



# The Diocese of West Missouri

## *Canon for Discipleship / Full-time Position*

The Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri strives to be God's just, and peaceful beloved community rooted in our shared love of God and one another. Our ministries are separated into four pillars of missional works: proclaiming the Good News, forming disciples, serving others, and striving for justice. Our diocese includes 47 congregations across urban and rural communities led by lay people, deacons, and priests. We love Jesus, are made of faithful leaders, and have a passion for serving our communities.

### **Position Summary**

The Canon for Discipleship leads our mission to *form disciples*. Their primary role is to develop a strategy for Christian education and community for all ages in the diocese. This includes assisting small and rural communities, supporting a renewal of diocesan youth, college, and young adult ministry, and developing strategies for intergenerational/mixed ecology culture, education, and worship.

Through the work of this ministry, congregations will grow in confidence as Christian communities: deepening their knowledge of Scripture, learning to think more deeply and speak more clearly about their faith, and discovering new rhythms and forms of prayer. They will also develop a stronger sense of their identity as Episcopalians, able to articulate beyond the walls of the church what it means to belong to this tradition.

### **Essential Duties and Areas of Responsibility**

- Develop and implement a diocesan strategy to address the Christian and Episcopal education needs of all ages across the varieties of contexts in the diocese. Initially, this work will require learning the needs of our communities and discerning our formational priorities. As these priorities are determined, the Canon for Discipleship will be responsible for developing a strategic plan that will address these priorities. This may include resourcing congregations, training leaders, and developing diocesan-wide programming.
- Provide a ministry of presence and worship in the diocese, including a coordinated visitation schedule with the bishop and other canons of the diocese. There are 47 congregations in our diocese. We range in average Sunday attendance from 7 to 272. One of our priorities is ensuring sacramental leadership in every congregation in the diocese on Sunday mornings. In addition, the diocesan staff regularly visit congregations during the week: meeting with the leadership, providing pastoral support, and assisting with weekday worship. When the canons visit congregations, the strategy is to weave together sacramental support and ministry development. The Canon for Discipleship is expected to be in a congregation 48 Sundays in the

year. These Sundays may include sacramental support, learning about the needs of the congregation, or implementing a discipleship initiative or program.

- Attend and participate in regional or national gatherings with discipleship leaders across The Episcopal Church (e.g. FORMA).

## **Administrative and Supervisory Responsibilities**

- Supervise current diocesan staff in children, youth, college and young adult ministry, including annual reviews. Our diocese is in a period of renewal and rebuilding our youth, college and young adult ministry. In addition, our support of children's ministry is very new. The Canon for Discipleship will be the primary leader of these ministries. This includes hiring and supervising staff, training leaders within the diocese, and building collaboration among clergy and lay leaders in the diocese.
- The Canon for Discipleship will rebuild a diocesan-wide commission structure that supports the formation of all ages. Ideally, there will be one commission representing all ages with subcommittees to support specific events like retreats or diocesan-wide formation.
- Monitor the budget process for the diocesan pillars that intersect with Christian education and discipleship.
- Submit reports to Diocesan Council.

## **Qualifications, Education and Experience**

- Priestly ordination in The Episcopal Church with a minimum 5 years' experience in Christian and Episcopal education or formation ministry.
- Collaborative personality who prioritizes relationships, team building, and maintains a calm and professional demeanor in conflict.
- Experience in strategic planning and congregational development.

Applications are due by April 8, 2026. Please email a cover letter and your resume to The Rev. Canon Chas Marks ([transition@diowestmo.org](mailto:transition@diowestmo.org)) for consideration.