

Annual report  
Diocesan Standing Committee (DSC)  
Of the  
Missionary Diocese of the South and Ozarks (MDSO)  
By  
Don Holland-President

Bishop Daniel J. Sparks, Delegates, Members of the Standing Committee, Clergy and Laity, and Guests. Welcome to the annual Convocation of the Missionary Diocese of the South and Ozarks (MDSO). Since our last convocation meeting, the MDSO has made major progress in re-organization. This was necessitated by the retirement of Bishop Hartley and subsequent vacancy in the Bishop's See. We are indebted to Bishop Hartley for his many years of devoted service as our Bishop.

Bishop Sparks was consecrated Bishop on March 26, 2022. Since that date Bishop Sparks has been tireless in re-establishing the Diocese on a sound administrative footing, in addition to his many pastoral duties. He brings an energetic and visionary approach to the MDSO. We are blessed to have his leadership for our Diocese.

The Diocesan Standing Committee (DSC), formerly Council of Advice, was reorganized at our Convocation in Boaz, Alabama, on September 15th, 2022. Mr. George Leever (deceased) of St Barnabas, Heber Springs, Arkansas was recognized for his faithful service at his church and service on the DSC. The DSC Members are:

Father Tom Hiter, Secretary, Christ's Chapel, Fairdealing, Kentucky  
Deacon Kenyon Bunch, Board Member, St Josephs, Branson, Missouri  
Mr. Wayne McKenzie, Treasurer, Christ's Chapel, Fairdealing, Kentucky  
Mr. Walter J Alexander, Board Member, All Saints, Boaz, Alabama  
Mrs. Beauty Fast, Board Member, St Bedes, Tucson, Arizona (Appointed to fill vacancy due to death of Mr. George Leever)  
Mr. Don Holland, St Joseph, President, St Josephs, Branson, Missouri.

The Diocese was incorporated in the state of Alabama as a non-profit entity. Bishop Sparks was instrumental in getting this set up. It should be noted that the Bishop spent his personal funds in getting the incorporation paperwork finalized. This was a first step in getting a bank account established for any discretionary funds to be deposited and accounted for. The bank account was set up by Fr Tom Hiter and Treasurer Wayne McKenzie. The Diocesan discretionary fund's primary function is to be used for gifts to clergy for anniversaries, birthdays and other significant events that come under pastoral care for the clergy, by the Bishop.

Much of the work of the DSC has been in editing and clarifying the Canons of the Diocese and to bring them into conformity with the Canons of the UECNA. The better parts of three meetings

were devoted to this process. A major part of our time was spent on Canon 12, "Of Background Checks." This convocation will have an opportunity to discuss these revisions to the Canons and to vote for their ratification. The Bishop has drafted a "Policy on Criminal Background Checks." The DSC will take up this policy once the Convocation has ratified the Draft Canons.

Thank you all for taking the time to attend this Convocation meeting on Zoom. This format was necessitated by our need to conserve resources. We are a huge geographic Diocese, covering 28 states; that and the closeness of the UECNA convention in October being held in Waynesboro, Va.

Don Holland  
President, Bishop's Standing Committee