

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI
Minutes of October 14, 2023 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, October 14, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 9349 E 65th St., Raytown, 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. Donna Stanford, Secretary
Ms. Judy Turner
Mr. Ron Weil Jr.
~~Mr. Steven Williams~~

The Rev. Isaac Petty also attended. The Rev. Jeffrey Hurst, Priest-In-Charge, and Ms. Zella Forsythe, welcomed Council members to St. Matthew's.

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. Canon Shirley Bolden led Council in a devotion and opening prayer.

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

- a. Approve the September 8, 2023 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
- b. Receive the following written reports

- i. July 27, 2023 Spiritual Formation Commission Report
- ii. October 4, 2023 Executive Committee Minutes
- ii. October 9, 2023 Stewardship Commission Report
- iii. October 14, 2023 Diversity and Reconciliation Commission Report

The motion carried.

3. Reports.

- a. **Treasurer and Finance Committee Report.** Treasurer Tom Kokjer reported that financial asset prices are down slightly from last month. Blended portfolios like that of the Diocese are up about 11% year to date and 7% year over year. The Diocese continues to operate ahead of budget in 2023. Diocesan Finance Administrator Ron Weil reviewed the operating revenue and expense report. Ron reviewed the statement of financial position and reported that the Diocese's cash position is sufficiently liquid to meet our regular operating expenses. He also reported on the commencement of repairs to the Diocesan Center roof. Beverly Roggenkamp moved, seconded by Fr. Galen Snodgrass, that the Treasurer and Finance Committee Report be accepted as presented. **The motion carried.**

The Treasurer reported that a recent \$2,700 roof repair (not insurance related) was made at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Trenton. The Treasurer, on behalf of the Finance Committee, moved that Diocesan Council approve the use of Congregational Development funds to pay retroactively for this repair. **The motion carried.**

The Treasurer and the Finance Administrator reported that Christ Episcopal Church, St. Joseph, has requested a loan for roof and gutter repair (\$9,420) and for construction of a hospitality area (\$2,575). The Very Rev. Robin James moved, on behalf of the Finance Committee, that Diocesan Council approve a \$15,000 line of credit to be paid back over 36 months for the work proposed. **The motion carried.**

The Treasurer reported that the Assessment Review Committee met on October 12 to review two requests for assessment relief.

The Treasurer moved, on behalf of the Assessment Review Committee, that Diocesan Council grant \$16,915 in assessment relief to St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Belton. After discussion, **the motion carried.**

The Treasurer moved, on behalf of the Assessment Review Committee, that Diocesan Council grant \$11,781 in assessment relief to Grace Episcopal Church, Liberty. After discussion, **the motion carried.** The Very Rev. Robin James, rector of Grace Episcopal Church, abstained.

The Treasurer and the Finance Administrator reported that the Diocese received an unqualified opinion or a “clean” financial audit report for the year ending December 31, 2022. The Treasurer moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson, that the audit be accepted. **The motion carried.**

- b. **The Bishop’s Report.** Bishop Bruce reported as follows:
- (1) The Bishop’s Convention sermon and address has been written for translation in advance of Convention since no interpreters will be at Convention.
 - (2) The Bishop’s visitations are going well, except that her visitation scheduled for October 15 has been cancelled due to illness.
 - (3) The Clergy Fall Gathering held at Conception Abbey on October 8-11 was a success.
 - (4) The new form for remarriage after divorce is finished and will be on the Diocesan website next week.
 - (5) Communications Director Zach Phillips and the Communications Committee are planning to launch the new Diocesan website before Convention.
 - (6) The Bishop will conduct staff reviews in December.
 - (7) Ordinations have been scheduled as follows:
 - diaconal ordinations – third Saturday in January
 - presbyteral ordinations – third Saturday in July
- 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 that the members of the Bishop Search Committee (Regina Berens, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Belton; Hayley Cobb, Christ Church, Springfield; Minda Cox, St. Alban’s Church, Boliver; Curtis Hamilton, Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City; Cosette Hardwick, Christ Church, St. Joseph; the Rev. Rita Kendagor, St. Andrew’s Church, Kansas City; Dr. Victor Matthews, St. John’s Church, Springfield; Amanda Perschall, Trinity Church, Lebanon; the Rev. Isaac Petty, St. James Church, Springfield, the Rev. Susan Roberts, St. Luke’s Health System, Kansas City; the Rev. Brock Slabach, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Belton; the Rev. John Spicer, St. Andrew’s Church, Kansas City; the Rev. Kim Taube, Christ Church, Boonville) and the committee chair (the Rev. Steven King, St. Paul’s Church, Kansas City) had been chosen, as well as the co-chairs of the Transition Committee (Canon Shirley Bolden, St. Augustine’s, Kansas City; the Rev. Collin Larimore, Grace Church, Carthage), and the co-chairs of the Consecration Committee (the Rev. Adam James, St. Andrew’s Church, Kansas City; the Rev. Barbara Wegener, Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City). Applications for membership on the Transition and Consecration Committees will be received until December 31. The Search Committee members, co-chairs of the Transition and

Consecration Committees, and the consultants engaged by the Standing Committee will meet on retreat November 17 and 18. The diocesan profile will be due in February 2024.

Fr. Spicer also called on Council members to read the Standing Committee's proposed resolution regarding the Bishop election process prior to Convention.

Fr. Spicer reminded Council members that the mutual ministry review will be conducted at the December 9 Diocesan Council meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that the meeting will be held in person at Grace Episcopal Church, Carthage. Outgoing, incoming, and continuing Standing Committee members will be invited to attend.

- e. **The Diocesan Secretary's Report.** The Secretary reported that the International Outreach Grant Committee had awarded two matching grants:
 - St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Excelsior Springs, requested \$227 to Episcopal Relief and Development to eradicate hunger related to the Turkey and Syrian earthquake disaster;
 - St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Ozark, requested \$1,000 to the Marion Medical Mission to provide clean, potable water in sub-Saharan Africa.

f. **Deanery Reports.**

Northwest-Metro Deanery. The Very Rev. Robin James, Dean, reported that the Deanery will meet October 28 via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. to elect a Dean and to consider resolutions and the 2024 Plan for Ministry. Clericus will meet before the Deanery meeting at 9:00 a.m. The Dean reported on the Clergy Fall Gathering at Conception Abbey.

Southern Deanery. The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson, Dean, reported that the Deanery will meet October 28 at 11:00 a.m. in person at Christ Church, Springfield, with a similar agenda.

4. Old Business

- a. Finance Sub-Committees
 - i. Budget (Plan for Ministry 2024). The Bishop called on the Rev. Isaac Petty to present the 2024 Diocesan Budget draft for presentation at Convention. Fr. Petty reported that the final budget documents will be a narrative budget and a spreadsheet. He invited feedback on the documents presented to Council.

Council requested clarification of the language on page 4 of the narrative budget regarding Property Maintenance, which clarification Fr. Petty will draft.

On page 9 of the narrative budget, Council discussed separating out the Bishop's hospitality expenses from the Bishop's travel expenses. The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson moved, seconded by the Rev. Susan Roberts, that the narrative budget for Bishop Provisional personnel cost be amended to provide \$18,000 for Bishop travel, both within and outside of the diocese, and \$5,000 for Bishop hospitality expenses. **The motion carried.**

On page 5 of the narrative budget, \$10,000 was allocated for Clergy Retreats. The Very Rev. Robin James moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson, that that line item be increased to \$12,000. **The motion carried.**

Fr. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Spencer Orr, that the dollar amounts and narrative descriptions in the 2024 Plan for Ministry be approved. **The motion carried.**

5. New Business

- a. Courtesy resolutions. The Rev. Joe Pierjok reviewed proposed courtesy resolutions and asked that courtesy resolution requests be submitted prior to Convention.
- b. Grant request form (draft). The Bishop asked that feedback on the draft grant request form be sent to the Bishop's Executive Assistant Emily Davenport.
- c. Diocesan Center network upgrade proposal. Finance Administrator Ron Weil reported that after network audits, it was concluded that the network is in dire need of an upgrade. The current hardware is outdated, is limiting the network, and demonstrates potential security risks. Bryan Davenport proposes installing a Cisco Meraki network, which would include: one 24-port switch; two access points; one security appliance. This equipment will come with a 5-year license. The cost: hardware \$7,943.62; installation \$1,500. After discussion, it was agreed that at least one additional bid should be obtained.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Rev. Susan Roberts moved, seconded by Beverly Roggenkamp, to adjourn. **The motion carried,** and the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary