

Emery Washington Convocation Charter
Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

- I. **Purpose:** The Emery Washington Convocation exists to promote fellowship, ministry cooperation, and clergy care amongst the parishes and people within the convocation. In particular, the convocation is tasked with creating and executing a regional ministry strategy that reflects the Diocese of Missouri's mission priorities.
- II. **Establishment:** In the Spring of 2021, the Standing Committee approved a redefined and renewed configuration and purpose for the Diocese's convocations. This renewed configuration included a reduction of convocations from six to four, with an eye towards ministry collaboration and shared mission goals
- III. **Parishes included within the Convocation:** The following parishes make up the Emery Washington Convocation.

Advent, Crestwood
All Saints-Ascension, Northwoods
Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis
Emmanuel, Webster Groves
Grace, Kirkwood
Holy Communion, University City
St. Barnabas, Florissant
St. John's, Tower Grove
St. Mark's, St. Louis
St. Michael and St. George, Clayton
St. Paul's, Carondelet
St. Peter's, Ladue
St. Stephen's, Ferguson
St. Thomas, Kirkwood
Trinity, St. Louis

- IV. **Convocation Roles and Responsibilities:** The convocation is tasked with the following roles and responsibilities.
 - A. Develop a regional mission strategy in conjunction with the Diocesan Offices
 - B. Elect members to serve on the Diocesan Council
 1. One cleric and two lay persons from within the convocation elected by a plurality vote by convocation delegates.
 2. Two year term
 3. Members may serve two consecutive terms and may be re-elected after a one year hiatus
 - C. Hold a yearly celebration of the patron of the convocation (Emery Washington)

- D. Nominate persons to serve on the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Council
 - 1. One cleric and one lay person from within the convocation nominated by a plurality vote by convocation delegates
 - E. Regularly communicate with the communities of faith that make up the convocation
 - F. In consultation with the Director of Communications, develop and maintain a presence on the Diocesan Website
 - G. Meet in convocation at least four times a year
 - H. Submit resolutions for Diocesan Convention
 - I. Provide fellowship and discernment opportunities for the laity
 - J. Provide care, support, professional development, and fellowship opportunities for the clergy within the convocation
- V. **Convocation Leadership:** The convocation leadership consists of a Dean (cleric) and Warden (lay person) and an eight member convocation council (four clerics and four lay persons). The Dean and Warden co-chair the council and meet each month with the Diocesan bishop and the Deans and Wardens of all the convocations in the Diocese. The task of the leadership team (Dean, Warden, and council) is to (1) ensure that the convocation meets the roles and expectations listed above, and to (2) organize the activities, ministries, and meetings of the convocation. The Dean and Warden are also charged with providing care and support for the clergy within the convocation.
- VI. **Election of and qualifications for Dean, Warden, and Council:**
- A. **Dean and Warden:** Any baptized and confirmed lay person in good standing worshiping within the convocation may run for Warden. Any cleric in good standing and canonically resident within the Diocese of Missouri currently serving within the convocation may run for Dean. Deans and Wardens are elected by a plurality vote by convocation delegates for two year terms. Elections are held at the Convocation's Annual Meeting held anytime after January the 31st and before/on February 15th in even numbered years. Elections to fill vacancies may happen during a special electing convocation called by the leadership team. At least two week's notice of the special electing convocation date and time must be given to convocation delegates. All convention delegates duly elected at the most recent parish annual meeting are invited to the Convocation Annual Meeting and serve as the electors for Dean and Warden. Deans and Wardens may only serve one term but may run for re-election after a one year hiatus.
 - B. **Council Members:** Any baptized and confirmed lay person 16 years old or older in good standing worshiping within the convocation may serve as a lay council member. Any cleric in good standing and canonically resident within the Diocese of Missouri currently serving within the convocation may serve as a clergy council member. Council members are appointed by the Warden and Dean on or before March 1st. There cannot be more than one council member from any one parish in the convocation, and there may be no more than three council members from

parishes within the City of St. Louis and no more than five council members from parishes within St. Louis County. Council members are given staggered appointments to ensure continuity. On or before March 1st, 2022, two clergy council members and two lay council members are appointed for a two year term and two clergy council members and two lay council members are appointed for a three year term. At the end of these initial appointments, council members are appointed for three year terms.

- VII. Officers within the Council:** The council will elect from its membership the following officers. Officers will serve for the entirety of their term as council members. Besides the offices below, the council may create additional offices and elect additional officers as needed.
- A. Treasurer: Tasked with tracking all convocation expenditures and income (if applicable)
 - B. Communications Officer: Tasked with timely and relevant communications to the parishes within the convocation.
 - C. Clerk: Tasked with taking and archiving minutes at official meetings of convocation.
 - D. Webmaster: Tasked with working with the Diocesan Communications officer to provide a convocation web presence on the diocesan website.
- VIII. Annual Convocation Meeting:** The convocation will gather each year for an annual meeting no sooner than February the 1st and no later than February the 15th. Diocesan convention delegates elected at the most recent parish annual meeting are invited to the annual convocation meeting and serve as electors. The primary purpose of the annual meeting is to hold elections, when appropriate, for Dean, Warden, and Diocesan Council members and nominations for Mission and Ministry Council members, but the meeting may include reports, fellowship, presentations, strategy sessions, and more. The Dean, Warden, and council members are responsible for organizing the annual meeting.
- IX. Charter Amendments:** Amendments may be made to this charter at any annual convocation meetings. Amendments must be approved by the convocation council and Bishop Diocesan before going before the convocation for approval. Amendments are approved by a simple majority vote by delegates at the annual convocation meeting.