

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI
Minutes of July 8, 2023 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Members attending:

Ms. Regina Berens
Cn. Shirley Bolden
The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, President
The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger
Ms. Zella Forsythe
Ms. Kate French
Mr. Mark Galus, Chancellor
The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson
The Very Rev. Robin James
The Rev. Steven King
Mr. Tom Kokjer, Treasurer
Mr. Phil Metz
Mr. Chris Morrison
Mr. Spencer Orr
~~Ms. Amanda Perschall~~
The Rev. Joe Pierjok
The Rev. Susan Roberts
Ms. Beverly Roggenkamp
Ms. Sally Scheid
~~Mr. David Schlomer~~
The Rev. Galen Snodgrass, Vice President
~~The Rev. John Spicer~~
The Rev. Donna Stanford, Secretary
Ms. Judy Turner
Mr. Ron Weil Jr.
Mr. Steven Williams

Also attending were the Rev. Larry Ehrens, member of the Standing Committee, and the Rev. Isaac Petty.

1. **Call to Order and Devotion.** Bishop Bruce determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Sally Scheid led Council in a devotion and opening prayer.
2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** The Rev. Galen Snodgrass moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Robin James, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:
 - a. Approve the June 17, 2023 Diocesan Council meeting minutes, as corrected (Diocesan Staff and Beginning Well participants met on Wednesday, June 14)

- b. Receive the following written reports
 - i. June 28, 2023 Executive Committee Minutes
 - ii. Stewardship Report

The motion carried.

3. Reports.

a. **The Treasurer and Finance Committee Report.** Treasurer Tom Kokjer reported that Financial asset prices are little changed from last month. Balanced portfolios (the Diocese's portfolio is at 60/40 stocks/bonds) are up 10% year to date. Revenues are higher than budgeted due to a 5.9% return on our investments with DFMS for the first quarter. Our expenses continue to run below budget mainly due to previous unfilled personnel positions. DFMS results for the first half of 2023 should be available at the August Diocesan Council meeting.

Regarding Diocesan Center maintenance, the Treasurer reported that, with a great amount of help from Nigel Jones from Grace & Holy Trinity, the Diocese had two recommended roofing companies inspect and recommend repairs to the Diocesan roof. JR & Co's bid of \$14,531 was accepted. They will be taking off about three feet of the tiles at the bottom of the roof and replacing the original water-resistant membrane which has disintegrated over time. They will also scrape off the tar that has been used in the past to try and patch the lead gutter over the years, then recoat with an acrylic coating that has an estimated life of twenty-five years.

The Treasurer also reported that an acrobat ant (not termite) problem was detected coming from the south side of the roof. ProPest came out and sprayed at no cost since we are existing customers. The roof repair should also block the hole the ants are currently using to prevent another infestation in the future.

The Rev. Susan Roberts moved, seconded by Ms. Sally Sheid, that the Treasurer and Finance Committee Report be accepted. **The motion carried.**

The Treasurer reported that Trinity Episcopal Church in Independence is raising funds for exterior repairs to their building, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The overall cost of the repairs is expected to be around \$245,000. Trinity recently contracted with Church Development, a professional consulting firm for church capital campaign fundraising, to determine how successful a capital campaign might be. Trinity has asked for a grant of \$10,000 to pay for the services of Church Development to help Trinity with its capital campaign and to research and write requests for grants from outside agencies. These funds would come out of the Congregational Development budget which is \$25,000 for 2023 and out of which no funds have been spent to date.

The Treasurer moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Tim Coppinger, that Diocesan Council approve a \$10,000 grant from the Congregational Development budget to Trinity Episcopal Church in Independence to pay for the services of Church Development to help Trinity with its capital campaign. **The motion carried**, with Mr. Steven Williams, a member of Trinity, recusing from the vote.

b. **The Bishop's Report.** Bishop Bruce reported that:

(1) The Rev. Charles Everson has accepted a call to become the rector of Church of the Atonement in Chicago, an Episcopal church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. He will leave St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Kansas City at the beginning of August. Father Charles has served as quarter-time Vocations Missioner for the Diocese. The Bishop will post that position. The Rev. Chas Marks will serve in that position in the interim.

(2) She is working on drafting a process for centralized grants and letters of credit for submission to Council within the next two weeks.

c. **The Vice-President's Report.** The Rev. Galen Snodgrass had no report.

d. **The Standing Committee Report.** The Rev. Larry Ehrens reported that:

(1) The Standing Committee has consented to the presbyteral ordinations of four individuals—Rev. Brittany Sparrow-Savage, the Rev. David Wilcox, the Rev. Ryan Williams, and the Rev. Ryan Zavacky—which ordinations will be held on Saturday, July 15, at 10:00 a.m. at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral.

(2) The Standing Committee has entered into a contract effective July 3, 2023, with the Rev. Brian Nordwick as Bishop Search Consultant. The Committee's next focus will be to form and have in place by the November 2023 Diocesan Convention a Bishop Search Committee of fifteen to eighteen people. The Standing Committee projects that it may have candidates selected by the 2024 Diocesan Convention.

e. **Secretary's Report.** The Secretary reported that a Testimonial of Change in Deputation was submitted to the General Convention Office to add the Rev. Joe Pierjok as Clergy Alternate 4, and to change the Chair/Lead Deputy from the Rev. Anne Kyle to Ms. Amanda Perschall.

f. **Deanery Reports.** The Rev. Isaac Petty referred Council to the written summary of feedback from June Deanery meetings included in the Council meeting packet and facilitated Council's discussion of the issues raised.

4. Old Business.

a. Finance sub-committees

- i. Assessment. The Rev. Isaac Petty reported that the Assessment sub-committee had received and reviewed fifty-four assessment formulas from other dioceses. The Finance Committee will be looking at the formulas at its meeting next week and will provide more information at Council's August meeting.
- ii. Budget. Plan for Ministry 2024
 - (1) Media Production. The Bishop reported that she has asked Diocesan Communications Director Zach Phillips to develop for the 2023 Diocesan Convention a media production highlighting Council's agreed-upon philosophy of investing in congregations.
- iii. Compensation.
 - (1) Compensation analysis. The Bishop referred Council to the detailed report comparing the Diocese of West Missouri with other dioceses as to components of compensation. The Compensation sub-committee is continuing to study compensation issues.

5. New Business

- a. The Bishop reported that the furniture from the Springfield apartment will be moved to the Diocesan Center the beginning of August at a cost of \$1,900, charged to the Bishop Transition line item in the budget.
- b. Diocesan Finance Administrator Ron Weil reported that the Diocese received an unrestricted gift from the Carolyn Phelps Estate Pooled Income Fund. The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson moved that the funds be deposited into the Expansion Fund. After discussion, the Rev. Joe Pierjok proposed a substitute motion, seconded by the Rev. Galen Snodgrass, that the \$10,000 gift from the Carolyn Phelps Estate be deposited into the Rust Fund, which has a rural ministry focus. A vote on whether the substitute motion would become the main motion was taken and approved. A vote on the current main motion on the floor was taken. **The motion carried.**

6. **Adjournment.** The Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by the Rev. Galen Snodgrass, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion carried,** and the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary