



2024 Reports Received

Filed in order of receipt



— The Diocese of —
West Missouri

1. DIOCESAN BOARD OF EXAMINING CHAPLAINS

Prepared by Dr. Victor H. Matthews, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

The Very Rev. Peter DeVeau
The Rev. Dr. Sean Kim
Mr. Bill Stancil
Mr. Channing Horner

Dr. Victor Matthews
The Rev. Ronald Verhaeghe
The Rev. John Coil
Dr. Linda Robertson

When does your group regularly meet?

The Board does not meet in person. Business is conducted as needed via email to prepare for examinations and to conduct written and oral examinations of candidates to the diaconate and the priesthood.

How many meetings were held this year?

Zero

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- In February 2024, the DBEC read the GOE responses for Silas Engstrom, Mark Bower, and Katherine Mansfield and recommended to the Bishop they had met the canonical requirements for ordination to the transitional diaconate. I am pleased to say that they were subsequently ordained to the priesthood later in 2024.
- In July 2024, the DBEC read the set of questions administered to Jennifer Sackhoff. The recommendation of the Board was that she be ordained to the vocational diaconate.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- The DBEC will continue to read GOE responses from priest candidates and administer the Vocational Diaconate questions to candidates for that ordained ministry.
- Occasionally, we also provide information to other dioceses about our work, and since several of our members teach for BKSM we keep track of the progress made by students.

2. CLERGY SPOUSES PLANNING COMMITTEE

Prepared by Mr. Steve Bruce, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

Cheryl Moon
Laura Kendrick
Ann Frazier
Ann Spicer
Beth Keyse

Joy Bower
Karen Behen
Kim Snodgrass
Steve Bruce

When does your group regularly meet?

Semi-monthly via Zoom, unless not needed

How many meetings were held this year?

Six

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- Following the retreat at Trinity Meadows in October of 2023, the planning committee for clergy spouses met regularly to plan a few events for spouses. We met at Diocesan Convention in 2023 for breakfast and a few games (Episcopal Jeopardy).
- The planning team then began to make plans for a clergy spouse retreat in 2024, and decided to hold the retreat at Conception Abbey. That retreat was held on Oct 6-8.
- We also met again on the Friday of Convention for breakfast.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- Welcoming the new Bishop spouse at the consecration in May 2025.
- Exploring interest in a 2025 clergy spouse retreat with the new Bishop spouse.

3. DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Prepared by The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson, Diocesan Archivist

When does your group regularly meet?

I visit the archives at least once per month and frequently twice a month.

How many meetings were held this year?

Through the end of September - 20 days

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- During 2024, I have been able to complete the folder level inventory of all of the papers of the Bishop Diocesans, the Convention planning documents, and the papers of the Finance Committee which includes documents related to investments and trusts. I have also been able to securely house the confidential papers related to former clergy of the diocese. I was also involved in the retrieval of materials from St. Paul's Maryville prior to the sale of that property.
- One of the joys of this ministry is answering questions from interested parties from materials contained in the Archives. Each month I receive several inquiries, some of which require extensive searching.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- In 2025, we will welcome an assistant archivist. The added help will allow even more collections to be processed.
- Also in 2025, a second expansion of the shelving in the Archives will be necessary. We continue to receive materials from various diocesan entities which requires additional space. The planning has already begun. We will also receive the new flat-file cabinets which were approved for purchase by the Diocesan Council. This will allow appropriate storage of large format materials such as blueprints and large pictures.
- On-going work will include the processing of collections related to congregations which have closed, as well as current congregations. Collecting materials from events surrounding the consecration of our next bishop will also be an enjoyable effort.
- We will continue to answer queries that come to us through our email address and phone calls. This is the purpose for having this collection and we enjoy doing this type of research. Both the assistant archivist and I are retired academic librarians and archivists who find much pleasure in the search for answers.

4. BISHOP KEMPER SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY

Prepared by The Rev. Casey Rohleder

Who are the members of your committee?

Current members representing the Diocese of West Missouri are:

The Rev. Donna Stanford, deacon representative and board chair

Ms. Carmen Kynard-Krasick, lay representative

The Rev. Anne Meredith Kyle, priest representative

The Rt. Rev. Diane Bruce sits on the Board as an ex officio member.

When does your group regularly meet?

Four times a year, on the third Saturday morning in January, April, July and October.

How many meetings were held this year?

Four

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- In our 11th year of ministry, BKSM graduated 17 students across three ordination tracks and five lay license tracks in May 2024. Of that total, six were from the Diocese of West Missouri. In the 2024-25 academic year BKSM has 27 adjunct faculty members teaching 38 classes, with nine faculty from the Diocese of West Missouri. Four additional faculty members lead colloquium groups, with one of those faculty members from West Missouri. BKSM currently has 41 students enrolled for the 2024-25 academic year, nine from this diocese. In addition to monthly classes, students participate in monthly small group formation, follow a rule of life with their cohort, and attend monthly praxis sessions on Zoom.
- On June 30, we bid a fond farewell to the Very Rev. Don H. Compier, who served as BKSM's second dean for a decade. This impact of his ministry on the seminary's growth, positive reputation and student success cannot be underestimated. His legacy will certainly be long-lasting.
- The BKSM Board of Directors, under the capable leadership of the Rev. Donna Stanford, has transformed into a working board in 2024, with the following committees: Executive, Finance, Curriculum, Program, Planning and Marketing, Fundraising and Dean Search.
- A major task of the Board in the latter half of the year has been to listen to stakeholders about desired skills and qualities for the next dean and to develop a profile for the Dean's search. Bishop Bruce appointed the Rev. Charles Everson, BKSM alumnus and previously in the Diocese of West Missouri, to the search committee, and he is serving as committee chair. The Board approved the profile at the September meeting and posted it in early October.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

We look forward to welcoming a new dean in Summer 2025. In addition to continuing its mission to form future priests and deacons, Bishop Kemper School for Ministry is developing strategies to expand lay education and participation in the new year.

5. CENTRALIZED GRANT COMMITTEE

Prepared by Marie Ebert, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

The Rev. Vicky Anderson	Mr. Tom Kokjer
Ms. Elizabeth Barns	Mr. Jim Newman
The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce	The Rev. Susan Roberts
The Rev. Alisa Carmichael	Mrs. Mindy Swayne
Ms. Marie Ebert	Mr. Ron Weil
Canon Mark Galus	The Rev. Ryan Williams
The Rev. Canon Robin James	

When does your group regularly meet?

The third Tuesday of each month at 4pm

How many meetings were held this year?

Eight

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

The Centralized Grant Committee is a new committee for 2024. The committee members met for the first time in March and have had eight meetings by September. Our first meetings were to elect the chairperson and secretary. We then met to organize the processes and supporting documents. The Grant process was launched April 1st and notices were sent to the Diocese. We reviewed our first requests in May. The requests have been slow in arriving and we believe the reason is that the process is new and totally on-line.

We have received a total of 17 requests. We have awarded a total of \$33,812.50. We have sent messages for those grant requests that we partially funded to reapply for the remainder funding. We expect to award several more requests in the remaining months.

GRANT REQUEST BREAKDOWN:

Application Total	17
Approves	11
50% approves	3
Denied	1
Transferred to Property	2
Approved	\$33,812.50

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

The committee anticipates that the process will be utilized more in the 2025 year as the process is more familiar to the churches. We have requested the same amount of \$100,000 for next year to assist the Diocese churches to fund the ministries and our pillars. We thank the diocese for trusting us to be facilitators of the process for the funding of the grants.

6. INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH GRANT COMMITTEE

Prepared by the Ven. Bruce Bower, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

The Venerable Bruce Bower, Archdeacon	Chair
The Rev. Dcn. Donna Stanford	Clergy Member
The Rev. Dcn. Lynda Hurt	Clergy Member
David Westervelt	Lay Member

When does your group regularly meet?

The committee does not have regular in-person meetings, but rather communicates by email.

How many meetings were held this year?

The IOG Committee has interfaced ten times during 2024 to consider grant applications from parishes across the diocese.

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- The IOG Committee has considered and approved ten applications for International Outreach Grants to date in 2024. Matching grants were made for foreign projects involving fresh water, prenatal care, feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- During 2025, the IOG Committee plans to continue to raise awareness across the diocese that matching grants are available for parishes that provide financial support to qualifying international charitable causes.

7. LATINO MISSIONER

Prepared by the Rev. Canon Jose Palma, Missioner for Hispanic Ministry

Who are the members of your committee?

The Rev. Galen Snodgrass
The Rev. Joe Pierjok
The Rev. Jonathan Callison

When does your group regularly meet?

Sunday 9am and 12 pm and Wednesday 7pm

How many meetings were held this year?

156

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- Growth of congregations and unity between English and Spanish speaking members.
- Kermes activity to help fundraise for the congregation. Created great local awareness of the church with over 100 people attending and contributing. Non-members also contributed and invited to local services.
- Spiritual retreat with 3 dioceses participating.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- Conduct Spiritual Retreat for Hispanic Churches in the South of the Diocese, La Iglesia de Todos los Santos, La Iglesia San Andres and Rogers Arkansas and Iglesia del Espiritu Santo and Tulsa Oklahoma.
- Conduct Guadalupe day, Las Posadas, El Dia de Los Tres Reyes, El Dia de St Nicolas.
- Plan of Action of Latino Ministry and Kansas City
- Conduct a 1-day Workshop for Leadership Training in Spanish.
- Revival Retreat
- Family Retreat
- Stewardship Training

8. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Prepared by Zachary Phillips, Communications Director, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

Zachary Phillips, Communications Director, Chair
Walker Adams
Emily Davenport
The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson
The Very Rev. Jean Long
The Rev. Isaac Petty
The Rev. David Wilcox

When does your group regularly meet?

4th Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

How many meetings were held this year?

6 (generally meet once a month, with exceptions due to scheduling conflicts or events)

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

1. 2024 was a great year for rebuilding, reorganizing, and getting our communications in a place to start looking ahead.
2. The biggest accomplishment was that we rebuilt all 21 parish sites that were still using Digital Faith. As of August 1, 2024, all remaining sites are off Digital Faith and using WordPress. This not only allowed for cleaner, more modern sites, but reduced overall costs by around \$3,000!
3. We've cemented our rebranded online presence, and are continuing to modify and adjust as needed. This includes how we interact on social, the type of content we share, and the visuals of our site and other marketing materials. We've also ordered SWAG marketing materials to start handing out at certain diocesan events to help promote the new branding.
4. Continuing to update and modify the site, based on feedback and discovered bugs as time permits. This included creating a "website navigation" series to help people find where information lies on the new website.
5. Added online forms to the website to make it easier for people to sign up to events or get ahold of staff.
6. Won the Polly Bond Award for "Best Website" at the Episcopal Communicators Conference!

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

For 2025, some of the projects we'd like to focus on include:

1. Rebranding and redesigning youth ministry and the website. This effort will be in done in hopes of attracting more people to the site to learn about events and other things happening in our diocese for youth.
2. Increase SEO (Search Engine Optimization) efforts for our diocese. This plan is an effort to help us get our website and content more recognized on a local, and national scale. This will help us draw in interest and making the diocesan site a center of information.
3. Creating a "website audit form" for other parishes to fill out. This form will help us find weak points in a parish's site, and we can use this to offer insight and suggestions for improvement and quality.
4. Updating the events page on the diocesan site to make it easier to find and register for events happening in our diocese.

9. BISHOP SEARCH COMMITTEE

Prepared by The Rev. Steven King, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

Regina Berens, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Belton
Hayley Cobb, Christ Church, Springfield
Minda Cox, St. Alban's Church, Bolivar
Curtis Hamilton, Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, KC
Cosette Hardwick, Christ Church, St. Joseph
The Rev. Rita Kendagor, St. Andrew's Church, KC
The Rev. Steven King (chair), St. Paul's Church, KC
Victor Matthews, St. John's Church, Springfield
Amanda Perschall, Trinity Church, Lebanon
The Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok, St. James Church, Springfield
The Rev. Susan Roberts, St. Luke's Health System, KC
The Rev. Brock Slabach, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Belton
The Rev. John Spicer, St. Andrew's Church, KC
The Rev. Kim Taube, Christ Church, Boonville

When does your group regularly meet?

No regular meeting, appointed to work from November 2023-July 2024

How many meetings were held this year? Many!

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

The Bishop Search Committee met beginning with a retreat in November 2023 through the announcement of the slate of four candidates for the IX Bishop of West Missouri which the Standing Committee announced on July 31, 2024. Highlights for the Bishop Search Committee included:

- Engaging in approximately 16 listening sessions, including dedicated sessions in Spanish, for youth, and for clergy, in every corner of the diocese to get to know what was on the hearts and minds of our diocese
- Conducting a survey with over 250 responses
- Creating a Diocesan Profile that told the story of our diocese from its founding to the present and looked to the future as we seek to share who we believe God is calling to be our next bishop. This profile is believed to be the first profile translated to Spanish in the portion of The Episcopal Church that is in the United States
- Receiving applications for the IX Bishop from across the church beyond what we had imagined or expected both in number and in quality
- Conducting a long and faithful interview process including a retreat with semi-finalists
- Sharing with the Standing Committee our unanimous recommendation for four candidates to stand for election as the IX Bishop of West Missouri: the Rev. Jimmy Abbott, the Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, the Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace, the Rev. Molly Payne-Hardin

What are your plans for ministry in 2025? None!

10. COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Prepared by Ann Rainey, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

Ann Rainey, Chair

The Rev. Rita Kendagor, Vice Chair

The Rev. Adam James, Secretary

Raja Reed, Lay Ministries Chair

Kathy Alexander

Dr. Vincent Clark

Paula Sheppard

The Ven. Bruce Bower

The Rev. John Coil

The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger

The Rev. Lynda Hurt

The Rev. Kary Mann

The Rev. Joe Pierjok

The Rev. Galen Snodgrass

When does your group regularly meet?

The fourth Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

How many meetings were held this year?

Nine

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- The Commission on Ministry held two Next Step Retreats on a Saturday to meet with nominees. The purpose is to get to know them personally and hear them discuss their call to ministry. This was done with some Standing Committee members present. We also ordained four transitional deacons in January and three to priesthood in July. We serve 6 nominees, 8 postulants and one transitional deacon. The commission renewed and gave lay licensing to 12 Lay Preachers in the diocese. We have a vigorous program of mentoring and being liaisons to all in the process. We have currently recommended four postulants for candidacy.
- A new process implemented this year is the Second Congregational Experience, an opportunity for nominees to immerse themselves in a different congregation and continue their discernment process. Sharing with the Standing Committee our unanimous recommendation for four candidates to stand for election as the IX Bishop of West Missouri: the Rev. Jimmy Abbott, the Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, the Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace, the Rev. Molly Payne-Hardin

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- We plan an additional small Next Steps Retreat and two regular Next Step Retreats in the future. We are hopeful this will result in new recommendations for postulants. We also hope to have postulants moving on to candidacy and ordination in the coming year.

11. GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTATION

Prepared by Amanda Perschall, Deputation Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

Ms. Amanda Perschall, Deputation Chair	The Rev. Anne Kyle
Mr. Curtis Hamilton	The Rev. Chas Marks
Mr. Spencer Orr	The Rev. Steven King
Ms. Alexandra Connors	The Rev. Isaac Petty
Ms. Christine Morrison	The Rev. Canon Robin James
Mr. Robert Maynard	The Rev. Collin Larrimore
	The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew Keyse
	The Rev. Joe Pierjok

When does your group regularly meet?

As needed

How many meetings were held this year?

Numerous times, including General Convention in June

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

81st General Convention Report to Diocesan Convention

- This year's General Convention theme, "Together in Love," was exemplified in many ways as Bishops and Deputies gathered from all across our diverse Episcopal Church to conduct the business of our common life and celebrate what God is doing in our midst. Being Together in Love means speaking difficult truths to one another, holding disparate opinions in tension, and trusting the Holy Spirit to be moving among us as we discussed, deliberated, and even debated the matters before us. Being Together in Love means there is not "winning" and "losing" the legislative battles before us, but instead means we collectively win as we continue discerning and moving forward together.
- As a triennial event, this was the first General Convention on this side of the COVID pandemic in which more and more are comfortable with and have access to virtual gathering capabilities that allowed the work of the convention to begin months before ever gathering in Louisville. Committees began meeting virtually and including legislative hearings that were open to Episcopalians from all around the globe – not just those who can show up to General Convention. Because we are building a new way forward, we spent a mind-numbing (yet necessary!) amount of time in the House of Deputies reconfiguring our Rules of Order, including debates on debating and amendments on amending.

- Among resolutions on seemingly every topic under the sun, some of the most discussion-producing ones involved updating our Book of Common Prayer to include gender-inclusive marriage rites and updating the catechism to define Holy Matrimony as the union of two persons – a process which requires the affirmations of multiple General Conventions over the next couple of triennia. Meanwhile, the General Convention also took a strong stance by codifying ongoing means of inclusion for those who hold traditional views of marriage, which came from the work of the Taskforce on Communion Across Difference. The Episcopal Church in Navajoland, spanning 3 states, was elevated to Missionary Diocese status, allowing them to elect their own bishop. The Dioceses of Fond du Lac, Eau Claire, and Milwaukee reunified as the Diocese of Wisconsin. The Dioceses of Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan merged to create the Diocese of the Great Lakes.
- The House of Bishops elected the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe as the 28th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church on the first ballot – the youngest Presiding Bishop in 150 years. The House of Deputies overwhelmingly showed support for this election, and Bishop Rowe’s address (https://video.ibm.com/recorded/133745864?mc_cid=0d35080681) is worth watching, as well as his sermon (<https://video.ibm.com/recorded/133750579>) at the closing Eucharist of the General Convention. Under his leadership, paired with the leadership of the President of the House of Deputies, Julia Ayala Harris, we will likely see a reimagined church-wide support structure that consolidates far fewer resources at the highest levels and instead mobilizes our centralized efforts toward supporting local ministries across the Church.
- You can read a fuller summary of legislative actions here: <https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2024/06/28/81st-general-convention-wraps-up-in-louisville>.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- Continuing in our work on behalf of the diocese across the church.

12. PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Prepared by Tara Bennett, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

Tara Bennett
Lenette Johnson
Patti Ryder

The Rev. Jonathan Callison
The Rev. Robin Rusconi
The Rev. Lynda Hurt

When does your group regularly meet?

The third Monday of each month at 4:00

How many meetings were held this year?

Ten

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- The Peace and Justice Committee continued its' work in gun safety and gun violence prevention this year. We presented the Be SMART safe storage program to over 150 people and had wide diocesan participation in the Wear Orange for Gun Safety weekend in early June. Multiple churches in the diocese now have a Book of Life or shrine to victims of gun violence that are updated weekly and prayers for those lost to gun violence are prayed for by name in many churches to help us all see the human toll. Representatives from the Committee presented to the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry and appeared on the "All Things...Episcopal" podcast aimed at our youth and college ministry to discuss gun safety, gun violence prevention, and the stance of the Episcopal Church on reproductive rights. The Committee worked with its' counterpart in The Diocese of Missouri with the Vote Faithfully initiative, encouraging Episcopalians to know the General Convention rulings and vote for candidates that support the same issues as the Episcopal Church does. Joining with many other faith organizations, The Diocese of West Missouri was a sponsor for the Grandparents for Gun Safety Annual Community Forum featuring speakers who were survivors of gun violence such as Fred Guttenberg who lost his daughter in the Parkland shooting and Kansas City's Jason Kander.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- In 2025 the Peace and Justice Committee plans to continue spreading the Be SMART message. It plans a campaign to urge other churches within the diocese to recognize victims of gun violence weekly, in order to humanize the tragedy that can sometimes be lost in the numbers. Additionally, it will again promote Wear Orange and work to keep dangerous gun bills that affect our churches from passing in the Missouri legislature.

13. STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Prepared by Amy Amason, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

Amy Amason, Chair
Zella Forsythe
Beth Kang
The Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok

Anita Philbrick, Secretary
Linda Robertson
The Rev. Ryan Williams

When does your group regularly meet?

The first Tuesday of each month at 5pm

How many meetings were held this year?

Nine, as of October 1st

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- In partnership with TENS, we sponsored the following free webinars for the diocese:
 - Making the Case – Designing for Impact. Tuesday, May 14, 6:30PM – 8PM
 - Walk in Love: Pledge Campaign How To's and Best Practices. Saturday, August 24 11AM – 12:30PM
 - Virtual Offering Plates and Digital Fundraising. Tuesday, September 24, 6:30PM – 8PM
 - The Economic Halo Effect of Church. Tuesday, October 29, 6:30PM – 8PM
 - Creating Budgets that Meet your Ministry Goals. Tuesday, November 12, 6:30PM – 8PM
- The Commission hosted an in-person seminar on June 1st, Setting Up a Planned Giving Program for Your Parish. James Murphy from the Episcopal Church Foundation was the presenter.
 - We will have a table at the Ministry Fair again this year.
- Three members of the Commission will be attending the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising Program in November. It is sponsored by the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, IU Lily Family School of Philanthropy and Berkeley School of Divinity at Yale. Those attending are Amy Amason, Fr. Isaac Petty, Fr. Ryan Williams.
- One parish attended the Project Resource training and the Commission supported 50% of the cost for attendance.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- A focus on planned giving for both parish programs and individuals. This will include materials specifically for the diocese and a webinar.
- In partnership with TENS, host four webinars during the year.
- Continue to support parish participation in Project Resource by funding 50% of the cost.
- Sponsor a clergy focused stewardship seminar.
- Participate in the Ministry Fair.

14. DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Prepared by Cheryl Webb-Laughlin, President

Who are the members of your committee?

Cyndi Troyer - President
Donna Meyer - Vice President
Kathleen Alexander - Secretary
Shari Percy – Treasurer
The Very Rev. Timothy Coppinger - Chaplain

When does your group regularly meet?

Chapters meet monthly - different days/times determined by them

How many meetings were held this year?

Two General Assemblies in the Diocese - one in the Fall and one in the Spring. And estimated 150 Chapter meetings throughout the year.

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- We support the four national funds of our order with an annual donation and give each chapter in the diocese a \$50 donation for an outreach entity they support.
- Our daughters are active in support of single moms ministry, prayer shawl ministries, socks for the elderly in nursing homes, support for many local food pantries both financially and with volunteer efforts, and many more too numerous to mention.
- Where there is a chapter of the Daughters of the King, there is life in the parish. We are truly an order of prayer, service and evangelism. Daughters are faithful in their rule of life by praying daily for parish, diocese, province and nation. They become a rich resource for the priest of their parish, and often attract new members through their activities in the parish, as well as the diocese. We wear our crosses daily and hold each other accountable in an effort to show the world who we are and to whom we belong. For His Sake!

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- Continue seeking new opportunities for more chapters of our order in the diocese.
- Provide relevant and meaningful education through our assemblies.
- Listen intently to the needs of our daughters in the diocese and learn from them what they need.
- Actively support our new bishop after the election at convention this year.

15. DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Prepared by The Rev. Christy Dorn, President

Who are the members of your committee?

Members:

The Rev. Christy Dorn, President
The Rev. Jonathan Frazier
Ms. Anne Gardner
Ms. Mary Johnson
The Rev. Steven King, Vice President
Ms. Evelyn Mangan
The Rev. Ken Chumbley

Ex officio Members:

Mr. Greg Bentz, Church Attorney
The Rev. Deacon Barbara Wegener,
Intake Officer

When does your group regularly meet?

The Disciplinary Board meets at least once a year; more often, as needed.

How many meetings were held this year?

Twice

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- Learning the details of the Title IV process and pursuing an open case before us

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- It is anticipated that the Board will be called upon to respond to a completed investigation in accordance with Title IV of the Episcopal Church.
- Recommendation: Training for the Title IV process is highly recommended for the Board members.

16. COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY COMMISSION

Prepared by The Rev. Alisa Carmichael, President

Who are the members of your committee?

Deacon Alisa Carmichael (Chair)
Scott Laurent
The Rev. David Wilcox
Clare Stern-Burbano

Tristan Rouse
The Rev. Ryan Williams
William Stockton
The Rev. Katherine Mansfield

When does your group regularly meet?

The second Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm during the academic year

How many meetings were held this year?

Six

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

- In February, the College & Young Adult Ministry Commission hosted a successful YA retreat at St Paul's (Lee's Summit). Workshops included: a session for those new to the Episcopal Church led by Tristan Rouse; a session on Interfaith Understanding led by Clare Stern-Burbano; and opportunities for confession and individual prayer and meditation. At the end of the day, we celebrated the Eucharist with Fr. Chas Marks and Fr. David Wilcox leading the worship service.
- In April, the Commission offered an online book study on Nadia Bolz-Weber's "Accidental Saints." Weekly sessions were led by Fr. Ryan Williams and Deacon Alisa Carmichael.
- All Things....Episcopal podcast completed a second successful season, with episodes that included: a conversation with Bishop Cathleen Bascom (Diocese of Kansas) on Creation Care; a discussion about death with Sarah Lagergren and Fr. James Yazell; an exploration of Church history with Dr. Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski; a conversation about the Diaconate with Deacons Barbara Wegener and Adam James; and "Three Dudes Talk about the Boss Lady"--a closer look at the Blessed Virgin Mary with host Fr. David Kendrick, Fr. Collin Larrimore, and guests Tristan Rouse and Fr. David Wilcox. The podcast continues to exceed industry standards in such statistics as number and frequency of downloads. At the end of the season, listeners could be found in twenty different countries and there had been a total of almost 3,000 downloads. We are very thankful for our three hosts (Fr. David Kendrick, Fr. Collin Larrimore, and Clare Stern-Burbano) and the energy and enthusiasm they have poured into this ministry.

- This summer, we worked with Zach Philips and Emily Davenport to establish a database for college students in our diocese. The successful implementation of this project will help us maintain connections with college students in our diocese as well as targeting communication about upcoming events for this age group.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- We plan to continue and expand All Things...Episcopal podcast in a partnership with the Diocese of Kansas. The three hosts from our Diocese for the upcoming year will be: Clare Stern-Burbano, Fr. David Wilcox, and Haley Cobb. There will also be three hosts from the Diocese of Kansas: Rev. Karen Schlabach, Caroline Howard, and one rotating college student from their Canterbury House. Each episode will have two hosts--one representative from each diocese. The new season will launch in November, shortly after Annual Convention. We are especially appreciative of Clare Stern-Burnbano's efforts to establish and organize this innovative partnership and opportunity for ministry.
- We plan to offer an annual YA retreat in the spring and in the fall.
- The College and Young Adult Ministry Commission continues to seek representatives from churches throughout our Diocese with the goal of building a network for better communication and shared resources for College and Young Adult Ministry!

17. DIVERSITY AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

Prepared by Canon Shirley Bolden, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

Canon Shirley Bolden, Chair

The Rev. Sid Breese

Mr. Drew Brown

The Very Rev. Dr. Don Compier

Mr. C. J. Duffie

The Rev. Ted Estes

Mrs. Melinda Estes

Mrs. Jeanne Goolsby

Mrs. Lynda Hurt

The Rev. Chas Marks

Ms. Amanda Perschall

The Rev. Mary Margaret Saxon

The Rev. Galen Snodgrass

Mrs. Taryn Todd

Mrs. Meg Townsend

When does your group regularly meet?

Monthly on the second Wednesday of the month

How many meetings were held this year?

Five

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

The Diversity and Reconciliation Commission sponsored the Martin Luther King, Jr Celebration on Saturday, January 13, 2024, with an attendance of 78 on a very cold evening. Our guest speaker was Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II.

Diversity and Reconciliation Commission held the Absalom Jones Celebration on February 4, 2024, at St. Augustine's at 4:00 p.m. Our guest speaker was The Rev. Rita Kendagor. We had 126 in attendance.

In February for Black History month, the Commission presented four video presentations:

*The Delaney Sisters-Elizabeth "Bessie" and Sara Delaney

*Henry Beard Delaney

*Bishop Payne Divinity School

*Union of Black Episcopalians

We also presented videos and/or articles on Asian/Pacific Heritage in May

National Hispanic Heritage-September 15 through October 15th.

And one on Doctrine of Discovery-Native American-November.

We planned a spring Diversity workshop in the southern part of the Diocese. Unfortunately, it was cancelled because of the lack of participation.

The Diversity and Reconciliation Commission did a workshop for the Standing Committee, Bishop Search Committee, the chairs of the Transition and Consecration Committees as they started the search process for the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of West Missouri.

We did not schedule a fall workshop, as we wanted the people of the Diocese to concentrate on the Bishop Search process. Attending the WESTMODIOLogues were important for our Diocese as we look to vote for our Ninth Bishop of West Missouri.

Our book studies in 2024 were:

“The Color of Compromise” by Jemar Tisby.

The Color of Compromise is both enlightening and compelling, telling a history we either ignore or just don't know. Equal parts painful and inspirational, it details how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices. You will be guided in thinking through concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church.

This book was also being read and discussed by members of two groups at Good Shepherd.

“The Sweet Hell” by Edwar Ball.

With the panoramic story of one “colored elite” family who rises from the ashes of the Civil War to create an American cultural dynasty Edward Ball offers the historical and literary successor to his highly acclaimed *Slaves in the Family*, a New York Times bestseller and winner of the 1998 National Book Award.

“The Sweet Hell Inside recounts the lives of the Harleston family of South Carolina, the progeny of a Southern gentleman and his slave who cast off their blemished roots and achieved affluence in part through a surprisingly successful funeral parlor business. Their wealth afforded Harleston the comfort of chauffeurs, tailored clothes, and servants whose skin was darker than theirs. It also launched the family into a generation of glory as painters, performers, and photographers in the “high yellow” society of America’s colored upper class. Harleston’s remarkable one-hundred-year journey spans the waning days of Reconstruction, the precious art world of the early 1900s, the back alleys of the Jazz Age, and the dawn of the civil rights movement.”

A Look Through History: The KC Juneteenth Bus Tour

June 10th, The Diocese of West Missouri hosted a Kansas City Bus Tour that visited historic Americans that lived in Kansas City and the Midwest.

The morning started when the group met at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral. Our first stop was visiting the Black Archives of Mid-America, where we learned about the history of black Americans in the central Midwest.

Afterwards, the group stopped at the Fairview Cemetery, the final resting place for hundreds of African Americans, followed by the Garrison School, a school for African American students in the Liberty, Mo.

The trip ended with a visit to Levi Harrington Memorial, the site of the lynching of Levi Harrington, and the Litany of Lament.

We also, purchased a table of eight at the St. Joseph Juneteenth Gala where several of our commission members attended.

Bishop Diane Bruce, Canon Shirley Bolden and The Rev. Rita Kendagor attended the annual Union of Black Episcopalians Convention Louisville, Kentucky.

Our Union Black Episcopalians Chapter's was established in 2023 in the Diocese of West Missouri. The Chapter's name is The Reverend Canon Edward L. Warner's Chapter.

Our budget for 2024 was \$30,750.00. The Expenses through September 2024 are

• Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration	\$1,824.75
• Absalom Jones Celebration	\$ 575.00
• Diversity Workshop	\$ 374.00
• Juneteenth Celebration	\$2,213.91
• Union of Black Episcopalians-Dues/Conference	\$4,783.39
Total	\$9,771.05

"Seeing White"-a six-part Podcast on the Dismantling of Racism was facilitated by Deacon Lynda Hurt in August and September 2024.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

The budget for 2025 is \$49,700. Increases in the budget for 2025 are:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration with our guest preacher, The Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Saturday, January 18, 2025, Evening Song Service
- National Day of Racial Healing-January 21, 2025
- The guest speaker for the Absalom Jones Celebration is The Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart, Sunday, February 16, 2025
- API-Conference at St. Mary's- April 2025
- Travels for our Juneteenth Celebration to Joplin, Pierce City, Mo., and a trip to George Washington Carver Museum in Diamond, Mo. DTD
- Latino Heritage Month-September 15th through October 15th
- Indigenous/Native America Month-November
- We will continue our book studies
- We will have two workshops in 2025 Spring/Fall
- The President and one other board member will attend the Annual UBE Conference
- The Young Adults (ages 25-40) plan a pilgrimage to Selma, Montgomery, Jackson and Memphis with the Bishop or his/her designee in the spring of 2025.
- Deacon Lynda Hurt will continue to facilitate future Podcasts on dismantling racism.

18. SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Prepared by The Rev. David Wilcox, Convener

Who are the members of your committee?

The Rev. David Wilcox, Convener
The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce
The Rev. Alisa Carmichael
Ms. Mary Chiles
The Very Rev. Dr. Don Compier
The Rev. Larry Ehren
Mrs. Cosette Hardwick

The Very Rev. Jean Long
Dr. Anita Philbrick, Secretary
Mr. Zach Phillips
The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage
Mrs. Clare Stern-Burbano
The Rev. Kim Taube
Mr. Milt Tootle

When does your group regularly meet?

The fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00pm

How many meetings were held this year?

Nine

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

The Spiritual Formation Commission's mission is to advocate for Christian formation; explore the needs of West Missouri congregations and determine a helpful response. By sharing and discovering new resources, we can recommend 'best practices; assist congregations in the process of incorporating pathways to formation with intention; and if desired, offer training or educational events. Our goal is to encourage and nurture spiritual growth, Christian practices, and theological reflection, based on the belief that actively engaging in Christian formation is a transformative experience which affects our understanding of morality, politics, economics, labor, family, the environment, hospitality, justice, friendship, and forgiveness. In short, everything is a spiritual matter.

In the past year much of this commission's work and conversation centered around how this commission would carry out its mission without having a member of diocesan staff to facilitate events and carry out its work. To this end we have been intentional about creating a collaborative body and in recruiting members for this commission who have experience and skills suited to different areas of formation who could take the lead in those areas of our work. One of our focuses in the last year has been on highlighting the rich resources for formation that are already present in the Diocese. To that end we:

- Began work on a formation lending library that will make Godly Play materials, children's formation books, and theological works available to parishes and individuals who may not be able to otherwise afford them.

- Hosted a Stations of the Cross service and talk at St. Augustine's, Kansas City, highlighting the work of devout churchman and famed African American artist Allan Rohan Crite.
- Hosted centering prayer workshops facilitated by the Rev. Rita Kendagor and Sr. Mary Pat Johnson.
- Provided a number of grants from the Spiritual Formation budget totaling \$4,250 to enable formation activities in a number of parish and ministry contexts including support for a hybrid EfM group based at Good Shepherd, Kansas City and the women's retreat hosted by Christ Church, Springfield.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

In 2025 we plan to continue the good work we began this year and hope to provide more formation opportunities and resources to the Diocese. These include:

- Opening and expanding the Formation Lending Library
- Hosting the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton, retired Archbishop of New Westminster in Canada and founder of the College of Congregational Development for a workshop on congregational vitality.
- Facilitating a Diocesan-wide Lenten Book Study and lecture on the Book "Life in Christ" by the Rev. Dr. Julia Gatta, Bishop Frank A. Juhan Professor of Pastoral Theology at the University of the South.
- Facilitating a training on the Godly Play curriculum.

19. WEMO YOUTH

Prepared by The Rev. David Wilcox, Youth Missioner

Who are the members of your committee?

Ms. Alexandra Connors
The Rev. Steven King
The Very Rev. Jean Long
Ms. Amanda Perschall
The Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok

The Rev. Joe Pierjok, chair
Mrs. Clare Stern-Burbano
The Rev. David Wilcox, Youth
Missioner
Ms. Laura Williams

When does your group regularly meet?

The last Monday of every other month at 6pm

How many meetings were held this year?

Seven

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

The mission of WEMO Youth is to inspire, educate, and empower young people to live the Good News, marks of which are: truth, hope, justice, mercy, forgiveness, and peace. This year we have continued the work of rebuilding the Diocesan Youth program, focusing on building relationships and providing opportunities for youth to get to know one another, and get involved. Since our last report to convention we:

- Had 25 youth attend the Diocesan Convention Youth Lock-In
- Hosted a listening session for youth with the Search Committee
- Took 28 youth to the Episcopal Summer Mega Camp at Camp Wood YMCA in Elmdale, KS.
- Took 9 youth to the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Louisville, KY
- Held the first youth delegate election since the pandemic. Four youth ran in this election
- Henry Galus of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral was elected as the youth delegate for the NW-Metro Deanery
- Jackson Bates of Calvary, Sedalia was elected as the youth delegate for the Central Deanery
- Resse Smith of Christ Church, Springfield was elected youth delegate for the Southern Deanery
- Amrit Tharakan of Christ Church, Springfield was elected youth alternate for the Southern Deanery
- We hosted regional game nights in Springfield and Kansas City with a total participation of 50 youth.

- We hosted 3 WESTMODIOlogues for youth with the candidates for our IX bishop with the transition Committee

In addition to facilitating these events, Fr. David has facilitated safe church, safe communities trainings, continued to be present for parish youth events and to visit, celebrate and preach, and talk about youth ministry at parishes throughout the Diocese and at the St. Sylvanus Chapel at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation in Osceola, MO

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

In 2025 we plan to continue to build the diocesan youth program by building relationships and continuing to add more events and opportunities for youth. These include:

- North & South Movie Nights
- Junior High Retreat
- Youth Delegate Election
- Happening #80 & 81
- Episcopal Summer Mega Camp
- MissionPalooza
- Back to School Game Nights
- Diocesan Convention Lock-In

20. CENTRAL DEANERY

Prepared by The Very Rev. Timothy Coppinger, Dean

When does your group regularly meet?

As determined necessary, periodically throughout the year

How many meetings were held this year?

Three

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- The churches of the Central Deanery have reported vitality in their life and ministries in the communities where they reside, in spite of economic challenges and, in some cases, insufficient clergy availability. Grant monies from the diocese have been effectively used for maintenance and ministry by the congregations. A resilience created from decades of persistent faith gives strong indication that we will enter 2025 with hope and new ideas of how to support our own congregations and our sister congregations within the deanery. We are grateful for the dedication to the ideal that the presence of the Episcopal Church in the suburbs and small communities of western Missouri improves life in western Missouri.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- We will strive to continue to create partnerships between deanery congregations and between congregations and larger metropolitan parishes to ensure sufficient clergy and sacrament to congregations that do not have adequate clergy presence of their own. As always, we seek to do whatever is necessary to keep church doors open and ministries in the church and outreach in the community vital.

21. SOUTHERN DEANERY

Prepared by The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson, Dean

Who are the members of your committee?

All clergy, active and retired, who reside in the Southern Deanery are members of the deanery clericus and are included in all messaging. The Deanery Council is comprised of all clergy in the deanery and all lay alternates and delegates to Diocesan Convention for the congregations of the deanery.

When does your group regularly meet?

The third Tuesday of each month for clericus and quarterly for deanery council

How many meetings were held this year?

Eight clericus meetings and four council meetings

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

The council meetings were focused on the major diocesan issues of the nomination process for candidates for our next bishop and the 2025 budget process. In addition to the regular clericus and council meetings, we had a great turnout for all of the meetings with the bishop candidates in September. Another major success for the year was the turnout for the Pride Fest Eucharist and parade.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

The clericus meetings will continue monthly, moving around to many locations throughout the deanery. Quarterly council meetings will focus on the hot topics of the day, including welcoming our new bishop.

22. COUNCIL CHURCHES OF THE OZARKS

Prepared by Cheyenne Wicken

Who are the members of your committee?

Catherine Crockett - President
Curtis McLaughlin - Vice President
Mary Kay Ross - Secretary
Jay Guffey - Treasurer
Jaimie Trussell - Ex-Officio
Jim Anderson
Jill Bright
Dr. Orin Cummings
Francine Pratt
Tyler Padgitt

Joe Reynolds
Jeremy Hill
Gordon Elliot
Jack Cole
Rachel Riso

When does your group regularly meet?

The fourth Wednesday of the month at 11am; CCO's Board of Directors meets once a month

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- Council of Churches of the Ozarks (CCO) was founded in 1969 to serve the most vulnerable in our community. Since its founding, the organization has developed, spun-off, and absorbed multiple program agencies designed to address long-term or emerging social issues. Today, CCO is home to long standing community programs such as Ambassadors for Children, Child Care Food Program, Crosslines Food Pantry, Diaper Bank of the Ozarks, Ombudsman, Math and Reading Buddy Programs, Safe to Sleep Emergency Women's Shelter and Wish I May birthday support program.
- 2024 was a year where we saw consistently increasing demand for services, a 40% average increase over 2023. Simultaneously, we experienced a difficult fundraising year. CCO focused on providing the best possible services to our neighbors, while working to develop new fundraising strategies. Council of Churches relies heavily on volunteers to carry out our mission.
- Ambassadors for Children (AFC) supports foster youth. So far in 2024, over 425 individuals have been served through our clothing boutique, prom closet, and additional support requests for specialty items such as car seats or music lessons. Well over 800 hours of volunteer time have been logged to support this outreach. Wish I May is a program providing birthday bags including gifts, cake, and party supplies to families in need. This year, 734 children received birthday bags through Wish I May.
- CCO offers Case Management as well as Resource and Referral services for individuals, providing goal setting, budgeting, assistance identifying and applying for benefit programs, and rent or utility assistance. Our Resource and Referral Specialist takes an average of 368 calls per month, supporting and directing individuals to appropriate services, as well as referring them to in-house case management.

- CCO's Child Care Food Program has reimbursed childcare providers across the state for 632,049 meals, allowing healthy food for children and supporting childcare providers' small businesses.
- CCO's Diaper Bank of the Ozarks (DBO) distributes diapers to families in need. So far in 2024, DBO has distributed 1,145,680 diapers, supporting health for almost 23,000 babies.
- The Ombudsman Program at CCO provides advocacy services for seniors in long-term care facilities. This year volunteers have served 2163 hours, and 19,200 seniors were served through this program.
- Crosslines Food Pantry has served over 17,000 households and provided 979,246 meals. This is an average increase of 40% over last year, and on many days we have seen over 100 individuals daily. Our Senior Services Program provides meals and food boxes specifically for seniors. This program has served an additional 106,362 meals. Our senior services program has worked to move as many people off of waiting lists as possible and is currently serving 563 individuals per month.
- Safe to Sleep, our emergency women's shelter provided 9,136 bed nights for women experiencing homelessness. 23 women moved into permanent housing with support of the Safe to Sleep team.
- Finally, our Math and Reading Buddy Programs provide tutoring and mentoring for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. They operate during the school year, and volunteers meet one on one with students once or twice per week. During school year months, these programs served 208 students. 601 volunteers served for more than 1,800 hours to provide tutoring and mentoring.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- Plans in 2025 include increasing community awareness of our various programs, growing our fundraising efforts and donor base, and working to sustain our programs. Funding has been an ongoing struggle, so we will work to sustain and grow programs. CCO also plans to begin construction on a permanent Safe to Sleep shelter on our headquarters premises. For many years, Safe to Sleep has been housed in a partner church. Having a permanent location will allow us to better resource our guests, and they will be better able to access our other support services that will benefit them.

23. SECRETARY OF THE DIOCESE AND DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Prepared by The Rev. Donna Stanford

Who are the members of your committee?

As of October 11, 2023, the officers, Executive Committee members, Deans, *ex officio* members, and elected and appointed members of Council were:

Diocesan Officers

The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, President
The Rev. Deacon Donna Stanford, Secretary
Mr. Tom Kokjer, Treasurer
Canon Mark Galus, Chancellor#
Canon David Powell, Associate Chancellor#

Executive Committee Members

all Diocesan Officers
The Rev. Susan Roberts, Council Vice President
The Rev. Joe Pierjok, at-large member

Deans

The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger, Central
The Very Rev. Jean Long, Northwest-Metro
The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Southern

Ex Officio Members

Mr. Eric Rhodes, Standing Committee President
Ms. Judy Turner, Episcopal Church Women President

Elected Members/Bishop's Appointments through 2024 Convention

Canon Shirley Bolden (St. Augustine's, Kansas City) [elected in 2022, 1st 2-year term]
Ms. Kate French* (St. Paul's, Clinton)
The Rev. Steven King [elected in 2022, 1st 2-year term]
Mr. Phil Metz* (St. Philip's, Joplin)
Mr. Spencer Orr (Grace, Carthage) [elected in 2022, 2nd 2-year term]
Ms. Amanda Perschall (Trinity, Lebanon) [elected in 2022, 2nd 2-year term]
Ms. Beverly Roggenkamp (Christ Church, Lexington) [elected in 2022, 2nd elected 2-year term]
The Rev. Galen Snodgrass [elected in 2022, 3rd and final 2-year term]

Elected Members/Bishop's Appointments through 2025 Convention

Ms. Regina Berens (St. Mary Magdalene, Belton) [elected in 2023, 2nd 2-year term]
Ms. Anne Breid (St. James, Springfield) [elected in 2023, 1st 2-year term]
Ms. Hayley Cobb (Christ, Springfield) [elected 2023, 1st 2-year term]

Ms. Zella Forsythe* (St. Matthew's, Raytown) [2nd appointed term]
Mr. Chris Morrison (Grace & Holy Trinity, Kansas City) [elected in 2023, 3rd and final 2-year term]
The Rev. Joe Pierjok [elected in 2023, 2nd 2-year term]
The Rev. Susan Roberts [elected in 2023, 2nd 2-year term]
Mr. Steven Williams* (Trinity, Independence) (2nd appointed term)

non-voting member
* Bishop's appointment

When does your group regularly meet?

The Diocesan Council meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m.;
The Diocesan Convention is held annually.

How many meetings were held this year?

Ten

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

It has been my privilege to serve as Secretary of the Diocese and of Diocesan Council.

This report will explain the purpose of Diocesan Council, its structure, and the actions taken by the Council since the 2023 Convention to meet its canonical responsibilities.

Article XIII of the Constitution of the Diocese of West Missouri provides in part that Diocesan Council "shall exercise all the power of the Convention between meetings thereof, for the purpose of the unification, development and prosecution of the work of Missions and Church Extension, the development of congregational life, Christian formation and community life, social ministries of the Church and leadership development."

Canon IX, section 4, of the Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri provides that the Officers of the Diocesan Council are a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary. The Bishop of the Diocese is the President of the Diocesan Council and is the head of all the work of the Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council elects from its membership a Vice President, and The Rev. Susan Roberts was so elected at the December 9, 2023 Diocesan Council meeting. The Secretary of the Diocese is the ex-officio Secretary of the Diocesan Council.

Canon IX, section 1, of the Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri provides in part that the Diocesan Council is composed of the following members, all with seat, voice, and vote: the Bishop; the Secretary of the Diocese; the Treasurer of the Diocese; the Chancellor of the Diocese (seat and voice, but not vote); eight laypersons elected by the Annual Convention; four clergy elected by the Annual Convention; four laypersons appointed by the Bishop; the President of the Episcopal Churchwomen, ex-officio; the President of the Standing Committee, ex-officio; the Deans of the Deaneries, ex-officio; and any other Officers of the Diocese, if any (seat and voice,

but not vote). The four laypersons and two clergy elected at each Annual Convention and the two laypersons appointed by the Bishop serve for a two-year period. No member of the Diocesan Council may be elected to serve for more than three consecutive two-year terms.

