EPISCOPAL DIOCESE of INDIANAPOLIS

Reports to Convention

Updated 10/30/2026

Christ Church Cathedral
Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships
Commission on Ministry
Diocesan Youth Ministry
Episcopal Women's Ministries
Global Missions Commission
Historiographer
Province V
Standing Committee
Treasurer
Waycross Camp and Conference Center

Christ Church Cathedral

Dear Bishop Baskerville-Burrows and Members of Convention,

As required by Diocesan Canon 28, I write to report to you about the mission and ministry of Christ Church Cathedral in 2026.

For 189 years, Christ Church Cathedral has stood on Monument Circle as a house of prayer in the heart of our city. Our mission remains simple: Glorify God. Serve our neighbors. Transform our city.

This year, as the Strategic Plan we enacted in 2022 reached its final season, we are giving ourselves to a single question, drawn from Ephesians 3:20: *What is the most beautiful possibility for Christ Church Cathedral in the next three to four years?* We have spent part of 2026 learning to listen, together, for the answer.

Completing the 2022 Strategic Plan

We give thanks for what our five pillars of our now complete strategic plan made possible:

- **Convener and Connector**. Our interfaith and civic partnerships grew into Indiana Faith Voices for Justice, a new statewide coalition advocating at the Statehouse for our immigrant and unhoused neighbors, among others.
- **Radical Hospitality**. Our doors stand open as shelter in winter and refuge in summer, and our hot Sunday breakfast welcomes neighbors experiencing homelessness every week.
- **Deep Beauty of God**. The Chancel Choir, Coro Latinoamericano, and Choir School continue to grow, with a residency at Salisbury Cathedral planned for July 2027.
- **Spirituality Formed in Community.** Our bilingual life together is deeper and more integrated than ever.
- **Living Our Faith in Action**. Through our mission partners, we pair generous grants with hands-on service, including legal assistance for immigrant neighbors and support for people seeking stable housing.

Our stewardship has held steady at roughly $390,000 to $400,000 annually, and our average Sunday attendance stands at approximately 225. We have also lowered our annual endowment draw to 4.55%, strengthening the Cathedral's endowment for generations to come and asking our current ministry to rest more fully on the generosity of the people we serve today. On these strong foundations, we are asking God and one another what comes next.

Listening as One Community

Guided by the Kaleidoscope Institute, we are now pondering these questions as we look forward:

- Who is God calling us to be, and what story of faith has formed us?
- What have 189 years on Monument Circle taught us, and how healthy are we as a community today?
- What does this moment in our city and our diocese ask of us, and how do our gifts align with that need?
- Where is God leading our outreach, advocacy, formation, and care for the generations who will inherit this place?

These conversations were honest, sometimes surprising, and deeply hopeful. Our stewardship campaign this year, The Most Beautiful Possibility, invited the whole congregation into this listening, with goals of growing pledging households from 47% to 55% and ministry involvement from 41.7% to 50%.

The Road Ahead

We will present a draft of our next chapter of ministry to our congregation at our Annual Meeting on January 31, 2027, and the Vestry will adopt the final plan in March 2026. Each commitment will be specific and costed, so our fall 2027 stewardship campaign and a future capital campaign can fund it with clarity.

As always, if your congregation would like to collaborate, or if you have any questions, please reach out (grayl@cccindy.org). It is our highest joy and honor to serve as your Cathedral. Next time you're downtown, please stop by or join us for our Wednesday noon Eucharists at 12:05 p.m.

Yours in Christ,

The Very Reverend Gray Lesesne, D.Min., Dean and Rector

Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships
Annual Report to 2026 Diocesan Conventions of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana and the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

CBCP Partners

Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop
Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Sparks, Bishop
Partners for Sacred Places
Sacred Places Indiana (Indiana Landmarks)
Lilly Endowment Inc.

This year we celebrate six years of learning, sharing and congregational strengthening through the Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships (CBCP). Our vision for CBCP's impact is that Episcopal congregations in Indiana will thrive as centers of ministry, community and faith, strengthened by dynamic stewardship of their properties in partnership with others. We value our buildings and grounds as gifts from God that hold great potential for congregations of all sizes to live into this vision.

Lilly Endowment Inc. supported this vision through two grants. The first was awarded in 2020 and funded CBCP's work with nearly every Episcopal congregation in Indiana in 2021-2023. In CBCP Phase 1, church teams participated in training about the missional value of their properties and how to forge collaborative partnerships using church property. One of the most impactful learning experiences involved inviting neighbors and community leaders to the church for a tour and conversation about the gifts of the congregation and the needs of neighbors.

CBCP Phase 2, 2024-2026, provided a scaling opportunity to "go deeper," in work with a smaller number of individual congregations, and to "go longer" by establishing sustainable learning resources available to all Indiana Episcopal churches and beyond.

- **Going Deeper: Building Capacity Squared (BC^2)**

CBCP entered its second phase by extending an invitation to Indiana Episcopal faith communities to receive customized support from Partners for Sacred Places ("Partners"). 17 faith communities accepted the "Building Capacity Squared" (BC^2) invitation. Partners consultants worked with these churches individually, designing and implementing initiatives to energize and strengthen their capacity for ministry impact utilizing a gift God has already provided: their property.

Building Capacity Squared participants and projects

1. – 6. Calumet Episcopal Ministry Partnership (all 6 CEMP churches): Strategic Visioning
7. St. John the Evangelist, Elkhart: Vision & Values Workshop and Community Conversation
8. Gethsemane, Marion: Strategic Visioning
9. St. James, Goshen: Story Circle
10. St. Timothy's, Indianapolis: Community Based Asset Mapping.
11. Good Samaritan, Brownsburg: Community Based Asset Mapping

Building Capacity Squared participants and projects *(continued)*

12. St. Paul's, Evansville: Strategic Visioning
13. Holy Family, Fishers: Community Based Asset Mapping
14. The Table, Indianapolis: Community Based Asset Mapping.
15. St. Paul's, Jeffersonville: Community Conversation
16. St. Stephen's, New Harmony: Identifying property and policy changes to increase revenue through more outside use of the property
17. St. Mark's, Plainfield: Strategic Visioning

- **Going Deeper: Capital Grants**

CBCP Phase 2 awarded nearly $500,000 of matching capital grants to support capital investments needed to improve or modify space to better align a church's property (buildings and/or grounds) with its mission. 23 congregations -14 in the Indianapolis Diocese and 9 in the Northern Indiana Diocese - were awarded grants which must be matched dollar-for-dollar. The diverse types of projects included improvements for safety and security, energy efficiency, building preservation, and accessibility.

- **Going Longer: CBCP website**

CBCP ends soon, but we hope our website remains a resource for inspiring your congregation's property stewardship. The website provides resources that churches can use anytime to inspire and strengthen their ability to create and sustain community partnerships for ministry and space sharing. Topics are organized into "Tool Kits" populated with how-to information on everything from mission alignment to preparing for space sharing, to guidance on pricing, policies, and fundraising. The website's blog features success stories from Indiana Episcopal churches.

Please check it out! And share with anyone, any church, any denomination!

www.cbcpindiana.org

Scan me!

- **Special Project Fundraising Guidance**

CBCP leadership is confident that any size congregation can raise funds in addition to their Annual Giving to fund capital projects that will make church property more comfortable, accessible, safe and inviting to outside users. Check out the CAPITAL FUNDRAISING Tool Kit on our website.

For a limited time – now through the end of this calendar year – CBCP offers individual coaching on fundraising and other financial and property stewardship topics. Just contact CBCP Project Director Linda Buskirk via email (info@cbcpindiana.org) to ask questions, seek direction or talk over ideas or challenges BEFORE December 31, 2026.

As we conclude 2026, our final year of work with you all, our vision remains that Episcopal congregations in Indiana will thrive as centers of ministry, community and faith, strengthened by dynamic stewardship of church properties in partnership with others.

To help us celebrate, we invited all Episcopal faith communities to share a "Partnership Pitch" – a brief statement that describes "*how the vitality of your congregation has been positively impacted* by property-use partnerships." Qualifying submissions will be posted on our website.

- **To God be the glory!**

We give God the glory for the wonderful and positive impacts of Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships. To read stories about many of them, visit the blog section of the website (https://www.cbcpindiana.org/blog).

CBCP's most impactful leaders have been lay and clergy representatives from nearly every Episcopal faith community in Indiana. They led the way by participating in training, completing assignments, advocating for space sharing and celebrating the mission of the buildings God provided their congregations.

God brought together the historic and dynamic "collaborative partnership" of both Episcopal Bishops and Dioceses in Indiana to cast a vision for CBCP. Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows and Bishop Douglas Sparks created the collaboration with Partners for Sacred Places (Bob Jaeger, President) and Indiana Landmark's Sacred Places Indiana (David Frederick, Director) and successfully submitted this project for funding through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Thriving Congregations initiative – twice!

Dynamic and knowledgeable consultants from Partners for Sacred Places enlivened CBCP as they facilitated and inspired in their work with individual congregations. We give special thanks for the leadership of Joshua Castaño, Shelly Stackhouse and most recently Emily Sajdak for serving on CBCP's leadership team.

God also blessed us with collaborative leadership team members from both dioceses: Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale, Canon to the Ordinary for Administration & Evangelism of the Indianapolis Diocese, and The Rev. Canon Michelle Walker, Diocese of Northern Indiana's Missioner for Administration and Governance. Linda Buskirk, a church consultant located in Fort Wayne, served as Project Director.

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Thanks to CBCP, amazing ministry is happening through space sharing and community partnerships at Indiana Episcopal churches. We hope you will continue to discover hope and vitality through fruitful property stewardship into the future. To find four ways to do just that, read this blog post on the CBCP website:
https://www.cbcpindiana.org/blog/fruitful-property-stewardship-2027

Commission on Ministry

Goals/Purpose/Mission Statement

The Commission on Ministry assists the bishop in “determining present and future needs for ministry in the diocese” and in “enlisting and selecting persons for Holy Orders.”

Activities/Actions taken over the past year to accomplish these goals

The Commission on Ministry (COM) persists in its sacred call to accompany those discerning God’s call in their lives whether that be to lay or ordained ministry. We carry out this ministry through the work of holy listening. Our first encounter with many people discerning calls to ordained ministry is when we orient Congregational Discernment Groups (CDGs). Members of the COM meet with members of CDGs to explain not only the overarching ordination process, but also to provide guidelines for how the CDG goes about its work. In 2026 we oriented a number of CDGs in a variety of locations around the Diocese. This year we gathered twice at Waycross to listen with people discerning calls to ordained ministry in various stages of the ordination process from Aspirant to Candidate. We recognize that our time in conversation is a holy space and we seek to enter that space with a spirit of kind and open hearts. At the conclusion of the time together, we shared our observations with Bishop Jennifer recognizing that calls to ordained ministry come from the gathered community. We also met online between these meetings for further conversation regarding the process of the gatherings at Waycross. These were a time of listening in a different way—how might we shape our Waycross gatherings to allow for both the relational, community call to reveal itself while also addressing the necessary functional pieces required by the Canons. All of this work continues. I hope you will all mark the date of Saturday, December 19th at 11am to attend the winter ordinations scheduled to take place at All Saints Church in Indianapolis. I give thanks to the Rev. Br. Aelred Dean whose strong leadership last year continues in his ongoing participation in the COM. I also give thanks for the prayerful support of the Rev. Mary Taflinger, the Rev. Canon Giulianna, Julie Eledah, and Bethany Baugh; we couldn’t do any of this work without their steady presence. Prayerfully submitted, Hilary Cooke

Membership

Thea Bibbs, Hilary Cooke, Br. Aelred Dean, Pam Douglas, Jason Fortner, Sara Gunter, Frank Impicciche, Beth Macke, Courtenay Murakowski, Leigh Anne Naas, Cathy Scott

Diocesan Youth Ministry Annual Report

Heather Campbell, Diocesan Youth Minister
2026

Overview

For the past three and a half years, Heather Campbell has served as Diocesan Youth Minister on Bishop Jennifer's Staff. The mission of Diocesan Youth Ministry is to **equip congregations, leaders, and caregivers to welcome, nurture, and celebrate youth and to provide safe, inclusive communities that seek justice, foster belonging, and form lifelong Christian disciples.**

This work is carried out through leadership development, congregational coaching, resource provision, and opportunities for young people to build relationships, grow in faith, serve their communities, and participate in the wider life of the Church.

The 2026 Convention marks the conclusion of the third year of the Diocese's five-year youth ministry strategic plan, established in October 2023 through an intentional listening and planning process facilitated by Ministry Architects. With goals targeted for completion by the end of 2028, the Diocese has continued to make meaningful progress in strengthening congregational youth ministry and expanding opportunities for young people.

The six strategic goals address youth faith formation, youth confirmation, youth organization partnerships, youth leader formation, youth ministry investment, and Christian parenting and caregiver support through the Lilly Endowment grant initiative.

Progress Toward Five-Year Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Youth Faith Formation

The Youth Faith Formation Resource Library provides congregations with practical tools for youth ministry, including resources addressing Episcopal identity, relevant social and pastoral topics, and the implementation of sustainable youth ministry programs.

In 2026 this library was redesigned to improve accessibility, navigation, and usability for congregational leaders. Initial feedback has been positive, with congregations reporting increased ease in identifying and implementing resources in their ongoing ministries. Each month, a "resource of the month" is sent to congregations in the monthly diocesan youth newsletter.

Goal 2: Youth Confirmation

In 2026, the diocesan Confirmation Curriculum was made available to congregations throughout the Diocese. Congregations may request digital access through Heather Campbell, and a limited number of printed facilitator binders and youth workbooks are also available.

The Diocese hosted a Confirmation Retreat, welcoming 10 youth participants from multiple congregations. This retreat represents an important step in expanding diocesan-level opportunities for confirmation preparation, fellowship, and formation.

The Diocese is committed to providing an annual diocesan confirmation opportunity. In 2027, a confirmation cohort will be offered in January and February in the Indianapolis area. Registration is currently available.

Goal 4: Youth Leader Formation

Youth Ministry University (YMU) continues to expand its reach in equipping congregations of all sizes and geographic locations to develop sustainable youth ministries. In 2026, six congregations graduated from the inaugural cohort, while four additional congregations began participating in the second cohort.

Monthly virtual webinars have also become an important component of diocesan resourcing. During the first year of programming, 75 unique individuals participated in these offerings.

Looking toward 2027, the Diocese will begin exploring opportunities to extend Youth Ministry University resources and programming to congregations in other dioceses.

Goal 5: Youth Ministry Investment

In 2026, the Diocese launched **Beloved + Empowered**, a capital campaign with the goal of raising a $5 million endowment to sustain and strengthen diocesan youth and young adult ministry for generations to come.

This initiative addresses the long-term financial sustainability of youth and young adult ministry by establishing permanent resources to support the staffing and programming necessary to carry out this work. The endowment is intended to ensure that the Diocese can continue to employ a dedicated Diocesan Youth Minister and provide consistent financial support for youth and young adult ministry, regardless of future changes in diocesan budgets or leadership.

Beloved + Empowered represents an investment not only in current programs, but in the future of young people and the congregations that serve them. By establishing a permanent funding source, the Diocese is working to ensure that the infrastructure, relationships, and opportunities being developed today will remain available to future generations.

Goal 6: Christian Parenting Grant

The Diocese continues to advance its five-year strategic plan through the Christian Parenting and Caregivers Initiative, supported by a Lilly Endowment grant, as well as its work toward strengthening youth-serving partnerships throughout local communities. While additional updates on these initiatives are provided through separate reports, we are happy to share that in 2027 our first cohorts and projects for parents will be launched.

Diocesan Youth Gatherings and Experiences

Beyond the strategic plan, 2026 included several significant opportunities for young people to gather, serve, and grow in faith.

- **Pride Participation:** Diocesan youth and leaders participated in the local Pride celebration, demonstrating the Diocese's commitment to welcome, inclusion, and community engagement.
- **Detroit Mission Trip:** A group of diocesan youth traveled to Detroit for a mission experience centered on service, relationship-building, and the call to live out Micah 6:8.

- **Fall Retreat:** The annual diocesan Fall Retreat continued its growth, welcoming more than 90 youth in addition to over 20 adult leaders.
- **Waycross Wednesdays:** The Diocesan Youth Minister continued participating in Waycross Wednesdays, visiting summer camp each Wednesday. In 2026 other diocesan staff members participated. These visits have contributed to strengthening relationships between Waycross and congregations throughout the Diocese.
- **General Convention 2027:** Planning is underway for a group of high school students to attend the 2027 General Convention. Additional information will be distributed to congregations following the Fall Retreat.

Congregational Engagement

An important priority for 2026 has been increasing direct engagement with congregations throughout the Diocese. At the beginning of May, following the completion of her third year of service, Campbell reviewed the congregations she had not yet visited during Sunday worship.

At that time, 22 congregations had not yet received a Sunday visit. Recognizing the importance of proactive relationship-building, Campbell shifted from relying primarily on congregational invitations to independently scheduling visits throughout the Diocese.

As of the 2026 Convention, the number of congregations awaiting a Sunday visit has been reduced from 22 to 7.

The goal is to complete visits to every congregation and campus in the Diocese before 2027's Convention. These visits provide opportunities to build relationships, better understand local ministry contexts, and identify ways the diocesan office can support congregations in their work with young people.

Youth Ministry Leadership Team Creation

In order to create sustainability for diocesan youth ministry, this year The Diocesan Youth Ministry Leadership Team was established. The team gives feedback to the resource library, fall retreat, and semesterly gatherings for youth leaders to form connection. Right now the team is small, but the goal is to have at least one adult and one youth from each neighborhood.

Youth Representation at Diocesan Convention

A significant milestone for 2026 is the presence of youth delegates representing every neighborhood in the Diocese.

This achievement reflects the collective work of congregations, clergy, lay leaders, and diocesan staff in building relationships with young people and creating meaningful opportunities for youth participation in the life and governance of the Church.

The continued presence and participation of young people at Convention is an important expression of the Diocese's commitment to ensuring that youth are not simply recipients of ministry, but active participants and leaders within the Church.

A Shared Ministry

The Diocese continues to affirm two guiding principles for youth ministry:

If a congregation has one youth, it has youth ministry.

And, equally important:

When youth ministry is sustainable, every adult is a youth minister.

The work of diocesan youth ministry is not carried by one individual or one office. It is made possible through the shared commitment of clergy, lay leaders, volunteers, parents, and congregations across the Diocese.

Those who serve young people through the annual mission trip, Confirmation Retreat, Fall Retreat, Waycross programs, and ongoing congregational youth ministries are essential partners in this work. Their commitment reflects a growing culture in which responsibility for the faith formation, care, and leadership development of young people is shared across the entire Church.

As the Diocese enters the fourth year of its five-year strategic plan, the progress made in 2026 provides a strong foundation for continued growth. The ongoing priorities remain clear: equip congregations, develop leaders, strengthen relationships, create meaningful opportunities for young people, and ensure that youth have a visible and valued place in the life of the Diocese.

The ministry of young people is the ministry of the whole Church.

Episcopal Women's Ministries

Goals/Purpose/Mission Statement

Mission: The Episcopal Women's Ministries Council (EWM) serves to connect and support women throughout the diocese as they grow in their baptismal ministry of servanthood. We do this by sharing and encouraging women's ministries within and beyond the diocese - seeking, developing and recognizing women leaders, educating, and advocating for justice.

Activities/Actions taken over the past year to accomplish these goals

Membership & Leadership: All women communicants in good standing in the Diocese of Indianapolis are members of the larger National Episcopal Church Women (ECW). Current EWM Council members are: Lisa Matucheski, Co-chair, St. Paul's, Indy; Beverly Ruebeck, Co-Chair & Secretary, St. Paul's, Indy; Lara Dreyer, Treasurer & IT, Good Samaritan, Brownsburg; Natalie Rodriquez, Good Samaritan, Brownsburg, Graphics, Publications, & Communications; Betsy Johnson, St. Paul's, Terry Noble, Community of the Transfiguration, Cincinnati, OH and Grace Episcopal, Oak Park, IL; Christine Plews, Trinity, Indy; Sheryl Otter, St. Timothy's, Indy; Jolaine Roberts, St. John's, Lafayette; Burnie Wilkins, Good Samaritan, Brownsburg, Indy.

Episcopal Women's Ministries (EWM), Rev. Yuri Rodriguez and Latina social entrepreneurs came together to host a luncheon on Saturday, March 14, from 12:00-2:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Indy, featuring Dr. Nicole Martinez-LeGrand, from the Indiana Historical Society and Latina social entrepreneurs. Facilitated by Rev. Yuriria (Yuri) Rodríguez. Approximately 94 people were present. We learned from Latina social entrepreneurs who are providing the Indianapolis community with a wealth of wellness, education, support, and tools to help others. We hope to get to know each other better and build friendships. Conversations were facilitated by Rev. Yuri Rodriguez, who is coaching the EWM in this work.

This was an event for all in the Diocese of Indianapolis and the Northern Indiana Diocese. We especially invite faith leaders who are open to learning from Latina leaders who are also social entrepreneurs and to exploring how your churches can support their work.

Future Planning: National Episcopal Church Women (NECW) invite every Diocese and Province to nominate a Distinguish Woman for Triennial 2027. It is suggested that selection be made through prayer, discernment, and thoughtful reflection, seeking the Lord's guidance. Consider the women whose lives shine as examples of faith,

leadership, compassion, and service. NECW look forward to celebrating these women who bring unity, celebration, and thanksgiving to all of us.

EWM sent out Information and Guidelines for the Honored Women Program to all parishes in the diocese. We have received 13 names, and we be discerning which to select as the Distinguished Woman for the Diocese of Indy. The name will be submitted to NECW in January 2027.

Spring Gathering: Plans for 2027 Spring Gathering and Fall Retreat are underway.

Triennial 2027: The National Episcopal Church Women (NECW) will gather for Triennial 2027 in Phoenix, Arizona, July 3–8, 2027, concurrently with The Episcopal Church's 82nd General Convention. The theme, "Women at the Well: Faith in Action," invites us to draw inspiration from the women of Scripture and from one another as we live out our faith through service, leadership, advocacy, and community. Lara, Louise, Lisa and Bev will represent EWM.
EWM is grateful to the diocese for their continued support of EWM Council, which represents the ECW of Province V, United Thank Offering, and Church Periodical Club in the Diocese of Indianapolis.
Social Media – Facebook for events: @EWMINDYTEC
Facebook for comments & posts: @EWMINDY
Submitted by Lisa Matucheski and Beverly Ruebeck, Co-Chairwomen

Membership

Membership & Leadership: All women communicants in good standing in the Diocese of Indianapolis are members of the larger National Episcopal Church Women (ECW). Current EWM Council members are: Lisa Matucheski, Co-chair, St. Paul's, Indy; Beverly Ruebeck, Co-Chair & Secretary, St. Paul's, Indy; Lara Dreyer, Treasurer & IT, Good Samaritan, Brownsburg; Natalie Rodriquez, Good Samaritan, Brownsburg, Graphics, Publications, & Communications; Betsy Johnson, St. Paul's, Terry Noble, Community of the Transfiguration, Cincinnati, OH and Grace Episcopal, Oak Park, IL; Christine Plews, Trinity, Indy; Sheryl Otter, St. Timothy's, Indy; Jolaine Roberts, St. John's, Lafayette; Burnie Wilkins, Good Samaritan, Brownsburg, Indy.

Global Missions Commission

Goals/Purpose/Mission Statement

The Global Missions Commission strives to move the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis to a greater understanding and expression of our call to serve beyond our borders, to enter into more faithful, life-giving relationships with our companions, and to explore the myriad ways that we are enriched when we share our cultures, traditions, and humanity with one another.

Activities/Actions taken over the past year to accomplish these goals

It has been a busy and meaningful year for global mission work in our diocese!

This year, we hosted our first diocesan Spanish Immersion Trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico. Five people from our diocese joined participants from two other dioceses for a wonderful experience of language learning, worship, and cultural exchange. Together, we learned alongside Episcopalians from four U.S. states and from the gifted diocesan staff and teachers of the Anglican Diocese of Cuernavaca. Each day included praying Morning Prayer and Compline in Spanish, worshipping in local Anglican churches, and visiting communities and cultural sites that helped us deepen our understanding of the people and culture of Mexico. We hope to offer this opportunity again and encourage even more people from our diocese to participate in this enriching experience.

Another goal of the Global Missions Commission is to keep our diocese informed about the ministries of our companion Diocese of Brasília and our partners in Haiti. To support this effort, we published our first Global Missions Update newsletter this year, sharing news about our partners and their important work. We look forward to continuing these updates and helping our diocesan community grow in its understanding of and connection to our global companions.

We continue to nurture these relationships through ongoing communication, prayer, and financial support. This work is made possible through funds designated by the diocese and generous donations from local congregations and individuals. We are grateful for everyone who helps sustain these relationships and supports the ministries of our global partners.

Our diocese was also represented at the 2026 Global Episcopal Missions Network (GEMN) Missio Conference in San Francisco. Following the conference, our commission chair was elected to serve on the GEMN Board of Directors, representing

the Diocese of Indianapolis. GEMN's mission is to gather, inspire, and equip people to participate in God's global mission. This connection strengthens our diocese's engagement with the wider Episcopal Church's global mission efforts and creates opportunities to learn from and collaborate with others committed to this work.

Finally, many of you may recall that we had been preparing to welcome a delegation from the Diocese of Brasília this October. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our companions needed to postpone their visit and are now hoping to join us in 2027. We look forward to welcoming them when new dates are confirmed and will reach out to congregations and individuals for hospitality support as plans develop.

Global mission begins with relationship. We invite anyone interested in learning more about this work or joining the Global Missions Commission to reach out to a current commission member or contact the Commission Chair, the Rev. Allan Wallace, at rector@stpaulna.org.

Membership

Rev. Allan Wallace, Chair; Rev. Hilary Cooke; Rev. Bradley Pace; Rev. Fatima Yakubu-Madus; Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale; George Moore; Randy Keko; Peter Sehlinger; Betty Whaley; Steve Whaley; Maggie McClure

Bishop Baskerville-Burrows and members of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis:

I have been honored to serve another year as the historiographer of our diocese. Part of my role is to help the diocese and our congregations remember and celebrate our shared history as the Body of Christ in central and southern Indiana.

2026 marks the anniversaries of a number of notable ministries and events around the diocese and broader church, including 190 years of St Paul's Jeffersonville, 160 years of St Paul's Indianapolis, sixty years of the strawberry festival at Christ Church Cathedral, fifty years since General Convention approval of the ordination of women to the priesthood, and ten years since the election of Bishop Baskerville-Burrows.

I personally marked ten years since entering into All Saints Indianapolis on the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - my first time worshipping in an Episcopal Church, and starting on a new phase of my faith journey.

This year saw a discontinuation of reunification efforts with our siblings in the Diocese of Northern Indiana and a proposal for the most substantial canonical overhaul in recent memory. Both events will shape our work far into the future.

Here is an account of my projects undertaken since the last convention and plans for the future. This year has consisted of a smaller workload than previous years, as we added Freddie to my family, joining his big sister Natalie. Between bottles and bedtimes, I:

- worked on a small number of one-off research and records projects and consultations for both the diocese and our congregations.
- supervised the Rev. Peter Gray in research and composing portions of his doctoral work.
- wrote a paper investigating the early Episcopal missionary efforts in Indiana. This paper was accepted for publication in the Spring 2027 issue of the Journal of Anglican & Episcopal History.

Currently I am researching the implementation of the Liturgical Movement in our diocese, particularly as it relates to church architecture and the shift to Holy Communion from Morning Prayer as primary Sunday service during the episcopate of Bishop Craine. Hopefully this will result in another peer-reviewed publication in the coming years.

Looking forward to the next year, I:

- remain available to assist with research and consultation for the diocese and our congregations.
- plan to begin the Archives Management certificate program through IU in January. This will allow me to better approach the large diocesan archives collection and assist congregations with theirs.

In planning for the medium- and long-term future, I would like to prepare for the following projects:

- Compiling a public-facing reading list of sources discussing the diocese and our congregations
- Updating and adding to the Historiographer's corner of the diocesan website, highlighting the ministries and people at work throughout our shared history
- Digitizing diocesan convention journals and other important diocesan records through vendors not affiliated with Ancestry.com or other LDS-adjacent vendors
- Compiling a bicentennial diocesan history as that anniversary approaches in 2038

I welcome any suggestions and remain at your service as we continue to create history and work together as the Body of Christ in Indiana.

In Christ,
Lee Little
Diocesan Historiographer

St. Wilfred of Ripon, 2026

Province V Executive Board

Goals/Purpose/Mission Statement

The Theme of Province V: CONNECT. SUPPORT. COLLABORATE

Province V is a network of 11 dioceses of the Episcopal Church, one of which is our diocese [Title 1, Canon 9: Of Provinces]. I have been appointed as our diocesan representative on the Province V Executive Board, and with this report I'll share resources available and events occurring at the provincial level. Please review this report and share information with others in your worshipping community!

In Province V, we "tell it in the light" (Matthew 10:27-31), celebrating God's promise of renewal within the Episcopal Church in the Midwest.

To do this, we:
Connect people to people and people to resources.
Support each other in a variety of ministries, resourcing from within and without.
Collaborate across multiple dioceses to build capacity for demonstrable impact.

Activities/Actions taken over the past year to accomplish these goals

The report on the Annual Executive Board meeting:
The Province V Executive Board held its annual, in-person meeting at the Procter Center in Southern Ohio over three days in early April 2026. The in-person meeting allowed Board members to re-connect and get to know each other better than just participating in the regular monthly Zoom meetings. The in-depth conversations that occur in person produce a more cohesive, collaborative Board that is better able to support the growing number of projects that Province V has undertaken over the past several years. For example, the Board reviewed and discussed ongoing grant projects, such as the exciting progress of our Province V Campus Ministry Developer (Eric Richey), and the "Building an Inclusive Church" training that occurred on-line May 9th. The Board also brainstormed ideas that might be incorporated into upcoming grant applications. Of course, the Board helped carry forward planning for this summer's Big Provincial Gathering in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Most Recent Grants Received by Province V

The following grants were received in 2025-2026 for Special Projects and New Programs, and the funds are currently in use in the following ways:
Society of Saint John the Evangelist's Abiding Hope Grant, $50,000
This grant provides funding and collaboration with the brothers of SSJE to plan and execute three in-person spiritual formation retreats in different parts of the province in

late 2026 and early 2027. The retreats will help worshiping communities deepen their confidence and develop their skill set for creating intergenerational formation opportunities for and with college students and young adults that lead to mutual transformation in Christ.

Ongoing: Trinity Church's Leadership Development Grant, $375,000 This grant is in year 2, and the plan is that Eric will continue to serve as Campus Ministry Developer through the end of 2027 using these grant funds.

See details about Eric and his work: https://www.provincev.org/cmd.html
Learn more about Trinity Church's Vision for Leadership Development: https://trinitywallstreet.org/grants-partners/leadership-development

Networks https://www.provincev.org/networks.html
The Province V networks are organized around specific ministries (e.g. Creation Care, Dismantling Racism, and Safe Church, as well as others). Networks bring together people from around the province and even beyond. They are open to anyone who'd like to connect to others working on similar ministries. If there is a network that you might find helpful and want to offer it to others in the province, contact Heather Barta at provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com.

Leadership Coaching Project
https://www.provincev.org/lcp.html
Trained lay and ordained coaches are available to work with individuals, teams or groups on your goals and challenges. These coaches are available to any person interested in working on ministerial or personal goals. All coaches will provide a complimentary "introductory" meeting so that you can ask questions about coaching with them and get to know each other.

Events hosted in 2025-2026

Province V Campus Ministry Cohorts (2025-26)
19 worshiping communities from 12 Dioceses across 4 Provinces participated in our first two cohorts this past academic year. Participants gathered virtually 6 times over the course of a semester for training around best practices, sharing insights learned by researching their ministry context, and developing a short and long-term action plan to build a sustainable ministry presence with a nearby campus. They also received personalized coaching sessions and accountability to keep moving toward their goals. The level of enthusiastic engagement from all participants was incredibly encouraging and the feedback we received from year one is helping us refine the program for our next cohort, launching in late September 2026.

Episcopal Creation Care Gathering – September 2025, hosted by Procter Center, The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, Province IV, and Province V
Number of people who attended: 48
Number of dioceses represented: 10

This event began 3 years ago as a partnership between Provinces V and IV. With Procter Center as an additional partner, this event has grown into an annual church-wide offering for those who are committed to Care of Creation and those dedicated to learning more about how they, their worshipping communities, and their wider structures can make a difference to the Earth.

Campus Minister Retreat – October 14-16, 2025
Campus Ministers from Province V (and nearby dioceses) gathered together at Holy Wisdom Monastery near Madison, WI. This annual October retreat supports those who are working professionally on campuses and with young adults.

Over the course of the three days, 13 people participated in the event. In addition to having time for rest, prayer, and rich, lingering conversations over meals, the campus ministers shared their favorite resources and ministry updates with one another. They were also blessed to experience an extended workshop with Rev. Dr. Kerri Parker, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, who helped them begin to imagine a much more holistic vision of advocacy alongside students that addresses the many different pressing needs of our current moment.

A huge THANK YOU to Living Compass (https://www.livingcompass.org) who sponsors this event. Please review their resources, especially their Advent and Lent Booklets (https://shop.livingcompass.org/collections/advent-and-lent-resources). Province V is so grateful for their support!

YACM Student Retreat, Feb. 6-8, 2026, Chicago, IL
This Province V Young Adult & Campus Ministry Retreat had its largest group in recent years, with 50 students & young adults gathering alongside 10 Campus Chaplains & Ministry Leaders for a weekend of spiritual formation, food, and fun in downtown Chicago. The theme of the weekend was Seeking God: In Community, in the World, & Within.

Participants took part in workshops and practice-based experiences focused on helping them encounter Christ in the midst of their relationships with creation, with other human beings, and even in the midst of suffering. They also laughed hysterically at a Second City Improv Show on Saturday night and enjoyed rich conversations over meals, including Deep Dish Pizza Dinner Church. The group concluded their time together by worshiping with the congregation of Grace Episcopal in the South Loop on Sunday morning.

Women Clergy Retreat, May 31- June 3, 2026, Lansing, Michigan
Hosted by Province V and Province VI, 25 women clergy from across both provinces gathered at St. Francis Retreat Center. This retreat centered on the experiences of women clergy. We explicitly invited everyone (trans, cis, nonbinary, gender fluid, agender, and more) who felt this was for them to attend.

This was a re-launch of an event that used to happen across Provinces V and VI. The clergy who gathered appreciated the creative approach to the structure (a lot of open space time), and some reported it as the best retreat that they had ever attended. Save the date for April 27-30, 2027 (location announced soon):
https://www.provincev.org/wcr27.html

Big Provincial Gathering, July 31-August 1, 2026, Kalamazoo, Michigan
The 4th BPG for Province V! 225 people registered for the BPG, with an additional 75 youth and chaperones from the Provincial Youth Event (PYE) joining in the activities
https://www.provincev.org/bpg26.html
Total number attendees: 278
Pre-event training attendees: 74
PYE: 70 youth and adults
Workshops: 45
Sponsors: 26
Exhibitors: 19
Bookstore host: Kazoo Books
Books on the free table: over 800 books dropped off - and a LOT picked up!
Sacristy pieces re-homed: 150
Thursday evening presentation: Indigenous People's Boarding School Survivor Display (from the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan)
Friday evening presentation: Church Pension Group spoke with General Convention Deputies
Mission projects:
16 beds built for Partners In Housing Transition
21,866 diapers packaged for distribution

Upcoming events
Episcopal Creation Care Gathering, Sept 23-26, 2026, Procter Center, Southern Ohio
April 15-17, 2027, Procter Center, Southern Ohio Hosted by Provinces IV and V, Procter Center, and Diocese of Southern Ohio
https://episcopalcreationcaregathering.org

Campus Ministry Cohorts – beginning late September 2026 (and another in Spring 2027). Zoom series – info and registration: https://www.provincev.org/cmd.html
Purpose: To equip and prepare worshiping communities to engage Institutions of Higher Learning in their local ministry context. IHLs include community colleges, trade schools, professional schools, colleges and universities.

Campus Minister Retreat, October 13-15, 2026, Madison, Wisconsin

Young Adult / Student Retreat, February 12-14, 2027, Chicago, Illinois An event for students in higher education and young adults

Young Adult Ministry: Seeking Resonance Over Relevance A retreat for all young adults, those ministering with young adults, and those hoping to create ministries with young adults. Details for all of these events: https://www.provincev.org/yacm.html

Connecting to the Province
Sign up for the monthly newsletter at the bottom of the website:
https://www.provincev.org
General Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ProvinceFive/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/provincefive/
Province V Staff: https://www.provincev.org/provincial-staff.html
The Rev. Heather Barta, Coordinator Mr. Eric Richey, Campus Ministry Developer Mr. Steve Welch, Communications Coordinator

Please contact me for more information about anything presented in this report:
Lesley MacKellar (Province V Representative for Diocese of Indianapolis)
Tel: (317) 908-4426 Email: lesleymackellar@gmail.com

Membership

The Province V Executive Board is responsible for the operations of the province. There are 17 members on this board, which include the 11 diocesan representatives who are appointed by their bishops. The Province V Synod elects two representatives to serve on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church (one lay and one ordained), and four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer). You can see the full list of members here: https://www.provincev.org/exboard.html Board members meet monthly via Zoom to share resources from our dioceses and to hear about and help develop provincial events and programming.

Standing Committee

Goals/Purpose/Mission Statement

This canonically required body, composed of clergy and lay members elected by diocesan convention,

1. advises the bishop,
2. acts on governance matters as required by the Canons, and
3. serves as the ecclesiastical authority in the absence of a bishop.

Activities/Actions taken over the past year to accomplish these goals

Advises the Bishop
The Standing Committee advised and encouraged the Bishop concerning her ministry within our Diocese and The Episcopal Church.
The Standing Committee, in collaboration with the Bishop, updated the Bishop's Letter of Agreement.
The President of the Standing Committee worked with the Bishop to prepare for the Episcopal Mutual Ministry Review that will take place on 10/31/2026.

