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# EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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The background features a large, light gray watermark of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis seal. The seal is circular and contains a central shield with a cross, a chalice, and a lamb. The Latin text 'ECCLESIA PROT' is visible at the top and 'SIGILLI' at the bottom of the seal's border.

# MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JENNIFER BASKERVILLE-BURROWS

Dear Ones,

February 2026

As we prepare to enter the 10<sup>th</sup> year of our episcopacy—this relationship of bishop and people of God in this diocese—I thank God for you. I thank God for what you continue to teach me about being a faithful Christian. It continues to be the great privilege of my life to be your bishop and chief pastor particularly in this moment in history.

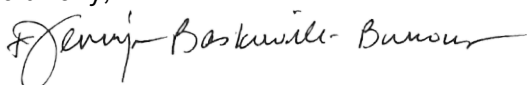
This Annual Report is not just a summary of our life in the Diocese of Indianapolis in 2025. It is one of the ways we tell the story of YOUR incredible faithfulness in worship, ministry, and witness all for the sake of Christ's love. I hope you see yourself reflected in these pages, statistics, and images. It truly takes all of us to be the body of Christ and to be the Diocese of Indianapolis.

In addition to all that you have accomplished in your faith communities last year, together as a diocese, we've continued the exponential growth of our ministries to youth and young people, laid the foundation for a diocesan endowment campaign, and increased giving to the Bishop's Appeal. We have shown up locally and across the state for our immigrant neighbors and have fed tens of thousands of people in our myriad food ministries. Our church buildings continue to be centers of hospitality as we share space with community partners. We have faithfully considered the question of possible reunification with the Diocese of Northern Indiana and instead of bringing the matter to a vote, we have jointly elected to move into a season of relationship-building and collaboration. I would also be remiss not to acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of our philanthropic community, whose grants help sustain and advance the visions and dreams of our diocese, Waycross Camp and Conference Center, and St. Richard's Episcopal School.

We also witnessed the full revitalization of our diocesan youth retreat, as young people from across the diocese gathered at Waycross Camp and Conference Center for a weekend rooted in community, prayer, and joy. Together, they leaned into the holy work of telling their origin stories, discovering who they are, where they come from, and how God is calling them to show up in the world. In the stories and conversations they shared, we saw not just a program renewed, but a generation finding its voice within the Church.

In my address to you at the 188<sup>th</sup> Convention of our Diocese, I reflected on the work of theologian Regina Walton and her reminder that in seasons of crisis, catastrophe, and disruption, the Christian community has always found ways to form small communities of practice, witness, and resistance to move forward all the while relying on the outrageous promises of God. The outrageous promises of God to make a way out of no way; to be with us in the present and to lead us into the future; to make all things new; and in Jesus Christ conquering death assures us that resurrection and new life always has the final word. May our looking back at 2025 sustain our hope in God's promises for our future.

Faithfully,



The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows



# BISHOP'S STAFF



**Bethany Baugh**  
Executive Assistant to  
the Bishop



**Heather  
Campbell**  
Diocesan Youth  
Minister



**Giulianna  
Cappelletti Gray**  
Canon to the Ordinary  
for Congregational  
Development and  
Leadership



**Kim Christopher**  
Administrator of  
Accounts and Events



**Jackson "Jack"  
Chamberlain**  
Intern to Diocesan Youth  
& Young Adult Ministries



**Susan Tamborini  
Czolgosz**  
Consultant for  
Transition Ministry



**Julie Eledah**  
Executive  
Assistant to the  
Canons to the  
Ordinary



**Peter Gray**  
Young Adult Regional  
Missioner



**Lauren Hacker**  
Communication  
Coordinator



**Jolene Johnston**  
Program Director for  
the Centering All  
Children in Worship  
Initiative



**Kelly Nickson**  
Coordinator for  
Congregational  
Development and  
Safe Church



**Brendan  
O'Sullivan-Hale**  
Canon to the Ordinary  
for Administration and  
Evangelism



**Elise Shrock**  
Director of  
Communications



**Mary Taflinger**  
Missioner for  
Pastoral Care



**Erinna VanDever**  
Administrator of  
Hospitality and Data

## STAFF BY THE NUMBERS



# OUR MISSION

Grounded in God's love in Christ, the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis and its people:

- ✦ Serve as beacons of Christ in central and southern Indiana and beyond
- ✦ Offer a generous invitation and welcome
- ✦ Stand with the vulnerable and marginalized to transform systems of injustice
- ✦ Connect with other Episcopalians, ecumenical and interfaith partners, and advocacy groups
- ✦ Develop clergy and laity to lead the church of today and tomorrow.



# YEAR IN REVIEW



Leadership Resource Day



Clergy Conference/Day



Clergy Renewal of Vows



Diocesan Confirmation



Tea with Pádraig Ó Tuama



Pride



Brasília Pilgrimage



Diocesan Youth Mission Trip



College for Congregational Development (CCD)



Discerning God's Call



Diocesan Convention



Diocesan Youth Fall Retreat



# YEAR BY THE **NUMBERS**

31

CONGREGATION  
VISITS BY THE  
BISHOP

138

CONFIRMED,  
RECEIVED, OR  
REAFFIRMED

540

BISHOP'S  
MEETINGS IN  
INDYDIO OFFICE

9

POSTULANTS &  
CANDIDATES FOR THE  
PRIESTHOOD & DIACONATE

88

YOUTH THAT  
ENGAGED WITH DIO  
YOUTH MINISTRY

47

FAITH  
COMMUNITIES IN  
THE DIOCESE

6

COLLEGE  
CHAPLAINCIES &  
CAMPUS  
MINISTRIES

2,869

AVERAGE  
SUNDAY  
ATTENDANCE

69

ACTIVE CLERGY  
IN OUR DIOCESE

286+

PEOPLE WHO  
VOLUNTEER EACH WEEK

5,420

PEOPLE SERVED  
EACH WEEK

# DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY



Over the past year, Diocesan Youth Ministry has continued to focus on a simple but transformative calling: helping congregations succeed in ministry with young people and creating meaningful opportunities for youth to encounter God, community, and purpose. Through strategic programs, diocesan gatherings, and sustained investment in leaders, this year marked significant growth in both reach and depth.

One of the most notable programmatic developments was the launch of Youth Ministry University (YMU). Designed to equip clergy and lay leaders with practical tools for ministry with young people, YMU completed six Congregational Assessments, helping churches clarify goals and test ministry experiments rooted in their local context. The inaugural YMU Cohort brought together 22 leaders from nine congregations, each pursuing a concrete ministry goal over the course of the year. In addition, monthly YMU Virtual Trainings drew consistent participation from leaders across the diocese, creating an accessible, ongoing formation space for those serving youth.

This year also saw the completion and pilot of a new Diocesan Youth Confirmation Curriculum. The curriculum offers a flexible and relational approach to confirmation that can be adapted across diverse parish contexts.

Our diocesan gatherings for young people continued to expand in both participation and impact. The Fall Youth Retreat at Waycross returned for its second year after a five-year hiatus, growing from 80 to 100 youth and reaching full capacity again. The retreat has become a cornerstone experience for relationship-building, faith exploration, and diocesan identity among our youth.

This summer's Mission Trip to St. Louis offered young people the opportunity to engage in tornado disaster relief and student-designed "Choose Your Own Adventure" service projects. Youth were invited not only to serve, but to lead, reflect, and discern how faith compels action in the world.

In total, diocesan programs engaged more young people this year than ever before—surpassing last year's participation numbers even before accounting for the many youth connected through Waycross camp. New initiatives like Waycross Wednesdays, which strengthened relationships between diocesan youth ministry and camp life, further deepened these connections.

Together, these programs reflect a growing ecosystem of formation, leadership development, and belonging for young people across our diocese. And because it bears repeating: if you have one youth—you have youth ministry.



# DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY



## 5 Year Goals Accomplished in 2025

### Youth Faith Formation

Resources curated for the Diocesan Faith Formation Library, now updated monthly.

### Youth Organization Partnerships

Shifted focus from external partnerships to parish-specific development strategies focused on youth and intergenerational ministry. 6 Congregational Assessments completed.

### Youth Confirmation

Curriculum piloted at St. Christopher's in Carmel and edited for diocesan-wide usage.

### Youth Leader Formation

22 leaders (from 9 parishes) enrolled in the first Youth Ministry University cohort. Monthly virtual trainings average 25 participants.

### Youth Ministry Investment

The diocese conducted a feasibility study that identified potential for a capital campaign to raise money for ministries that will benefit young people in the diocese.

### Christian Parenting and Caregivers Initiative Grant

Data compiled into report; Hatch-a-Thon scheduled for February.



# DIOCESAN **CAMPUS** MINISTRY



Across central and southern Indiana, campus ministries sponsored by the diocese and supported by nearby congregations offer a generous invitation to students at Ball State, Butler, Indiana University, Purdue, Purdue and IU Indy, and across Terre Haute (serving Indiana State, St. Mary of the Woods, and Rose-Hulman). Together, chaplains and students nurture close Christian community through worship, service, learning, and play. When all else might be in flux, these communities provide grounding and care.

This season of life is significant for the faith formation of young adults. While they grow intellectually, college students are also growing and changing spiritually. During this period, religious commitments shift, values are clarified, beliefs are challenged, and questions of purpose rise to the surface. Our campus ministries offer a place for students to do this deep work with genuine curiosity in an environment that is caring and thoughtful.

The campus ministries of this diocese give space and care to Episcopalians and, through our ecumenical partnerships, Christians of many other denominations. They also care for young adults who have been unchurched, underchurched, and badly churched. At many universities, the Episcopal campus ministry is the only Christian group that is visibly LGBTQ+ affirming and one of few where women's gifts for ministry are welcome at the highest levels of leadership.

These campus ministries represent a long-term investment. Within them, some students deepen the faith they brought with them to college, others learn how to do the slow work of building Christian community, while others experience a church, perhaps for the first time, that invites questions, welcomes generously, and stands courageously with the vulnerable. Whether these experiences were a part of a student's weekly routine or the result of a single encounter with a chaplain, they will leave college with an understanding of the gift that is the Episcopal Church. And in their next season of life, if they discover they are longing for a place to go deep, to give and receive care, to pray, to laugh, to find courage, and to find God, they will know where to go.



# DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



We are blessed to be able to offer many opportunities to equip and support leaders. In 2025, we had hundreds participate in our offerings.

In March, we hosted a Leadership Resource Day at Waycross which drew 80 clergy and lay leaders from around the diocese. The bishop, members of her staff, and leaders from around the diocese facilitated workshops on topics such as church finance and communication essentials, lay-led liturgy, and bible study for non-biblical scholars.

In July, we hosted the fifth year of the College for Congregational Development (CCD). This weeklong program (organized into a year A and B), is anchored in the belief that congregations of all sizes can be faithful, healthy, and effective. Rooted in daily prayer and small group learning, CCD offers tools to reflect on how you lead in your local contexts, gain new skills and build communities. In 2025, 17 congregations were represented, out of which 13 new graduates were celebrated.

Throughout the year, several opportunities were offered to empower laity to more fully participate in the ministry of the baptized in their local communities. Leaders from 22 congregations participated in Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) training which provides preparation for those invited by their clergy to bring communion to the sick and homebound, thereby widening the eucharistic gathering of each parish. Wardens in Charge (WIC) of congregations where there are no settled clergy met regularly for prayer, support, and leadership development. They participated in a WIC retreat at Waycross focused on the themes of stability and change.

We also offered robust in-person and online opportunities for Licensed Lay Preachers. A Lay Preaching retreat was offered in March at Waycross, and we supported one cohort of Preaching Among Friends (an online course to hone one's sermon writing and to become certified to preach in one's congregation). In total, 11 people completed one of these programs this year.

Leadership Development truly happens in many ways which are supported by Bishop Jennifer, members of the Bishop's staff, and clergy and lay leaders from all our neighborhoods. From the Commission on Ministry who hosted 16 people for a day of retreat and learning about vocation at the Discerning God's Call event, to the many offerings that the Racial Justice and Education Team (RJET) coordinated through the year, to the annual leadership retreat in December for newly elected leaders of our committees, to the support of creative new formats for training congregational leaders to walk with their systems through Safe Church, the Diocese of Indianapolis stayed busy in 2025 equipping one another for the ministry we share to love and serve the world in Christ's name.



# BRASILIA PILGRIMAGE



This summer, a delegation from the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis journeyed to Brazil to deepen our relationship with our diocesan companions in the Anglican Diocese of Brasília—and what we found there wasn't just their overflowing hospitality, but a powerful sense of shared mission. From hemisphere to hemisphere, language to language, it was clear: the Spirit that moves among us here in Indianapolis is alive and well in the heart of Brazil.

We witnessed ministries that echo our own hopes, dreams, and commitments—especially the work of building truly inclusive communities. In Brasília, we visited congregations where LGBTQ+ people are not just welcomed but celebrated, where transgender people can access affirming healthcare, where reproductive justice is upheld as a sacred right, and where people living with HIV and AIDS are embraced with compassion, not stigma. Their witness reminded us deeply of the holy work we hold close at Trinity Haven—our own beacon for LGBTQ+ youth in Indiana—and the sacred truth that all God's children deserve dignity, safety, and belonging.

At Brasília PRIDE, Bishop Jennifer and Dean Gray Lesesne stood atop a float, addressing the full crowd with words of love and liberation, a public testament to our shared courage and commitment; God loves you, no exceptions!

We also took part in a tree planting as an act of faith and communion. Their tree-planting ministry, like our own Rev. Charles Mason's efforts, is rooted in the belief that tending the Earth is an act of worship and solidarity. In both dioceses, these trees are more than symbols—they're living commitments to future generations, to ecological justice, and to healing a planet groaning for renewal.

In conversations over coffee and pão de queijo (cheese bread), we also saw how their care for unhoused neighbors reflects the best of our own diocesan values. In kitchens, warm meals are lovingly prepared in community and taken out into the streets, not just as acts of charity but as expressions of mutual relationship and solidarity. People are known by name, not by need. It's the same kind of gospel-shaped community we see in congregations across our diocese—where food pantries are prayerful spaces, and where Parish Halls full of warm meals feel like sanctuaries.



# DIOCESAN CONVENTION



The 188th Annual Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis was held on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at the CRG Event Center in Plainfield, Indiana. This important gathering brought together clergy and lay delegates from throughout the diocese for worship, fellowship, governance, and decision-making.

The Convention commenced with a worship service where The Rt. Rev. Jeffery Lee preached. Bishop Lee emphasized that every person is a beloved child of God and that this truth gives hope for individuals and the church’s future — even in challenging times. He invited folks to internalize this assurance of divine love as central to Christian identity.

There were contested elections for General Convention deputy (lay and clergy), Commission on Ministry (clergy), and Waycross Board, with several uncontested elections. This year, no canonical changes were proposed. There was a resolution passed for The Episcopal Church in Indiana. We voted to continue and expand the Season of Collaboration between the Diocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Northern Indiana, and that the Executive Council would coordinate collaborative ministry efforts. I also allows the diocese to use designated Reunification Discernment funds in the 2026 budget to support staffing and infrastructure. There was also a resolution passed to celebrate and give thanks for the life, leadership, and Gospel witness of Bishop Catherine M. Waynick, as well as extending heartfelt support to her family while affirming faith in the Resurrection and her enduring legacy.

Reports were presented by Global Missions, Province V, Ecumenical & Interreligious Update, an introduction of the Program Director of Centering All Children in Worship, the Reunification Discernment Committee, Diocesan Youth, Campus Ministry, Waycross Camp & Conference Center, Racial Justice and Education Team (RJET) and the Diocesan Treasurer.



# COLLABORATIONS **IN FAITH**



## **WAYCROSS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

In 2025, Waycross summer camp continued to grow, surpassing pre-Covid numbers with more than 300 campers. Throughout the year, Waycross hosted programming for adults and families, providing a space for community, rest, and formation. In the latter half of 2025, we began a process to develop a new mission, vision, and values statement and a strategic plan using grant funding.

In 2026, we will continue to offer excellent programming for folks of all ages, address much needed deferred maintenance, and serve innumerable Waycross cookies to guests. We hope to see you at Waycross in the coming year.



## **ST. RICHARDS EPISCOPAL SCHOOL**

In the 2025-2026 school year, St. Richard's has had record-high enrollment (385 students) and record-breaking philanthropy, indicating the mission and values of the school continue to appeal to students and families. At a time when many are feeling forced to discontinue or downplay their efforts towards increasing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, St. Richard's emphasizes this work as essential to "growing good humans" who will, in turn, influence the world.

Summers at St. Richard's are also busy supporting the continued growth of children through summer day camps and the Horizons at St. Richard's enrichment programs for low-income students in nearby neighborhoods.

The Board of Trustees has approved a 5-year strategic framework, with a new vision and values statement. A joint committee from St. Richard's and Trinity, Indy, is developing a campus master plan, which will include facilities enabled by the [recent Lilly Endowment Grant](#).



# GRANTS SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE MINISTRY



The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis has been blessed through the generosity of Lilly Endowment, Inc. with several significant grants that will strengthen our diocese and allow us to expand the congregational support we will offer in the years ahead. These efforts are focused on stewardship development, inclusive worship, and faith formation across generations. While there are a few distinct programs, together this work reflects the Diocese's commitment to thoughtful preparation, collaboration, and long-term vitality, supported by partnerships that strengthen congregations and nurture faith across generations.

## **SUPPORTING HOOSIER CHURCHES INITIATIVE**

At the end of last year, in December 2025, our diocese received a grant through the Supporting Hoosier Churches Initiative. Our Strengthening Stewardship & Deepening Connection Initiative will provide foundation for future stewardship projects both for our congregations and diocese, support our upcoming capital campaign, and increase our capacity for event planning.

## **NURTURING CHILDREN THROUGH PRAYER AND WORSHIP INITIATIVE**

Many of you know about the grant we received through Lilly Endowment, Inc.'s Nurturing Children through Prayer and Worship Initiative at the end of 2024. This year, we have worked to create a foundation for our Diocesan-wide Centering All Children in Worship Program. With a program director now in place, this exciting work to support congregations and enhance worship practices and inclusivity ministry with children is beginning. Congregations participating in this initiative will be engaged in learning, theological reflection, and experimentation with worship practices that more fully include children.

## **CHRISTIAN PARENTING AND CAREGIVERS INITIATIVE**

We are fortunate to be in partnership with Indiana University (IU) through its Christian Parenting and Caregivers Initiative. This year around 150 Episcopalians from our diocese were interviewed by a team of sociologist working with IU. This partnership will focus on supporting parents and caregivers as primary faith formers and strengthening connections between worship, home, and community life. Interviews and planning conversations in 2025 and early 2026 will lay the groundwork for coordinated efforts that will expand resources for families and deepen faith formation for children across the Diocese.

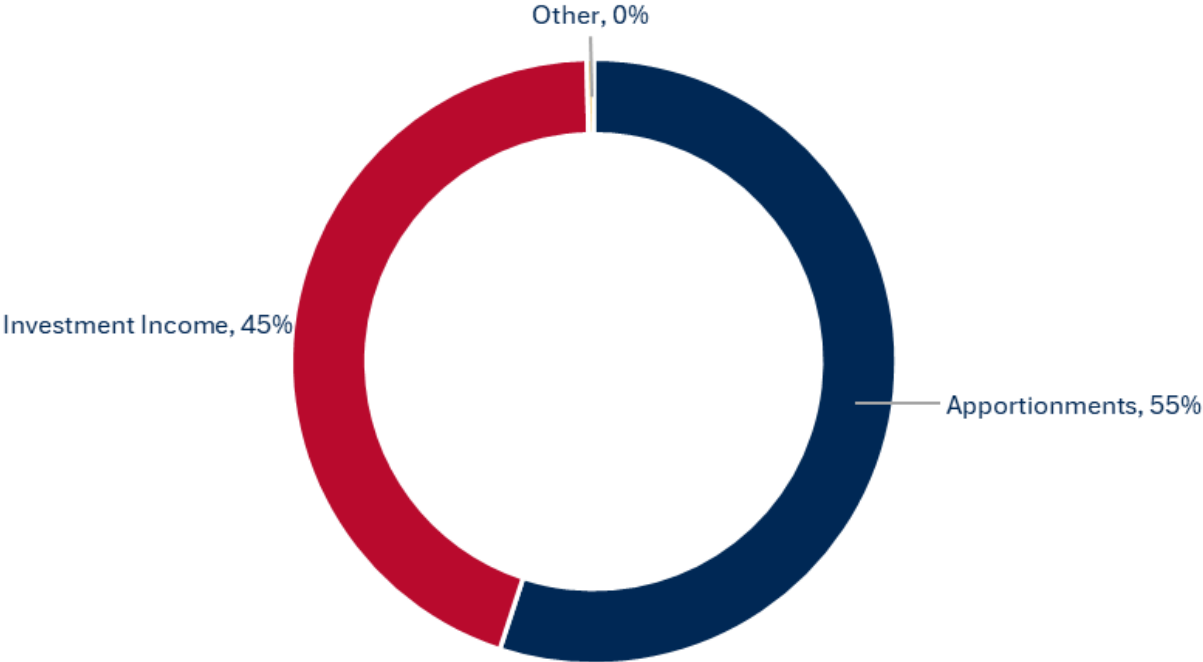
## **CHURCH BUILDINGS FOR COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE**

Through our Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships Initiative (CBCP), our diocese along with partners from the Diocese of Northern Indiana, Indiana Landmarks, and Partners for Sacred Places provided customized strategic planning and capacity building services to 17 Indiana congregations desiring to share their spaces with community partners, and awarded approximately \$275,000 of matching grants to 18 congregations for capital improvements enabling them to be better space sharing partners.

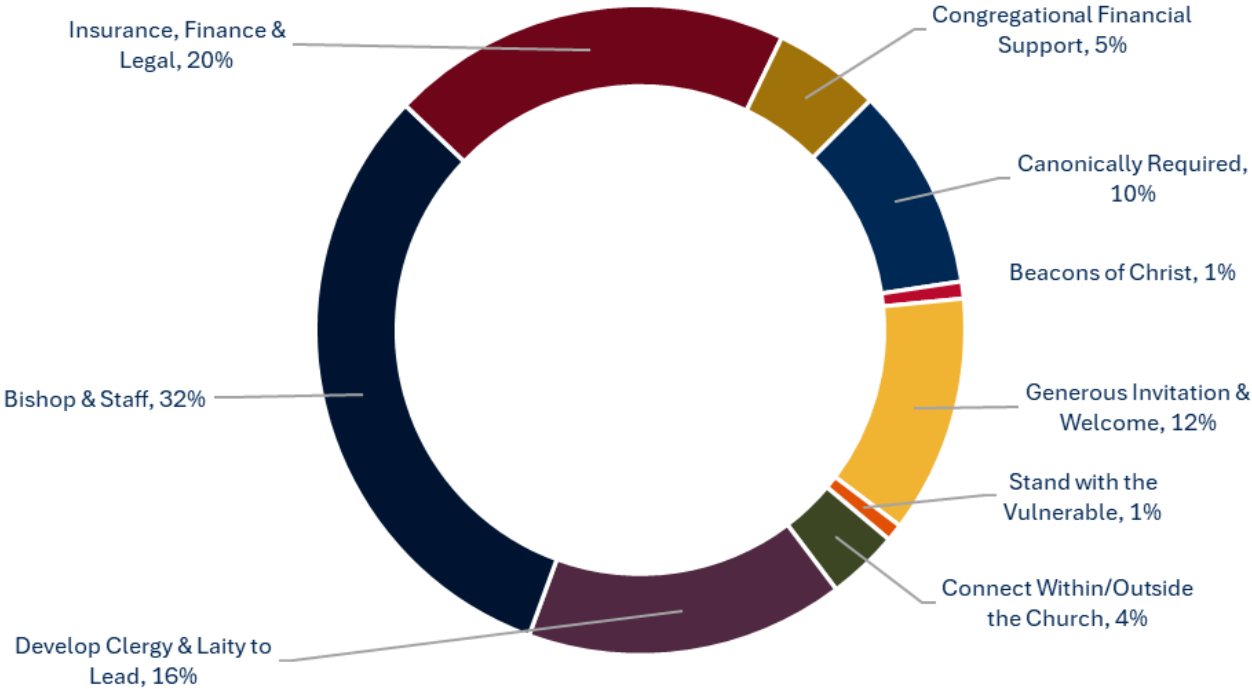


# KEY FINANCIALS

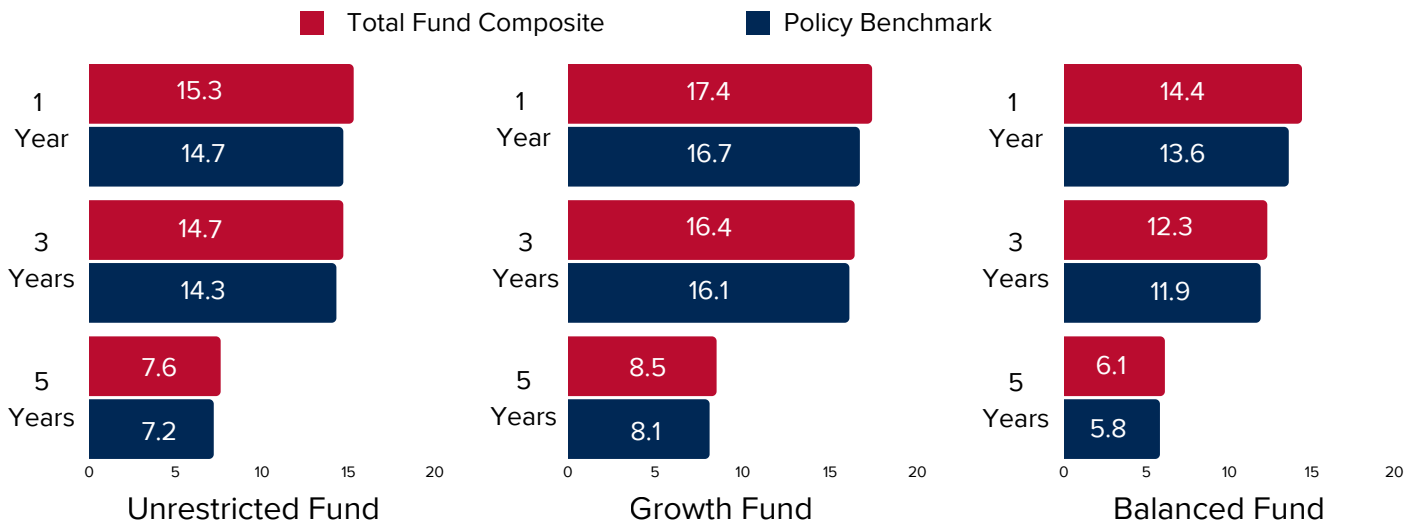
## 2025 Revenue: \$3.9 Million



## 2025 Expenses: \$4.2 Million



# KEY FINANCIALS



## Diocesan Investments

The investment assets of the Unrestricted Fund, commonly referred to as the Endowment, support approximately half of the operations of the diocese. Diocesan investments have been professionally managed by Marquette Associates since 2022. The Unrestricted Fund has a balance of approximately \$37.7 million.

## Investing with Our Values

Starting in 2022, the Investment & Finance Committee, in consultation with Executive Council, began to better align our portfolio with the stated values of the church. To start, the portfolio has eliminated investments that profit from predatory activities that are an offense to human dignity, namely, for-profit incarceration, tobacco, and gambling. In 2023, we initiated an investment in a bond fund that finances affordable housing in the state of Indiana.

## Investing Alongside the Diocese

The diocese offers congregations and affiliated institutions the opportunity to invest alongside it in two pooled funds, also managed by Marquette Associates. The Growth Fund has a long-term return target of inflation +5%. The Balanced Fund has a long-term return target of 5%. The diocese pays all investment fees on behalf of pooled fund investors. Approximately \$20 million is invested in the two pooled funds.

## Making Gifts of Securities

Individuals can make gifts of appreciated securities to the diocese, congregations, and affiliated institutions, using the diocese’s brokerage accounts. In 2025 we processed approximately \$120,000 in gifts of securities on behalf of congregations. For additional information about how to make such a gift, please contact [Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale](#). There is no charge for this service.

# THANK YOU!



We give thanks for all lay and clergy leaders and their ministries of bold witness to the love of God, radical welcome into relationship with Christ, and service to the community and to the world. Please let your Diocesan staff know how we can be of service to you!



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