

## **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT**

The Executive Council is comprised of 18 elected members both clergy and lay persons from each Deanery, including a youth delegate and a liaison from the Standing Committee. The focus of our ministry is to have general oversight of all Diocesan commissions, helping to develop strategy and policy in collaboration with our Bishop, other agencies of the Diocese, and with the Standing Committee. The Executive Council also manages, through the Treasurer, the Budget adopted by the Convention and all monies of the General Fund.

The Executive Council meets every other month throughout the year, and more frequently if necessary. A complete listing of the Council members is available on the Diocesan Website [edwm.org](http://edwm.org).

The Executive Council meets in a two day retreat each year to organize by electing a vice chair, secretary and commission liaisons.

During the past year 08-09, we studied and discussed the Mission and Vision Statement of the Diocese, each month focusing on a different paragraph. We looked carefully at each component of the mission and vision statements for convergence with focus and energy in our diocesan programs and ministries. In the coming year, we will continue to keep these statements and goals before us as we work together for the good of the entire diocese.

We feel that we have been good stewards of the Diocesan funds, and with the help of the Treasurer and Finance Committee, expenses have been held in line and Investment funds managed prudently within a challenging economic environment. We will continue to encourage competent and motivated people to serve on the Council and on Commissions and Committees. Acknowledging tightening of resource availability, we feel that such people with will help us to accomplish our goals for the Diocese. . We feel a spirit of teamwork with our Bishop that will help to accomplish goals in the areas of Stewardship, Evangelism and Social Justice within the coming year. We have been encouraged by the work that has been done by the Congregational Development Committee, and the task force developing a Confirmation Customary. We know that work continues on revision of Constitutions and Canons for the Diocese, Stewardship and Missions. We are grateful as that work continues. We hope that more people within the Diocese will see these committees and task forces as a place to live out their calling to ministry for the good of all God's people. It has been our pleasure to serve God and the people of the Diocese of Western Michigan as members of Executive Council.

Respectfully submitted.

Rev. Susan S. York, Vice Chair

4/16/2009