

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI
Minutes of February 10, 2024 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 2:25 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lee's Summit. 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

1. Call to Order and Devotion. Bishop Bruce determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. The Rev. Joe Pierjok led Council in opening prayer.

2. Consent Agenda Adoption. The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:

- a. Approval of January 13, 2024 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
- b. Approval of January 31, 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes
- c. Receipt of written report of the Commission on Ministry

The motion carried.

After discussion, during which concern was expressed about the perceived lack of youth activities in the diocese, the Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler

Jackson III, that the report of the Missioner for Youth Ministry be accepted. **The motion carried.**

3. Reports.

- a. Deanery Reports
 - i. Central Deanery. The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger, Dean, reported that the deanery will meet on Saturday, February 17, at St. Matthew's, Raytown, to select two representatives to serve on the Grant Committee and to receive reports from congregations that were awarded grants in 2023.
 - ii. Northwest-Metro Deanery. The Very Rev. Jean Long, Dean, reported that the deanery will meet on Saturday, February 24, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom to elect two persons to serve on the Grant Committee. Dean Long also reported that Ms. Kristie Seaton, St. Mary's, is organizing "Pods for Pies" (donate a pod in exchange for a slice of pie) to be held on March 4 at HJ's to benefit Cherith Brook Catholic Worker House in Kansas City.
 - iii. Southern Deanery. The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Dean, reported that the deanery will meet on Saturday, February 17, at Christ Church, Springfield, to select two representatives to serve on the Grant Committee and to welcome new delegates.
- b. Standing Committee Report
Mr. Eric Rhodes, President, reported that full membership of the Transition and Consecration Committees have been announced. A retreat will be held on March 16 at St. Andrew's, Kansas City. The Standing Committee authorized the sale of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and rectory in Maryville. The Standing Committee is working with the Bishop Search Committee, which has incurred \$10,249 in expenses.
- c. Bishop Search Committee Report
The Rev. Steven King, Chair, reported that listening sessions have concluded, and the online survey has closed (248 survey responses were received). A summary of the survey results will be reported out to the diocese soon. The Committee is working on the profile, which will be primarily web-based with links and video content, and sharing drafts with the Standing Committee. The profile will be launched March 1, with the application window being March 1 to April 7. Milestone meeting dates have been set.
- d. Secretary's Report. The Secretary reported that three dates were open for members to lead opening prayer/devotion: March 9 chosen by Ms. Regina Berens, May 18 chosen by Ms. Hayley Cobb, June 8 chosen by the Very Rev. Jean Long. The diocese received letters from Nourish KC and Episcopal Relief and Development thanking the diocese for financial gifts. The Secretary also reported that all budgeted International Outreach Grant funds remaining at the

close of 2023 were disbursed among the seven causes represented by the applicant churches that participated in the program in 2023.

e. Treasurer and Finance Committee Report

The Treasurer submitted a written Treasurer's report and a written report of the February 6, 2024 Finance Committee meeting. The Treasurer reported that the diocese's long-term financial assets were up 16.5%, and \$11.5 million is invested at DFMS. The diocese finished \$216,000 ahead of budget in 2023.

The Treasurer reported that a frozen pipe leading to a sink in the sacristy of Christ Episcopal Church, Lexington, caused flooding into the carpet. The Finance Committee recommended a grant to cover the insurance deductible of \$1,000. The Finance Committee moved that Council approve a \$1,000 grant to Christ Episcopal Church, Lexington, from the Rust Fund supporting rural ministries. **The motion carried.**

The Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, 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 reported the Rev. Collin Larimore is taking the lead in making the Paris Groves Resolution actionable.

g. Bishop's Report

The Bishop reported:

- i. She will attend the House of Bishops spring retreat February 27 to March 4 in Navasota, Texas
- ii. She will attend a Church Pension Group meeting in June
- iii. She will be running for a position on The Episcopal Church Executive Council
- iv. She will write a letter to the diocese regarding the sale of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Maryville
- v. Bishop Barry Howe will be attending General Convention. The Diocese of West Missouri will pay for his travel, with other expenses paid by the Diocese of Southwest Florida.

The Bishop reminded Council that members need to be open and honest with one another.

4. **Old Business**

- a. **Grant Process/Grant Request Form.** The Bishop reported on the status of the grant process/grant request web-based form. The Bishop asked for feedback before the grant kickoff in March.

5. **New Business**

Outline for Distribution of Curacy Program and Shared Ministry Developer Funds.

After discussion, Ms. Amanda Pershall moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, that Council approve the following process for distribution of Curacy Program funds:

Curacy Program \$60,000 – Provides a structured period of training and practical experience to those newly ordained.

- Congregation applying for this money needs to prove they cannot afford to fully fund this curate position.
- Congregation applying needs to commit to continue this curate position for a period of at least two full years. In the majority of cases this will be with the same Curate.
- Diocesan Council commits to fund a portion of this position for two years.
- The hiring congregation is encouraged to continue to raise money to fund this Curate position.
- The Missioner for Transitions, the Vice President of Council and the Bishop bring forward recommendations to Council after vetting the financial situation at the applying congregation and the Curate candidate.
- Council approves or rejects the funding for the Curacy recommendation.

The motion carried.

The Bishop proposed that the distribution of shared ministry developer funds and the Diocesan Center information technology proposals be considered at Council's March meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Pershall, to adjourn. **The motion carried**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary