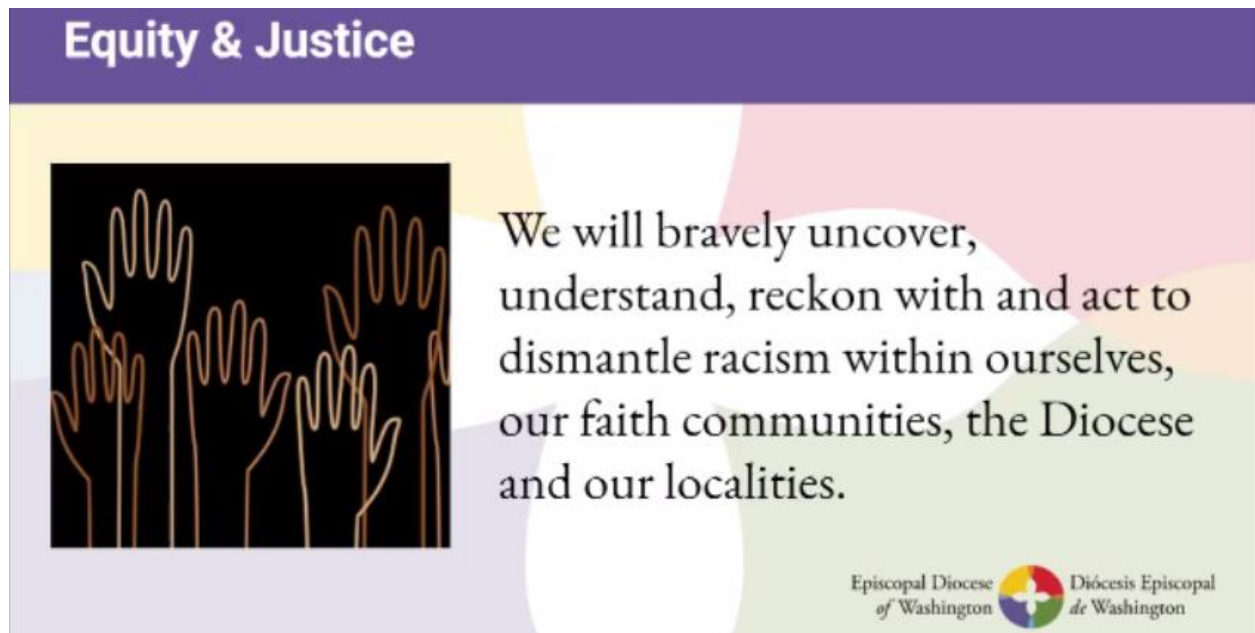


It was my pleasure to attend the annual Diocesan Convention on Saturday, January 30 as the delegate for St. Mark's Fairland. This year the convention was held online using Zoom. The online viewing technology worked well for this event, which was about 6 hours long. Information about the event can also be found on the [EDOW](#) website. There you can find a [video replay](#) of the event as well as the [convention booklet](#).

Equity and Justice was an important message from of the convention.



Message conveyed by Bishop Mairanne: We should seek the dignity of every human being. Anti-racism should be our first priority in the diocese. God's dream is for us to all get along.

St. Mark's notable mentions in the convention booklet are:

Clergy in New Ministries section - The Rev Christopher Wilkins, St. Mark's, Fairland, Priest-in-Charge

Hunger Fund section - Chair: Lee Mericle

Advisory Committee on Diocesan Stewardship – Janis Smith

Parish Health and Sustainability – major topic at convention

We were asked to review the following list at our parish and determine what our priority should be for the next year.



We held a second vote this year, with the initial vote taking place at the convention last year, to merge together two parishes in St. Mary's county. The vote successfully passed this year, formally completing the journey of two parishes into one. We approved the petition for the merger of Patuxent Parish (Church of the Ascension), Lexington Park, Maryland and William & Mary Parish (St. George's Church) Valley Lee, Maryland to become Resurrection Parish (Ascension and St. George's Churches). This was done for future sustainability.

A majority of EDOW congregations are doing well, but during the pandemic some are not.

Holy Trinity church in Bowie closed in 2020.

A resolution was adopted at last year's convention to create an Advisory Committee to respond to the need of parishes experiencing challenges to their ongoing vitality. The Advisory Committee is a way for the Diocese to respond to these parishes. There is a report included in the [convention booklet](#) beginning on page 67 called "Report of the Advisory Committee on Diocesan Stewardship and Parish Vitality". The Advisory Committee will continue to meet during 2021, and a vote is planned during the year on adopting a Canon for this topic.

Tending Our Soil Program

The graphic features a central circular diagram with three overlapping green circles labeled 'Congregational Cohorts', 'Coaches', and 'Vital Signs'. The outer ring of the diagram is divided into three sections: 'Year 1: Mission & Identity' (top), 'Year 2: Equip & Plan' (right), and 'Year 3: Launch & Assess' (left). Arrows indicate a clockwise flow between these sections, with labels: 'Celebrating' (top), 'Listening' (right), 'Reconnecting' (right), 'Discerning' (bottom), 'Cultivating' (left), and 'Assessing' (left). To the right of the diagram is a white box with a purple border containing a bulleted list: '3 Years', '7 Vital Signs', 'Coaches', 'Congregational cohorts', and '5 Core practices'. Below the list is the text 'Learn more at www.cdow.org/tending'. At the bottom left is the logo for 'Tending Our Soil' and 'Cuidando Nuestra Tierra'. At the bottom right are the logos for the 'Episcopal Diocese of Washington' and 'Diócesis Episcopal de Washington'.

