

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI
CORRECTED DRAFT Minutes of September 9, 2023 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, September 9, 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

The Rev. Isaac Petty also attended.

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. Steven King led Council in a devotion and opening prayer.

2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** Fr. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Beverly Roggenkamp, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:

- a. Approve the August 12, 2023 Diocesan Council meeting minutes with one correction (on page 4, typographical error in date of proposed Plan for Ministry with \$43,000 deficit corrected from 2014 to 2024)

- b. Receive the following written reports
 - i. August 30, 2023 Executive Committee Minutes
 - ii. September 9, 2023 Peace and Justice Committee Report
 - iii. September 9, 2023 Treasurer's Report

The motion carried.

3. Reports.

- a. **The Finance Committee Report.** Mr. Ron Weil, Diocesan Finance Administrator, reviewed the Operating Revenue and Expense Report for the month ending August 31, 2023. Chris Morrison moved, seconded by Kate French, that the Report be accepted as presented. **The motion carried.**

- b. **The Bishop's Report.** Bishop Bruce reported as follows:
 - i. The Springfield apartment has been closed out. The Bishop thanked Christ Church, Springfield, for its assistance.
 - ii. The creation of packets for diocesan commission and committee onboarding and training is underway.
 - iii. Going forward, Diocesan Council will be receiving reports from other diocesan groups on a regular basis.
 - iv. The Bishop received a clean bill of health from her physicians.
 - v. Please RSVP to Emily Davenport, Bishop's Assistant, regarding attendance at Diocesan Council meetings.
 - vi. The Bishop spent much of her vacation addressing church issues recently in the news: House of Deputies President Julia Ayala Harris revealed on August 30 that she had filed a complaint against an unnamed retired bishop alleging he sexually harassed her in July 2022 at the 80th General Convention, which case ended in a "pastoral response" but no discipline for the bishop; and the resignation of the Rt. Rev. Prince Singh on September 8 as bishop provisional of the dioceses of Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan, the day after he was restricted in his ordained ministry amid a disciplinary investigation into domestic abuse allegations by his two sons and ex-wife.
 - vii. The Diocesan Secretary and the Bishop's Assistant will prepare the Diocesan Council schedule for 2024, including meeting locations and a sign-up sheet for volunteers for devotions/opening prayers for each meeting.
 - viii. The Rev. Marty Byer passed away this morning.

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

- d. **The Standing Committee Report.** The Rev. John Spicer, President of the Standing Committee, reported:
 - i. The application period for search, transition, and consecration committees has begun. To date 30 responses have been received, broken down as follows: 16 lay, 5 deacons, 9 priests; 13 from Northwest-Metro Deanery, 11 from Southern Deanery, 6 from Central Deanery; 24 had search committee as first choice, 12 had transition committee as first choice, 9 had consecration committee as first choice.
 - ii. The Standing Committee has drafted a resolution regarding bishop election rules for the 2024 convention.
 - iii. No expenses have been incurred to date regarding the bishop search process.
- e. **The Diocesan Secretary's Report.** The Secretary had no report.
- f. **Deanery Reports.**
 - Central Deanery.** The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger, Dean, had no report.
 - Northwest-Metro Deanery.** The Very Rev. Robin James, Dean, had no report.
 - Southern Deanery.** The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson, Dean, reported that the Southern Deanery Council was working through the material presented regarding the diocesan budget process, clergy compensation, and the revised grant process.

4. Old Business

- a. **2024 Plan for Ministry update.** Diocesan Finance Administrator Ron Weil reported on changes proposed by the Finance Committee at its September 5, 2023 meeting to the 2024 budget (which had a \$51,754 deficit) approved at the August 12, 2023 Diocesan Council meeting. The proposed changes were: increases in line items for property insurance and utilities; reductions in line items for assessment underfunding, children's ministry, clergy travel, curacy program, IT & S costs, and legal fees. The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson moved, seconded by Phil Metz, that the recommended adjustments be approved. **The motion carried.**

Ron Weil also recommended that the \$27,500 line item for area bookkeepers be reduced by \$7,500, which action would result in a budget surplus. Fr. Galen Snodgrass moved, seconded by Fr. John Spicer, that the \$27,500 line item for area bookkeepers be reduced by \$7,500. **The motion carried.**

Fr. Isaac Petty reported that he will draft a revised narrative budget for Diocesan Council's October meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Steven Williams moved, seconded by Fr. Galen Snodgrass, to adjourn. **The motion carried**, and the meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary