

## Convention 2008 Themes and Recommendations

**Goal:** Paint a portrait of The Diocese of West Tennessee that faithfully reflects our call to be “servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” (1 Corinthians 4:1)

**Methodology:** Seeing the places where we agree God is calling us to offer Christ’s saving grace, we will respond with faith and hard-nosed business sense in response these real human needs.

Our current level of “**foreign mission**” **support and involvement needs to be sustained and even expanded** as we look at the same time beyond ourselves.

**Five areas need our attention** to better equip us to address the “domestic mission” needs in our own diocesan backyard:

- **Christian Formation** serves as the rationale for all the rest.
- **Lay and ordained ministry development** is the means;
- **Elementary, secondary and college ministry development** is a strategy;
- **Congregational growth and development** is a pressing need; and
- **Redevelopment and expansion of St. Columba** as our camp, conference and retreat site is our immediate opportunity.

To this end, a **Listening Campaign** will be launched and contain the following components:

- Provide, by this summer, opportunities and preparatory information sheets for West Tennesseans to gather, consider and respond, in the presence of representatives from the Bishop and Council, to the proposed areas needing programmatic response.
- To report the results of this Listening Campaign to the B&C and to expect and authorize them to respond with concrete plans to implement the response as a diocese.
- To expect this effort to require us to raise adequate funding and resources to meet the mission needs through sound business decisions, investment, partnership development within and beyond the Diocese, and fund raising through a capital campaign effort and other means to achieve our goals.
- To consider using the MOST campaign funds in hand to establish a “revolving fund” to allow qualified congregations across the diocese to borrow funds to support church development in accordance with approved guidelines and to make available church grants for the purpose of supporting new church planting. To grow this “fund” so that it will continue to achieve its purpose, the ways to accomplish this must be determined.
- To report to the Diocese the steps we are taking as necessary to “paint our portrait” as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.