Thanks to everyone who contributes to the work of Diocesan Council, especially the dedicated staff of the Diocese of West Missouri.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Deacon Donna Stanford
Secretary of Convention

Summary of Diocesan Council Actions

Since the 134th Convention, the following actions were taken by Diocesan Council:

December 9, 2023

- approved grant to St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church, Cassville, from the Rust Fund for rural ministry, of up to \$6,000 to install concrete double railings at the front and side entrances of the church
- approved request by St. Luke's Beloved Physician Episcopal Church, Excelsior Springs, to relocate from the Central Deanery to the Northwest-Metro Deanery
- adopted 2024 Clergy Housing Allowance Resolution for The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, The Rev. Anne Cheffey, The Very Rev. Chandler C. Jackson, The Rev. Anne Meredith Kyle, The Rev. Charles Adams (Chas) Marks, The Rev. Cn. Jose Palma, The Rev. David Wilcox
- approved disbursement of International Outreach Grant (IOG) funds remaining as of December 31, 2023, proportionally to the 2023 recipients

January 12, 2024

- rescheduled June 8, 2024 Diocesan Council meeting to June 15, 2024, so as not to conflict with the KC Pride Parade

February 10, 2024

- approved \$1,000 grant to Christ Episcopal Church, Lexington, from the Rust Fund for rural ministry, to cover the insurance deductible for damage from flooding caused by a frozen pipe leading to a sink in the sacristy
- approved process for distribution of Curacy Program funds

March 9, 2024

- approved process for distribution of Shared Ministry Developers funds
- approved Diocesan Center information technology proposal submitted by Mr. Bryan Davenport for monthly monitoring and support

April 13, 2024

- elected Ms. Elisa White as Assistant Secretary with voice but not vote in Council proceedings (due to the Secretary's temporary inability to serve due to a broken foot)
- approved allocation of curacy funds in the amount of \$15,000 to Christ Church, Springfield, for one year; and \$45,000 to St. James, Springfield, in year one, \$30,000 in year two, and \$15,000 in year three
- approved the sale of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Maryville, for \$220,000, and authorized the Bishop to execute the necessary documents
- elected Mr. Tom Kokjer, Cn. Shirley Bolden, Ms. Kate French, and The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III to serve, with the Bishop, as trustees of a trust established in 1984

May 18, 2024

- approved \$97,000 grant to St. Philip's, Joplin, for installation of a new HVAC system
- approved sale of the organ at St. Paul's, Maryville, at a price consistent with advice on value from reputable organ companies and authorized the Bishop to execute all necessary documents
- approved \$3,995 to cover the cost of the CVAJ package of FaithX resources and the set-up fee

June 15, 2024

July 2024 meeting cancelled

August 10, 2024

- approved \$100,000 line of credit (LOC) at 0% interest and a 20-year amortization for The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Kansas City, to replace their parking lot
- approved \$16,000 grant to St. Ann's, Lee's Summit, for HVAC work
- approved spending up to \$10,000 from the general fund for the purchases of archival storage cabinets
- approved reallocating \$7,500 from the Shared Ministry Developers line item in the 2024 Plan for Ministry to send The Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok, St. James, Springfield, The Rev. Ryan Williams, and Ms. Amy Amason to this training in November
- approved change to the April 13, 2024 Diocesan Council Minutes: seat and voice are granted for the Assistant Secretary as an additional office; however, the Assistant Secretary is not afforded vote by Diocesan Canons and Bylaws of Diocesan Council
- approved changes to the 2025 Draft Budget
 - summary of changes made through discussion:
 - Saint Luke's Hospital on the Plaza \$5,000.00 – this item was removed.
 - General note in the budget – a 2.6% cost of living adjustment is factored into all compensation numbers at time of reviewing.

- Communication – “Discretionary Fund” line item recommended to change to more applicable name of “Equipment Replacement”
- Renewing Hearts and Minds “Continuing Education Grants” changed to “Continuing Education within Diocese”
- “Deanery Administration” line item shall be updated to “Deanery Events”
- “New Bishop” notations updated to “Bishop Diocesan”
- “Special Travel Reserve” line item updated to “Lambeth Conference Reserve”
- Union of Black Episcopalians line item updated to \$5,000 (clerical error after initial request)
- summary of changes made through motions
 - if any funds remain in centralized granting fund from current year budget that the remaining amount roll over to the additional \$100,000 of funding for the next year, and that this fund be replenished by \$100,000 each year
 - Children’s Ministry line items, “Programs & Materials” and “Trainings for Children’s Ministers” be reduced to \$5,000 each, for a total of \$10,000
 - Spiritual Formation line items, “Congregational Resources” and “Annual Forma Conference” be reduced to \$5,000 each, for a total of \$10,000
 - the line item “Youth General Convention Reserve” increase from \$1,333 to \$5,000
 - the line item “Youth Ministry Assistance” be reduced from \$12,500 to \$6,000
 - Diversity Workshops line item grow into two line items – Diversity Workshops and Diversity Conferences
 - “Special Travel Reserve” line item be zeroed out in this budget until the next Lambeth conference

September 14, 2024

- approved the following grants (the Property Grant Committee recommended grants and LOCs; Council voted to delete the LOCs from the Committee’s proposal and move the LOCs to full grants):

<u>recipient</u>	<u>request + LOC = full grant</u>
Christ Episcopal Warrensburg -Painting	\$2,325
St. Paul's Lee Summit - HVAC	\$7,200 + \$2,700 = \$9,900
Grace Chillicothe - Replace HVAC	\$30,051 + \$16,051 = \$46,102
Christ Episcopal - Lexington - repair steps	\$2,500
St. Mary Mag Belton - Window replacement	\$1,720
St. Nicholas – Noel – rectory siding	\$20,000 + \$10,000 = \$30,000
Christ Episcopal - Boonville - Bell Tower	\$40,000 + \$25,000 = \$65,000
St. Mary's - Savannah - Roof for Head Start Building	\$10,950 + \$8,000 = \$18,950
Grace Church Liberty - HVAC	\$10,000
Resurrection - Blue Springs – deferred maint & ADA	\$17,500 + \$8,750 = \$26,250

- approved increase in all diocesan staff salaries by 2.6% COLA, which was already included in the compensation amounts listed in the previous revision of the budget
- approved 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
- approved increase in the New Bishop Diocesan Hospitality line item in the 2025 budget from \$3,000 to \$5,000
- approved surplus Property Maintenance Fund Reserve 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 results in a net surplus of \$166.)
- approved 2025 draft budget with the foregoing amendments (The budget as amended will be the draft budget presented to Diocesan Convention.)

October 12, 2024

- accepted the “clean” or “unqualified” audit report of the Diocese for the year ending December 31, 2023
- approved an LOC request of up to \$8,000 to The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Kansas City, to facilitate building a new storage building
- designated the Episcopal Relief & Development Hurricane Relief Fund as the recipient of the 2024 Convention Eucharist Offering
- agreed to explore St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Monett, as the location for the 2025 Diocesan Council-Standing Committee Joint Retreat to be held February 7-8, 2025
- approved the draft 2025 Diocesan Council-Executive Committee meeting schedule (with the addition of Monett as the location for the Joint Retreat on February 7-8, 2025)
- approved 2024 assessment relief for St. Mary Magdalene, Belton; St. Anne, Lee’s Summit; Grace, Liberty; and Christ, St. Joseph

24. DIOCESAN PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Prepared by Canon David Powell on behalf of the Diocesan Property Committee

Who are the members of your committee?

Ex officio Members

When does your group regularly meet?

The second Tuesday of each month

How many meetings were held this year?

Six

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

“We think in centuries.”

This year, the work of the Diocese Property Committee has been primarily concerned with administration of property grants. The Committee developed a process for bi-annual review of grants, to compare multiple grants and prioritize relative need; a target for the yearly grant total, to ensure the continuing availability of the fund for future needs; and a process for recommending interest-free loans from the Diocese as an alternative or to supplement requested grants.

The purpose of the Committee’s process is to balance a variety of concerns. First, across all of its churches, the Diocese is trying to maintain infrastructure that was built and acquired when the Diocese was far more numerous and had greater funding that it has today. This dictates that we be good stewards of the funds that we have. Second, the Committee strives to make the property grant fund a permanent endowment that will always be available at need. Third, the Committee is dedicated to making the property fund available to as many of the Diocese’s churches as possible. Finally, the Committee wants individual churches to contribute to their own upkeep and to manage their finances so that they steadily accumulate funds for that purpose. The Committee’s hope is that by using the loans from the Diocese, churches will be encouraged to routinely budget money for property issues and that after the loans are paid off, churches will continue to carry that line item in their budgets to build up a reserve for future property needs.

The Committee reviewed requests from 17 churches. The Committee recommended approval of 13 requests of which the committee propose that seven requests should be granted in part and the balance supplied through interest-free loans from the Diocese. One request was tabled for further study. Three requests were denied in favor of the full amount being supplied through an interest-free loan from the Diocese. The Committee recognized that in future years if a church was unable to make payments on its interest-free loan, or needed relief, it could renew its request for a property grant for all or part of loan.

We are hopeful that this process will provide a template going forward to manage grants in a way that will strengthen all of the churches in the Diocese and maintain the fund as a permanent endowment.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

We are hopeful that the established process will provide a template going forward to manage grants in a way that will strengthen all of the churches in the Diocese and maintain the fund as a permanent endowment.

25. CREATION CARE COMMISSION

Prepared by The Rev. Collin Larimore, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

The Rev. Collin Larimore
The Rev. Ryan Williams
Mr. Jory Mertens

When does your group regularly meet?

As needed on the first Wednesday of the month, usually in the morning

How many meetings were held this year?

Five

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- Commission was established and has begun to create content for the diocesan website to be used as resources available to the diocese related to all things Creation Care. These resources will be updated and changed from time to time as need arises within the diocese and as the commission is directed/desires.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- Add to the number of people serving on the commission.
- Further identify and celebrate the current ministries of our parishes as examples to uplift in the area of creation care.
- Develop a survey for the diocese to explore how the people of West Missouri understand creation care within the life of the church and to have baseline sense of where creation care lies in the focus and energy of our members.

26. ORDER OF NAUCRATIUS

Prepared by The Rev. Collin Larimore, Chair

When does your group regularly meet?

As needed

How many meetings were held this year?

12

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

The Order of Naucratius is a grassroots ministry group within the church and is spread across many dioceses. Within DIOWEMO there are handful of folks who are associated. This continues to grow and is a highlight of our ministry this year. Members from WEMO have and continue to travel to various parts of the country to participate in ministry. Two major events this year that helped to provide hundreds of pounds of fresh and high-quality protein to neighbors in need. The first, our annual hog hunt is a weeklong gathering held near Clinton, LA and this year we were able to provide 1000 meals worth of protein from our time spent together. The second, our fishing retreat in Onekama, MI was another near weeklong opportunity to pray together with the daily office, enjoy the outdoors, and provide hundreds of pounds of fresh fish to multiple different pantry locations. With one cooler set aside and saved for when the bishop nominees came to visit in September. We have also begun to explore a potential partnership with a Joplin area organization that cares for some of our most vulnerable adults who are often left with little to no protein available to them by months end with their assistance programs.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

A challenge for our group in the state of Missouri, unlike in other states, is the language regarding how game meat can be donated and given to a pantry without breaking any health codes or the wildlife code for the state. In 2025, we will be seeking to work with the diocesan chancellor on how best to navigate some of the intricacies of the various codes and regulations so that we might further live out our mission of feeding people. In 2025 we will seek to develop new partnerships and explore hosting our own event here in the diocese that can provide protein to those in need through new partnerships. We will continue to send people from our diocese to the various events of the order as they pop up across the country.

27. LITURGY AND WORSHIP COMMISSION

Prepared by The Rev. James Lile, Jr., Chairman

Who are the members of your committee?

The Ven. Bruce Bower
The Rt. Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce
The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger
The Rev. Jim Lile, Chairman
The Very Rev. Jean Long
The Rev. Chas Marks
Dr. Paul Meier
The Rev. Canon Jose Palma
The Rev. Susan Roberts

When does your group regularly meet?

As needed

How many meetings were held this year?

Three plus email

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

- Renewal of Vows
- Secularization of St. Paul's, Maryville
- Evening Prayer and Holy Eucharist at Convention, with contemplative interludes during the bishop election

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

- As stated on the webpage, we will continue to provide leadership, consultation and assistance in the planning and preparations for the worship services of the Diocese.

28. CHAPLAIN TO THE RETIRED CLERGY AND SURVIVING SPOUSES

Northwest-Metro/Central Deaneries

Prepared by The Rev. Jerry Kolb

Who are the members of your committee?

Brenda and Jerry Kolb

When does your group regularly meet?

Irregularly

How many meetings were held this year?

Varies

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

The work of the Chaplains to the Retired Clergy and Surviving Spouses goes on with regularity. We have clergy that retire and we seek to bring them into the retired community. Perhaps the most significant events that have occurred for us in the past year has been the death of several clergy and spouses. Chaplain Jerry Kolb has ministered to Sheri Wood following Bob Wood's death.

Our more routine work includes remembering birthdays, anniversaries and other events but sending e-cards and occasional humorous emails. Of most importance every year is the health care plans for the CPG. Chaplains have been sources for information about these changes and encouragement to learn about the proposed changes before the change happens.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

There are 105 clergy and surviving spouses listed as belonging to the Diocese of West Missouri. Not all of those listed live in the Diocese but they are still ours to be ministered to. The diocesan chaplains try to maintain some form of contact with them through the phone, birthday greeting cards, or emails. It helps these people to know that they are still a part of the diocese regardless where they may reside. For those living in the diocese, maintaining contact with the retired helps them to feel 'active' in the diocese and available for parish supply. National statistics indicate that retired clergy are a significant resource that help keep our parishes (especially smaller congregations) open and operating. Chaplains are a resource for questions regarding Church Pension policies and benefits and help reduce anxiety about financial security. Chaplains' also try to keep track of retired clergy or surviving spouses that may have unusual financial needs that may be covered by emergency requests to the CPG through the bishops office.

29. CHAPLAIN TO THE RETIRED CLERGY AND SURVIVING SPOUSES

Southern Deanery

Prepared by The Rev. Jerry Miller

Who are the members of your committee?

Betty and Jerry Miller

When does your group regularly meet?

During the Christmas/Epiphany cycle and in the spring

How many meetings were held this year?

Twice

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

The retired clergy and spouses of the Southern Deanery met two times since last Diocesan Convention. Both meetings (dinner and conversation) were at Jerry and Betty Miller's home in Springfield, MO. Bishop Bruce was able to be with the group on both occasions. In addition, the chaplains sent an email each month to all members, listing anniversaries of ordination and birth of the retired clergy and spouses.

As necessary, the chaplains contacted members by phone or email regarding a health issue or concern. Due to the close proximity of the members, it is easy to stay in touch and see each other in person.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

We plan to meet at least twice for dinner and conversation and continue sending monthly updates by email.

30. ACCESS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Prepared by The Very Rev. Peter DeVeau

Who are the members of your committee?

Members represent our three Deaneries: David Britt, St James, Springfield; Minda Cox, St Alban's, Bolivar; Rev Silas Engstrom, St James, Springfield; Rev Peter DeVeau, retired, Grace & Holy Trinity, Kansas City; Margie Gray, St Anne's, Lee's Summit; Ginnie Miller, Grace & Holy Trinity, Kansas City; Rev Meg Rhodes, St Anne's, Lee's Summit. Ginnie Miller is our secretary, Peter DeVeau serves as chair.

When does your group regularly meet?

Monthly

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

Access for All God's Children, whose members represent a wide range of ability, disability, and challenge, meets via Zoom most months. Members use this "safe space" to share concerns, successes, stressors, and other challenges related to accessibility, with the goal of gently guiding the people and congregations of the Diocese of West Missouri in considering access for all to worship and community life. We are deeply grateful to Bishop Bruce for her role in raising up this work among us.

Three things in particular are bearing fruit or are in process from our labors this year.

The Access for All God's Children ministry page on the diocesan website was outlined and fleshed out by the committee and created through the capable assistance and guidance of Zach Walker. This page is intended as a resource site and springboard for the diocese and beyond in growing in the acceptance, empowerment, and equipping for ministry with the disabled among us.

Two posters for public display, yes posters! in this post-analog cyber world are being distributed to every congregation. One poster deals with ways for making spaces as accessible as possible. The other suggests ways to engage with disabled persons. The Rev Ryan Wiksell has worked closely with Margie Gray and the AGC committee in the graphic design and content for this undertaking.

A hybrid In-person and Zoom gathering with the hosts of The Accessible Altar podcast is planned for the first quarter of 2025. Christ Church, Springfield will be hosting the event. The Revs Stephanie Shockley and Robyn King will be encouraging us in creating expansive ministries among persons of varying disabilities.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

With God's grace our work going forward is to live into the General Convention mandate that each Diocese have a "plan in place" to develop support for/inclusion of those with disabilities. As Rev Stephanie Shockley of the Accessible Altar podcast remarked, we are well ahead in that goal in West Missouri.

31. EPISCOPAL VETERANS FELLOWSHIP

Who are the members of your committee?

The Rev. Vicky Anderson, Paula Carnegie, Susan Eveland, The Rev. Jonathan Galles, Ralph Goodrich, Katrin Herd, Phelps Hobart, The Rev. Adam James, Elizabeth Johnson, Philip Lofflin, Ralph Munyan, The Rev. Larry Parrish, Dan Philbrick, Ken Scofield, The Rev. Larry Scofield, The Rev. Barbara Wegener, Todd Wilkinson

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2024?

Formed in the Spring of 2023, Bishop Bruce convened the Rev. Adam James (Northwest-Metro Deanery), Susan Eveland (Central Deanery) and Todd Wilkinson (Southern Deanery) to comply with the 2019 Diocesan Resolution. We met monthly to discern our identity within the diocese's relationship to the greater Episcopal Veterans Fellowship of The Episcopal Church.

After conversations with the founder of the EVF and the current president, we felt called to widen the ministry to include other service-oriented individuals who have experienced similar moral wounds as veterans. First responders, front-line responders, healthcare providers, caregivers, teachers, and school administrators have all been welcome to participate in our diocesan EVF. Individuals who have experienced violence in the workplace setting and have suffered, or those who care for someone who has suffered, have become the benchmark for our ministry's identity. We have hybrid meetings of in-person and online.

On October 12, 2024, St. Mary's (Kansas City) hosted their annual Mass for First Responders, Military, and Veterans. Members from EVF attended in-person and online. EVF had a table of information to support veterans and raise awareness of EVF. A table at the diocesan convention ministry fair is also planned.

What are your plans for ministry in 2025?

For 2025, EVF will continue discernment for how we minister to those who have suffered the effects of violence while serving our country, state, municipal, or civic institutions. Additionally, creating awareness through presentations to each deanery council and administering informational documents to each parish is being planned. It is a goal to have each deanery host their version of a Blue Mass for first responders, military, and veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Lofflin, St. Mary's - Kansas City
Episcopal Veterans Fellowship Convener

The Rev. Adam James, Deacon at St. Andrew's
Episcopal Veterans Fellowship Secretary and Pastoral Contact

32. PARIS GROVE RESOLUTION

A Creation Care Ministry Report

In 2023 the Paris Groves Resolution-A Creation Care Ministry, was approved by the Delegates of the Diocese of West Missouri at its annual gathering. The resolution asked all 47 congregations to strive towards the goal of planting at least 500 trees, shrubs, and/or grasses in the boundaries of the diocese during 2024, and to report those results to Good Shepherd Church, Kansas City. An email reminding the congregations to report those achievements were sent from the Office of Communications to all congregations with an October 23, 2024, response date.

Eight churches responded with the following information. Two reported no action taken, which was one of the options included in the email. The remaining six congregations reported a combined total of planting 34 trees, numerous shrubs, and a monetary donation to Forest Releaf of Missouri. There was no report from the remaining thirty-nine congregations. Obviously and sadly, the stated goal was not fulfilled during this calendar year. Yet there is hope that next year will be different because this is an ongoing resolution for years to come.

Taking care of our environment is a stewardship opportunity to counter the effects of climate change that affects our global community. We are witnesses to the increased number and intensity of storms, hurricanes, tornados, droughts, and increasing global temperatures. The Paris Groves Resolution is one way, we the Body of Christ, in the Diocese of West Missouri can do our part for ourselves, our children, grandchildren, and those from generation to generation.

Therefore, after electing the Ninth Bishop of West Missouri, we, the vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd, hope this ministry opportunity will be acted upon by all congregations and reported before our convention in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Galen D. Snodgrass+

33. DIOCESAN CHANCELLOR

In accordance with the custom of this Convention and Canon V of the Canons of this Diocese, it is my privilege to report on the following matters that were handled by and through the Chancellor's Office since the 2023 Convention:

1. Provided regular advice and counsel to the Bishop Provisional on various Diocesan matters.
2. Attended Diocesan Council and Diocesan Council Executive Committee meetings and provided advice and counsel from time-to-time during their deliberations.
3. Provided advice and counsel to the Standing Committee and its *ad hoc* committees regarding the search and election processes for the Ninth Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese.
4. Provided advice and counsel to Diocesan Officers in the course of their duties.
5. Provided advice and counsel to Diocesan Staff in the course of their duties.
6. Provided advice and counsel to various Diocesan constituents, including the Intake Officer and the Disciplinary Board, regarding interpretation and application of National and Diocesan Constitution & Canons.
7. Provided advice and counsel to Rectors, Wardens, Vestries, and Churches on various matters, including personnel matters, insurance matters, corporate organization and governance, bylaws revisions, and the purchase, sale, and lease of property.
8. Chaired, served on, and/or participated in various Diocesan committees, including the Constitution & Canons Committee, the Property Committee, and the HR Committee.
9. Gathered information from Episcopal attorneys within the Diocese to form a Lawyers Network.
10. Participated in national Chancellor's Conference events to stay updated and informed on best practices for the Chancellor's Office.

Faithfully submitted,

Cn. Mark J. Galus, Chancellor

Cn. David T. M. Powell, Vice Chancellor

34. STANDING COMMITTEE

I write to convention to share the work of Standing Committee in the 134th year of the Diocese. What a year it has been, from the beginning of our year when we hosted the kickoff of the search process to welcoming the candidates in person this past September. The year has been thrilling and challenging all at the same time. The Standing Committee has met at least 21 times this year both to engage in our regular work and bishop search work.

We have been absolutely amazed with the work of the Bishop Search Committee- from the listening sessions, to forming the profile, and presenting a slate of highly qualified candidates. It was truly great to work alongside them in this process.

The work of the Transition Committee has also been inspiring. The work they accomplished in showing the best of what our Diocese has to offer was well received and something that the committee and Diocese should be proud of. Our attendance at these was terrific for a Diocese of this size.

While the consecration committee is just getting started, we can't wait to see what work they accomplish after the election.

As far as a synopsis of our regular work, I am including highlights below to summarize our activities and actions of late 2023 and 2024.

Thank you all for what you have accomplished this year and what you will accomplish in the future.

During this year the following individuals served on Standing Committee:

Dr. Jeremy Chessman
Ms. Alexandra Connors, Secretary
The Rev. Larry Ehren
The Rev. Ted Estes
The Rev. Canon Robin L. James, Vice President
Mrs. Marsha Patterson
Mr. Eric Rhodes, President
The Rev. Ronald Verhaeghe

We had several representatives appointed to various groups:

COM Standing Committee Representative: Rev. Larry Ehren

Property Committee Representative(s): Mr. Eric Rhodes, Ms. Alexandra Connors

Centralized Grants Representative: The Rev. Canon Robin L. James

Transition Committee Liaisons: Rev. Ted Estes, Rev. Ron Verhaeghe, Mrs. Marsha Patterson

Consecration Committee Liaisons: Rev. Larry Ehren, Dr. Jeremy Chessman

Highlights of 23-24:

As of Oct. 21st, 2024, we have met a total of 21 times, including a number of dedicated meetings related to the search for the ninth bishop of West Missouri. In November of 2023 –

- Elected officers for the year, Mr. Eric Rhodes to serve as President, Rev. Robin James to serve as Vice-President, and Ms. Alexandra Connors to serve as Secretary
- Hosted a retreat at St. Anne's in Lees Summit to kick off the Bishop Search process, along with our consultant, BSC, and chairs of all committees.
- Consented to the election of Rev. Kristin White as Bishop of Southern Ohio.

- Consented to Silas Engstrom's ordination.
- Consented to Mark Bowers' ordination.
- Consented to Katie Mansfield's ordination.
- Consented to Jody Carroll's ordination.

December of 2023-

- Led a joint discussion regarding the Mutual Ministry Review with Bishop Bruce, Diocesan Council and Standing Committee at Grace in Carthage
- Discussion regarding consent/candidacy process with Bishop Bruce and Rev. Anne Kyle
- Set the Bishop Search Committee Budget
- Received an update from Bishop Bruce

January 2024-

- Selected the members of Transition and Consecration Committee
- Received update from consultant regarding search process
-
- February 2024-
- Received an update from Bishop Bruce
- Held a joint retreat/meeting with Diocesan Council regarding Congregational Vitality
- As requested by Bishop Bruce, consented to the sale of Maryville church and rectory
- Received a detailed report regarding the profile from the BSC on Feb 8th

March 2024-

- Hosted a retreat with the Transition and Consecration Committees at St. Andrews, Kansas City
- Consent to the ordination and consecration of Kara Wagner Sherer as Bishop of Rochester.
- Consent to the ordination and consecration of Dorothy Sanders Wells as Bishop of Mississippi.

April 2024-

- No Meeting

May 2024-

- Consented to the election of a suffragan bishop in West Texas
- Held discussion regarding transition schedule/locations, provided feedback to Transition Committee
- Discussed Ninth Bishop Compensation Package
- Replaced Co-chair of Consecration Committee with Fr. Chandler
- Received update from consultant regarding search process

June 2024-

- Members attended Next Steps Retreat with Commission on Ministry
- Approved generic compensation package for ninth bishop to be presented to Diocesan Council
- Consented to ordination of Silas Engstrom
- Consented to ordination of Katherine Mansfield
- Received updates from BSC/Transition committees

July 2024-

- Received an update from Bishop Bruce
- Consent to the ordination of Julia E. Whitworth as Bishop of Massachusetts.
- Consent to the ordination of Phil N. LaBelle as Bishop of Olympia.
- Reviewed Transition Committee plans, provided feedback and expectations
- Approved Transition Committee Budget
- Approved Petition Process Application
- Received update from consultant regarding semi-finalist retreat
- Held meeting to receive names and materials from BSC
- Held meeting to review/approve slate of nominees
- Approved the following candidates as the slate for the Ninth Bishop
 - The Rev. Jimmy Abbott
 - The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux
 - The Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace
 - The Rev. Molly Payne-Hardin

August 2024-

- Received an update from Bishop Bruce
- Set expectations regarding consecration location
- Approved Transition Schedule

September 2024-

- Received an update from Bishop Bruce
- Received an update from Mtr. Anne Kyle regarding the vocations process
- Received and approved set of questions for listening session
- Replaced Chaplain for Consecration Committee with Fr. Larry Ehren
- Approved Candidacy for:
 - Mr. Keith Johnson
 - Ms. Jennifer Sackhoff
 - Mr. Christopher J. Duffie

October 2024-

- Held Mutual Ministry review with Bishop Bruce
- Approved tentative consecration budget

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Rhodes
Standing Committee President, 2023-2024



**Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City:
Serving Our Community for More than 140 Years**

2024 Report to the Diocesan Convention

From

Jani Johnson, MSN

Chief Executive Officer, Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City
Chief Executive Officer, Saint Luke's Central Region

This year, we celebrated a major milestone in our 140-plus-year history. On Jan. 1, Saint Luke's Health System and BJC HealthCare closed their transaction to combine as an integrated, academic, and patient-centric Missouri-based health system, with Saint Luke's officially joining BJC Health System. As BJC's West Region, we serve patients in western Missouri and Kansas as Saint Luke's. Throughout this year, integration work has been underway, as we work together to deliver extraordinary clinical care and to become the Midwest's premier destination to practice medicine.

Our focus, as always, is on caring for our patients with exemplary skill, innovation, and kindness, and I am deeply proud of the work our Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City team does daily to achieve this. Our efforts shine through in the feedback we receive from our patients and their loved ones—which I highlight weekly in "Mission Moments" for our team—as well as in prestigious recognition from industry peers and organizations. Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City had the rare and distinguished honor this year of receiving its fifth consecutive Magnet Designation, reflecting consistently outstanding dedication and service by our nursing staff, which makes a difference in patient outcomes. Magnet designation is awarded by the American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Recognition Program® and is achieved by only 10% of all U.S. hospitals. It requires high performance in metrics that include patient satisfaction, patient outcomes, and nursing satisfaction. We're one of only 50 organizations worldwide to have achieved five consecutive Magnet designations.

In fall 2023, Saint Luke's Hospital received its first Level I verification from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma—the highest standard for trauma care. This verification is based on assessment of program features including commitment, readiness, patient care, and policies.

Unfortunately, gun violence is part of the trauma that impacts our community. BJC Health

System is part of a growing coalition of U.S. health systems and hospitals uniting with the Ad Council to tackle this urgent public health crisis. Our West Region (Saint Luke's)—on the heels of providing trauma care to victims of the February 2024 shooting in Kansas City following the Super Bowl victory parade—stood strong with the city of Kansas City by lighting Saint Luke's Hospital orange on June 7, National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

This year, we—along with Saint Luke's North Hospital—Barry Road—received recognition from *Newsweek* as two of "America's Best Maternity Hospitals 2024," both earning five-star ribbons based on our quality metrics scores. Hospital quality was measured by maternity care indicators such as the number of unexpected newborn complications per 1,000 live births, maternity morbidity, infection prevention, and patient satisfaction.

Saint Luke's Hospital and Saint Luke's East Hospital both held NICU reunions in June, reuniting hundreds of families with the care team members who cared for their little ones in the NICU for days, weeks, and even months. We were overjoyed to celebrate each former patient's milestones. Ellie—born prematurely in 2017 at just 21 weeks and six days—is Saint Luke's youngest surviving NICU baby. Her mom, Mindy, shared in a media story this year about the importance of our NICU's Extremely Low Gestational Age Newborn (ELGAN) program, and its foundation in research and leading-edge technology, for premature babies like Ellie. I'm proud to share that Ellie started second grade this year and is thriving.

And as always, our care for all, regardless of a patient's ability to pay, sets us apart. Our charity care includes providing treatment for patients who are uninsured and unable to pay for their care; patients whose insurance doesn't cover their bills; and patients facing catastrophic illness or injury or serious financial hardship. In 2022, the most recent year for which final numbers are available, Saint Luke's provided \$32.1 million in charity care—including \$12.7 million at Saint Luke's Hospital.

Important News

Announced in a news release on Jan. 2, 2024

BJC and Saint Luke's Complete Transaction to Combine as Single, Integrated Health System

ST. LOUIS and KANSAS CITY, Mo. – BJC Health System of St. Louis (“BJC”) and Saint Luke's Health System of Kansas City (“Saint Luke’s”) today announced they have completed their transaction to combine as an integrated, academic, and patient-centric Missouri-based health system.

The two nonprofit health systems first announced plans to integrate in May 2023 following the signing of a letter of intent, and then reached a definitive agreement in November after satisfying all regulatory reviews. The transaction officially closed on Jan. 1, 2024, when Saint Luke’s joined BJC.

With this action, BJC continues to be one of the largest employers in Missouri with a combined workforce of 44,000.

BJC remains committed to providing high-quality, affordable patient care at its 24 hospitals and hundreds of clinics in Missouri, southern Illinois, and eastern Kansas. It now offers patients expanded access to more than 3,500 clinical trials and increased opportunities for shared research, innovation, and clinical collaboration among physicians and researchers. BJC anticipates an annual community impact of \$1B for the broader geographic area it now serves.

As previously announced, BJC will operate as a single, integrated health care organization serving patients from across Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, and the greater Midwest region and beyond. It will operate as BJC HealthCare in its Eastern Region and as Saint Luke’s Health System in its Western Region. Patients will experience no immediate change to the way they currently receive care, access their health records, or communicate with their medical teams.

BJC Health System is led by CEO Richard J. Liekweg and an executive team focused on the mission and operations of the organization. In addition to his role as newly named BJC Health System President, Nick Barto also serves as President of the Eastern Region and will continue to be based in St. Louis. Julie Quirin has been named President of the Western Region and is located in Kansas City.

“From the moment we first explored the concept of an integrated system, we have had a clear vision to improve health care in the Midwest,” said Liekweg. “By working together to deliver extraordinary clinical care and becoming the region’s premier destination to practice medicine, we will enhance patient care and accelerate medical breakthroughs. Today, with our 44,000 committed, hard-working clinicians and employees, we take the first step in making that vision a reality.”

About BJC Health System

BJC Health System is one of the largest nonprofit health care organizations in the United States and the largest in the state of Missouri, serving urban, suburban, and rural communities across Missouri, southern Illinois, eastern Kansas, and the greater Midwest region. One of the largest employers in Missouri, BJC operates as BJC HealthCare in its Eastern Region and as Saint Luke’s Health System in its Western Region. BJC is comprised of 24 hospitals and hundreds of clinics and service organizations all committed to providing extraordinary patient care and advancing medical breakthroughs. BJC’s nationally recognized academic hospitals—Barnes-Jewish and St. Louis Children’s hospitals—are affiliated with Washington University School of Medicine.

Volunteer Assistance

2023 volunteer contributions

Saint Luke's Hospital volunteers are a valuable and important resource. They are selfless and eager to help, giving their time freely, with a focus on enhancing the experience for patients, visitors, and staff. Their services provide a positive economic contribution by supporting multiple departments:

- 10,966 total volunteer hours
- \$382,505 savings to the hospital
- 95 total volunteers
- 17 new volunteers
- 217 student observers

Other services and savings to the hospital:

- 3,051 Ambassador escorts
- 25,600 Information Desk contacts
- 11,544 projects/clerical/mailings
- 105,200 surgery towels—folded and packaged
- 471 miscellaneous items—department requests
- 2,826 hand-crafted items
- 15,444 packets/folders assembled
- 6,222 infant caps—cut, sewn, folded
- 554 patient or hospital errands and flower deliveries
- 792 laminating projects

Saint Luke's offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities, from greeting visitors at the front doors to helping patients and families during their visit. Eligible community members interested in volunteering at a Saint Luke's location may learn more by visiting saintlukeskc.org/volunteer.

Spiritual Wellness

- **Saint Luke's Week: 2024 Hope Award winners named**

Through the Hope Award nomination process, more than 60 West Region employees were recognized by their colleagues for living out the qualities of spirituality, integrity, and compassion day in and day out.

For the honorees we celebrate during Saint Luke's Week, these words simply define them, their hearts and actions, and their commitment to patients, co-workers, and community.

We are grateful for the positive impact our Hope Award honorees have on each of us and on Saint Luke's. Award winners were celebrated at an Oct. 24 luncheon.

Congratulations to our 2024 Hope Award winners:

Saint Luke's Central Region

Dianne Emily
Vanessa Freeman
Shelly Frazier
Darci Hebert
Adam Smith

Saint Luke's North and Critical Access Region

Troy Armstrong
Maria Hernandez
Nicole Jackson
Rachel Miessler
Susan Roeker
Chris Shuler
Ana Vasquez

Saint Luke's South and East Region

Molly Corbin
Veronica Gasparovich
Katie Schmitt
Susan Steiner

Saint Luke's System Offices

Kristin Dittmar
Tyler McKee
Amber Zuber

Saint Luke's Physician Group

Rahl Douglass
Julie Goins
Kayla Hanson
Sicily Kelow
Linsey Johnson
Debbie Totta

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to nominate a co-worker for this honor, for recognizing the inspiring qualities in these individuals.

- **Robust Plan of Activities for Saint Luke's Week 2024 Focuses on Theme of Leading with Love**

All BJC Health System West Region entities hosted a special Saint Luke's service and blessing of hands by their chaplains and volunteer chaplains the week of Oct. 13 - 19. Many hospitals arranged for kindness carts and the Tea and Tapestry program to visit units to ensure employees are able to participate in Spiritual Wellness activities.

- A heart display featured hopes, prayers, and gratitude from employees.
- Chaplains encouraged staff to complete a spiritual wellness survey to gauge participation and awareness around Spiritual Wellness services and how programs can be enhanced for hospitals, staff, and patients.
- Members of the Spiritual Wellness team hosted tables outside cafeterias.

The following week, the first in-person Hope Awards ceremony since 2019 was hosted at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral to honor award winners.

- **Spiritual Wellness Team Reinvents Soul Cafe with Tea and Tapestry**

Tea and Tapestry is a mobile hospitality and art program created to bring spiritual and emotional support directly to hospital staff, wherever they are. Originally launched as a chaplain resident's quality improvement project, the program was reimaged in 2023 by staff chaplains to include an interactive art element alongside the refreshments and inspiration it has always provided. The program now features a communal loom, where staff members from every unit and team can contribute by weaving a strand of yarn, fabric, or ribbon. This collaborative art piece symbolizes the way all hands and hearts in the hospital work together to create a tapestry of kindness and compassion.

By offering an assortment of teas, snacks, and reflective words for the day, Tea and Tapestry not only recognizes and appreciates the challenging work of our health care staff but also emphasizes the importance of self-care. Tea and Tapestry serves as a moment of respite and connection, encouraging staff to pause, reflect, and strengthen their relationships with each other and with chaplains.

- **Chaplains Host Holy Week Services**

All were welcome to participate in the services in the Chapel at Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City, which were also broadcast on internal channels for patients to view. All services were held in the Episcopal Church tradition.

- **Spiritual Wellness Presents to Clinicians to Strengthen and Integrate Faith-Based Legacy**

A goal for the Spiritual Wellness team was to create ways to integrate and strengthen our faith-based legacy through education, communication, and service. To help achieve this goal, the team developed and implemented Call the Chaplain in 2024.

Call the Chaplain is a 15- to 45-minute customizable presentation available to all entities, designed to deepen understanding of the vital role spiritual care plays in the hospital setting. Delivered by staff chaplains, this presentation covers the comprehensive Clinical Pastoral Education and training chaplains undergo to provide

spiritual and emotional support to patients, their loved ones, and hospital staff. It highlights the four dimensions of well-being identified by the World Health Organization—physical, social, mental, and spiritual—and underscores the importance of spirituality in promoting overall health, well-being, and quality of life. The session also explores how spiritual distress, often triggered by health crises, can affect an individual's sense of meaning and connection.

The goal is to ensure that hospital staff recognize the value of early chaplain involvement in patient care, as well as the many ways chaplains can support staff through programs like Tea and Tapestry, debriefings, chapel services, and mindfulness meditation. Additionally, the presentation outlines how chaplain support can be requested, emphasizing that chaplain care is relational, operating within the unique bonds formed between patients, families, and the treatment team.

- **Saint Luke's Celebrates Jewish American Heritage Month: An Interview with Jane Londy**

To commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month in May, our internal and social media platforms featured an interview about her faith with Jane Londy, MA, chaplain at Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City. Saint Luke's is committed to providing the best possible support for the spiritual needs of patients, families, and our staff. The Spiritual Wellness department is an interfaith chaplaincy that ministers to individuals from every faith background, including those who do not have a particular faith. Chaplain Londy answered many questions to help team members gain a fuller understanding of Judaism.

- **Three New Chaplains Become Board-Certified in 2024**

Chaplains seeking Board Certification with Board of Chaplaincy, Inc., an affiliate of the Association of Professional Chaplains, must have 72 credit hours of graduate theological education or its equivalent – 1,600 hours of Clinical Pastoral Education, of which 1,200 must be completed in an ACPE, Inc.-accredited program, and 2,000 hours of paid employment as a chaplain. They must secure endorsement from their faith tradition and author essays demonstrating competency in 31 areas. These essays provide an opportunity for candidates to articulate the theory and practice they have developed through their education, formation, training, and experience. Other areas of focus include human development, group and institutional theory, diversity, and spiritual development. Once they have submitted the required documents, they are required to sit before a certification committee that will further evaluate competency in the areas of their written materials and ultimately recommend certifications.

In 2024, three Saint Luke's chaplains became board-certified: Rev. Leslie Stith, MDiv, BCC (Spiritual Wellness Manager, Saint Luke's East Hospital), Rev. Sally Baehni, MDiv, BCC (Spiritual Wellness Manager, Saint Luke's North Hospital), and Rev. Christyn Koschmann (Chaplain, Saint Luke's East). Two additional Saint Luke's chaplains are going through the board certification process for the last quarter of 2024—Janette Platter (Chaplain, Saint Luke's Bishop Spencer Place) and Carmi Woods (Chaplain, Saint Luke's East).

- **Former Hospice House Chaplain Returns to Saint Luke's to Serve Crittenton Children's Center**

After an extensive recruitment process, Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City Crittenton Children's Center named a new chaplain to serve its patients and staff. Brian Templeton returned to Saint Luke's as chaplain for Crittenton Children's Center in August 2024. Brian is a graduate of William Jewell College, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Baylor University. He brings more than 20 years of experience in parish ministry and chaplaincy, mostly in hospice settings, to his new role as Chaplain/Manager of Spiritual Wellness. Brian worked as a chaplain at Saint Luke's from 2017 – 2022, most recently as the Chaplain/Bereavement Coordinator at Saint Luke's Hospice House, before accepting a role as a family services coordinator with Midwest Transplant Network. In addition, for a decade, Brian has instructed students from across the United States and around the world adjunctively at Central Seminary in the Kansas City metro area.

- **Going to the Chapel—at Saint Luke's South Hospital**

As an advanced practice provider with Saint Luke's Cardiovascular Consultants, Carol Wood, RN, FNP, knows the inner workings of the heart—and her own heart led her and her now-husband to her beloved workplace for a wedding story to remember.

Carol and David had originally planned to get married at their parish, but the parish was between pastors—and the couple had their hearts set on an earlier wedding date. Carol, who has been with Saint Luke's for nine years and has seen first-hand the role chaplains play for patients and staff alike through all of life's moments—from times of tremendous sorrow to moments of the greatest joys—knew exactly where to turn to bring their nuptials to fruition.

The Rev. Ron Verhaeghe, Chaplain at Saint Luke's South Hospital, was honored to say yes to their request, and Carol and David were married in the Saint Luke's South chapel—the bride's workplace.

- **Bishop Candidates for the IX Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri**

The Transition Committee arranged for the candidates to visit Saint Luke's Hospice House, Saint Luke's Bishop Spencer Place, and Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City on Sept. 20. The bishop candidate pool is a diverse group of Episcopalian Priests from Texas and Arkansas to Indiana and New York. The Bishop election will take place on Nov. 9 at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, and we are honored they took the time to visit three diverse programs that encompass the humanity of the patients and people we serve in the central Kansas City area.

- **Chaplain Sue Robb Named Saint Luke's East Employee of the Quarter**

Chaplain Sue Robb was nominated by one of her peers for all she does for the hospital and her colleagues. When Sue sees a need, she dives right in to encourage and nurture others. Simple gestures such as offering a hand blessing to staff on patient units or taking the Chaplain Cart, stocked with treats, food, hair ties, and Chapstick to units on the overnight shift, always make a difference. Sue makes everyone around her feel appreciated, and her calming presence puts everyone at ease, her nominator said.

“This past year, Sue jumped in to lead our Saint Luke's Week programming and did a phenomenal job,” her nominator continued. “Not only did she pull the week off with grace, but she also surveyed the spiritual needs of staff and tabulated the results into tangible ways the department can best serve others. Sue also stepped in to cover the holiday shifts, allowing her entire department to spend the holidays with their families.”

Awards and Recognition

- **Saint Luke's Earns High Marks in Latest *U.S. News & World Report* Rankings**

Once again, BJC Health System hospitals performed exceptionally in both the East and West Regions when *U.S. News & World Report* released the 2024-2025 Best Hospitals rankings and ratings for adult hospitals., with four of the top eight adult hospitals in Missouri:

 - Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine physician/provider partners again ranked as the No. 1 hospital in both Missouri and the St. Louis region.
 - Missouri Baptist Medical Center earned the No. 2 ranking (tie) in both Missouri and the St. Louis region.
 - Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City ranked No. 6 in Missouri and No. 2 in the Kansas City region.
 - Saint Luke’s East Hospital ranked No. 8 in Missouri and No. 3 in the Kansas City region.

“We are proud to see our East Region and West Region hospitals recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*,” said Rich Liekweg, BJC Health System CEO. “This well-deserved recognition is a testament to our organization’s mission of improving health care across the Midwest. We are grateful to our Washington University School of Medicine team members, our community physicians, and our caregivers across BJC for delivering extraordinary care to our patients.”

The *U.S. News* adult hospital methodology ranks 15 clinical specialties (such as cancer, cardiology/heart surgery, orthopedics, etc.) and rates 20 Common Care Procedures and Conditions (such as heart failure and joint replacements).

For the clinical specialty rankings, Barnes-Jewish Hospital was nationally ranked in 11 of 14 eligible specialties. Missouri Baptist Medical Center was recognized as high performing in four specialties, and Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City was recognized as high performing in three specialties. “High performing” status is granted to the top 10% of all evaluated hospitals.

In the Common Care Procedures and Conditions ratings, Barnes-Jewish Hospital was rated as high performing in 16 of the 20 categories. Additionally, Missouri Baptist received 14 high performing ratings, Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City received 10, and Saint Luke’s East Hospital received eight.

Overall, BJC Health System hospitals earned a total of 68 High Performing ratings, including additional high-performing marks for Alton Memorial Hospital (1), Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital (2), Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital (4), Christian Hospital (6), Memorial Hospital (2), Saint Luke's North Hospital (1), and Saint Luke's South Hospital (4).

In late 2023, Saint Luke's East Hospital was recognized among the Best Hospitals for Maternity Care by *U.S. News & World Report*, earning a High Performing in Maternity Care (Uncomplicated Pregnancy) rating for the third consecutive year. This designation is the highest award a hospital can earn for maternity care and places Saint Luke's East Hospital in the top 10% of hospitals nationally for excellent maternity care.

- **Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City and Saint Luke's North Hospital Named Among *Newsweek's* List of 'America's Best Maternity Hospitals 2024'**

Five BJC Health System hospitals have been recognized by *Newsweek* on the list of "America's Best Maternity Hospitals 2024," including Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City and Saint Luke's North Hospital—Barry Road. The ranking is based on a nationwide online survey of medical professionals and publicly available data from hospital patient experience surveys. Hospital quality was measured by maternity care indicators such as the number of unexpected newborn complications per 1,000 live births, maternity morbidity, infection prevention, and patient satisfaction, among others. Hospitals were awarded a four-star or five-star ribbon based on their quality metrics score.

- **Saint Luke's Metro Area Hospitals Recognized Among *Newsweek's* Top Hospitals**

In world and national rankings, seven BJC Health System hospitals were recognized for excellence in *Newsweek's* 2024 hospital rankings. This includes Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City, ranked as one of the top hospitals in the U.S. for a sixth year in a row—every year *Newsweek* has published the list. Saint Luke's East Hospital was also recognized on the list of top hospitals in the U.S.

Among other BJC Health System hospitals recognized by *Newsweek*, Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis was ranked No. 146 on the World's Best Hospitals list, No. 27 in the United States, and the top overall hospital in Missouri. This is also the sixth year in a row Barnes-Jewish Hospital has been named to the list of top hospitals in the U.S. Missouri Baptist in St. Louis was recognized in the U.S. list for the fourth year in a row.

In addition to the national rankings, in state rankings, Saint Luke's Hospital ranked second overall in Missouri and Saint Luke's South Hospital ranked third overall in Kansas. Saint Luke's East and Saint Luke's North Hospital were also recognized as top hospitals in Missouri, as were Missouri Baptist Medical Center and Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital in the East Region.

- **Saint Luke's Health System Earns Multiple Get With the Guidelines® Awards**

BJC Health System hospitals have received 38 awards among 10 hospitals in the East Region and six in the West Region from the American Heart Association, including Get With The Guidelines® — Coronary Artery Disease, Mission: Lifeline® and Get With The Guidelines® — Stroke programs.

These achievement awards are presented for demonstrating commitment to following up-to-date, research-based guidelines for the treatment of heart disease and stroke, ultimately leading to more lives saved, shorter recovery times, and fewer readmissions to the hospital.

