

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI
DRAFT Minutes of May 13, 2023 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, May 13, 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. Deacon Donna Stanford, Secretary
Ms. Judy Turner
Mr. Ron Weil Jr.
Mr. Steven Williams

Also attending were Ms. Marsha Patterson, 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. Joe Pierjok led Council in an opening prayer.

2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson moved, seconded by The Rev. Galen Snodgrass, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:
 - a. Approve the April 1, 2023 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
 - b. Receive the following written reports:
 - i. Communications
 - ii. May 3, 2023 Executive Committee Minutes
 - iii. Spiritual Formation Report
 - iv. Stewardship Report

The motion carried.

3. Reports.

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

- i. Mr. Ron Weil reviewed the Operating Revenue and Expense Report for the month ending April 30, 2023. It was moved and seconded that the Report be approved as presented. **The motion carried.**

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

- i. the Rev. David Wilcox, the new Missioner for Youth Ministry, will begin work on May 22, 2023, rather than June 1, 2023. He will accompany diocesan youth to several youth events this summer;
- ii. except for the Bishop's Assistant, all one-on-one staff reviews have been conducted, with job descriptions and performance plans created;
- iii. she enjoyed her river cruise vacation to Portugal April 12-24;
- iv. she, along with Cn. Shirley Bolden and the Rev. Rita Kendagor, will attend the annual gathering of the Union of Black Episcopalians;
- v. in 2024, the diocese may host 50 lay and clergy members for a conference of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI);
- vi. she is 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 had no report.

d. **The Standing Committee Report.**

- i. Ms. Marsha Patterson reported that the Standing Committee has consulted with Bishop Todd Ousley, Bishop for the Office of Pastoral Development, regarding the process for the nomination and election of a diocesan bishop. The Committee has scheduled three interviews in the coming week for a consultant to guide the Committee in the search and transition process.
- ii. Ms. Patterson also reported that the Standing Committee considered 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 and voted not to consent. The Bishop reported that she also withheld consent.

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

4. Old Business.

a. Finance sub-committees.

- i. Assessment. The Bishop reported that this sub-committee has not started meeting.
- ii. Compensation. This sub-committee has met, and the Bishop requested that they meet again for further discussion.
- iii. Budget. Fr. Isaac Petty led Council in reviewing the "2024 Budget – Expenses Only Draft 1" spreadsheet. Discussions resulted in the following actions with regard to the figures in the "Group Recommendations" column:

How We Serve Others:

Fr. Joe Pierjok moved that: (1) proposal numbers 23 (CCO) and 29 (Nourish KC) be reduced to \$15,000 each, and the \$30,000 funds saved added to the centralized grant committee for outreach; and (b) proposal number 41 (St. Luke's Carthage) be reduced to zero. The motion was seconded. **The motion carried**, with 2 no votes and 1 abstention.

How We Spread the Good News:

Fr. Joe Pierjok moved that proposal number 4 (Canon for Common Mission) be reduced to zero. The motion was seconded. **The motion carried**, with 1 no vote.

Fr. Steven King moved that proposals numbered 6 (Curacy Program), 11 (Hispanic Ministry – South), 34 (Communications), and 38 (New Community Ministries) be fully funded. The motion was seconded. **The motion carried.**

Mtr. Robin James moved that proposal number 5 (Shared Ministry Developers) be reduced to \$50,000, with the understanding that parishes with multiple priests and clergy on the supply clergy list will make a commitment to rural congregations to celebrate the Eucharist with those congregations at least once per month. The motion was seconded. **The motion carried**, with 2 no votes.

The Bishop moved that proposal number 38 (New Community Ministries) be reduced to \$50,000. The motion was seconded. **The motion carried.**

How We Form Disciples:

Fr. Joe Pierjok moved that proposals numbered 18 (Clergy Retreats), 22 (Clergy Continuing Education), 30 (Cursillo), 45 (Stewardship Committee), and 51 (Daughters of the King) be fully funded. The motion was seconded. **The motion carried.**

Fr. Chandler Jackson moved that proposals 17 (Vocations) and 19 (Congregational Development/Transitions) be fully funded. The motion was seconded. **The motion carried.**

Fr. Joe Pierjok moved that proposal 46 (Youth Ministry) be fully funded. The motion was seconded. **The motion carried.**

Ms. Amanda Perschall moved that funding for the following proposals be reduced to eliminate funding for hiring new staff:

proposals 16, 24, 44 (Campus Ministry) funded at	\$8,000
proposal 35 (Children's Ministry) funded at	\$25,000
proposal 47 (Spiritual Formation) funded at	\$22,000

The motion was seconded. **The motion carried.**

How We Strive For Justice:

Fr. Chandler Jackson moved that proposals 1 (LGBTQIA+ Committee), 20 (Peace & Justice Committee), 21 (Diversity & Reconciliation), 48 (Ecumenical Relations Commission), and 53 (Access for All God's Children) be fully funded. The motion was seconded. **The motion carried.**

How We Support the Four Pillars:

Fr. Joe Pierjok moved that all of the line items under this section be fully funded except that proposal number 49 (Diocesan Archives) be funded as requested at \$9,586. The motion was seconded. **The motion carried,** with 1 abstention.

5. New Business.

- a. The Bishop presented the Council with a letter requesting that the lease on the Springfield apartment be terminated when the lease expires on September 16, 2023. The apartment is a third-story walk-up in an unsecured building and costs the diocese approximately \$12,000 per year. The furnishings may be sold or gifted.

Mtr. Robin James moved that the diocese terminate the lease on the Springfield apartment when the lease expires on September 16, 2023, with the 60-day notice of termination/non-renewal given in July. The motion was seconded. **The motion carried.**

- b. Fr. Joe Pierjok moved that the following resolution be adopted to authorize a parsonage exclusion for the Rev. David Wilcox:

Whereas, The Diocese of West Missouri ("Diocese") will be employing the Rev. Dcn. David Wilcox ("Deacon Wilcox") to provide ministerial services, effective May 22, 2023; and

Whereas, the Diocese does not provide housing to Deacon Wilcox; and

Whereas, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a clergy person to exclude from gross income (in computing federal income taxes) a designated allowance paid to a clergy person as part of their compensation (the "Parsonage Exclusion") to the extent such funds are used by the clergy person for actual expenses in owning or renting a home (including furnishings, utilities, and maintenance); and

Whereas, the Parsonage Exclusion must be authorized by the governing body of the clergy person's employer; therefore

Be it resolved that the Diocese, as the employer of Deacon Wilcox, through the Diocesan Council, its Board of Directors, hereby authorizes a Parsonage Exclusion for Deacon Wilcox in the amount of \$16,000 for the remaining portion of calendar year 2023.

The motion was seconded. **The motion carried.**

- c. Considering the current increase in expenses to maintain building and utility costs in the diocesan office, the Finance Committee moved that the current cost share of office space from our tenant, ELCA, be increased 10% from \$2,000 per month to \$2,200 per month.
The motion carried.

6. **Adjournment.** Ms. Sally Sheid moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion carried,** and the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary