

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI

DRAFT Minutes of September 14, 2024 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, September 14, 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
 The Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok

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. Steven King led Council in a devotion and prayer.

2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Mr. Steven Williams, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:

- a. Approval of August 10, 2024 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
- b. Receipt of September 4, 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes
- c. Receipt of reports, if any, from committees, commissions, and ministries

The motion passed.

3. Reports.

- a. Deanery Reports
 - i. Northwest-Metro Deanery. The Very Rev. Jean Long, Dean, reported that a Youth Gathering was held September 8; two new priests have been welcomed into the Deanery—the Rev. Miranda Cully was called as Rector of Redeemer, Kansas City, starting September 3, and the Rev. Morgan Ladd was called as Associate Rector of St. Paul’s, Kansas City, starting August 20; the next Deanery Council meeting will be October 19
 - ii. Southern Deanery. The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Dean, reported that the Rev. David Kendrick, Rector of St. John’s, Springfield, has been called as Rector of St. Monica & St. James, in Washington, D.C., and his last day at St. John’s will be Sunday, September 22; the next Deanery Council meeting will be October 26 at St. James, Springfield.
 - iii. Central Deanery. The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger, Dean, reported that the Rev. Jonathan Galles is serving as rector of The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Blue Springs, and the church is pursuing construction to improve the facility’s ADA accessibility; the next Deanery Council meeting will be October 26 via Zoom.
- b. Standing Committee Report
Mr. Eric Rhodes, President, reported that the Standing Committee is working closely with the Transition Committee and has hosted candidates at a dinner. To date, \$66,164 has been spent on the Bishop Search process. Committee members will be at all listening sessions, and the Committee has approved questions for listening sessions. The Rev. Larry Ehrens is the new Consecration Committee Chaplain. The mutual ministry review survey has been sent out.
- b. Transition Committee Report
Canon Shirley Bolden reported that the Committee Shepherds will meet the candidates for dinner on Sunday, September 15. The Committee has arranged for a 25-passenger bus to transport candidates and others to the listening sessions for clergy and the 5 sessions for laity.
- 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 September 3, 2024 Finance Committee meeting. The Treasurer reported that

the diocese received a “clean audit opinion,” meaning that the diocese received an unqualified audit opinion. The Treasurer also reported that the diocese’s long-term investment portfolio is up about 11% year-to-date and up 17% year-over-year. Investment funds at DFMS now total \$11,847,000. Revenue is running about budget, and expenses re below budget, so far this year. The sale of the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church property in Maryville closed August 8.

Grant funds update: Central - \$31,313 spent; \$68,687 balance remaining
 Property - \$25,710 spent; \$324,710 balance remaining

The following are recommended grants approved at the September 10, 2024 Property Grant Committee meeting (with some associated line of credit (LOC) recommendations):

<u>recipient</u>	<u>request</u>	<u>LOC</u>
Christ Episcopal Warrensburg -Painting	\$2,325	
St. Paul's Lee Summit - HVAC	\$7,200	\$2,700
Grace Chillicothe - Replace HVAC	\$30,051	\$16,051
Christ Episcopal - Lexington - repair steps	\$2,500	
St. Mary Mag Belton - Window replacement	\$1,720	
St. Nicholas – Noel – rectory siding	\$20,000	\$10,000
Christ Episcopal - Boonville - Bell Tower	\$40,000	\$25,000
St. Mary’s - Savannah - Roof for Head Start Building	\$10,950	\$8,000
Grace Church Liberty - HVAC	\$10,000	
Resurrection - Blue Springs – deferred maint & ADA	\$17,500	\$8,750

The Rev. Steven King moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that the Committee’s recommended grants and LOCs be accepted and funded.

After discussion, the Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by the Rev. Susan Roberts, that the motion be amended to delete the LOC’s from the Committee’s proposal and move the LOCs to full grants. **The motion to amend passed.**

A final vote on the motion as amended was taken. **The motion passed.**

The Rev. Steven King moved, seconded by the Rev. Galen Snodgrass, that the Treasurer and Finance Committee Report be accepted as presented. **The motion passed.**

- f. Vice President’s Report
 The Rev. Susan Roberts submitted a written report.