Hedrick Medical Center	Get With The Guidelines [®] Stroke Silver Award
Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City	Get With The Guidelines [®] Stroke Gold Plus Award <i>Stroke Advanced Therapy Honor Roll</i> <i>Target: Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll</i> <i>Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll</i>
	Get With The Guidelines [®] Heart Failure Gold Plus Award <i>Target: Heart Failure Honor Roll</i> <i>Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll</i>
	Get With The Guidelines [®] Coronary Artery Disease STEMI Receiving Silver Plus Award Get With The Guidelines [®] Coronary Artery Disease NSTEMI Gold Award <i>Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll</i>
Saint Luke's East Hospital	Get With The Guidelines [®] Stroke Gold Plus Award <i>Target: Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll</i> <i>Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll</i>
	Get With The Guidelines [®] Coronary Artery Disease STEMI Receiving Silver Award Get With The Guidelines [®] Coronary Artery Disease NSTEMI Gold Award <i>Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll</i>
Saint Luke's North Hospital – Barry Road	Get With The Guidelines [®] Stroke Gold Plus Award <i>Target: Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll</i> <i>Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll</i>
	Get With The Guidelines [®] Coronary Artery Disease STEMI Receiving Gold Plus Award Get With The Guidelines [®] Coronary Artery Disease NSTEMI Gold Award <i>Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll</i>
Saint Luke's South Hospital	Get With The Guidelines [®] Stroke Gold Plus Award <i>Target: Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll</i> <i>Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll</i>
	Get With The Guidelines [®] Coronary Artery Disease STEMI Receiving Bronze Award Get With The Guidelines [®] Coronary Artery Disease NSTEMI Gold Award <i>Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll</i>
Wright Memorial Hospital	Get With The Guidelines [®] Stroke Silver Award

- HEI Recognizes 11 BJC Health System Hospitals for LGBTQ+ Equity and Inclusion**
 Eleven BJC Health System hospitals were recognized in the 2024 Healthcare Equality Index, presented by the Human Rights Campaign. In the West Region, Allen County Regional Hospital, Anderson County Hospital, Hedrick Medical Center, Saint Luke’s East Hospital, Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City, Saint Luke’s North Hospital–Barry Road, Saint Luke’s North Hospital–Smithville, Saint Luke’s South Hospital, and Wright Memorial Hospital were named Leaders in the 2024 report. In the East Region, Barnes-Jewish Hospital and St. Louis Children’s Hospital have been named as High Performers.
- BJC HealthCare and Saint Luke’s Receive Noteworthy Industry Recognitions for Brand**
 BJC HealthCare and Saint Luke’s were both included as part of Monigle’s “2024 Humanizing Brand Experience Rankings,” published May 14. BJC HealthCare was additionally ranked No. 25 on the “30 Most Trusted Health System Brands,” the only St. Louis-region health care system to make this list, as published by Becker’s Health IT. Monigle — one of the nation’s largest brand consultancies with a focus on compelling stories and patient experience — created these rankings based on an online qualitative survey of 26,450 household health care decision makers who have received medical care in the past two years and have health insurance. The survey measured clinical care topics such as friendliness of the staff, ability to explain what’s happening/what’s next, and patients getting the time they need with their doctor. It also measured logistical categories like parking at the health care facilities, wait times on-site, and online tools/virtual care.
- Newsweek Names Saint Luke’s One of ‘America’s Greatest Workplaces 2024’**
 Both regions of BJC Health System have been named among *Newsweek’s* second-annual “America’s Greatest Workplaces.” These results were based on input from more than 250,000 U.S. employees, leading to 1.5 million company reviews in 78 individual sectors. This is the West Region’s second appearance on the list and the East Region’s first.
- Saint Luke’s Recognized as one of Kansas City’s Healthiest Employers**
 Saint Luke’s was once again recognized by the *Kansas City Business Journal* as one of Kansas City’s Healthiest Employers. This award highlights area businesses that make health and wellness a priority. The 2024 award recognized the breadth of Saint Luke’s programs and resources available to employees, including the well-being platform powered by Virgin Pulse to earn medical plan wellness credit incentive, the Omada diabetes management program, and mental health support through Saint Luke’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The award also recognized Saint Luke’s Social Impact Day, which gives employees a day of paid time off that they can use to volunteer and make a difference in their community.
- BJC Honored by Newsweek as Great Place to Start a Career**
 Both regions of BJC Health System—East (BJC HealthCare) and West (Saint Luke’s)—were named to *Newsweek’s* list of “America’s Greatest Companies for Job Starters 2024.” This recognition highlights BJC Health System as an employer of choice in the areas of the Midwest we serve, and an excellent place for team members to work, grow, and thrive. Companies featured on this list were specifically recognized for “making the best moves to attract fresh talent,” and were ranked based on a five-stage evaluation.

- **Hedrick Medical Center Rehabilitation Department Receives 2023 Press Ganey Human Experience Guardian of Excellence Award®**

Hedrick Medical Center Rehabilitation Department was named a 2023 Human Experience (HX) Guardian of Excellence Award® winner by Press Ganey, the global leader in health care experience solutions and services. This award is part of Press Ganey’s annual ranking of the top hospitals and health systems in the country, according to performance in patient experience. As a winner of the Press Ganey HX Guardian of Excellence Award®, Hedrick is in the top 5% of health care providers nationwide in delivering rehabilitation services in the last year.

- **Hedrick Medical Center, Saint Luke’s Primary Care–Shoal Creek, and Saint Luke’s Multispecialty Clinic–Shoal Creek Earn 2023 ASHE “Energy to Care” Award**

The American Society for Health Care Engineering (ASHE) of the American Hospital Association recognizes selected health care facilities each annual period for demonstrating strong leadership in becoming more sustainable facilities through active, ongoing energy reduction initiatives. “Energy to Care” award winners are recognized for reducing their energy consumption by 10% or more over their baseline energy consumption.

Education and Learning

- **Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute is Closing the Gaps in Women’s Heart Care**

Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute is proud to announce two new initiatives focused on improving heart care for women:

Saint Luke’s Muriel I. Kauffman Institute for Women’s Cardiovascular Research

Saint Luke’s Foundation recently announced the creation of Saint Luke’s Muriel I. Kauffman Institute for Women’s Cardiovascular Research. The Institute is the first of its kind, dedicated to studying the unique aspects of heart conditions in women to narrow the sex-specific research gaps both in prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

Historically, women have been underrepresented in cardiovascular research because of barriers in enrollment, and the belief that heart disease was a “man’s disease.” Recognizing this challenge 30 years ago led to the establishment of Saint Luke’s Muriel I. Kauffman Women’s Heart Center, the first of its kind in the nation, which is celebrating 30 years of prioritizing women’s heart health. Today, the percentage of women enrolled in drug and device studies is still around 30%, on average.

“We have far more questions than research-supported answers about heart conditions that are unique to or more prevalent in women,” said Tracy Stevens, MD, Medical Director of Saint Luke’s Muriel I. Kauffman Women’s Heart Center.

“Women with heart conditions may have different symptoms, signs, and clinical presentation than men, but today’s treatment is still largely based off research predominantly performed in middle-aged men. Our team is focused on transformational research and advancing knowledge in this arena.”

With the support of a \$10 million endowed fund from the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation, the Saint Luke’s Muriel I. Kauffman Institute for Women’s Cardiovascular Research will build upon previous research with an expanded team of dedicated clinician-investigators and initiatives to support discoveries in women’s cardiovascular health.

Nationwide Study on Pregnant People with Heart Disease

Saint Luke’s is proud to partner with the University of Missouri-Kansas City Healthcare Institute for Innovations in Quality in the announcement of a nationwide, four-year observational study of U.S. pregnant people with cardiovascular disease to better understand and combat maternal mortality and morbidity.

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health awarded more than \$8.3 million to fund the study, Heart Outcomes in Pregnancy Expectations (HOPE) for Mom and Baby, which has 36 confirmed enrolling sites nationwide.

Anna Grodzinsky, MD, is a co-principal investigator in the pilot phase along with Karen Florio, DO, MPH, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist at both UMKC and the University of Missouri, now a co-principal investigator on the expanded study. Both will co-lead HOPE with principal investigator John Spertus, MD, MPH, the Healthcare Institute for Innovations in Quality’s founder and director, clinical director of outcomes research at Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute, a UMKC professor of medicine, and the Daniel J. Lauer/Missouri Endowed Chair in Metabolic and Vascular Disease Research. HOPE will study the care and outcomes of 1,000 pregnant individuals with heart disease to better understand the patient characteristics, treatment, and organization of health care delivery that most influence these outcomes.

The study will help develop and disseminate standardized-care protocols to combat the United States’ tragically high rate of cardiovascular-related morbidity and mortality.

- **On the Cutting Edge of Research: Saint Luke’s Celebrates Endowed Chairs and Benefactors**

Saint Luke’s Foundation was pleased to celebrate the legacy, impact, contributions, and commitment of its Endowed Chairs and Professors and benefactors. These prestigious

positions are funded by some of the most gracious philanthropists in Kansas City who are committed to Saint Luke's and the work we do.

They give to impact the future of medicine and to help end devastating illnesses, all to create lasting change to improve people's lives.

The 13 physicians entrusted with the title of Saint Luke's Endowed Chair or Professor are tackling some of the most challenging issues facing our industry and the most critical health concerns facing our families, co-workers, neighbors, and friends.

"Thanks to their commitment, we are a national leader in research, education, and evidence-based medicine today," said Julie Quirin, President of BJC Health System's West Region. "We are a hub of innovation and discovery and home to a team of renowned leaders in their fields. And because of their deep commitment to education and research, they are also continually shaping what health care will look like tomorrow."

The Aug. 28 reception formally welcomed Sreeni Jonnalagadda, MD, who was named the first Reynolds Family Endowed Professor in Gastroenterology in late 2023, to this prestigious group.

Current Saint Luke's Endowed Chairs and Professorships:

- Carlos A. Bagley, MD, Edward T. Matheny, Jr./Missouri Endowed Chair in Neuroscience
- L. Andrew Benedict, MD, Edna and Wallace Greene, MD, Endowed Professorship for Surgery
- Wendell K. Clarkston, MD, Arthur W. Robinson, MD/Missouri Endowed Chair in Internal Medicine
- John Russell Davis, MD, Frank L. and Evangeline A. Thompson Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Surgery and Transplantation
- John H. Helzberg, MD, Marion H. Bloch Endowed Chair in Gastroenterology and Medicine
- Peter S. Holt, MD, Maxwell G. Berry, MD/Missouri Endowed Chair in Primary Care and Geriatrics
- Sreeni Jonnalagadda, MD, Reynolds Family Endowed Professorship in Gastroenterology
- Mikhail N. Kosiborod, MD, Ben McCallister, MD, Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Research Saint Luke's Hospital/Missouri Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Research
- Anthony Magalski, MD, Arvin Gottlieb Endowed Chair in Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant

- Timothy J. Pluard, MD, Paul G. Koontz Jr., MD/Missouri Endowed Chair in Breast Disease
- Brian M. Ramza, MD, Frank L. and Evangeline A. Thompson Endowed Chair in Electrophysiology Research
- John A. Spertus, MD, Daniel J. Lauer, MD/Missouri Endowed Chair in Metabolism and Vascular Research
- Tracy L. Stevens, MD, Julia Irene Kauffman Endowed Chair in Women’s Cardiovascular Health
- John Q. Wang, MD, Westport Anesthesia Services/Missouri Endowed Chair in Anesthesiology Research
- **Saint Luke’s Celebrates Tom & Starr Wagstaff Endowed Chair in Neurology**
 Saint Luke’s celebrated Tom and Starr Wagstaff for their generous contribution to creating the newly established endowed chair in Neurology—further expanding our Endowed Chairs and Professorships Program and its work to improve and enhance our academic mission. The resources provided by Saint Luke’s Foundation and generous patrons like the Wagstoffs enable our health care experts to continuously look for the next problem needing a solution, with a goal of improving care and how we give it. The Wagstoffs and other donors fuel ongoing research, create opportunities for global collaboration, and help strengthen education for tomorrow’s innovators and leaders. Julie Quirin, President of Saint Luke’s (the West Region of BJC Health System), expressed gratitude to Tom and Starr for their 50 years of generosity to Saint Luke’s, throughout which they have provided compassion, kindness, and friendship through their financial support and countless volunteer hours.

Carlos A. Bagley, MD, MBA, Edward T. Matheny, Jr./Missouri Endowed Chair in Neuroscience and Director of Saint Luke’s Marion Bloch Neuroscience Institute, said supporters like the Wagstoffs make the Neuroscience Institute the hub of innovation and discovery—and home to a team of clinicians at the top of their game.

“Saint Luke’s has always been near and dear to our hearts,” said Tom Wagstaff during the celebration. “We are excited about the future of Saint Luke’s Marion Bloch Neuroscience Institute under the direction of Dr. Bagley.

- **Samuel Goldlust, MD, appointed assistant VP of research for BJC West Region**
 Samuel Goldlust, MD, has been named assistant vice president of research for BJC’s West Region (Saint Luke’s). In this role, he will provide additional physician leadership to further support our growing research endeavors. Dr. Goldlust, a board-certified and fellowship-trained neuro-oncologist, joined Saint Luke’s in 2023. His research has been published in medical journals including *JAMA Oncology*, *Lancet Oncology*, and *Science Advances*. He will continue his clinical practice with Saint Luke’s Cancer Specialists and Saint Luke’s Neuro-Oncology as he takes on his new leadership responsibilities.

- **Saint Luke’s Celebrates Research Day 2024**
 Saint Luke’s held its annual Research Day event at Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City on May 8, highlighting the work of our researchers across all disciplines. The event showcased research work in the fields of medicine, nursing, and pharmacy, with more than three dozen entries this year. Selected finalists gave in-person presentations on Research Day. An awards ceremony was held following the event.
- **Clarivate Recognizes Drs. Mikhail Kosiborod and John Spertus Among Highly Cited Researchers for 2023**
 Clarivate™ named two Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute physicians among its prestigious list of Highly Cited Researchers for 2023. Congratulations to Mikhail Kosiborod, MD, and John Spertus, MD, MPH, on this recognition of their research for its importance and impact in clinical medicine. Clarivate is a global leader focusing on the analytics of scientific and academic research. Each year, the list of Highly Cited Researchers honors the top 1% of scientists who have made significant contributions to their fields, including medicine, economics, physics, and others. Studies published by Dr. Kosiborod and Dr. Spertus are consistently deemed significant by their peers, who frequently reference their work.
- **Mikhail Kosiborod, MD, Receives ‘Luminary in Cardiometabolic Medicine 2024’ Award**
 Mikhail Kosiborod, MD, Vice President of Research at Saint Luke’s, was named Luminary in Cardiometabolic Medicine at the 2024 Heart in Diabetes Conference in Philadelphia on June 8. Dr. Kosiborod was honored in front of an audience of world-renowned experts in diabetes and cardiovascular disease for what conference leaders describe as “his pioneering vision, leadership, and unique contributions to understanding, researching, and disseminating the important knowledge of prevention and management of cardiometabolic diseases.”
- **Saint Luke’s Physicians Receive Honors at Digestive Conference**
 Saint Luke’s physicians, fellows, and residents took part in the 2024 Digestive Disease Week (DDW) Conference in Washington, D.C., May 17 – 21. With 13,000 participants, the DDW Conference is the largest and most prestigious global meeting of gastroenterologists, hepatologists, and GI surgeons.

Saint Luke’s/UMKC Division of Gastroenterology had 19 research projects accepted for presentation, including:

 - Four selected for oral presentations
 - Two “Posters of Distinction”
 - One Most Outstanding for “Poster Tour” distinction
 - More than 60 presentations at DDW had at least one author affiliated with Saint Luke’s and/or UMKC.
- **Tuition Discount Opportunities for Saint Luke’s Employees and Dependents Through Affiliation with Rockhurst University**
 We deeply value learning and innovation and encourage employees to take advantage of opportunities to further their education and grow in their careers. Through our

affiliation with Rockhurst University, West Region employees and their dependents have access to tuition discounts on certain certificate and degree programs.

Milestones

- **‘A Rare and Distinguished Honor’ – Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City Receives Fifth Consecutive Magnet Designation**

Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City received its fifth consecutive Magnet Designation, a rare and distinguished honor, reflecting consistently outstanding dedication and service by its nursing staff, which makes a difference in patient outcomes. We’re one of only 50 organizations worldwide to have achieved five consecutive Magnet designations. Magnet designation is awarded by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program® and is achieved by only 10% of all U.S. hospitals. It requires high performance in metrics that include patient satisfaction, patient outcomes, and nursing satisfaction.

