630,884	655,942	799,911	973,233	940,662	941,873
Expense Budget	842,617	743,544	728,570	729,030	718,958	733,538	870,336	968,759	1,037,470	1,133,705

## **LISTENING PHASE**

From March 16 to March 31, 2021, the faithful of the Diocese had the opportunity to complete a survey to help understand the characteristics they felt were most important in a new Bishop of Springfield. Information gleaned from the survey will help tell the story of the Diocese of Springfield to potential nominees and the Delegates to the nominating and election Synods through our Diocesan Profile. The survey was developed in conjunction with the Survey Research Office at the University of Illinois – Springfield (UIS). There were seven hundred seventy-seven (777) total respondents which is a 58% response rate based on the 2019 Average Sunday Attendance (ASA). The survey was completed online by 84% of respondents. This was a much higher than anticipated return rate.

Next, the people of the Diocese had the opportunity from April 1 to April 15 to offer any anonymous comments they wanted. Just over 100 people shared their thoughts, feelings, and ideas about the future of the Diocese.

Finally, from May 1 to May 16, 2021, nine Listening Sessions were held. These were a combination of Zoom and in-person gatherings. There were seven sessions for the Laity (four in-person and three Zoom) and two Zoom Listening Sessions for the Priests and Deacons. A total of ninety-four (94) people took part.

We thank all who took part in the Listening Phase. A great deal of valuable data and information was gathered that is included in the Profile.

## **SURVEY**

The Standing Committee and the Listening subgroup of the Bishop Election committee contracted with the Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies at the University of Illinois, Springfield, to survey the diocese as part of our election process. The Survey was conducted the second half of March and resulted in a 58% response rate based on Average Sunday Attendance. This was an extremely high response rate, indicating that a majority of our laity and clergy are very interested in having a voice in this process. In total eight percent or 66 of the 777 respondents identified themselves as being a member of the clergy.

The survey revealed that the most important personality traits for the 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Springfield are honesty, open-mindedness, and caring. Regarding professional experiences/qualifications, we are seeking an effective communicator with an inclusive leadership style who can help foster a sense of community. The most important attributes are to clearly communicate a Christ-centered theology; we want our Bishop to be a person whose life is deeply formed by faith in Jesus Christ, and someone who will confront social sins such as marginalization, oppression, poverty, and racism. Finally, the top three priorities include building a strong sense of community across the Diocese, implementing a clear vision for the Diocese, and promoting Christian formation and educational opportunities.

When clergy responses are considered separately, their top personality traits are “collaborative” and “empowering,” with a desire for the next bishop to focus on developing clergy and lay leadership. Additionally, the clergy surveyed placed more emphasis on “will uphold traditional teaching on sexuality and marriage” than did the laity.



Both clergy and laity agree on the importance of building a strong sense of community across the Diocese, implementing a clear vision, promoting Christian formation and education, and promoting membership growth as top tasks for our next Bishop.

The survey indicates that communication is a concern of the Diocese of Springfield. We are looking for an effective communicator who also clearly communicates a Christ-centered theology. Important attributes include having an inclusive leadership style and fostering a sense of community.

Another strong theme is diversity and inclusion. We want a person who is open-minded and honest. An inclusive leadership style also ranked highly as a desirable attribute. We acknowledge the importance of having a bishop who will confront social sins such as marginalization, oppression, poverty, and racism. There is a strong desire for the next Bishop to ordain both men and women to the diaconate and priesthood.

There was little interest expressed regarding national or global connections, across both the laity and clergy subgroups.

We strongly encourage all nominees, as well as our clergy and delegates to, again, “read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest” the survey material in discerning who might best be called to the office of the 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Springfield.

**The Survey in its entirety may be viewed at:**

<https://www.episcopalspringfield.org/wp-content/uploads/EDOS-Survey-Report-Final-April-2021.pdf>

## **ANONYMOUS COMMENTS**

The Listening and Profile subgroups of the Election Committee followed the survey with an opportunity to make anonymous comments on a page set up on our website. This was an effort to get additional information that was not included in the survey, and would not be covered in the listening sessions, and to inform us as we prepare our profile. The comment box was open from April 1 through 15. We received just over 100 comments. Those who commented (anonymously) were advised that their comments might appear in the Profile.

Many commenters voiced a desire for a “hands on” or “heart in” bishop:

- A hands-on bishop is what’s needed. Someone with a vision, who can bring the people together as one church.
- The next bishop of Springfield needs to have their “heart” in Springfield. . . (and) engage in their ministry in a way that being the Bishop of Springfield is the most important work in their lives. We need a bishop who truly sees Springfield as a fruitful field of ministry and mission.
- I’m interested in a Bishop who will be a servant leader, one who will visit church ministries and pitch in while there.
- I would like to see a candidate who has seen and knows the landscape of our diocese well, and who represents the overall character of our diocese well, rather than calling someone from beyond the diocese to come and have to learn and acclimate to us. I believe an internal candidate open to

external advice, will understand the needs and hopes of this diocese better and have the best interests of this diocese at heart.

- . . . (W)e desperately need someone who will be a good pastor to the clergy, and who will actually talk to people at coffee hour. Maybe even spend a weekend in a parish, to get to know people and places better.

We want a bishop who will unite us:

- The greatest need of the Diocese of Springfield, as we consider and choose a new bishop, is a vision of Diocesan life – both pastorally and evangelistically – that recognizes the privilege of and the responsibility for all who so desire and choose to participate in the discerning, planning, and enactment of the life and witness of the Diocese. . . . Simply put, the greatest need for the Diocese of Springfield is a collaborative sharing of ministry that cares for all people and allows us to move forward in mission.
- I would love to see a new Bishop that is a people person and a true leader. Our diocese needs a collaborative relationship with the Bishop that is selected.
- I would like to see the diocese return to the time when we knew each other. Maybe I'm too old, but I remember a time when the diocese felt like a large family and we had plenty of children.

We want someone with vision and inspiration:

- Leadership is needed to help build consensus around a unified vision of what it means to be the Body of Christ today and how the diocese's current gifts and resources can be put to use toward realizing that vision. Consensus can't be built from a top-down mentality of salesmanship. What is God calling us to do? How can we do it within a fellowship of love, listening, and support?
- . . . (W)e need to throw open the doors, emerge into the sunshine of God's beautiful world and declare boldly that we welcome all and desire deeply to be made new. Can we embrace a new vision? Can we rededicate ourselves to Christ, to serving the kingdom, to sharing God's love at every turn? Can we turn to our neighbor, whoever that might be, and say, "Peace"? . . . Let us seek a bishop who can help us dream God's beautiful dream for the Diocese of Springfield and make it real.
- The Diocese of Springfield is in the most urgent need of a bishop who will work to create a spirit of inclusion, of inquiry, and of generosity. . . . God's love is wide. We need a bishop who will help us make ours wide also.
- I don't want a leader who is focused on fixing church decline, but a leader who is contagiously excited about who God is and what God can do.
- It's time that when people in our cities think of Episcopalians, they know we make knowing Jesus our priority, the Bible our guide, and the love we have for one another and give Glory to God.

Submissions to the comment box suggest a diversity of opinion among members of the Diocese when it comes to world view, social issues, and theology. That diversity is expressed in these representative samples:

- We want our new bishop to uphold the historic Christian teachings of marriage, sexuality, and gender. Even when the national church fails to do so.
- I love the Episcopal Church as did my family going back generations. We live in southern Illinois and cannot get out of this conservative thought and deed action without a change at the top. Please find a bishop that will go along with the national church and cherish newcomers and their families. Please open weddings to gay couples and celebrate their loves and love. Then you will see these churches grow: Find a lifelong Episcopalian who believes: Love one another as thyself.
- Keeping up with the Episcopal Church's doctrinal and liturgical innovations is NOT a priority for Springfield. A bishop's first duties are to Christ, the Church Universal, and the Holy Scripture, not to keep up with the apostate spirit of the age.
- I would love for the diocese to take a more progressive approach of radical inclusion. I believe it is not only what would be right for our diocese but also necessary for the future survival of the church. I am not a cradle Episcopalian; I am quite new to the church. It wasn't the Springfield Diocese that drew me in but rather the national church's stance on things that mattered to me; even though the Springfield Diocese did not participate in some of the progressive policies (marriage of LGBTQIA\* persons, ordination of women, etc.). I think the only way to proceed is to install a bishop that emulates this progressiveness and radical inclusion.
- We need a Catholic bishop who will continue in the tradition of Bishops Chambers, Hillestad, Beckwith, and Martins. This bishop should stand firm and oppose communion without baptism and same-sex marriage. It would be a betrayal of all these bishops and this diocese stood for if we did not pick a bishop in this vein.
- I would like to see someone selected who respects the needs and rights of LGBTQ but provides a more balanced approach respecting the rights of all Episcopalians.
- I'd be very disturbed if a person is elected who is prepared to accept same sex marriage and other features of the so-called "woke" culture.
- I'd like to see a concerted movement more to the left (or at least the center) with our Diocese. We've been belaboring with an oppressive sense of conservatism for too long now. One of the issues on which change is warranted is LGBT issues. It's time for our Diocese to come out of the Dark Ages and embrace all people instead of either condemning them or trying to change them. That includes same sex marriage and the ordination of LGBT priests.
- I think the Diocese of Springfield is worth saving but I do know its ties with the Episcopal Church will make this effort more, not less, difficult. As they move further from the apostolic faith with each successive General Convention, I fail to see where we fit in the scheme of things.
- I dream of a diocese that is more inclusive—actively more inclusive—of people from various walks of life. The Gospel is for everyone. Jesus lives to forgive us of our sins and bring healing to us regardless of our race, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, economic status, background, etc. All sorts of people in Central and Southern Illinois need to know that Jesus loves them.

Finally, we want a bishop who is compassionate and healing:

- We need a bishop who will gather us up into her arms despite the color or condition of our feathers.

- That person should be aware of (not necessarily understand) the human spirit in all its complexities.
- Embrace the past and present of the diocese with all its faults and hurts. Help us to grow together.
- What we need is someone who knows us. We need a bishop who . . . understands our struggles. We need a simple priest from our own ranks who has the desire to welcome and form Christians from all of God's children. We need a bishop who understands that people have suffered from divorce, unemployment, homelessness, incarceration, sexual persecution, illness, and general rejection and isolation from society. We need a shepherd who will welcome all of us, recognize our individuality and our uniqueness in the universe, and who will teach us God's love by loving and accepting us. We need a comforter, not an enforcer.

## LISTENING SESSIONS

The Profile sub-Committee of the Election Committee offered the faithful of the Diocese of Springfield multiple ways to offer insights, ideas, and opinions into the development of the story of the Diocese of Springfield and the Profile for the election of the Bishop. In addition to the survey and gathering comments online, Listening Sessions were held.

During the first two weeks of May, nine Listening Sessions took place in-person and virtually (Zoom) in the Diocese. There were seven Laypersons Sessions (four in-person and three Zoom) Priests and deacons had two separate sessions via Zoom. The format of the layperson and Priests and Deacons sessions was the same.

We are grateful for the wide range of diverse opinions among our laity, priests, and deacons. The information gathered helped frame the Profile to tell our diocese's story to potential Nominees and Synod Delegates.

Prior to each listening session, participants were asked to take time to reflect upon and consider the following two questions as preparation for their listening sessions.

*In the past five years, what do you believe has been the best thing about the Episcopal Church in Springfield?  
An event, occurrence, program, movement, etc.*

- Laypersons expressed great appreciation for the presence of retired clergy willing to serve in the Diocese; priests and deacons expressed great appreciation for the mature Christians that make such service easy.
- Several participants were able to cite specific financial contributions the Diocese made to help their churches.
- Many cited Diocesan-wide activities such as Cursillo, summer camp, Episcopal Church Women retreats, and Synod.
- Communications from the Diocese have improved with many specifically expressing appreciation for the Communications Coordinator.

*In the past five years, what personal event in your life in the Church have you found valuable/ uplifting/ encouraging/ hopeful/ a blessing, etc.?*

- Adult Christian education opportunities were cited by many, including Zoom Bible Studies and Discussion Groups during the pandemic.
- Ministry within our churches to members and family who are sick, bereaved, or otherwise undergoing hardship was cited as a blessing repeatedly.
- Some cited their own ordination to the diaconate or priesthood. Some cited helping postulants with discernment. And others cited the ordination of women in our Diocese or the ordination of the first Black female bishop in the Episcopal Church.
- Many cited ministry opportunities such as serving as a lector, Cursillo weekend rector, and offering/receiving help from one another including prayers, food, or transportation in times of sickness or surgery.

The following three questions were used with the Layperson and Priests and Deacons during the breakout groups during their listening sessions.

*What opportunities and challenges face our diocese and bishop in the next five years?*

- Church growth was the most common topic, with specific needs described as attracting families with children, reaching and retaining youth and young adults, and coping with decreasing populations in some areas, as well as aging congregations and the financial ramifications of declining attendance. Many expressed opportunities for how the Diocese could help which included creating a central repository for materials on church growth, stewardship, and Sunday School programs, Diocesan training on such topics, focus groups or teams, and utilizing social media.
- Many expressed concerns about their ability to bring members back to regular church attendance after the pandemic, while simultaneously citing the blessing of online services and study sessions as great opportunities for growth which should continue to be utilized.
- Topics such as social justice, racism, inclusion, gender equality, and sexuality were cited as areas in which our Diocese and previous bishops have been at odds with the national church; whether that was an opportunity or challenge depended in large part on the stance of the speaker. A few on each side emphasized the need to avoid persecuting any one church or clergy-member.

*Moving ahead 10 years, what would you like to see accomplished?*

- Many sessions included voices describing a desire for a greater awareness of the Episcopal Church both as a denomination and as an obvious supporter of and contributor to local ministries. Some suggested that the Diocese develop an outreach project that would have a significant impact in Illinois.
- A desire was commonly communicated that in ten years we would have figured out how to be welcoming to all, attracting more racial/ethnic diversity, being inclusive to those from a variety of backgrounds, recruiting more youth and young adults, some of

whom go on to the diaconate or priesthood, and experiencing real church growth (both numerically and spiritually) as a result.

- Many expressed a concern with Diocesan and church finances and had specific ideas for what we need to do to strengthen our situation.
- Many were hopeful that there would be more opportunities for Diocesan and deanery-wide interactions through gatherings and ministry opportunities. Some suggested utilizing technology to bridge geographic distances. Others hoped for more involvement with Diocesan committees and more than one session observed that maintenance advice/expertise sharing would be imperative to avoiding further church building/infrastructure deterioration.
- Many participants cited a desire for those within our diocese to be empowered to administer the sacraments in step with the national church, including many who specifically mentioned same-sex marriage and ordination of those who are LGBTQ, and some who hope their churches will not require Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight in the future.

*In what ways has the diocese been a blessing to you or your church?*

- Many cited Diocesan staff as helpful and knowledgeable, including the Diocesan Administrator, and appreciate Diocese security & safety training, prior educational, spiritual, and relational departments, and ongoing Diocesan opportunities such as ECW, Cursillo, Church Camp, clergy retreats, etc.
- Many described ways in which the Diocese contributed important finances to their churches such as helping with a church mortgage, opening a food pantry, helping rebuild (and continue worshipping) after a fire, and replacing a roof.
- Many have experienced valuable help and guidance from the diocese during clergy transitions, including mediating conflicts, helping find interims, and helping broaden searches.

The sessions also revealed what seemed to be a unanimous priority for the next Bishop of Springfield – the desire to have a Bishop who lives in the Diocese, prioritizes the Diocese, and spends time within the Diocese, investing and serving in the churches and ministries of the Diocese. The hope is for a Bishop who, like Jesus, will live and work among us.

## **OUR STORY TOLD THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCHES:** **THE FACE, HANDS, AND FEET OF JESUS IN** **CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**

The story of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield is borne out in the daily work and ministry of its churches as they seek to be the face, hands, and feet of Jesus in their local communities.

In January 2021, the Election Committee asked the 33 congregations of the diocese to tell *their* story of how God, through their ministry, was answering the post-Communion prayer, “And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.” Submittals could include descriptions of ministries and events, member testimonials, and other characteristics that best reflect the people, spirit, and culture of their eucharistic community.

The following are excerpts from various submittals. They provide a glimpse into God’s work through the faithful to be the Body of Jesus Christ in the communities they serve.

**From St. Thomas Church, Salem:** Our “Dignity Box” ministry is one of our crown jewels. We wrap empty copy paper boxes with decorative wrapping paper and take them to the local nursing homes. When one of their patients passes on, the patient's personal belongings are placed in the box and returned to the family instead of the plastic trash bags that had been used in the past. Another continuing service is providing suitcases for local foster children to use as they move from place to place.

We hope to continue our large group projects in the coming year. They include our annual High Tea Party, used book sale, chili cook-off, Christmas cookie sale, free lemonade stand and poker tournament.

