

Stewardship and Accountability Report (2014-2024)

Thank you for taking a few minutes to view the documents outlining the last 10 years in the life of the Diocese of Easton. These documents are taken from various exercises and events throughout those years and collectively help give an overview of the life and state of the Diocese:

Prior to the current Episcopate, the Diocese of Easton spent over two years under a Provisional Bishop (The Rt. Rev. Henry Parsley) in order to discern its future, including contemplating unification with neighboring Dioceses. The [Discernment Committee Slideshow](#), which was used both as a presentation to the Diocese and to inform the search process, shows bullet points about their discoveries. Ultimately the committee recognized the majority's desire to "stay as the Diocese of Easton" (as seen in the slide on page 5). The cost of these years, including Bishop's salary and search process, amounts to nearly \$500,000.

In addition to the slideshow, the Discernment Committee created [Ten Discernment Resolutions](#) that were also handed to the newly elected 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Easton (The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray). The Diocese of Easton's website, on its [Purpose & Vision Webpage](#), outlines the history of the creation of the Bishop's Diocesan Vision Document (Parousia). This page includes links to a variety of documents that helped inform the creation of the Parousia Vision.

[PAROUSIA](#) – GOD'S VISION FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THE EASTERN SHORE.

Parousia is the name of the ten-year vision cast by the leadership of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton and adopted by Convention in 2019. This vision was revisited frequently by our leadership teams for goal-setting, and the history of its development is encapsulated in the Pastoral note below.

"Parousia isn't a prescription, rather it is a permission to be creative and to take the risk, as God took a risk when his son Jesus was sent into the world to be Savior and Redeemer; to try new and innovative ways of being church, more open to and trusting of the Holy Spirit to guide God's church toward new and transformative ministries... It encourages the church to be innovative and bold in our call to access new models to shape and form lives for the Kingdom of God." – Bishop San

Over the years, and through Covid, the Diocese has stayed the course in pursuing the Vision of Parousia while also navigating the unforeseen challenges presented by the Pandemic. This attentiveness and flexibility can be seen through the Bishop's Letters & Addresses to Convention over the years:

- [2020: 152nd Diocesan Convention - Just Days Before "Lockdown"](#)
- [2020: Advent Letter "Episcopate Stewardship & Accountability"](#)
- [2021: 153rd Diocesan Convention - 1st Virtual Format](#)
- [2022: 154th Convention - Virtual Format](#)
- [2023: 155th Convention - First Hybrid Format - Return to In-Person Saturday](#)
- [2024: 156th Convention](#)

In March of 2023, The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe (now Presiding Bishop), led our leadership retreat day and showed us a powerpoint presentation ([Bishop Rowe's PowerPoint](#)). Upon hearing about our Parousia

Vision document and all that proceeded from it, he advised us to audit these outcomes as a means of sharing more broadly the success of the strategy. The results of that audit can be found in narrative form in the Bishop's Eastertide 2023 Letter to the Diocese, "*A Review of God's Church Living in Renewal, Reimagination and Resurrection*" ([2023 Audit of Parousia Vision](#))

The Episcopal Church's 2023 Parochial Report, showed relative and significant improvement in the Diocese over the last eight years, reinforces the effectiveness of the Parousia Vision and the hard work of the Diocese of Easton's Parishes. ([TEC Parochial Report Average Pledge 2023](#)) ([TEC Parochial Report Baptized 2023](#)).

In 2024 under the leadership of Bishop Marray, recognizing that the Parousia Vision was entering its sunset years and near completion, the Diocese began shifting its eye toward the next Discernment and Visioning Process. At the last Convention in 2024, even while celebrating many of the success stories (See: [Convention 2024 Website](#) ; [The Living Church Article](#)), the Diocese also voted on a "[New Horizons Resolution](#)" to begin discerning what's next.

Now that Bishop San has released his [Retirement Letter](#), the Diocesan Council voted to table New Horizons in lieu of the Discernment Process. Regardless of the title, it is widely felt that the Diocese is primed for the next Vision.

With Sincere Gratitude and God's Blessing,

Bishop San