

**THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**  
**FINAL Corrected** Minutes of June 17, 2023 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, June 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 706 Byers Avenue, Joplin, Missouri. 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. Deacon Donna Stanford, Secretary  
Ms. Judy Turner  
~~Mr. Ron Weil Jr.~~  
~~Mr. Steven Williams~~

Also attending were the Rev. Ted Estes, 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. The Rev. Donna Stanford led Council in a devotion and opening prayer.

**2. Consent Agenda Adoption.** The Very Rev. Robin James moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:

- a. Approve the May 13, 2023 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
- b. Receive the following written reports

- i. May 31, 2023 Executive Committee Minutes
- ii. Spiritual Formation Report
- iii. Diversity & Reconciliation Commission Report
- iv. Communications Committee 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 (which ours is at 60/40 stocks/bonds) are up 6% year to date. Our expenses continue to run below budget mainly due to previous unfilled personnel positions. The Finance Committee temporarily increased the Youth Minister credit card limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to better align with seasonal expenditures.

The Treasurer reported that the Standing Committee has engaged a consultant vetted by The Episcopal Church USA as we initiate the bishop search process. It is estimated that the cost will be around \$5,000, which will be funded from our Bishop Transition Fund.

The Treasurer also reported that the Assessment Review Committee had its initial meeting for 2023 on June 6 with Fr. Isaac Petty as chair. In addition to assessment relief requests, this year the committee will be reviewing our assessment formula for 2024.

The Treasurer advised that the Finance Committee reviewed the May 2023 Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Activities, and Operating Revenue and Expense Report. Rev. Jackson moved, seconded by Rev. Galen Snodgrass, that the financial reports be approved as presented. **The motion carried.**

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

- (1) The roof of the Diocesan Center needs repair, and a bid of \$14,000 had been received. After discussion, by common consent, Council authorized an expenditure of up to \$18,000 for roof repair.
- (2) The Diocesan Center needs termite extermination and repair. After discussion, it was agreed that bids will be obtained and action will be taken at Council's July meeting.
- (3) On Wednesday, June 14, twelve newly ordained people from Beginning Well met with Diocesan Staff for lunch and a Diocesan Center building tour. The Rev. Steven King reported that a Beginning Well fall retreat is planned.
- (4) On June 2, the Bishop publicly announced that Diocesan Communications Director Gary Allman had resigned effective June 30, 2023, after a nine-year tenure. Zach Phillips will be assuming the role of Communications

Director effective July 1. Rather than hiring an assistant, Communications funds will be used to pay for building a new Diocesan website. After discussion, it was agreed that, in the future, the Bishop will inform Council before a public announcement is made in such circumstances.

- (5) All staff performance plans are in place and in the personnel files; they will be reviewed in October/November.
- (6) Information regarding ordinands will be placed in files.
- (7) Loretta Berkenmier from St. Paul's, KC, has volunteered to help smaller churches with their books of account. Ron Weil and Elaine Gilligan will work with Ms. Berkenmier before she performs any work.
- (8) The Diocesan Center needs a deep cleaning. Currently, \$240/month is spent on cleaning performed one hour per week. After discussion, it was agreed that the matter will be considered at Council's July meeting.
- (9) The Standing Committee has approved the ordinations of four individuals, who will be led in a retreat by the Rev. Charles Everson at St. Paul's in Clinton.
- (10) Saint Luke's Health System of Kansas City and BJC HealthCare of St. Louis have signed a non-binding letter of intent to merge. The Bishop has been assured that St. Luke's clinical pastoral education program and Spiritual Wellness will not change, as both entities will maintain their separate identities.
- (11) On May 20, the Bishop attended the consecration of the Rev. Matthew Heyd as bishop coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.
- (12) The Bishop will spend the week of June 26 working from home in California.

c. **The Vice-President's Report.** The Rev. Galen Snodgrass submitted his report by title. Father Galen thanked the Bishop for encouraging discipleship, as she has visited every parish at least once, introduced new services in numerous locations, baptizing and confirming, and is talking-up the Diocese of West Missouri to those she meets outside our diocesan boundaries.

d. **The Standing Committee Report.** The Rev. Ted Estes reported that the Standing Committee interviewed three candidates and selected one as the consultant to assist in the search for a diocesan bishop. He requested that Council authorize Standing Committee President, the Rev. John Spicer, to negotiate and sign a contract on behalf of the Diocese in connection with the Standing Committee's canonical obligations for the diocesan bishop search. Father Ted reported that \$280,000 is reserved in the budget for the search. Father Ted also reported that the Standing Committee is coordinating with the Commission on Ministry, which is moving to a cohort format for the ordination process. The Standing Committee has consented to four ordinations. The Standing Committee also considered and declined to consent to the election of the Rev. Charlie Holt as bishop coadjutor to succeed retiring Bishop John Howard of the Diocese of Florida.

e. **Secretary's Report.** The Secretary had no report.

#### 4. **Old Business.**

- a. Springfield apartment – termination of lease. The Bishop reported that she is considering moving the Springfield apartment's Ethan Allen living room furniture to the Diocesan Office. Christ Church, Springfield, has suggested donating the remaining furniture to refugee families moving into the area. After discussion, it was agreed that the Rev. Ron Keel will assess the value of the remaining furniture and, if valuable, sell it and use the proceeds to buy furniture for more than one refugee family.
- b. Finance sub-committees
  - i. Assessment. The Rev. Isaac Petty reported that the Assessment sub-committee had its first meeting. The sub-committee has reviewed 54 assessment formulas from other dioceses, and the sub-committee's goal is to present three or four assessment models and proposed assessments at Council's July meeting.
  - ii. Budget. Father Isaac requested feedback from the Deans on the expense side of the working draft of the 2024 budget. The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson, Dean of the Southern Deanery, reported that he received feedback regarding cutting the funding of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks. The Very Rev. Robin James, Dean of the Northwest-Metro Deanery, received feedback regarding the shift in grants to centralized rather than Deanery control. Father Isaac reported that the expense side of the working draft of the 2024 budget is currently \$2.6 million. After discussion, it was agreed that for the August Deanery meetings, the expense side of the working draft of the budget will have an explanation of what each line item pays for.
  - iii. Compensation. Bishop Diane reported that a meeting is scheduled for June 27, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. to further discuss compensation.

#### 5. **New Business**

- a. Delegation of authority to Standing Committee. After discussion, Amanda Perschall moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson, that the Chancellor add a clause to the proposed resolution delegating authority to the Standing Committee that the Standing Committee will make a monthly report to Council on its activities and expenditures relating to its canonical obligations for the search, nomination, transition, and election processes for a Bishop Diocesan.  
**The motion carried.**

- b. The Rev. Galen Snodgrass moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson, that the following amended resolution to delegate permission for Standing Committee President to execute agreements be adopted:

Resolution of the Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri  
Delegation to Standing Committee President to Execute Agreements

Whereas, the Standing Committee is canonically charged with the “oversight of, and responsibility for, any search, nomination, transition, and election processes” for a Bishop Diocesan; and

Whereas, to fulfill its canonical obligations, the Standing Committee will be required to enter into various contracts and agreements on behalf of the Diocese; and

Whereas, the Bishop generally has the responsibility to execute contracts and agreements on behalf of the Diocese except where the Diocesan Council expressly delegates such authority some other officer or agent of the Diocese; and

Whereas, it would be appropriate for the Standing Committee President to execute various contracts and agreements on behalf of the Diocese to help fulfill the Standing Committee’s canonical obligations for the Bishop Diocesan Search; therefore

Be it resolved that the Diocesan Council delegates to the Standing Committee President the authority to enter into various contracts and agreements on behalf of the Diocese in connection with the Standing Committee’s canonical obligations for the Bishop Diocesan Search, effective through the date on which the Bishop Diocesan is consecrated.

Be it further resolved that the Standing Committee President shall report monthly at Diocesan Council meetings on the Standing Committee’s activities and expenditures relating to its canonical obligations for the search, nomination, transition, and election processes for a Bishop Diocesan.

**The motion carried.**

6. **Adjournment.** The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson moved, seconded by Amanda Perschall, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion carried**, and the meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Donna Stanford, Diocesan Secretary