

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI
Minutes of January 12, 2024 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, January 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Members attending:

Ms. Regina Berens
Cn. Shirley Bolden
Ms. Anne Breid
The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, President
Ms. Hayley Cobb
~~The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger, Dean of the Central Deanery~~
~~Ms. Zella Forsythe~~
Ms. Kate French
The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Dean of the Southern Deanery
The Rev. Steven King
Mr. Tom Kokjer, Treasurer
The Very Rev. Jean Long, Dean of the Northwest Metro Deanery
Mr. Phil Metz
Mr. Chris Morrison
Mr. Spencer Orr
Ms. Amanda Perschall
The Rev. Joe Pierjok
Cn. David Powell, Vice Chancellor
Mr. Eric Rhodes, President of the Standing Committee
The Rev. Susan Roberts
~~Ms. Beverly Roggenkamp~~
The Rev. Galen Snodgrass
The Rev. Donna Stanford, Secretary
Ms. Judith Turner, President of Episcopal Church Women
Mr. Steven Williams

Mr. Ron Weil Jr., Diocesan Finance Administrator, 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. Ms. Amanda Perschall led Council in a devotion and opening prayer.

2. Consent Agenda Adoption. The Rev. Susan Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:

- a. Approval of December 9, 2023 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
- b. Receipt of written reports
 - i. Missioner for Youth Ministry
 - ii. Commission on Ministry

The motion carried.

3. Reports.

- a. Deanery Reports
 - i. Central Deanery had no report.
 - ii. Northwest-Metro Deanery. The Very Rev. Jean Long, Dean, reported that clericus and council will meet soon and that the Deanery plans to revise its bylaws.
 - iii. Southern Deanery. The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson, Dean, reported that clericus will be held on January 16 at St. James in Springfield.

- b. Standing Committee Report

Mr. Eric Rhodes, President, reported that the Standing Committee consented to the election of the Rev. Austin K. Rios as bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of California. The Standing Committee will choose the members of the Transition and Consecration Committees soon. The Bishop Search listening sessions are ongoing, and the process is proceeding in accordance with the published timeline. To date, there has been \$9,804.85 in expenditures from the Bishop Search budget.

- c. Bishop Search Committee Report

The Rev. Steven King, Chair, reported that four listening sessions have been completed. The survey has been released to the diocese, and thirty-five responses were received over four or five days. The general framework of the profile has begun. The Bishop Search Committee is meeting weekly and communicating to the diocese on a weekly basis for transparency. The listening session scheduled for Mountain Grove has been moved to January 17 at 5:00 p.m. due to weather. Registration for listening sessions is on the Bishop Search website; full participation in the process is attendance at a listening session and completion of the survey, all of which will end February 3.

- d. Secretary's Report. The Secretary had no report.

- e. Treasurer and Finance Committee Report

The Treasurer submitted a written report of the January 2, 2024 Finance Committee meeting. The Treasurer reported that blended portfolios like that of the Diocese finished up about 17% in 2023. The expectation is for Deaneries to evaluate quarterly the budget status and obtain feedback to report to Council to help in preparing for 2025. All congregations should have bylaws in place, and this is an action item for 2024, as is parish audits.

Finance Administrator Ron Weil reviewed the Operating Revenue and Expense Report. The fourth quarter was beneficial for investments. The Diocese finished 2023 ahead of budget, with expenses under budget.

The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that the Treasurer and Finance Committee Report be accepted as presented. **The motion carried.**

f. Vice President's Report (including General Convention and Diocesan Resolutions Monitor's report)

The Rev. Susan Roberts submitted the Vice President's Report by title. She noted that regarding Resolution 2023-1 – Paris Grove A Creation Ministry, a "Creation Care Ministry" Committee will be established. Mr. Tom Simpson, Orchard Steward at St. Peter & All Saints, Kansas City, has agreed to serve on the Committee. Two resolutions (2023-2 – Converting the Chancellor into a Non-Voting Member of Diocesan Convention; 2023-3 – Number of Directors, Bishop Kemper School for Ministry) have been incorporated into the Diocesan Canons. No action has been taken on Resolution. 2023-4 – Intention to Become a Constituent Diocese of the University of the South. Resolution 2023-5 – Allowing Deacons to Serve on Standing Committee – was sent back to the Constitution and Canons Committee for further review. That Committee will meet on January 23.

