

Report of the Board of Trustees to the 42nd Convention of the Diocese of El Camino Real

As the Vice President of the Board of Trustees, I am honored to share the Board's report this year.

The Board continues to meet online with great success. We begin each meeting with *Lectio Divina*, prayerfully listening to the Spirit. We take turns leading, using the monthly scripture passages chosen by Bishop Lucinda that are used by all leaders in the diocese. This year's passages encourage us to "have courage in the wilderness (being unafraid to be lost)." In that spirit, we have been reading and discussing Susan Beaumont's book *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*. It has been a springboard for conversation around navigating change in healthy ways. As an institution, our impulse is to try to create stability, but that can thwart the work of the Holy Spirit. We are encouraged to follow her lead, even when it keeps us in the uncomfortable wilderness.

Our meetings always contain a segment on "Good News," where folks from around the diocese share new initiatives and successes. This is one way we are listening for the Spirit's leading; where is God's reign coming near? We end our meetings sharing where each of us noticed Jesus in our time together, and it is often in those good news stories.

The bulk of the Board's business concerns diocesan property and finances, and we hear from those committees each month and make decisions based on their recommendations. We are grateful for the faithful leadership of our Property Committee (Joe Head) and Finance Committee (Art Pasquinelli) and our Treasurer (Joanna Shreve) and we are assured our systems are working well. Highlights of our actions are always published in the diocesan newsletter after our meetings.

The board hears about the many challenges faced by our parishes and missions. You may recall that a very hard moment in 2022 was the sale of St. Mark's, Santa Clara. From the interest earned on the proceeds of that sale, the Board approved payments to parishes in 2023 that are not subject to fair share. Other task forces are working on recommendations for use of the proceeds that will help our diocese evolve and thrive in the future.

I am deeply grateful for the dedication and wisdom of my fellow board members as we exercise oversight of the everyday work of the Diocese between conventions. The hard work is made easier and more joyful by this wonderful group. Special thanks to our Secretary Mr. Jeff Diehl for his faithfulness, accuracy, and good humor. We are so grateful to Bishop Lucinda for her steadfast and graceful leadership, and the ways she encourages us to be alert to the movement of the Holy Spirit and act from a place of joy and trust.

It has been a privilege to serve on this board as part of the leadership of this wonderful diocese. As we continue our journey in the wilderness, may the Spirit grant us curiosity and courage.

Submitted by the Rev. Kristine Johnson