Acts on Governance Matters
Ordinations: Episcopal
The Standing Committee consented to the following episcopal elections in The Episcopal Church:
The Rev. Richard Lawson, Diocese of Alabama
The Rev. Karin MacPhail, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
The Rev. Adam J. Shoemaker, Diocese of Long Island
The Rev. Elizabeth Berman, The Diocese of Hawaii
The Rev. Keith Chen-Cheng Lee, Diocese of Taiwan
The Rev. Jenifer Chatfield, Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania
The Rev. David Sibley, Diocese of Lexington
The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr., Diocese of Florida
The Standing Committee did not withhold any requests for consent to episcopal elections.

Ordinations: Diocesan
The Standing Committee consented to the following actions pertaining to ordination in the Diocese of Indianapolis: Dr. Carolin Freuh for Priesthood

The Standing Committee did not withhold any requests pertaining to ordination.

Membership

The Rev. Holly Rankin Zaher, President; Lara Dreyer, Vice-President; George L. Eastman, Secretary; The Rev. Monique Ellison; The Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace; and Greg McClure.

Treasurer's Report to the 189th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

Laurel L. Cornell
November 7, 2026

Based on: Financial Statement for the Month ended 31 July 2026; Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, Marquette Associates, Investment Reports, September 30, 2026.

Income

The diocese has two principal sources of income: apportionment paid by congregations, and the return on investments from our endowment. About half is from apportionment, half from the endowment.

Apportionment:

The apportionment rate for 2026 is 13.5%. Apportionment revenue is on target for this year. There are no arrearages of concern. Thank you to all the Treasurers, Vestries, Bishop's Committees, and contributors to parish finances who have made this possible!

Peace, Rockport, dissolved this year. Its assets, totaling approximately $130,000, reverted to the Diocese.

Endowment.

As a diocese we are extremely fortunate to have a sizeable endowment. Many do not, and rely for their programs almost entirely on income from apportionments paid by congregations. Our endowment is made up of bequests and other gifts from many individuals and groups, for a variety of purposes. It is a pool of funds whose earnings provide a source of income over the long term. The first bequest was in 1924, so we as a diocese have enjoyed a constant stream of income from it for more than a century.

Having an endowment enables us to both to cover some of our basic expenses and to provide services that otherwise would not exist. For example, the Diocese of Indianapolis pays for health insurance coverage for clergy and their families. This means that individual congregations do not have to cover this expense. Without it, each congregation would need to add between $10,000 and $30,000 to their budget every year for each clergyperson they employ.

As of September 30, 2026, the Unrestricted Fund had a value of $38.6 million, an increase of 9.3% over a year ago, slightly less than our benchmark of 9.7%. The Growth Fund had a value of $13.5 million, a growth rate of 11.4%, slightly lower than the benchmark of 11.9%. The Balanced Fund had a value of $7.4 million, with a growth rate of 7.5%, similar to the benchmark of 7.6% percent.

The budgeted rate of withdrawal ("draw") from the investment accounts for 2026 is 5.0%. Economic growth in the future is likely to be slower than in the past, so the current prudent rate is closer to 4.75% or 4.5%. Withdrawing at a higher rate decreases the long-term spending power of our endowment.

Congregations should remember that, if they wish to build an endowment, or if they receive a large amount of funds and need to hold it for a time before they figure out their investment strategy, they can invest in the two funds the Diocese holds on behalf or congregations. The objective of the Growth Special Fund is to achieve growth in the value of the investments. The objective of the Balanced Special Fund is to avoid large changes in the value of the portfolio. Because of the size of the pool, if a congregation invests its funds with the Diocese, it is likely to achieve higher rates of growth and lower declines over time, and better financial management, than it could by investing on its own.

Capital Campaign: Beloved and Empowered

In 2026 the Diocese is beginning a $5M capital campaign "Beloved & Empowered," focused on youth and supporting Diocesan youth ministry, Waycross Camp and Conference Center, and campus ministry. Leadership gifts were secured in the quiet phase, and the campaign opened on September 12 with a Launch Celebration at Waycross.

Expenses

Cash balances are healthy, and diocesan cash flow is not stressed.

As of the end of July, expenses for the year have exceeded income by about $183,000. (Total budget income minus Total programs, Net Total in the Year to Date Actual column of the financial statement). $61,000 of that difference is due to the grant the Executive Council made to Waycross at its July meeting. Bishop's hospitality and travel are more than budget, due to elevated expenses for airfare and mileage. Legal expenses are running in excess of budget due principally to real estate and employment matters on behalf of congregations. The 2027 budget increases this line item significantly, since it has been underestimated for several years. Bank fees are also more than budget. Approximately half of these fees are administrative fees for our money market sweep account, which has generated approximately $3300 in interest year-to-date, so the budget is coming out ahead. Excess expenses in the Direct Parish Mission Support line reflect the increase in support for the Jeffersonville/New Albany partnership authorized by Executive Council late last year.

Our use of funds follows our mission. We have five broad line item categories for mission, and four for functional expenses. If we examine each of these categories, we can see how well our income and expenses follow the priorities we set in the Budget for 2026.

July is 7/12 = 58% of the way through the year, so when we look at each of the categories, lines marked 58% are on track with the budget, lines under 58% are under budget, and lines over 58% are over budget. The following table shows how each of the categories has performed as of July 30, 2026.

		Category	Percentage of budget used
Income			
		Apportionments	56.9
		Investments	62.9
		Other	28.9
		TOTAL	58.8
Expenses			
	Mission		
		Beacons of Christ	77.2
		Generous invitation and welcome	91.1
		Stand with vulnerable, marginalized	25.4
		Connect within/outside	71.2
		Develop clergy/laity to lead	51.8
	Functional		
		Canonically required	56.3
		Bishop & Bishop's staff	62.2
		Insurance, financial, legal	64.2
		Congregational financial support	67.9
		TOTAL	63.1

Overall, we have received 58.8% of our budgeted income, and spent 63.1% of our budgeted program funds, so our income and expenses as of the end of July are broadly in line with our 2026 budget.

Budget

Details of the 2027 proposed budget are in a separate presentation, under the leadership of a new Interim Budget Formation Committee Chair, Mary Slenski. The rate of apportionment is 13.5%, the same as 2025. The rate of withdrawal from the investment accounts is 5.0%, the same as 2025.

One of the recurring difficulties in our budget is the increasing expenses for health care. In recent years the Budget Formation Committee has anticipated an increase of 10% each year in the cost of health care. For 2027 it increased by 17.5%. Every year this cost takes up a larger and larger part of our budget. We are not alone in this. Every religious organization in the United States that pays for health care on behalf of their employees, every nonprofit organization, and every business faces this same dilemma. It requires a national solution, not a local one.

Investment and Finance Committee

The Investment and Finance Committee meets about a week and a half prior to any Executive Council meeting, and in the interim as necessary. The committee has spent some of its time adjusting allocations among funds and some of its time choosing new managers for funds. In addition, we have considered several requests for funding from the Revolving Loan and Grant Fund.

Revolving Loan and Grant fund

Congregations needing help with capital expenses can apply to the Revolving Loan and Grant Fund for assistance. The application form is on the Diocesan website. The Investment and Finance

Committee expects congregations to take some responsibility for these expenses, so it often offers assistance in the form of both a loan and a grant.

Grants or loans distributed in 2026 include:
To St. James, Newcastle, a grant and loan of $47,000 to fix their boiler.
To St. Marks, Plainfield, a grant and loan of $50,000 to address their roof and sewer problems.

Gift acceptance policy

The Investment and Finance Committee is in the process of creating a Gift Acceptance Policy, important as we begin the capital campaign.

Constitution and Canons

Laurel Cornell and Brendan O'Sulliven-Hale were the principal authors of Canon 9: The Finances and Funds of the Diocese, in the proposed revised Constitution and Canons. The intention was to make the Canons congruent with our current practice and to make them as transparent as possible.

Assets: Waycross Camp and Conference Center

Waycross is an asset of the Diocese, both for the formation it provides to youth, children, and adults, and as a physical property. The regular support that the Diocese has provided for many years, and will continue to provide, is critical to its existence.

In the past several years Waycross has created a robust financial structure that will assure accurate tracking of income and expenses. In 2026 this includes writing a Financial Management and Bookkeeping Handbook, having a Board-approved Budget for 2026 and planning for one in 2027, and successful audits for 2024, 2025, and, in planning, for 2026. A professional audit is expensive, but for an organization with a large and complex budget like Waycross, it provides crucial information to staff, Board members, and potential donors.

This newly created financial infrastructure makes it possible to calculate the true costs of running both the camp and the retreat center, figures that have been unknown until now. For 2027, charges will be adjusted both to be in line with actual costs and to provide additional scholarships. That information also will enable more accurate budgeting in future years.

The staff and Board of Waycross have been aggressive in finding new sources of income. Several substantial grants have been obtained. The Boad has an active and committed fundraising committee.

Nonetheless, it will still take several years for Waycross to be on a firm financial footing. Last-minute cancellations continue to disrupt monthly financial planning. Waycross is a large and complicated property that has been under-maintained for many years. The failure of a critical component --- such as the air conditioning in one of the conference rooms -- is a recurring problem that tends to reduce groups' propensity to return. The responsibility for addressing such issues is likely to fall to the Diocese for several more years.

Luckily, Sara Gunter, the Executive Director is a regular participant in Executive Council meetings and in Diocesan staff meetings, so she is well informed of Diocesan priorities and activities. She regularly provides clear and accurate information to the Diocese. The Diocese took a financial risk when, several years ago, it agreed to continuing to operate Waycross. This risk already has begun to pay off in a much stronger program and institution that can support the formation of youth, children, and adults in the Diocese of Indianapolis and outside it for many years to come.

Audit

At the September 2, 2026, meeting of the Investment and Finance Committee, Justin Hayes from Katz, Sapper & Miller presented the audit results for the financial statements prepared on a modified cash basis. He reported that the audit process was smooth with no significant issues or control deficiencies identified. Investment returns increased significantly due to strong market performance.

Several of the best practice considerations highlighted in recent audits can now be addressed. The hiring of LaShaundra Bridges as Accounting Administrator will foster the creation of financial reporting backup procedures. The hiring of a new, more sophisticated, third-party IT consultant in August makes it possible to address several IT issues, including the need for SOC reports, automated patch management, and cybersecurity breach detection.

The Canons of The Episcopal Church require annual audits of all parishes, missions, and other institutions. A completed audit reveals that all monies and investments are properly accounted for. Parishes with larger budgets and greater resources will have their audits conducted by Certified Public Accountants, as the is case with the Diocese.

Parishes with limited income can carry out an audit using the Committee Examination method described in the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs, Chapter VI: Audit Guidelines for Congregations. This method is authorized by our Canons and has been employed successfully in at least two congregations. It has the additional advantage of introducing people to financial procedures who might otherwise find them unfamiliar or arcane.
(https://www.episcopalchurch.org/resources/manual-of-business-methods-in-church-affairs/)

Personnel Policy and Compensation

The proposed Budget includes a cost-of-living increase of 3% for 2027. Vestries are reminded that this is the minimum recommended increase.

Thanks

Thanks to Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows and to the Bishop's staff, especially Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale, Canon for Administration and Evangelism and LaShaundra Bridges, Accounting Administrator. Thanks especially to Kim Christopher, who has recently retired as Administrator of Accounts and Events after about 30 years of service to the Diocess. Thanks also to the members of the Investment and Finance Committee: Norm Callahan, Bryan Dunnivant, Lara Dreyer, Isaiah Kuch, C. Davies Reed, Ben Sapp, Mary Slenski, and Ben Sternke.

Waycross Camp and Conference Center

Goals/Purpose/Mission Statement

Waycross Camp and Conference Center is a camp and retreat community rooted in the Episcopal tradition and open to all who seek renewal, discovery, and growth—across every age and stage of life. We cultivate joyful and inclusive spaces in nature to deepen relationships with God, self, and others, and carry the way of love, justice, and healing into the world.

Activities/Actions taken over the past year to accomplish these goals

This was a BIG year for Waycross! We have new mission, vision, and values statements and a strategic plan that we are excited to live into to become more of who Waycross already is and has been. Waycross received a $2.5million grant for major capital improvements to Waycross' campus and a $312,000 grant to launch our own capital campaign in 2028. We had our biggest summer camp registration in more than 10 years - something we said last year and surpassed this pst summer! Our year round programming is gaining momentum with our August Quilter Retreat needing a waitlist and over 20 people registered so far for our November Artists & Writers.

We are actively cultivating a joyful and inclusive space at Waycross and sending people - youth and adults alike - out into the world carrying the way of justice, love and healing to their communities.

Membership

More than 3000 retreat guests and more than 320 campers in 2026