

## Statement of Continued Existence

Recently, parishes have been asking as to whether or not they need to file a Statement of Continued Existence (SCE) with the State of Ohio and is the SCE a real thing that has to be completed and paid for. The answer is yes, incorporated parishes must file a SCE with the State every 5 years (ORC 1702.59). What we have discovered is through a recent search of the State's business gateway is that several of our congregations have had their registration with the State cancelled some for years. If your registration has been cancelled, you must be reinstated.

You might be wondering whether the parish was notified. Yes, you were notified. The state sends the letter to the address of the Statutory Agent on Record. That may be the rector, senior warden, treasurer, or admin staff member depending on how it was set up. If that person listed their personal address, then it went to their house. This is a good time to clean up the Statutory Agent and change the address to the church that way in 5 years you will be sure to receive the letter.

What do you do? You can see the expiration of your registration if you search for your parish on the business gateway <https://businesssearch.ohiosos.gov/>. The difficulty is that you must use the name of how your church was incorporated. For instance, St. Philip's in Circleville was incorporated in 1833 in order to find the parish you must search "The Wardens and Vestry of St. Philips Church in Circleville." Sometimes you can get lucky searching using a partial listing but not always. Also, you might put in "St." and it is actually recorded as "Saint". It takes some digging because the search feature is not user friendly. Once you find your listing, check the expiration date and the Agent of Record. If you need to do some updating, then obtain form 522 (attached) and send in the fees. You can also do this online. If you have any questions, please call Rev. David Getreu, Associate for Financial Management & Oversight for the Diocese of Southern Ohio, cell (740) 474-4525 or email – [dgetreu@diosohio.org](mailto:dgetreu@diosohio.org).