

Notes on the 55th Annual Convention of our Diocese, 2026

By Susan Farmer

The theme of the convention was Let There Be Light.

This was expanded in the service for Walking the Way of Creation.

Another theme of the Bishop's address was to encourage us to ask ourselves in whose imagination we live.

Our world today has distracting imaginations. One distracting imagination is the market in which you are what you produce, your value is measured by that production, and you are never enough. The second imagination is the political imagination in which aggression divides people into us and them. The third imagination is therapeutic imagination in which we can look for healing, but our focus is reduced to only the individual and not all of creation. The fourth is technological imagination, filled with algorithms and metrics, in which visibility is the only valued character, and worth is defined by attention gained. The final imagination is the imagination of God, and creation was the imagination of God. By letting our own lights shine in God's imagination, we come closer to Him. The question we were left with was how we can be receptive and renewed in God's imagination.

In the business meetings, we voted to appoint delegates to the national convention, members to standing committees, passed a resolution to form a committee to review the Canons as that had not been done for several decades, and passed the budget as proposed. There were also plenary sessions and workshops centered on how to integrate our worship in creation, a ministry fair at which various groups shared their work in their home communities, and several inspiring worship services.