Part of the dioceses 2021 revitalization effort is a new initiative called “Tending our Soil” which is intended to help parishes address their sustainability issues to move forward in the best way. This initiative is also mentioned on the EDOW website and will be kicking off in 2021. Parishes can appeal to the diocese to be part of this program. The application process for this program begins next week (February 1, 2021). Parishes that may benefit from participating in this program are encouraged to apply.

The program plans to select 12 parishes a year for the next three years to participate in the program. Each parish will need to appeal to the diocese to be part of this program.

We were encouraged to take the vital signs of our own congregation (perhaps at an upcoming vestry meeting or coffee hour) to obtain feedback from our congregants. Where is our parish strong? What things are holding us back? Investment in which items will give most fruitful results? These issues should then be socialized and brought to the attention of vestry members and wardens.

Resolutions

There were four resolutions that were voted on. All were passed after minor modifications to the wording. Details on the resolutions can be found in the [convention booklet](#).

Resolution #1: On Engaging in Immigration Detention Ministry

Resolution #2: On Active Advocacy for Racial Justice

Resolution #3: On Supporting Racial Justice through Police Reform

Resolution #4: On Addressing the Anti-Semitic Impact of Lectionary Readings for Holy Week

School for Christian Faith & Leadership

The graphic features a purple header with the title 'School for Christian Faith & Leadership'. On the left is a logo for 'LA ESCUELA DE FE Y LIDERAZGO CRISTIANOS' with a stylized flower icon and 'THE SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN FAITH & LEADERSHIP' below it. On the right, under 'Vision of the School', are four bullet points: faithful discipleship, adaptive leadership, baptismal living, and greater vitality. A link 'www.cdow.org/school' is provided. Logos for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington are at the bottom right.

700 participated in this school in 2020. This is a tool for leaders to broaden our faith. There is a link on the Diocesan website to the course offerings. The new website for this will be launched this year.

Here is the link to the current website for the School for Christian Faith and Leadership:

www.edow.org/school

Budget Review

Budget items were reviewed and approved. For more information please review the [convention booklet](#).

The graphic has a purple header '2020 Financial Summary' and contains a table with financial data. The table has four columns: Item, Annual Budget, End Year Projected, and Variance. The rows are Total Revenue, Total Expense, and Change in Net Assets from Operations. Logos for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington are at the bottom right.

	Annual Budget	End Year Projected	Variance
Total Revenue	4,758,794	4,374,499	(484,295)
Total Expense	4,758,794	4,374,499	484,295
Change in Net Assets from Operations	0	0	0

Responding to the Pandemic

- Discretionary Spending Reduced
- Analyzed Cash Flow
- Applied for Line of Credit
- Applied and Received PPP Loan
- Provided Financial Support to Parishes
- Redirected Bishop’s Appeal to COVID-19 Relief Fund



Parish Assistance and COVID-19 Emergency Grants

To date, the Diocese has provided \$141,450 to assist ten (10) parishes during the pandemic. And, we have helped 175 families by offering \$120,310 of assistance, as well as \$17,300 for twelve (12) parish feeding programs.



Revenue

	Annual Budget	Annual Reforecast	End Year Projection	Variance Reforecast to Projection
REVENUE				
Congregational Giving	2,600,000	2,000,000	2,231,043	231,043
Soper Income (operating)	1,481,348	1,481,348	1,305,794	(175,554)
Soper Income (residual)	148,000	148,000	70,720	(77,280)
Corten Education Fund	50,000	80,000	50,000	(30,000)
Bishop’s Annual Appeal	180,000	90,000	68,000	(22,000)
Interest & Dividend Income	150,000	150,000	145,000	(5,000)
Other Income	90,000	90,000	60,942	(29,058)
TEC Grant for Latino Church Plant	20,000	20,000	20,000	0
Latino Ministry Support from Reserves	15,000	15,000	15,000	0
PPP Loan Forgiveness	0	408,000	408,000	0
Total Revenue	4,758,794	4,482,348	4,374,499	(107,849)



The diocese ends the year with a balanced budget.

Non-Operating Revenues for Fiscal Year 2020	
Realized Gain/Loss on Investments.....	\$99,228
Unrealized Gain/Loss on Investments.....	345,804
Total Non-Operating Revenues & Expenses.	\$445,032

Super Fund Balances	
Opening Balance 01/01/2020	\$ 33,417,331
Ending Balance 12/31/2020	36,392,046
Net Change	\$ 2,974,715

Episcopal Diocese of Washington  Diocesis Episcopal de Washington

It was my pleasure to represent St. Mark's Fairland at the EDOW convention for 2021. I hope you find my overview helpful. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to me (bg_lehman@hotmail.com). If I cannot answer your question, I will reach out to our parish leaders to answer your questions.

Sincerely,
Brian Lehman