Faith X: Mtr. Susan reported that the Faith X program will run in one parish of each Deanery in November and then it will be evaluated and persons will be

trained to help with the parish presentations. Fr. Joe Pierjok requested that the Rev. Chas Marks be invited to attend a Diocesan Council meeting to report in more detail on the Faith X program.

Grants: Mtr. Susan reported that the Centralized Grant Committee decided not to fund a grant request for \$10,000 to fulfill the Paris Groves resolution; instead, a recommendation was made to the Budget committee to provide funding in the diocesan budget for the Creation Care Commission to help congregations plant new and/or replace trees and shrubs on church properties.

4. **New Business**

- a. Discussion of the 2025 draft budget and the feedback received. The Bishop asked the Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok to lead the meeting in discussion of proposed changes in the 2025 draft budget. After discussion of each proposed change, the following actions were taken:

- (1) Mr. Tom Kokjer moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that both
- (a) \$5,000 support for the Spiritual Wellness department at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, and
 - (b) \$5,000 support for pastoral care at St. Luke's Nursing Home in Carthage

be added as budget line items. **The motion was defeated;** the Rev. Susan Roberts and the Rev. Joe Pierjok abstained from voting.

- (2) Ms. Beverly Roggenkamp moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III that all diocesan staff salaries be increased by 5% rather than a 2.6% COLA, which was already included in the compensation amounts listed in the previous revision of the budget and are retained throughout the spreadsheet (to increase to 5% would be an additional \$17,934 in staff compensation, which is reflected in a standalone line on page 6).

Mr. Steven Williams recused from discussion of the issue.

The Rev. Steven King moved, seconded by the Rev. Joe Pierjok, to amend the motion to reduce the 5% increase to the 2.6% COLA. After discussion, **the motion to amend passed.**

Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Ms. Beverly Roggenkamp, that Ms. Emily Davenport, Bishop's Assistant, be taken out of the staff 2.6% COLA for separate consideration. **The motion was defeated.**

A final vote on the motion as amended was taken. **The motion passed.**

- (3) The Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, that Diocesan Council accept the Finance Committee's recommendation of a decrease going forward in the assessment calculation for The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Kansas City, as their recent parochial reports were submitted with a significant outreach amount miscategorized. **The motion passed.**
- (4) The Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by the Rev. Galen Snodgrass, that the New Bishop Diocesan hospitality line item in the 2025 budget be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000. After discussion, **the motion passed.**
- (5) Ms. Kate French moved, seconded by the Rev. Steven King, that a \$10,000 line item be added to the 2025 diocesan budget to provide funding for the Creation Care Commission to help congregations plant new and/or replace trees and shrubs on church properties. After discussion, **the motion was defeated.**

Ftr. Isaac reported that the fiscal impact of the foregoing motions was a \$42,166 surplus in the 2025 budget. He invited discussion as to what to do with the surplus funds.

- (6) After discussion, Mr. Tom Kokjer moved, seconded by the Rev. Susan Roberts, that the Property Maintenance Fund Reserve be increased by \$25,000 from the surplus funds to a 2025 budget total of \$75,000.

Bishop Bruce moved, seconded by the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, that the motion be amended to allocate surplus funds as follows:

\$30,000 to the Property Maintenance Fund Reserve (new total \$80,000)

\$10,000 to the Episcopal Transition Reserve (new total \$25,000)

\$2,000 to the Next Bishop Endeavors and Expansion (new total \$74,000).

The foregoing allocation would result in a net surplus of \$166. After discussion, **the motion to amend passed.**

A final vote on the motion as amended was taken. **The motion passed.**

- (7) After discussion, the Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Ms. Kate French, that the 2025 draft budget with the foregoing amendments be approved. **The motion passed.** The budget as amended will be the draft budget presented to Diocesan Convention.

- b. Due to the length of the meeting, the Bishop tabled discussion of how to use the proceeds from the sale of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church property in Maryville until the October Diocesan Council meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Tom Kokjer moved, seconded by Ms. Beverly Roggenkamp, to adjourn. **The motion carried**, and the meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary