



# 2024 Annual Convention

Diocesan Booklet

# Convención Anual 2024

Folleto Diocesano

November 8 - 9, 2024 | Del 8 al 9 de Noviembre de 2024  
Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral



— The Diocese of —  
West Missouri



**Growing in Ministry Together**  
**Crecer juntos en el ministerio**





# Growing in Ministry Together

*A Message from our Bishop Provisional*

My brothers and sisters, my siblings in Christ,

Welcome to Diocesan Convention!

This year, we have focused on *Growing in Ministry Together* – the theme for this convention. Indeed, this will be an exciting convention for the whole diocese!

We will be conducting our business meeting in a shorter time frame than normal, but I know we can do the work that needs to be done. Most importantly, you will be electing your next bishop diocesan. Much work has gone into getting you all to this moment in your history. I know the future of the diocese will be bright no matter which of the candidates is elected. Your search committee did a stellar job in not only writing an honest and hopeful profile, but in identifying the best candidates for this diocese.

Please make sure you visit the Ministry Fair in Founder's Hall – there are many great offerings for you to learn about there! Perhaps you will find a new ministry to explore or to get involved in!

Feel free to reach out to any member of your diocesan staff or to me if there is anything you might need.

Mis hermanos y hermanas, mis hermanos en Cristo,

¡Bienvenidos a la Convención Diocesana!

Este año, nos hemos centrado en *Crecer juntos en el ministerio* – que es el tema de esta convención. De hecho, ¡esta será una convención emocionante para toda la diócesis!

Llevaremos a cabo nuestra reunión de negocios en un período de tiempo más corto de lo normal, pero sé que podemos hacer el trabajo que se debe hacer. Lo más importante es que elegirán a su próximo obispo diocesano. Se ha trabajado mucho para llegar a este momento de su historia. Sé que el futuro de la diócesis será brillante, sea cual sea el candidato elegido. Su comité de búsqueda hizo un trabajo estelar no sólo al escribir un perfil honesto y esperanzador, sino al identificar a los mejores candidatos para esta diócesis.

Por favor, asegúrense de visitar la Feria de Ministerios en el Founder's Hall – ¡hay muchas ofertas estupendas para conocer allí! Tal vez encuentren un nuevo ministerio que explorar o en el que participar.

No duden en ponerse en contacto con cualquier miembro del personal diocesano o conmigo si hay algo que necesiten.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,

Su hermana en Cristo Jesús,

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## Convention Helpful Tips/Reminders

- Delegates will be seated in the front section of pews; visitors are welcome in the back section of pews.
- If you are an alternate who has been promoted to delegate, please bring your warden or clergy in charge to the check-in table and they will assist you in obtaining a voter ID.
- This year's Convention Offering will be donated to Episcopal Relief & Development's Hurricane Relief Fund. Thank you for your generosity and contributing to the life-giving work and ministries of the diocese.
- To view profiles of Diocesan Council and Standing Committee nominees, please visit: <https://diowestmo.org/2024-annual-convention/#nominees>

# Schedule and Business Session Agenda

## Friday, November 8

11:00 a.m. Ministry Fair opens ..... Founders' Hall  
Convention Check-In opens ..... Founders' Hall  
Daughters of the King Prayer Chapel opens ..... Multipurpose Room

1:00 p.m. Convention Call to Order ..... Nave  
Procedural Instructions  
Report of the Credentials Committee  
Certification of Quorum  
Appointment of Parliamentarian/Comments  
Report of the Committee on Minutes  
Election of Diocesan Officers  
*Secretary, Treasurer*  
Announcements from the Secretary  
Report of the Committee on the Dispatch of Business  
Referral of Resolutions  
Nominations and Elections  
*Diocesan Council, Standing Committee*  
Bishop's Address  
2025 Budget  
Budget Subsequent Votes *if necessary*  
Reports  
*Secretary, Chancellor, Treasurer, Diocesan Council, Standing Committee,*  
*General Convention Deputation*  
Presentation of Resolutions  
Report of the Constitution & Canons Committee  
Elections and Appointments  
*Board of Examining Chaplains, Disciplinary Board,*  
*Bishop Kemper School for Ministry Board of Directors,*  
*Commission on Ministry, Committee on Minutes*  
Presentation of Bishop's Shield Awards  
Presentation of Honorary Canons of the Cathedral  
Report of the Courtesy Resolutions Committee  
Compline with Litany and Commissioning

7:00 p.m. Reception ..... Founders' Hall


# Schedule and Agenda, continued

## Saturday, November 9

- 7:30 a.m. Clergy Spouse Gathering.....Diocesan Conference Room
- 8:00 a.m. Convention Check-In opens.....Founders' Hall  
Ministry Fair opens .....Founders' Hall (*open through lunch*)  
Daughters of the King Prayer Chapel opens..... Multipurpose Room
- 9:00 a.m. Convention Eucharist ..... Nave
- 10:30 a.m. Convention Reconvenes to Elect the 9th Bishop of West Missouri..... Nave  
*Hymns and prayers will be offered  
between each vote to allow Shepherds  
to communicate with the Bishop Candidates,  
then the results will be announced.*
- 12:00 p.m. Convention Recesses for Lunch..... Founders' Hall
- 12:45 p.m. Convention Reconvenes ..... Nave  
Election Continues (*if necessary*)  
2025 Convention Announcement

*Convention will adjourn with the dismissal*

# Official Tally Sheets for Elected Offices: Standing Committee

- Nominations may be made from the floor of Convention until nominations are closed by the Secretary of Convention.
- Voting will happen in one of two ways. On simple yes/no votes, we will use green and red cards. All balloted elections and any call for a vote by orders will occur via electronic device. If you encounter technical difficulties while voting, there is a team of helpers available—just raise your hand for assistance.
- Easily access the voting site with this QR code  or go to [diowestmo.org/vote](http://diowestmo.org/vote) on your mobile device.
- Your voter ID and **registered email** are printed on the bottom of your name badge.



## Standing Committee—Clergy Order

		1st Ballot		2nd Ballot		3rd Ballot	
		Clergy Votes	Lay Votes	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
	<i>Two will be elected for a two-year term</i>	Ballots cast					
	<b>Vote for 2</b>	Votes needed to elect					
1	The Very Rev. Timothy Coppinger						
2	The Rev. Johnathan Frazier						
3	The Rev. Steven King						
4	The Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok						

## Standing Committee—Lay Order

		1st Ballot		2nd Ballot		3rd Ballot	
		Clergy Votes	Lay Votes	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
	<i>Two will be elected for a two-year term</i>	Ballots cast					
	<b>Vote for 2</b>	Votes needed to elect					
1	Mr. Jeremy Chesman						
2	Mr. Curtis Hamilton						
3	Mrs. Marsha Patterson						
4							

# Official Tally Sheets for Elected Offices: Diocesan Council

		1st Ballot		2nd Ballot		3rd Ballot	
		Clergy Votes	Lay Votes	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
<b>Diocesan Council—Clergy Order</b>							
	<i>Two will be elected for a three-year term</i>	Ballots cast					
	<b>Vote for 2</b>	Votes needed to elect					
1	The Rev. Katherine Mansfield						
2	The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage						
3	The Rev. Canon John Spicer						
4							
5							

		1st Ballot		2nd Ballot		3rd Ballot	
		Clergy Votes	Lay Votes	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
<b>Diocesan Council—Lay Order</b>							
	<i>Four will be elected for a three-year term</i>	Ballots cast					
	<b>Vote for 4</b>	Votes needed to elect					
1	Canon Shirley Bolden						
2	Ms. Amy Garcia						
3	Ms. Amanda Perschall						
4	Mr. Raja Reed						
5	Ms. Beverly Roggenkamp						
6	Mr. Leigh Salyer						
7	Mr. Hayden Vaughn						
8	Ms. Elisa White						

## 2025 Annual Budget—Convention Draft

Please refer to the projected budget presented by the Treasurer or the separate budget booklet. The full draft budget is available online here: <https://bit.ly/WEMO2025DraftBudget>



**Title** Eligibility of Deacons to Serve on Standing Committee

**Proposer** Constitution & Canons Committee

1. Whereas, the Constitution of the Diocese of West Missouri directs that Standing
2. Committee be composed of four priests and four laypersons; and
- 3.
4. Whereas, the Constitution & Canons of The Episcopal Church do not limit the clergy
5. members of a diocesan Standing Committee to priests only; and
- 6.
7. Whereas, in its canonical role as a Council of Advice to the Bishop and as the
8. Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence of a Bishop, Standing Committee would benefit
9. from the perspectives of laypersons, deacons, and priests; and
- 10.
11. Whereas, allowing deacons to serve on Standing Committee would bring the Diocese of
12. West Missouri in line with the practice of other dioceses.
- 13.
14. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Constitution of the Diocese of West Missouri be
15. amended to allow deacons to serve on Standing Committee, to wit:
- 16.
17. **ARTICLE XIV - THE STANDING COMMITTEE**
- 18.
19. **SECTION 1.** The Standing Committee shall consist of four (4) Clergy members and
20. four (4) Laypersons who are eligible to seats in the Convention, and who shall be elected
21. by concurrent vote of both orders to serve for terms of two years. At each annual
22. Convention, two (2) Clergy members and two (2) Laypersons shall be elected to serve for
23. terms of two (2) years. No member of the Standing Committee may be elected to serve
24. for more than three (3) consecutive terms. No currently serving Dean/Deanery Council
25. Chair of a Deanery or Member of the Commission on Ministry shall be eligible to serve
26. on the Standing Committee.
- 27.
28. **SECTION 2.** The members of the Standing Committee shall serve until their
29. successors are elected.
- 30.
31. **SECTION 3.** Vacancies in the membership of the Standing Committee shall be filled
32. by a majority vote of the remaining members.
- 33.
34. **SECTION 4.** The Standing Committee shall perform the duties required by the
35. Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and by resolution of the Convention.