g. Bishop's Report

The Bishop reported:

- i. The Presiding Bishop is home from the hospital and recuperating from his second brain bleed in a few months. At the end of February/first of March, the bishops will gather. The slate of candidates for Presiding Bishop has not yet been announced. There will be a second House of Bishop's gathering in mid-to-late April in Charlotte, NC, for the House to have time with the candidates.
- ii. She will attend the consecration of the Rev. Austin Rios as bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of California on May 4, 2024.
- iii. She attended the ordination and consecration of The Rt. Rev. John Toga Wea Harmon the 14th bishop of the Diocese of Arkansas on January 6 at a service held at the Episcopal Collegiate School in Little Rock. She will be his coach for three years.
- iv. The Martin Luther King Jr. service will be held today at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral at 4:00 p.m. Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver II will preach.
- v. St. Augustine Episcopal Church will host the Absalom Jones celebration on February 4 at 4:00 p.m. The Rev. Rita Kendagor will preach.
- vi. Planning for the 2024 Diocesan Convention will start next week.
- vii. The Next Steps Conference, planned for January 27, will be delayed until June so all necessary information can be obtained.
- viii. The Bishop Search Committee will be meeting with Diocesan staff this week.
- ix. She met with the President of the Standing Committee and the Vice President of Diocesan Council on January 10 to begin planning the joint retreat.
- x. All congregations should have bylaws in place and conduct annual parish financial audits.

- xi. The Property Committee will recommend to the Standing Committee to sell the Maryville property; and from the sale proceeds, pay back to the Diocese the \$45,000 in out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Diocese, with the balance deposited in the Expansion Fund and designated for ministry in the Maryville area. The Vice Chancellor clarified the process whereby the Property Committee, from a real estate perspective, advises the Standing Committee whether to sell the property; the Standing Committee makes the decision whether to sell; and, if the property is sold, the Diocesan Council makes the decision regarding allocation of the funds received. After discussion, the Property Committee will meet with the Maryville Committee to talk about their findings.
 - xii. Cn. Shirley Bolden noted that St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church will host a commemoration of the National Day of Racial Healing with Holy Eucharist on Tuesday, January 16 at twelve noon.
 - xiii. Changes in Title IV are being discussed considering allegations that the Presiding Bishop and the Bishop for Pastoral Development on the Presiding Bishop’s staff did not respond appropriately upon learning of accusations against the resigned bishop provisional of two dioceses in Michigan in December 2022.
4. **Old Business**
- a. Grant Process/Grant Request Form
The Bishop reported that the LOC/Grants Process Committee has been working with the Bishop to develop an online grant form. The group will be meeting again next week. The grant form will be reviewed at the joint Standing Committee/Diocesan Council retreat and voted on at that time. Deanery Councils will identify potential grant committee members.
5. **New Business**
- a. Congregational Development
The Bishop invited the Rev. Steven King to share a small committee’s conversations with Bishop Barker of Nebraska and Bishop Loya of Minnesota regarding congregational development. Fr. King and Bishop Bruce shared their thoughts on aligning congregational mission and ministry with the Four Pillars in an intentional, forward-looking, strategic, and proactive way, and that this would be the focus of the work of the joint retreat and for council in the coming year.
6. **Action Items**
- a. **Reschedule June 8, 2024 Diocesan Council meeting**
The Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Mr. Chris Morrision, that the June 8, 2024 Diocesan Council meeting be rescheduled to June 15, 2024, so as not to conflict with the KC Pride Parade. **The motion carried.**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Rev. Steven King moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, to adjourn. **The motion carried**, and the meeting adjourned at 11:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, The Rev. Donna Stanford, Diocesan Secretary