

**THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**  
Minutes of April 1, 2023 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in Carthage, Missouri. Members attending:

Ms. Regina Berens  
Cn. Shirley Bolden  
The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, President  
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 Very Rev. Isaac Petty  
The Rev. Joe Pierjok  
~~Cn. David Powell, Associate Chancellor~~  
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 was the Rev. Ted Estes.

1. **Call to Order and Devotion.** Bishop Bruce called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Mark Galus led Council in an opening prayer and a devotion based on the Gospel According to Mark.

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

- a. Receive the following written reports:
  - i. Campus ministry
  - ii. Communications
- b. Receive the following minutes from the Four Pillars of Mission meetings:
  - i. Forming Disciples
  - ii. Proclaiming the Good News
  - iii. Serving Others

- iv. Striving for Justice

**The motion carried.**

**3. Reports.**

**a. The Treasurer and Finance Committee Report.**

- i. Mr. Tom Kokjer, Treasurer, addressed the March 2023 failure of two large U.S. banks with significant exposure to the technology sector or to cryptocurrency, while another entered liquidation under financial distress. Mr. Kokjer reported that the standard federal deposit insurance amount is \$250,000 per depositor, per insured bank, for each account ownership category and that the Diocese's deposit at Commerce Bank is within that covered amount.
- ii. Mr. Ron Weil reviewed the Operating Revenue and Expense Report for the month ending February 28, 2023. Chancellor Galus reminded Council that annual audits are required by the Canons of The Episcopal Church for all parishes, missions, and other institutions.
- iii. The Very Rev. Isaac Petty reviewed the Detailed Budget Timeline for the 2024 Diocesan Budget.

**b. The Bishop's Report.** Bishop Bruce reported on

- i. going to California to see family;
- ii. conducting one-on-one staff performance plan reviews;
- iii. receiving a clean bill of health from her physicians;
- iv. inviting Archdeacon Bruce Bower to accompany her on visitations;
- v. planning a vacation to Portugal April 12-24;
- vi. Holy Week commitments throughout the Diocese;
- vii. Juneteenth commemorations, including a visitation at St. Augustine's on June 18; Cn. Shirley Bolden reported that a commemoration will be held on Monday, June 19 at Park Central in Springfield, Missouri, from noon to 2:00 p.m.
- viii. attending House of Bishops meeting in Alabama and going to lynching museum in Montgomery;
- ix. planning to co-lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land February 20-March 3, 2025.

**c. The Vice-President's Report.** The Rev. Galen Snodgrass reported that all Pillar Groups have met at least once.

**d. The Standing Committee Report.**

- i. The Rev. John Spicer reported that within 120 days the Standing Committee will consider the Diocese of Florida's formal request for consent to the election of the Rev. Charlie Holt as bishop coadjutor to succeed retiring Bishop John Howard.
- ii. Father Spicer also reported that the Standing Committee has consulted with Bishop Todd Ousley, Bishop for the Office of Pastoral Development, regarding starting the process for the nomination and election of a diocesan bishop, with a tentative target date for election of November 2024.

**e. Secretary's Report.**

- i. The Rev. Deacon Donna Stanford reported that correspondence was received from Episcopal Relief and Development thanking the Diocese for its gift of \$1,000, which was applied to the Ukraine Crises Response Program Area.
- ii. The Secretary also reported that devotion leaders were needed for the May 13 and July 8 Council meetings. The Rev. Joe Pierjok agreed to be devotion leader on May 13, and Ms. Sally Sheid agreed to be devotion leader on July 8.

**4. Old Business.**

a. Finance sub-committees.

- i. Budget. Council members requested clarification regarding the responsibilities of the Four Pillars of Mission groups in the Diocesan budget process. It was agreed that each Pillar group had the responsibility to match budget requests received with the Pillar group's priorities.

The Very Rev. Isaac Petty led the Council in reviewing each of the budget items submitted and assigning each item to a Pillar group for review. Each Pillar group will review the items assigned to that group and rank the items in terms of importance, urgency, value, along with budget recommendations. The Pillar groups will submit their recommendations by May 1 to Father Petty. The Finance Committee will review all items related to Administration. The Pillar group recommendations will be compiled and will be reviewed by Council at its May 13 meeting.

The Very Rev. Robin James moved, seconded by the Rev. Susan Roberts, that Father Petty continue to assist in the 2024 budgeting process after the conclusion of his membership on Council as Dean of the Central Deanery. **The motion carried** with 1 no vote and 1 abstention.

- ii. Assessment. The Bishop invited Council members to consider volunteering to serve with Father Petty and Father Pierjok on the Assessment sub-committee.
- iii. Compensation. The Bishop invited Council members to consider volunteering to serve with Dean Jackson, Treasurer Kokjer, and the members of the Human Relations Committee on the Compensation sub-committee.

b. Human Resources and Transitions.

- i. The Bishop reported that two persons have been interviewed for the Communications Director position and a choice will be made soon.
- ii. The Bishop also reported that the Rev. David Wilcox has been called as the new Missioner for Youth Ministry beginning on June 1, 2023.
- iii. The Bishop further reported on the following transitions within the Diocese:
  - the Rev. Christy Dorn to St. Peter's, Harrisonville;
  - the Rev. John McCann to Christ Church, St. Joseph.

**5. Adjournment.** The Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by the Rev. Galen Snodgrass, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion carried**, and the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, The Rev. Deacon Donna Stanford, Diocesan Secretary