

## THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI

### Approved Minutes of March 9, 2024 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, March 9, 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  
Mr. Mark Galus, Chancellor  
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

Also attending: Mr. Ron Weil, Finance Administrator

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. Regina Berens led Council in a devotion.

2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger moved, seconded by Mr. Chris Morrison, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:

- a. Approval of February 10, 2024 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
- b. Approval of February 28, 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes
- c. Receipt of written report of the Missioner for Youth Ministry

**The motion carried.**

**3. Reports.**

- a. Deanery Reports
  - i. Southern Deanery. The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Dean, reported that the deanery held a clericus and deanery council meeting. A clericus meeting will be held on March 19 at St. Phillip's in Joplin with an explanation of the church's 19<sup>th</sup> century Stations of the Cross and a modern artwork interpretation.
  - ii. Central Deanery. The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger, Dean, reported that deanery council met on February 17 at St. Matthew's in Raytown and elected two grant committee members and a new deanery vice president and heard reports from congregations that received deanery grants.
  - iii. Northwest-Metro Deanery. The Very Rev. Jean Long, Dean, reported that the deanery met on Saturday, February 24, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom and elected Dcn. Alisa Carmichael and Ms. Marie Eberts 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 14 at HJ's to benefit Cherith Brook Catholic Worker House in Kansas City. A Pride planning meeting for events on June 7-9 was held. The deanery picnic will be held at St. Paul's, Kansas City, on September 7.
- b. Standing Committee Report  
Mr. Eric Rhodes, President, reported that the Standing Committee approved the Bishop Search profile. The Transition and Consecration Committees will be launched on March 16 at St. Andrews. To date, \$13,812 has been spent on the Bishop Search process.
- c. Bishop Search Committee Report  
Ms. Amanda Perschall reported that the profile was launched March 1, and the Search Committee is awaiting applications.
- d. Secretary's Report. The Secretary did not have a report.
- e. Treasurer and Finance Committee Report  
The Treasurer submitted a written Treasurer's report and a written report of the March 5, 2024 Finance Committee meeting. The Treasurer reported that the Diocese is underbudget on expenses. The long-term investment portfolio at DFMS is up 3% year-to-date and up 17% to 18% year over year. The investments at Commerce Bank have been reviewed, with cash set aside for the General Grant Fund and the Property Grant Fund. The Treasurer noted that Kansas City

is being considered as a possible site for The Episcopal Church General Convention in 2030.

Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall, 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 a written report. Mtr. Susan reported that a Creation Care Ministry Commission has been formed with Fr. Collin Larimore leading that group. She informed the church administrator at Christ Church, Lexington, that Council approved paying the \$1,000 insurance deductible for the repair and replacement of a failed water heater.
- g. Bishop's Report  
The Bishop reported:
  - i. She attended the House of Bishops spring retreat February 27 to March 4 in Navasota, Texas. She reported that the Presiding Bishop was unable to attend the retreat because he is still recovering. Bp. Wendall Gibbs headed the meeting. She will be co-consecrator at a Province VIII consecration in May.
  - ii. She will attend a Church Pension Group meeting in Phoenix next week.
  - iii. The grants committee will meet to organize on Tuesday, March 12. The grants application will launch the following week.
  - iv. A vote will be taken at General Convention on the convention site in 2030, and Kansas City is one of the sites under consideration.
  - iv. KC Pride and Wear Orange event will take place June 7-9, 2024. The Bishop met with the Pride committee headed by Fr. Ron Verhaeghe. Wear Orange honors survivors and builds community with those working to end gun violence. Parishioners will be encouraged to wear orange on Sunday, June 9.
  - v. The Bishop thanked Fr. Joe Pierjok and Grace Church, Carthage, for hosting the women's retreat.
  - vi. The Bishop outlined her Holy Week schedule.

#### 4. **Old Business**

- a. **Grant Process/Grant Request Form.** The Bishop reported that the grant committee will meet Tuesday, March 12, to elect a chair.
- b. **Outline for Distribution of Shared Ministry Developer Funds.** After discussion, the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that Council approve the following process for distribution of Shared Ministry Developers funds:

**Shared Ministry Developers \$50,000** – These positions support multiple congregations, but do not necessarily create regional ministries.

- These are seasoned clergy who are already trained in, or committed to learning congregational development and are gifted in offering Christian formation in a parochial context.
- Congregations must show financial need.
- Congregations must work with the Missioner for Transitions to identify
- 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(s) and the Shared Ministry Developer candidate.
- Council approves or rejects the funding for the Shared Ministry Developers recommendation.
- Council must agree to funding each position for up to five years, with the possibility of renewal.
- A mutual ministry review will be conducted annually among the Shared Ministry Developer, the Missioner for Transitions, and the congregation, with the results reported to Council.
- Shared Ministry Developer is not a diocesan staff position.

**The motion carried.**

- d. **Diocesan Center information technology.** After discussion, Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Ms. Judy Turner, that Council approve the technology proposal submitted by Mr. Bryan Davenport for monthly monitoring and support at a monthly charge of \$300, which includes proactive network supervision and maintenance, patch and update management, user support (remote as primary support method, but will be onsite if needed), endpoint security, fleet management, and future technology planning and budgeting. A Panda WatchGuard license is required for this service, which costs \$2,035.20, and provides a three-year license agreement that provides a multi-layer security solution that protects the network from malware and spam and would provide Mr. Davenport with secure remote support access to the computers

**The motion carried.**

5. **New Business**

The Rev. Susan Roberts facilitated Council's discussion regarding take-aways from Walker Adams's presentation at joint Standing Committee/Diocesan Council retreat.

A key point for consideration now and in future planning is for meeting goals regarding congregational vitality and development to be reflected in the diocesan budget.

Another key point for consideration is how to disseminate the information from the retreat with the diocese and build relationships among churches. The following Council members volunteered to be part of a sub-group to work on this issue: Cn. Shirley

Bolden, Ms. Ann Breid, Ms. Haley Cobb, Ms. Kate French, Mr. Tom Kokjer, the Very Rev. Jean Long, Ms. Amanda Perschall, the Rev. Susan Roberts, Ms. Beverly Roggenkamp, Mr. Steven Williams. The Bishop asked Mtr. Susan to convene the group and report at the April Council meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, to adjourn. **The motion carried**, and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Donna Stanford  
Diocesan Secretary