

## **A Reflection on Diocesan Council**

By: Haley Bankey

Why would I want to encourage anyone to take two days off work, arrange for childcare, drive to McAllen down in the Valley, and spend three days in meetings? So that you could see the Holy Spirit at work here in the Diocese of West Texas and be part of guiding our future mission. This next Diocesan Council will be the sixth and I'm already looking forward to it!

Life at St. George is vibrant, busy, and full of God's love. We have so much going on that sometimes it is easy to forget that we are part of a larger body of Christ and that coming together at Diocesan Council serves to connect us in mission and community with our fellow congregations.

As a Council Delegate you represent the voice of St. George to the Diocese, you get to vote on resolutions and elections that guide our inner workings and greater mission, and you get to serve as a conduit of information back to fellow parishioners at St. George when Council is over. Those are the tangible details.

The intangible? Imagine going to a family reunion of over 800 fellow Episcopalians knowing you are all there because of your passion and love to do God's work in the world. Imagine attending a Holy Eucharist with so many people that it takes up an entire grand ballroom! Imagine listening to story after story after story from inspiring individuals and ministries about how they are living into being their local expression of God's love in the world; how they are impacting the world no matter their resources or size. Imagine celebrating the tremendous amount of children who walk the halls of our Episcopal schools throughout the Diocese.

If you are blessed enough to become a Council Delegate, I encourage you to take the leap! The experience is one of a kind, truly impactful, and will change the way you are called into serving God in the world.