Big thanks to our Christ Church delegates to Convention:

Rita Grayson, Betsy Hart, Jake Renfroe, Ed Rogers, Becca Schmidt, Josh Starr
And our alternate, Joe McDaniel

Reflections from Convention from our delegates:

Thoughts on the diocesan convention from a first timer:
It was an awesome experience. I recommend it to anyone who wants to network with others across the diocese. It's not only a time of fellowship but the convention has church seminars and interesting exhibits to learn from.

Thoughts on the diocesan convention from a first timer:
Thank you for the opportunity to attend the diocesan convention on behalf of our congregation. In addition to the necessary business there was time for connection, reflection and inspiration! I was struck to learn that 80% of Americans are considered unchurched or de-churched and challenged to look for creative ways that we can share our love and faith with folks in our community including the many Military service members and their families who pass through our area. There were several easy, practical ideas shared. If you'd like to hear more, or if you have thoughts about potential new outreach ministries, I would love to connect.

Thoughts on the diocesan convention from someone who has attended multiple years:
I have found two favorite things about our convention. First, one gets to learn of the challenges and successes of other parishes—reminding me that I am part of something bigger. Second, with about three invited speakers at each annual event, there is always one that makes a great impression on me. This year it was a sobering and challenging talk about what we as people of faith must learn about attracting new members in an environment, after centuries of Christians being in the majority, in which we now find ourselves a minority.

Thoughts on the diocesan convention from a first timer:
The convention was titled "Sing the Love Amazing," and beautiful music filled the hall both days as attendees sang songs with the band of God's amazing love.
The hopefulness of the Bishop's Address, the exhibits & information on various programs throughout churches in the Diocese, and the workshops on topics meant to inspire and perhaps institute in our own church were so inspirational. The table talk exercises enabled each of us to meet new people while at the same time getting to know people you somewhat knew, even better. The keynote speaker, Dr. Beatrice Berry, a Sociologist and Deacon in Atlanta exuded so much love, joy, presence, and grace in her "I be" exercise and interaction with the group. Finally, as each church's banner was carried down the aisle for Holy Eucharist it felt like a moment of such profound unity in a not so united time. I exhaled!

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the convention and I encourage anyone with the slightest bit of curiosity or desire to go deeper into your faith to consider attending.

Thoughts on the diocesan convention from a first timer:
One of the first things I noticed was the number of attendees at the convention, and the number of Episcopal churches in our diocese. Speaking to some of these people around the table and in the halls, I realized that, compared to many others churches, Christ Church is immensely blessed to have the resources and the amazing clergy and staff and lay leadership that we do have.
One of the breakout sessions was called Invite-Welcome-Connect and was lead by our friend Mary Alice Mathison, and it focused on how churches may better equip our leaders for growth in evangelism and hospitality, and making guests and newcomers feel welcomed and a sense of belonging, something I believe Christ Church is pretty good at doing. Another breakout workshop I attended was presented by Rev. Jon Davis who opened everyone's eyes when he told us 80% of Americans are either "nones or dones", meaning they've never been a regular attendee of church (less than two Sundays per month), or they were regular church goers who lost interest for any number of reasons. Rev Davis said the downward trend began in the 1960's, and churches must find ways to help connect or reconnect people with church. Can we shift the traditional model from Sunday mornings inside the church to a focus on bringing the church to the people wherever that may be?
I would encourage Christ Church members to attend a diocesan convention whenever you get the chance. Needless to say, spending 1 ½ days being inspired by Bishop Kendrick and the entire diocesan staff is an amazing experience. It's also reassuring to be in a ballroom full of diverse people from all walks who are all working towards a common goal.

Congratulations to our newly appointed and elected members:
Fr. Michael and Eric Stevenson are now on the Standing Committee of the Diocese.
(The Standing Committee acts like the vestry for the diocese.)
Jane Dysart, Registrar and Historiographer to the Diocese
Betsy Hart, Beckwith Camp & Conference Center Board of Directors
Rev. Katie, Secretary to the 55th Annual Convention

Continued gratitude to Diocesan Commission and Ministry members:
Carrie Stevenson, Commission on Integrity of Creation
Joe McDaniel, co-chair of the Commission for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
Dick Hooper, Brotherhood of St. Andrew Coordinator
Meghan Johnson, Happening Coordinator

If you would like to watch the Bishop's Address, the Plenary Session by Dr. Bertice Berry, or see any other updates from Convention, visit: https://www.diocgc.org/post/2025-annual-diocesan-convention-summary