**From St. Mark’s Church, West Frankfort:** Small but mighty, in the last few years we have adopted two valuable ministries; we have a Blessing Box, feeding the hungry daily, on a fairly busy community road, and until the Covid Pandemic hit we were delivering up to 100 snack bags to an area elementary school for the more needy children to take home for the weekend. Through the pandemic, through shutdowns, we have continued to be The Episcopal Church in Franklin County, IL.

When asked, a newer member who found us a few years ago, had this to say to our next bishop:

*I would tell the Bishop that I have visited the great cathedrals and none of them had the open arms I have found at St. Mark’s. I would tell HER that in Southern Illinois it is a safe space for the faithful LGBT\* and a home for those often neglected by the Christian Community. Here, spiritual needs are met, and spirits uplifted. I would conclude that the arms of St. Mark’s not only reach for the faithful but for those most in need within the community.*

**From St. Thomas’s Church, Glen Carbon and St. Bartholomew’s Church, Granite City:** These churches have been yoked together for many years. Both were founded over one hundred and twenty years ago, the first by British coal miners, and the second by inhabitants of what was then an important steel city. Glen Carbon’s mine closed just before World War 2, and the community developed into a dormitory village for people working in Edwardsville and St. Louis. Granite City has been in decline for some years. Both Eucharistic communities have suffered as a result. Their story is not unlike that of many churches in the diocese. However, the two churches have a base of extremely devoted lay people, determined to be the church in their communities.

St. Thomas's Church has a pre-school, founded over twenty years ago, when, during a spurt in membership, the church building was extended. For most of these past years the school was too small to create a stable financial base and became a steady drain on diocesan finances. Then, nearly four years ago, a new director took over, and now the school is one of the larger and most financially successful ones in Madison County. Over sixty students attend daily. One of the two retired, part time clergy, Fr. Scott Hoogerhyde, serves as chaplain, as well as priest in charge of St. Bartholomew's. Bishop Anthony Clavier, assistant editor of the Anglican Digest serves as Vicar of the two Eucharistic Communities.

**From Emmanuel Memorial Church, Champaign:** A fixture on Champaign's central West Side Park, Emmanuel is known in our community for several things: our decades-long daily ministry of providing sack lunches to the homeless community, our popular presentations of Choral Evensong according to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, our unique Altar Guild Easter Eggs tradition (a project in which altar guild members made and sold eggs decorated to resemble characters from popular culture), our partnership with and support of local outreach ministries, and our beautiful Ralph Adams Cram building complete with rood screen and Lady Chapel.

With its mixture of town and gown cultures, Emmanuel gathers a diverse group from all kinds of backgrounds and of all ages: retirees, young families with children, grad students and faculty, singles, and teenagers. Some are life-long Episcopalians, others grew up in different faith traditions, and still others had no prior religious background. What we have in common is a deep commitment to know Christ and make Christ known; we are grateful that God's grace enables us to transcend our differences as we meet at his altar.

Since the 1990s, part of Emmanuel's special call has been offering to God the ancient round of the Daily Office, which is led by a team of laity and clergy. While we've been observing the Offices at home or online during the pandemic, in normal times at least one of us, and sometimes as many as 3 or 4, is in the chancel every weekday at 8 a.m. or 5:15 p.m. to pray Morning or Evening Prayer in the church. We believe this gives our nave a noticeable "prayed-in" feeling.

We were grateful for the chance to testify to God's forgiving love that came with our being featured in Oprah Magazine and by the Episcopal News Service after our 2019 work with RIP Medical Debt to forgive \$4 million of bad medical debt in the counties of our diocese.

**From St. Andrew's Church, Edwardsville:** Our Outreach Committee, following Matthew 25:34-46, has year-long activities which serve the community including participating in fundraisers for charities, the Scarf Project which makes scarves, gloves and hats available to the needy, providing School supplies, collecting soup and other foods for the local food pantry, and the Angel Tree at Christmas which provides food, gas, clothing and toys to needy families. Two other ministries which bring members of the community into the church are the quarterly book sale, famous throughout the area as being the best organized one anywhere. In addition to bringing people into the facility, it is a successful fundraiser for the parish. Each March the Quilt Guild presents a show and sale of fabric art produced by members of the parish and quilters throughout the area. A feature of this program is the presentation of a Quilt of Valor to a veteran of the military.

**From St. Andrew's Church, Carbondale:** St. Andrew's Church has several ministries to the community. A shawl ministry group knits and distributes prayer shawls to infirm persons. In December each year, there is a collection of socks for homeless persons. Food is collected and transported to a local food pantry. Christmas gifts are contributed to a community-wide project for disadvantaged persons. Clothing



is collected for babies of mothers of need. The parish also hosts (either in Carbondale or Marion) community groups such as one that recycles plastic bags to make sleeping mats for the homeless, a needle craft group, and alcohol/narcotics anonymous.

In addition to various special social occasions and the regular coffee hour Sunday at church, St. Andrew's has a decades long tradition of TGIF gatherings on the last Friday of the month. Members gather, usually at a host's home for a couple hours of socializing.

**From St. Paul's Church, Carlinville:** We enjoy very productive partnerships with local service agencies (especially the local Food Pantry), and other local churches (especially the Federated Church of Carlinville) connected to efforts of service and social justice. We continue to think creatively along those lines, actively making plans for increasing our impact on the well-being of the poor and marginalized in our area. Additionally, the St. Paul's Eucharistic Community has a longstanding connection with a local institution of higher education: Blackburn College. Several Blackburn faculty and staff members attend St. Paul's regularly.

Our community has consistently been one of academic inquiry and thoughtful theology. Our recently retired rector, Fr. John Henry, was a career educator before receiving a call to the ministry and has brought his pedagogical skills to his thought-provoking sermons at St. Paul's for a decade. The incoming rector, Fr. Carter Aikin, has taught undergraduate courses in Christian theology, religion, and philosophy for the past 16 years at several liberal arts colleges. This community 'raised him up' as a leader from the pews of St. Paul's, where he had been worshipping since 2014. It is quite typical for 35 or 40% of Sunday worshippers to attend seasonal weeknight Adult Forum Christian Education classes. We are a thoughtful bunch.

**From St. Stephen's Church, Harrisburg:** St. Stephen's Church supports the Harrisburg 4C's shelter and food pantry with a monthly donation of money and collected can goods, plus with our annual soup collection on 'Souper Bowl' Sunday we are able to donate even higher amounts of canned goods. Some of the soup is also donated to the local community college students living on campus.

Before COVID we always enjoyed any excuse to have a potluck/party and delicious coffee hour after the service. Because the members of St. Stephen's love to eat and out of the love of cooking, fundraisers were started. For 19 years, we hosted a five-course Italian dinner complete with china and all the finery of an upscale restaurant. Members of the church did all the cooking from scratch and waited tables. Live entertainment of Italian songs or piano music was provided. On a much more casual scale, we also have held BBQ chicken dinners. Proceeds are given to local charities and organizations such as Shop with a Cop, CASA, and the Women's Center.

St. Stephen's is in Saline County, but members travel from neighboring Williamson, Gallatin, Pope, and Johnson Counties. The area is frequently referred to as Little Egypt with Garden of the God's National Park nearby.

We have lost several of our founding members but third and fourth generations of their families still attend. We have a wide range of vocations represented by the congregation including coal miners, teachers, medical professionals, bankers, private business owners, farmers, and city and county employees.

**From St. John's Church, Albion:** St. John's is an exceedingly small congregation, and our existence depends completely on our commitment to attend faithfully and fully. All the tasks—ecclesiastical or practical—are up to Father Bill Howard, our priest, and our hardy handful of members. This would invite

burn-out, but we stay flexible, pitch in so nothing falls through the cracks, and support each other. We intend to persist and pray to grow. Unless a member is traveling or ill, all are present. Working together is vital and a joy.

Our financial stewardship is a perpetual balance between self-sufficiency and outreach. We pay our bills, keep a little in reserve, and forward an annual pledge to the Diocese. A prime reason we can do so is because Father Bill does not accept a stipend beyond travel expenses. Our annual pledges meet our needs and give us dollars to share. We stretch the effect of our Outreach dollars by joining in Diocesan opportunities, local ministerial alliance projects, and regional social services. But we also respond immediately to people in emergency situations as they pop up.

Every reason we might have to be discouraged by challenges has become a source of connection, strength, and faith.

**From Christ the King Church, Normal:** Beginning in the 1980s, Christ the King began intentionally looking outward to involve itself in the community, diocese, and world – to be *“the church in the neighborhood.”* A founding member served as Springfield’s rep to the Province V Presiding Bishop’s Fund for World Relief (as it was then called). The church joined with Central Community Action to provide the “little house,” on church property, as a residence for women working their way out of poverty. For a time, when possible, the parish tithed its budget to outreach. When Christ the King moved to a newer building in the 1990s, there was room for a pre-school, which operated successfully for many years.

Christ the King is a participant in Carle BroMenn Medical Center’s community partners program; in 2021, the parish received a diocesan Mission & Ministry grant, which it then matched, to aid the Spiritual Care Department’s “Caring Hearts” fund. Continuing into 2021 and beyond the parish will pledge \$500 quarterly to the “Caring Hearts” fund. The Crafts Ministry has supplied prayer shawls, masks during the COVID-19 pandemic, and sleeping pads made from plastic grocery bags for the homeless. The parish also has purchased and donated materials and backpacks for a nearby grade school and has collected toys at Christmas for children who would not otherwise receive gifts.

We also supply monthly meals and support for students and staff at The Regional Alternative School Program (RAS) which provides educational services for students throughout Dewitt, McLean, and Livingston counties. RAS provides programming for students considered to be at-risk of dropping out of school. The program exists to provide students who did not qualify for special educational services and were not experiencing success in the traditional day school program, for a variety of reasons, with an option to continue their education.

Christ the King – *the church in the neighborhood* - is always looking for ways to joyfully present Jesus’ face—and love—to its greater neighborhood and world.

**From St. George’s Church, Belleville:** “My wife and I felt at home the first time we visited St. George’s. St. George’s may be small, but it’s a vibrant and diverse community of dedicated people quietly doing the work of the Kingdom of God—caring for the needy, worshiping through a faithful (yet never fussy) presentation of the liturgy, preaching the gospel soundly, and studying the Word deeply. St. George’s is a caring and prayerful family, and we’re blessed to be a part of it!”

**From St. Christopher Church, Rantoul:** Episcopalians in Rantoul during the 1950s and 60s were meeting at the Chapel located on Chanute Air Force Base. As attendance grew, plans for a mission church began and so in 1964, St Christopher opened its doors at its present location, 1501 E. Grove, Rantoul, IL.

St. Christopher thrived for about 30 years, with folks coming and going from the *base*. Some members also retired to Rantoul. When Chanute closed in 1993, attendance dropped significantly, but it rebounded fairly well. Members who stayed and raised their families in Rantoul kept things going.

Today the congregation is small with about 20 members, including children. It's been hard during the pandemic, but services are still running. We've been calling ourselves "small but mighty."

## **A NOTE FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life, and resurrection.

Like many other dioceses over the period of 2020-2021, we found the journey towards discerning the person God is calling as our next Bishop taking more twists and turns than we expected. However, our Lord Jesus has continued to lead us, and we now have the joy of being able to offer this profile to the wider church and to those open to discernment about whether God may call them to be with us.

The Standing Committee is very grateful to all the members of our diocese who filled out the survey, submitted comments, and joined in Zoom and in-person listening groups. We also thank all the members of the Election Committee, laypeople, and clergy from across the regions of Central and Southern Illinois, for their diligent work.

Our survey results emphasized the baseline need for a bishop to be “a person whose life is deeply formed by faith in Jesus Christ” and who “clearly communicates a Christ-centered theology.” The Examination and vows in the liturgy for the ordination of a Bishop in the Book of Common Prayer (p. 517-518) flesh out what that formation and communication look like in a vocation to the Episcopate; they could have been included in this profile, as they form the foundation underneath all the specific hopes and dreams expressed by individuals over the past months. <https://bcponline.org/> (Episcopal Services - The Ordination of a Bishop, p. 517-518))

In keeping with our uniquely transparent two-stage election process, no “search committee” has winnowed the data or narrowed the field of potential candidates; what you see here is information on our context for ministry along with the unfiltered voices of many members of our Diocese. The discernment, winnowing, and narrowing is up to you, in concert with our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to whom be glory now and evermore.

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

Mr. Randy Winn  
Mrs. Helen Williams  
Mr. Gerry Smith  
The Rev. James Muriuki  
The Rev. Beth Maynard  
The Rev. Ben Hankinson  
The Rev. Shawn Denney  
Mr. Kevin Babb

## **A PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH**

*1979 Book of Common Prayer 280, 291, 515, 528, 540*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