- **Missouri Rep. Emily Weber Helps Celebrate 30th Anniversary of Muriel I. Kauffman Women’s Heart Center**

Missouri Rep. Emily Weber (D-District 24), visited Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute to congratulate and commend the Muriel I. Kauffman Women’s Heart Center on 30 years of prioritizing and advocating for women’s heart health. Rep. Weber, who represents Jackson County, Missouri, presented the team with a State Resolution commemorating this milestone. The Women’s Heart Center is dedicated to defining novel research that addresses women’s cardiovascular conditions—that often have more questions than research-supported answers and guidelines—that extend across a woman’s lifespan.

- **Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City Receives Trauma Designation**

Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City’s Trauma program received a Level I verification from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma—the highest standard for trauma care. The verification followed a thorough examination by ACS reviewers. Saint Luke’s Hospital’s first Level I verification is based on assessment of program features including commitment, readiness, patient care, and policies.

Saint Luke’s Hospital was listed on the ACS website as one of only eight Verified Level I Trauma Centers in Missouri.

- **Saint Luke’s Bishop Spencer Place Announces Memory Care**

In late 2023, Saint Luke’s Bishop Spencer Place announces that it will add Memory Care to its list of provided services. Construction began in 2024 on a section of the Madison building that will be dedicated to Memory Care, with anticipated opening in 2025. This is a milestone many years in the making. Memory Care will be an option for current residents as well as serve as an attractive feature for prospective residents searching for on-site Memory Care services.

- **Saint Luke’s Cancer Institute to Expand Cancer Services at Saint Luke’s North Hospital**
Saint Luke’s Cancer Institute announced the construction of a new Comprehensive

Cancer Program on the campus of Saint Luke's North Hospital to provide the growing Northland community with expanded access to the most advanced, personalized cancer treatments close to home. Expected to open in spring 2025, the Comprehensive Cancer Program will include radiation therapy services and expanded medical oncology and infusion services in the Barry Medical Park Office Building adjacent to the main hospital.

- **Saint Luke's East Hospital Celebrates Ambulatory Surgery Center Topping Out Ceremony**

A topping-out ceremony in January 2024 celebrated the new 62,000-square-foot addition to the Saint Luke's East Hospital campus. This significant addition and expansion will help us bring even more advanced services to the community. The final beam for the building's framework remained on-site for several days for staff to sign before it was officially added. The expansion will include new locations for Rockhill Orthopaedic Specialists, women's health, plastic surgery, general surgery, pulmonary, and ear, nose, and throat.

People

- **Julie Quirin Honored as 'Grassroots Champion' by American Hospital Association**

Julie Quirin, President of BJC Health System's West Region, has been recognized among her peers for her strong advocacy efforts for BJC facilities and patients across the Midwest. Julie was honored by the American Hospital Association and Missouri Hospital Association as a Grassroots Champion. This annual award is given to a hospital leader in each state for their work in educating elected officials on how policies influence the role of hospitals and health systems within their communities, as well as broadening community support and tirelessly advocating for hospital organizations and patients.

- **David Maddox, MBA, CISA, CISSP, PMP, Honored with 2024 Distinguished Community Service Award**

This award from the State Celebration Commission of Missouri recognizes the significant contributions David, now BJC Health System Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, has made to his community as well as his accomplishments in exemplifying the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. David was among this year's honorees who were recognized at a ceremony and reception at Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis, with a theme of "Keeping the Dream Alive: It Starts with Me." In addition to his work to actively promote technology integration and cybersecurity in an increasingly advanced and connected digital world, David is engaged in numerous programs and organizations in Kansas City and Missouri focused on building technology-literate families and communities.

- **Cynthia Phillips, CNA, and Marsha Weaver, MD, Named Among Ingram's 2024 Heroes in Healthcare**

Two Saint Luke's employees were recognized as *Ingram's* 2024 Heroes in Healthcare. Cynthia Phillips, CNA at Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City, has worked for Saint Luke's for more than 20 years. Her feature in *Ingram's* describes a career in health care inspired by her mother and fueled by her faith, and a deep commitment to patients.

Marsha Weaver, MD, Vice President and Chief Population Health Officer at Saint Luke's, spent two decades working directly with patients, and it was a natural transition into a role now impacting health at the population level.

- **Bobby Olm-Shipman Named Chair of Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors**
Bobby Olm-Shipman, CEO of Saint Luke's South and East Region, was elected 2024 Chair of the Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors. During his one-year term as board chair, Bobby guides the 21-member governing board that oversees the organization's strategic activities and leads the organization on crafting its 2025–2027 strategic plan.
- **Saint Luke's Celebrates Spirit of Philanthropy Awards**
Saint Luke's Foundation honored donors who exemplify giving during the Spirit of Philanthropy Awards celebration, thanking each honoree for their generosity and commitment to our patients, community, and mission:
 - Philanthropists of the Year – Irv and Ellen Hockaday
 - Foundation Fellow Award – Tracy L. Stevens, MD
 - Champions of Philanthropy Award – JE Dunn Construction
 - Champions of Philanthropy Award – Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation
 - Distinguished Collaborator Award – Jani Johnson, MSN
- **Hannah Green—Clinical Research Coordinator and Blood Cancer Survivor—Named Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Honored Hero**
Hannah Green, Clinical Research Coordinator at Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City, was in her early 20s when she started experiencing symptoms including swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, headaches, and unexplained weight loss—symptoms that ultimately led to a diagnosis of Stage 2 Hodgkin lymphoma. Inspired by Hannah's story and her support of others going through cancer journeys of their own, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society recognized Hannah as an Honored Hero. Honored Heroes are dedicated individuals or family members affected by blood cancer who provide support to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and serve as an inspiration for others. They raise funds and educate about blood cancer by sharing their stories through speaking at events, writing letters, and networking.
- **Furha Cossor, MD, Helps Raise Funds for Individuals Affected by Blood Cancer**
While every patient's story and experience with cancer are unique, Furha Cossor, MD, a hematologist oncologist at Saint Luke's Cancer Institute, offers her patients expert care coupled with the understanding of someone who has been through cancer. In fact, her cancer journey drove her decision to become an oncologist. Dr. Cossor was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma at age 19 when she was a sophomore in college. She went through chemotherapy for six months while continuing school. This past year, Dr. Cossor was approached by Hannah Green, a Saint Luke's Clinical Research Coordinator and blood cancer survivor who is actively involved with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and was recently recognized as an Honored Hero. Hannah asked Dr. Cossor to be a candidate for Visionary of the Year—a philanthropic competition for dedicated individuals affected by blood cancer to educate and raise funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society—to which Dr. Cossor agreed.

- **Four Saint Luke’s Employees Appointed to Kansas City AAPC Board**

Four Saint Luke’s team members have been appointed to the Kansas City AAPC board of directors:

- Linda Renner, Population Health Coding Analyst, president
- Kari John, Managed Care Contracting Analyst, vice president
- Katie Walmsley, Manager Physician CBO Charge Review and Coding, chair of member development
- Sarah Brown, Revenue Cycle Analyst Charge Review and Coding, secretary

AAPC is the national credentialing organization for medical coders, billers, auditors, documentation specialists, and revenue cycle. The Kansas City AAPC chapter has more than 1,000 members from multiple health care organizations.

Commitment to Care

- **Second Heartland Gala Raises \$1.7 Million to Benefit Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute**

Saint Luke’s Foundation held the second Heartland Gala on Oct. 19, at Loews Kansas City Hotel. This annual event brings together hundreds of Saint Luke’s staff and donors. In 2023, its inaugural year, the event raised more than \$1.7 million to benefit Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute and the advanced heart care it provides during more than 250,000 patient visits each year. Saint Luke’s Foundation is honored to host the Heartland Gala to spotlight how generosity directly affects the lives of our patients and their families.

- **Saint Luke’s Welcomes Visitors to 94th Annual Plaza Art Fair**

Saint Luke’s was proud to be presenting sponsor of the 94th Annual Plaza Art Fair Sept. 20 – 22, with this year’s main tent featuring a refreshing fountain-focused theme of “Fountain of Health.” The Art Fair combines art, music, food, family, friends, and fun into a single event. The 2024 Plaza Art Fair was Saint Luke’s ninth year as presenting sponsor. The family-friendly art fair covers the Plaza area and features many artists and restaurant booths. It’s an opportunity to support the arts, connect with the community, and visit with fair goers.

- **Plaza 10K Benefits Saint Luke’s Home Care & Hospice**

The Plaza 10K is the largest 10K in Kansas and Missouri. Saint Luke’s Home Care & Hospice was honored to be the beneficiary of the Plaza 10K again in 2024. The 14th annual Plaza 10K on Sept. 8 drew hundreds of participants from 23 states—including 120 Saint Luke’s employees—to the Country Club Plaza. This year’s event raised \$20,000 in support of Saint Luke’s Home Care & Hospice.

- **Celebrating Diversity**

As part of our deep commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, BJC Health System’s West Region (Saint Luke’s) is proud to provide opportunities for education, discussion, and celebration within our organization and in our community.

Throughout the year, we have celebrated Black History Month, Women’s History Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Pride Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Native American Heritage Month (also known as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month). Our celebration of diversity includes sharing inspiring stories featuring our employees on our social media platforms throughout the year. A monthly calendar shared internally provides information on major holidays and observances that might touch the lives of our patients and team. Saint Luke’s employees also had opportunities during the year to attend virtual sessions on “Cultural Humility: Why It’s Important in the Workplace” as we all work to provide a welcoming place for all.

- **‘Joy of Connection: Connecting with Ourselves’ is Theme of Inaugural Diversity Week**
Saint Luke’s celebrated its inaugural Diversity Week with our counterparts in the BJC Health System’s East region. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging representatives were available to answer questions and provide information about the many initiatives the council is working on for employees, patients, and our communities. Colleagues cheered each other on while witnessing the team’s many talents throughout both regions through the BJC’s Got Talent show—from singing and dancing, to dribbling a soccer ball and telling “dad jokes.” Nutrition services participated by bringing dishes from around the globe to cafeterias.
- **Patient Gives Saint Luke’s a Glowing Review for Be Serene Hair and Skin Care Products**
Just like at home, the products we use make a difference. Recognizing this, Saint Luke’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Task Force—which formed to help turn employee feedback from our DEIB and engagement surveys into actions to benefit staff and patients—partnered with Materials Management to bring Be Serene on board. Be Serene products are specially formulated for ethnic hair and skin care and infused with natural and extra-moisturizing ingredients. All BJC West Region hospitals have access to these kits that include shampoo/body wash, conditioner, lotion, a comb, and a hair bonnet.

“Providing inclusive hair and skin products is part of our steadfast commitment to meeting the needs of the whole person—caring *for* our patients, but also *about* them,” said Nikki Beard, senior program manager DEI with BJC Health System. “It’s yet another way for us to say to every patient and to show them, ‘You’re welcome here.’”

Atasha was admitted to Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City in February to receive care after an accident. She had been in the hospital before, but this was the first time she had ever been offered toiletries specifically formulated for hair and skin like hers.

"I care about how I look and feel, and my hair can get tangled up easily," said Atasha. "One of my nurses told me they had bonnets and other hair care products available—this is the first hospital I’ve seen to offer that."

Atasha said she appreciated this opportunity to take care of herself while in the hospital. "The lotion and shampoo were perfect for me. One of my family members

even commented that I looked like I was glowing," said Atasha. "It really makes a difference."

After seeing Atasha's story on social media, more than 20 health systems contacted our vendor to provide these products at their hospitals. Five are local to Kansas City.

- **Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City and Saint Luke's East Hospital Host NICU Reunions and Reunite Former NICU Families and Staff**
The Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City and Saint Luke's East Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Units hosted former NICU babies and their families at reunions in June 2024. Graduate families joined doctors and nurses who had cared for the families during their stay. More than 250 guests joined the beach-themed event at Saint Luke's Hospital and had a blast with bubbles, snow cones, games, and smiles. This was Saint Luke's East Hospital's first in-person reunion since the COVID-19 pandemic. The event celebrates just how far NICU babies have come and how they are doing now.
- **Kauffman Center Future Stages Celebrates Youth in the Arts**
As premier partner of Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Saint Luke's joined the community June 9 to celebrate talented young performers from across the region at the 2024 Future Stages Festival. Future Stages provides an opportunity for hundreds of youth performers to shine on the Kauffman Center stages, featuring a wide range of performance styles. Saint Luke's is proud to support the arts.
- **BJC Health System Stands Strong Against Gun Violence**
BJC Health System is part of a growing coalition of U.S. health systems and hospitals uniting with the Ad Council to tackle the country's most urgent public health crisis: gun violence. Our West Region—on the heels of providing trauma care to victims of the shooting in Kansas City following the Super Bowl victory parade in February—stood strong with the city by lighting Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City orange on Friday, June 7, National Gun Violence Awareness Day.
- **SevenDays Movement Encourages Starting a Ripple of Kindness to Change the World**
With kindness and compassion at our core, Saint Luke's was proud to again participate in SevenDays®: Make a Ripple, Change the World—seven days in April focused on demonstrating and spreading kindness. Employees were invited to participate in this community-wide initiative that aims to transform hate and tragedy into a kinder world through small acts of kindness every day.
- **Social Impact Day Provides Opportunity to Make an Impact on Community in Yet Another Way**
Recognizing the meaning our workforce finds in helping others and contributing to their community, nearly all Saint Luke's employees have a Social Impact Day each year, a floating holiday to use as they wish to help make the world a better place in any way they choose, either on their own or as part of a group.

- **Good Morning America Featured Impromptu Wedding at Saint Luke’s East Hospital**
Saint Luke's East Labor and Delivery nurses arranged for an ordained minister to marry a couple when they learned that the Mom and Dad to be had planned on getting married that Friday, but Baby Oliver had other plans and arrived on Valentine's Day, two days before their planned wedding date. Nurses created a flower bouquet and veil out of gauze, and the bride created a wedding toga out of her hospital linens. It's another beautiful example of our nursing staff going above and beyond, and Saint Luke's made national news once again with the story of this sweet couple wedded in time for baby's arrival thanks to the help of some creative and caring nurses.

- **Another Successful Adopt-An-Angel for Saint Luke’s Hospital Crittenton Children’s Center**

Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City Crittenton Children's Center is grateful to all employees and community members who participated in the 2023 Adopt-an-Angel holiday program. With the support and donations received, Crittenton was able to make the holidays special for 567 children in its residential, hospital, foster care, and home-based programs. This year, 275 individual and group donors provided gifts and stocking stuffers, the majority from the generous employees at Saint Luke's.

Before gifts were delivered to the kids, 40 different groups donated their time to wrap presents, and various departments across several Saint Luke’s locations volunteered as drop-off sites, making it convenient for our donors to help make this holiday season a little brighter.

Crittenton extends a special thank you to all the volunteers who went above and beyond to support the program and the children we serve. Volunteers purchased gifts, made stockings, made donations, sponsored special holiday events, wrapped presents, and assisted with other aspects of the program.

Adopt-an-Angel would not exist without the kindness of Saint Luke’s employees and community members. By participating in Adopt-an-Angel each year, Saint Luke’s employees bring hope and happiness to the children we serve.

Technology and Innovation

- **Hospital In Your Home Program Reaches Milestone of Caring for 1,000th Patient**
Saint Luke’s Hospital In Your Home (HIYH) program achieved a significant milestone in 2024, admitting its 1,000th patient since launching in July 2022. This care model is the first of its kind in the region and offers eligible patients hospital-level care in the comfort of their own homes. It is available for patients at all four of Saint Luke’s Kansas City-metro hospitals. Hospital In Your Home serves an average of 10 patients per day receiving care through an innovative combination of virtual care and monitoring and in-person care. Surveys by Press Ganey and Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) have also reflected consistently high patient satisfaction ratings.

- **West Region (Saint Luke's) Launches Expanded Patient Text Messaging Options**
Saint Luke's now offers expanded two-way text messaging options for patients, with the launch of the Hello World platform in Epic, our electronic medical record. Staff are now able to send important text messages to patients who opt in on topics including appointment information, check-in reminders, prescription updates, care management, and billing reminders. Patients can view these messages directly on their phones without needing internet access or having to log in to their mySaintLuke's portal account. Once they've signed up, all they need is a phone with SMS (text messaging) capabilities. The new platform enables communication directly within Epic workflows and aims to make health care more convenient and accessible to all patients, while also saving time for clinic staff.