## Explanation

At the 2023 Convention, this resolution was referred to the Constitution & Canons Committee for further consideration and study. The original explanation for the resolution is still operative:

*The Constitution & Canons of The Episcopal Church do not require clergy members of Standing Committee to be only priests. Likewise, nearby dioceses, including West Missouri's partners in the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry (Missouri, Kansas, Western Kansas, Oklahoma, and Iowa), allow deacons to serve on their Standing Committees. Most importantly, Standing Committee is responsible for serving as the Bishop's Council of Advice and as the Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence of a Bishop. The perspectives of deacons should be available to Standing Committee's work in these roles. This constitutional change would not mandate the presence of deacons on Standing Committee; it would only make deacons eligible to serve on Standing Committee (or be eligible for appointment in the event of a clergy vacancy).*

In addition, the Community of Deacons has prepared a memorandum further clarifying and explaining the role of deacons in the church vis-à-vis service in church governance. The full memorandum follows on pages 3-11. Here is an executive summary of the memorandum:

*The Standing Committee serves as a bishop's Council of Advice. Given the deacon's position as clergy having one foot in the world and one foot in the church, a deacon has a unique contribution to make in exercising the deacon's prophetic voice in the church's legislative and policy-making bodies. Being under the authority of the bishop means that the bishop has the authority to assign the deacon to one or more congregations, other communities of faith, or non-parochial ministries, as the deacon is not called by a congregation as a priest is.*

*When the Standing Committee canon, which limited committee membership to "four Priests and four Laypersons" was adopted in 1891, the only deacons in the Diocese of West Missouri were "transitional deacons," as permanent deacons were not reintroduced into The Episcopal Church until 1970. In 2024, deacons are recognized as a full and equal order, to which The Episcopal Church gives the right to "participate in the governance of the Church."*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Constitution & Canons Committee of the Diocese of West Missouri  
FROM: The Community of Deacons  
RE: Deacons on Standing Committee Resolution  
DATE: April 15, 2024

At the November 2023 Diocesan Convention, after some debate, the Deacons on Standing Committee Resolution was referred back to the Constitution & Canons Committee for further review. The Committee enlisted the Community of Deacons to examine four theological and canonical issues raised with such a change.<sup>i</sup>

➤ **First, why the canon was drafted with the presbyters-only limitation?**

The Church has experienced several distinctive “waves” of diaconal theology in the last 150 years.<sup>ii</sup>

An early Protestant Reformation view held that a plethora of subordinate (or “minor”) orders to that of priest or pastor was undesirable. Most Protestants eliminated the diaconate or kept it as a lay “office,” concerned with providing social service to the unfortunate. Those Protestants, including Anglicans, who maintained the diaconate maintained it only as a temporary step to the priesthood called the “transitional diaconate.” This usage has been maintained in The Episcopal Church.

However, in the United States from the 1840’s through the 1930’s, The Episcopal Church also ordained men as deacons to serve as missionaries to ethnic groups and in isolated communities. These men were generally African- or Native Americans of the ethnic community they served and remained deacons for their entire ministries. Among them was the Episcopal saint David Pendleton Oakerhater, a Cheyenne.

From 1885 through 1970, many Episcopal bishops set apart women as deaconesses by prayer, and sometimes by the laying on of hands, to care for the poor, sick, and needy. These women modeled their ministries on that of the German Lutheran Church, which had revived the ministry to assist in alleviating the distressing social conditions created by the Industrial Revolution. In Chicago in 1953, the Central House for Deaconesses was founded for the training of women in this lay office.

In a separate development, from 1952 through 1970, The Episcopal Church ordained men as “perpetual deacons,” to serve in parishes as sacramental and pastoral assistants for the booming post-war Church. These few men were generally older, privately trained by their supervising priest, and ordained to serve only their sponsoring community.

By the late 1960’s, churches world-wide began to question subsuming the

ancient order of diaconate under priestly identity, and of surrendering the useful icon of an order that embodies the call of all the baptized to dedicate themselves to service. The second Vatican Council renewed the Roman Catholic “permanent diaconate” as a permanent position for men, including those who were married.

The Episcopal Church, influenced by the international wave of theology advancing the renewal of the order, renewed the order of deacon in 1970, and citing the biblical record, for the first time allowed women to be ordained as deacons. The remaining Episcopal deaconesses . . . were deemed deacons, and the office of deaconess was abolished by canon. After extensive debate, the traditional period of temporary transitional diaconate prior to priesthood was also retained.

Beginning in 1971, deacons generally served in social care ministries outside a parish. Until 1976, many of these deacons were seminary-trained women with a priestly call. . . .<sup>iii</sup>

The ordination of women to the priesthood freed the diaconate to mature into its own. . . . [I]n the 1990’s, [n]ew research highlighted the ancient deacons’ role as agents of the bishop, and accentuated their role as prophet, interpreter, and catalyst of social change. In 2003, the General Convention of The Episcopal Church changed the diaconal canons to more accurately reflect evolving diaconal theology, and set out distinctive guidelines for diaconal training, life, and work. Again, the transitional diaconate was debated and retained.

. . . .

Today, servanthood remains a major feature of diaconal identity as deacons enlist, train, and support baptized persons in ministries of care, or lead the church’s efforts in social action and justice.

In the Diocese of West Missouri, the initial Diocesan Constitution and Canons was passed at Convention in 1891. In that document, the Standing Committee was composed of three presbyters and three laypersons. As noted in the preceding historical overview, in 1891, deacons were “transitional deacons,” who were ordained deacon as a preliminary step toward ordination as a priest, with a few exceptions for missionary and indigenous deacons. Thus, it is not surprising that the composition of the Standing Committee was confined to priests and laity. The General Convention did not create the order of “perpetual deacon” until 1952. Male “perpetual deacons” served as sacramental and pastoral assistants from 1952-1970. The Episcopal Church did not reintroduce permanent deacons until 1970.

The 1979 Book of Common Prayer provided much needed direction, increased visibility, and clarity regarding deacons’ central role in the life of the church.

In 1981, a resolution to allow deacons to vote in cases of votes by orders was tabled at the Diocesan Convention. In 1982, a resolution was presented to allow deacons to serve on the Standing Committee. It was sent to the Constitution and Canons Committee, which stripped that section out of the resolution, so it never came to the floor for a vote. A resolution allowing deacons voice and full voting at Diocesan Convention did pass.

In 2024, Deacons are recognized as a full and equal order, to which The Episcopal Church gives the right to “participate in the governance of the Church.”<sup>iv</sup>

- **Second, what is the theological rationale for the charge in The Examination in The Ordination of a Priest in The Book of Common Prayer that priests “share in the councils of the Church” and what are the implications of the absence of such a charge in The Examination from The Ordination of a Deacon for deacons serving on the Standing Committee?<sup>v</sup>**

According to The Examination of a Priest in The Book of Common Prayer (BCP 531), one of the numerous responsibilities that a priest is expected to fulfill is to “take your share in the councils of the Church.” This is spoken by the bishop as a *description* of the presbyteral ministry, and it can be found in the first paragraph. Noting that it is not a promise that follows during The Examination questions is something that should be taken into consideration.

According to the second paragraph of The Examination of a Deacon, deacons are tasked with the responsibility of “interpret[ing] to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world.” (BCP 543) Appropriate venues in which deacons are to minister to effectively follow this ministry description is in the councils, committees, and meetings of the diocese. To ensure that the voice of the community with which the Church aspires to engage and to minister to is given equal consideration, the Church must make that room available.

It is not the case that the absence in The Examination of a Deacon of descriptive language found in The Examination of a Priest implies that those who serve in diaconal ministry are to be prohibited from serving on the councils of the Church. If this line of reasoning were applied, then the laity would not be allowed to participate in the councils of the Church. The remark that is made in the first paragraph of the presbyteral Examination is *descriptive rather than prescriptive*.

It is clearly stated in the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church in Title III, Canon 7, Sec. 4.e: “Deacons may participate in the governance of the Church.”

The following is a concise summary of Canons of The Episcopal Church that support the position that deacons may participate “in the councils of the Church”:<sup>vi</sup>

1. It is clear that the Canons consider both priests/presbyters and deacons as “clergy” and that deacons are expected to serve

alongside priests and laity on the councils of The Episcopal Church. The Canons say “priests or deacons” when it is prescribing the number of “clergy” to serve on various commissions:

- a. Title I, Canon 1, Sec. 2.a-c Standing Commissions
  - b. Title I, Canon 2 Sec.1.a-b Members of the Nominating Committee
  - c. Title I, Canon 4, Sec. 1.a & d Executive Council
  - d. Title III, Canon 16, Sec. 1 Board of Transition Ministry
2. The Canons also indicate that at the diocesan level, deacons are to serve alongside priests and laity on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry (Title III, Canon 2, Sec.1).
  3. Deacons serve directly under the authority of and are accountable to their bishop. “Under authority” means “with permission.” This is necessary because deacons may serve in parochial or non-parochial settings; they must have permission to serve as a clergy person in a given diocese (Title III, Canon 7, Sec.1)
    - a. A Bishop may assign a deacon to one or more congregations, other communities of faith, or non-parochial under the authority (with permission) of the member of the clergy or other leader exercising oversight in all matters concerning the congregation.” (Title III, Canon 7, Sec. 4) That does not mean that deacons act under the authority of priests in the case of diocesan matters,
    - b. Deacons may serve as administrators of congregations (Title III, Canon 7, Sec. 4.c)
    - c. Deacons may accept chaplaincies in any hospital, prison, or other institution (Title III, Canon 7, Sec. 4.d)
  4. Deacons serve independently regarding ecclesiastical discipline.
    - a. Deacons serve alongside priests and laity on each diocesan Disciplinary Board (Title IV, Canon 5, Sec. 1)
    - b. The Court of Review MUST include at least two deacons (Title IV, Canon 5, Sec. 4.a)
  5. The Disciplinary Board for Bishops consists of four priests OR deacons and four lay people. (Title IV, Canon 17, Sec. 3.b)
  6. The Conference Panel and Hearing Panel shall each consist of one priest or deacon (Title IV Canon 17, Sec .5).
  7. Bishops (and priests) may not coerce or improperly influence deacons performing functions under disciplinary proceedings (Title IV, Canon 19, Sec.11)

This summary reflects the fact that deacons may hold positions on many of the governing and important decision-making commissions of The Episcopal Church. Deacons act and serve in any given diocese with the permission of that diocese’s bishop because they are not called to serve at churches like priests are. Being under

the authority of the bishop means that the deacon has the bishop's permission to serve in that diocese, and the bishop may assign the deacon to one or more congregations, other communities of faith, or non-parochial ministries.

- **Third, what is the theological rationale for the seemingly different levels of autonomy and relationship to ecclesiastical authority for priests and deacons? Specifically, in The Examination in The Ordination of a Deacon in The Book of Common Prayer describes the work of a deacon as "a special ministry of servanthood directly under [the] bishop" and "assist[ing] the bishop and priest," while in The Ordination of a Priest, it describes the work of a priest as being done "together with [the] bishop and fellow presbyters."<sup>vii</sup>**

The Preface to the Ordination Rites explain that:

The Holy Scriptures and ancient Christian writers make it clear that from the apostles' time, there have been different ministries within the Church. In particular, since the time of the New Testament, three distinct orders of ordained ministers have been characteristic of Christ's holy Catholic Church. First, there is the order of bishops who carry on the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church. Secondly, associated with them are the presbyters, or ordained elders, in subsequent times generally known as priests. Together with the bishops, they take part in the governance of the Church, in the carrying out of its missionary and pastoral work, and in the preaching of the Word of God and administering his holy Sacraments. Thirdly, there are **deacons** who **assist bishops and priests in all of this work**. It is also a special responsibility of deacons to minister in Christ's name to the poor, the sick, the suffering, and the helpless.

BCP 510 (emphasis added).

As to the autonomy and relationship of priests and deacons to their bishop, at The Presentation, ordinands of both orders are asked to declare whether, "in accordance with the canons of this Church, [the ordinand will] **obey your bishop** and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?" (BCP 526, 538, emphasis added) During The Examination, ordinands of both orders are asked if they will "**respect** and be **guided** by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?" (BCP 532, 543, emphasis added) Accordingly, both presbyters and deacons are required to "obey," "respect," and "be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership" of their bishop.

It is the distinctive character of the orders of ordained ministry that differentiate the priest's and the deacon's relationship to their bishop.

“The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.” (BCP 856)

During The Examination, the ordinand is charged to “work as pastor, priest, and teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.” (BCP 531) Whereas the bishop’s role is as “chief pastor” (BCP 513) on a diocesan level, the priest’s role is as “pastor, priest, and teacher” on the congregational level.

On the other hand, “[t]he ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.” (BCP 856)

During The Examination, it states that deacons are called “to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop.” (BCP 543) This statement is immediately followed by: “In the name of Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak the sick and the lonely.” Since the first statement uses the words “ministry of servanthood” and the second statement expounds on the first statement – saying what that ministry looks like (serving all, particularly the poor . . . ) – it is arguable that “special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop” is referring to the role of the original seven deacons, as this is what they were ordained to do. These two sentences are directly linked and dependent on each other. As the early church grew, the original apostles and later the bishops needed deacons to help them meet the needs of the poor. The statement, “special ministry or servanthood under your bishop,” does not in any way mean that deacons are to function, in every and all ways, “directly under your bishop”; it just refers to deacons assisting the bishop through their servanthood role. Thus, this statement does not mean that deacons cannot function without direct consent of their bishop in carrying out any of their other duties and functions. This includes serving on any of the councils of the church, including the Standing Committee.

Deacons are charged “to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time.” (BCP 543). Deacons cannot fully live into their responsibilities if they are intentionally excluded from any leadership councils on which bishops, priests, and laity are allowed to serve. Excluding deacons from Standing Committee prevents them from exercising their prophetic voice and from having the same opportunity to provide advice to the bishop and the diocese as priests and laity.

- **Fourth, what is the theological rationale as to why "Deacons may serve as administrators of congregations or other communities of faith, but no Deacon shall be in charge of a congregation or other community of faith," specifically based on a comparison of Title III Section 7 "Of the Life and**



## **Work of Deacons" of the Canons and Constitution of The Episcopal Church with Title III Section 9 "Of the Life and Work of Priests"?**

A priest is chosen by a congregation to serve as rector. (BCP 559) Title III, Canon 9, Sec. 6, "Of the Life and Work of Priests," enumerates the duties of rectors and priests-in-charge,<sup>viii</sup> including "full authority and responsibility for the conduct of the worship and the spiritual jurisdiction of the Parish, subject to . . . the pastoral direction of the Bishop"; use and control of the church and parish buildings; instruction in faith and ministry and Christian stewardship; prepare persons for baptism, confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation; announce visitation by the bishop; read pastoral letters and position papers to the congregation; enter records in the parish register.

Title III, Canon 7, Sec. 4, "Of the Life and Work of Deacons," enumerates the "Rights and Responsibilities" of Deacons:

The Bishop, after consultation with the Deacon and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight, may assign a Deacon to one or more congregations, other communities of faith or non-parochial ministries. **Deacons assigned to a congregation or other community of faith act under the authority of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight in all matters concerning the congregation.**

a. Subject to the Bishop's approval, Deacons may have a letter of agreement setting forth mutual responsibilities in the assignment, and, if such a letter exists, it is subject to renegotiation with the Vestry/Bishop's Committee after the resignation of the Rector or the Priest-in-Charge.

b. Deacons shall report annually to the Bishop or the Bishop's designee on their life and work.

c. **Deacons may serve as administrators of congregations or other communities of faith, but no Deacon shall be in charge of a congregation or other community of faith.**

d. Deacons may accept chaplaincies in any hospital, prison, or other institution.

e. Deacons may participate in the governance of the Church.

. . . .

(Emphasis added.)

A deacon is called "to a special ministry of servanthood directly under [the] bishop." (BCP 543). Unlike a priest, a deacon is not chosen by a congregation but is assigned by

the bishop, is under the authority of the bishop, and is directly accountable to the bishop. (BCP 543). So, even though a deacon is assigned by the bishop to a parish, the deacon's ministry is to that parish *through* the bishop. In a parish, the deacon is supervised by the rector or priest-in-charge.

An "administrator" has been defined by one diocese as a person "authorized to exercise administrative responsibility in a congregation and serves under the direction of the clergy, as defined by the bishop. The parish administrator serves as custodian of all parochial records, administers the operation of the parish, is responsible for the completion of all reports that are required in compliance with diocesan and [The Episcopal Church] canons, and manages budgeting and fiscal administration of the parish."<sup>ix</sup>

While deacons may conduct certain routine administrative duties in a parish, they are not permitted to be "in charge" of a congregation; that is, deacons are not authorized to assume the duties of a rector and exercise full pastoral care over the community. This boundary is consistent with the distinct ministries of priests and deacons, and the duties, rights, and responsibilities of these two ordained orders.

### ➤ Summary

The Standing Committee serves as the diocesan bishop's "council of advice." Given the deacon's position as clergy having one foot in the world and one foot in the church, a deacon has a unique contribution to make in exercising the deacon's prophetic voice in the church's legislative and policy-making bodies. Being under the authority of the bishop means that the bishop has the authority to assign the deacon to one or more congregations, other communities of faith, or non-parochial ministries, as the deacon is not called by a congregation as a priest is.

It is clear that when the Canon at issue was promulgated in 1891, the only deacons in the Diocese of West Missouri were "transitional deacons," as permanent deacons were not reintroduced into The Episcopal Church until 1970. In 2024, deacons are recognized as a full and equal order, to which The Episcopal Church gives the right to "participate in the governance of the Church." Therefore, the Community of Deacons supports the adoption of the proposed Deacons on Standing Committee Resolution.

<sup>i</sup> The Community of Deacons thanks the Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Diocesan Archivist, for his assistance in researching the background and legislative history of this canon.

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.episcopaldeacons.org/history.html>

<sup>iii</sup> In 1976 the General Convention approved the ordination of women to the priesthood and the episcopate in the Episcopal Church and stated that such ordinations might begin on Jan. 1, 1977. An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, *Ordination of Women*, <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/ordination-of-women/>

<sup>iv</sup> Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, Title III, Canon 7, sec. 4.e. See <https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/31954>

<sup>v</sup> Thanks to Dcn. Adam James for contributing the response to this question. See <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/organizations-affiliations/church-governance/>

- <sup>vi</sup> Thanks to Dcn. Carol Peterson for contributing this summary.
- <sup>vii</sup> Thanks to Dcn. Carol Peterson for contributing the response to this question.
- <sup>viii</sup> “Priest-in-Charge shall exercise the duties of Rector outlined in [Canon III.9.6](#) subject to the authority of the Bishop.” Title III, Canon 9, Sec. 3.b.
- <sup>ix</sup> <https://dioet.org/parish-administrator/>

[Note: This substitute resolution creates the office of Assistant Registrar.]

Title Election and Service of Diocesan Officers

Proposer Constitution & Canons Committee

1. Be it resolved that Articles III and IV of the Constitution of the Diocese of West
2. Missouri be amended as follows:

3.

4. **ARTICLE III - DIOCESAN OFFICERS**

5.

6.

\* \* \* \*

7.

8.

**TREASURER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER**

9.

10. SECTION 4. The Treasurer shall be an adult communicant of the Church in good
11. standing and a member of a Parish or Congregation in union with the Diocese. The
12. Treasurer shall perform such duties ~~and shall hold office for such length of time, and~~
13. ~~under such conditions,~~ as may be provided by this *Constitution*, ~~or by Canon, or by~~
14. ~~resolution of the Convention. The Treasurer shall hold office for a term of three years.~~
15. No Treasurer may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

16.

17. SECTION 5. The Assistant Treasurer shall be an adult communicant of the Church
18. in good standing and a member of a Parish or Congregation in union with the Diocese.
19. The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer and perform such other duties as
20. may be provided by this *Constitution*, by Canon, or by resolution of the Convention.
21. The Assistant Treasurer shall hold office for a term of three years. No Assistant
22. Treasurer may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

23.

24.

**SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

25.

26. SECTION 56. The Secretary shall be either a Cleric of this Diocese, or an adult
27. communicant of the Church in good standing and a member of a Parish or
28. Congregation in union with the Diocese. The Secretary shall perform such duties as
29. may be provided by this *Constitution*, by Canon, or by resolution of the Convention.
30. The Secretary shall hold office for a term of three years. No Secretary may serve
31. more than two consecutive three-year terms. ~~for such length of time, and under such~~
32. conditions, as may be provided by this *Constitution* or by Canon.

33.

34. SECTION 7. The Assistant Secretary shall be either a Cleric of this Diocese or an
35. adult communicant of the Church in good standing and a member of a Parish or
36. Congregation in union with the Diocese. The Assistant Secretary shall assist the
37. Secretary and perform such other duties as may be provided by this *Constitution*, by
38. Canon, or by resolution of the Convention. The Assistant Secretary shall hold office

39. for a term of three years. No Assistant Secretary may serve more than two  
40. consecutive three-year terms.

41.

42.

### **CHANCELLOR AND VICE CHANCELLOR**

43.

44. SECTION ~~6~~8. The Chancellor shall be an adult communicant of the Church in good  
45. standing and a member of a Parish or Congregation in union with the Diocese who is  
46. learned in civil and ecclesiastical law,~~an adult communicant of the Church in good~~  
47. ~~standing, and a member of a Parish or Congregation in union with the Diocese.~~ The  
48. Chancellor shall ~~be serve as~~ the legal adviser of the Bishops, the Convention, the  
49. Diocesan Council, and all Committees, ~~and The Chancellor~~ shall perform such other  
50. duties as may be provided by this Constitution, ~~required~~ by Canon, or by resolution of  
51. the Convention, ~~The Chancellor and~~ shall hold office for a term of three years. No  
52. Chancellor may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

53.

54. SECTION 9. The Vice Chancellor shall be an adult communicant of the Church in  
55. good standing and a member of a Parish or Congregation in union with the Diocese  
56. who is learned in civil and ecclesiastical law. The Vice Chancellor shall assist the  
57. Chancellor and perform such other duties as may be provided by this Constitution, by  
58. Canon, or by resolution of the Convention. The Vice Chancellor shall hold office for a  
59. term of three years. No Vice Chancellor may serve more than two consecutive three-  
60. year terms.

61.

62.

### **REGISTRAR AND ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

63.

64. SECTION ~~7~~10. The Registrar shall be either a Cleric of this Diocese, or an adult  
65. communicant of the Church in good standing and a member of a Parish or  
66. Congregation in union with the Diocese. The ~~duties of the registrar~~ Registrar shall  
67. perform such duties as may be provided by this Constitution, by Canon, or by  
68. resolution of the Convention. ~~be defined by Canon, and the term of office shall~~  
69. ~~be~~The Registrar shall hold office for a term of three years. No Registrar may serve  
70. more than two consecutive three-year terms.

71.

72. SECTION 11. The Assistant Registrar shall be a Cleric of this Diocese or an adult  
73. communicant of the Church in good standing and a member of a Parish or  
74. Congregation in union with this Diocese. The Assistant Registrar shall assist the  
75. Registrar and perform such other duties as may be provided by this Constitution, by  
76. Canon, or by resolution of the Convention. The Assistant Registrar shall hold office  
77. for a term of three years. No Assistant Registrar may serve more than two  
78. consecutive three-year terms.

79.

80.

### **OTHER OFFICERS**

81.

82. SECTION ~~8~~11. The Convention shall have the power to create such additional

83. officers as may be necessary to perform the work of the Diocese; but shall not have  
84. any power to create any office, or to elect or appoint any officer with the authority to  
85. invade the province of any of the officers above mentioned.

86.

87.

#### ARTICLE IV - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

88.

89.

\* \* \* \*

90.

91.

#### **SECRETARY AND TREASURER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER**

92.

93. SECTION 4. The Convention shall, ~~at its annual meeting,~~ elect ~~the Secretary and the~~  
94. ~~Treasurer,~~ to serve ~~as such until the next Annual Convention, and until their~~  
95. ~~successors are elected and qualified~~ a term of three years. The Convention shall also  
96. ~~elect an Associate Treasurer upon the nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority to~~  
97. ~~serve until the next Annual Convention. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Treasurer~~  
98. ~~due to death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, the Diocesan Council shall have the~~  
99. ~~power to appoint a Treasurer to serve until the next Annual Convention, at which time~~  
100. ~~the Convention shall elect a Treasurer to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.~~

101.

102. SECTION 5. ~~If the Secretary or Treasurer or Associate Treasurer resign or remove~~  
103. ~~from the Diocese, or become incapable of acting, the Diocesan Council shall have~~  
104. ~~power to appoint a Secretary or Treasurer or Associate Treasurer as the case may be,~~  
105. ~~to act until the next Annual Convention. The Convention shall, on the nomination of~~  
106. ~~the Ecclesiastical Authority, elect an Assistant Treasurer to serve a term of three~~  
107. ~~years. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Assistant Treasurer due to death,~~  
108. ~~resignation, removal, or otherwise, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall have the power~~  
109. ~~to appoint an Assistant Treasurer to serve until the next Annual Convention, at which~~  
110. ~~time the Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority, elect an~~  
111. ~~Assistant Treasurer to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.~~

112.

113.

#### **SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

114.

115. SECTION 6. ~~The Convention shall elect a Secretary to serve a term of three years.~~  
116. ~~If a vacancy occurs in the office of Secretary due to death, resignation, removal, or~~  
117. ~~otherwise, the Diocesan Council shall have the power to appoint a Secretary to serve~~  
118. ~~until the next Annual Convention, at which time the Convention shall elect a~~  
119. ~~Secretary to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.~~

120.

121. SECTION 7. ~~The Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical~~  
122. ~~Authority, elect an Assistant Secretary to serve a term of three years. If a vacancy~~  
123. ~~occurs in the office of Assistant Secretary due to death, resignation, removal, or~~  
124. ~~otherwise, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall have the power to appoint an Assistant~~  
125. ~~Secretary to serve until the next Annual Convention, at which time the Convention~~  
~~shall.~~

126. on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority, elect an Assistant Secretary to serve  
127. the remainder of the unexpired term.

128.

129.

**THE CHANCELLOR AND VICE CHANCELLOR**

130.

131. ~~SECTION 68. The Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical-~~  
132. ~~Authority, elect a Chancellor and a Vice Chancellor. If a vacancy in the office of the~~  
133. ~~Chancellor or the Vice Chancellor occurs, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a~~  
134. ~~qualified person to fill such office until the next Convention, which shall elect a~~  
135. ~~Chancellor and a Vice Chancellor for the full term of three years, on nomination of the~~  
136. ~~Ecclesiastical Authority. The Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical~~  
137. ~~Authority, elect a Chancellor to serve a term of three years. If a vacancy occurs in the~~  
138. ~~office of Chancellor due to death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, the Ecclesiastical~~  
139. ~~Authority shall have the power to appoint a Chancellor to serve until the next Annual~~  
140. ~~Convention, at which time the Convention shall, on the nomination of the~~  
141. ~~Ecclesiastical Authority, elect a Chancellor to serve the remainder of the unexpired~~  
142. ~~term.~~

143.

144. SECTION 9. The Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical  
145. Authority, elect a Vice Chancellor to serve a term of three years. If a vacancy occurs in  
146. the office of Vice Chancellor due to death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, the  
147. Ecclesiastical Authority shall have the power to appoint a Vice Chancellor to serve  
148. until the next Annual Convention, at which time the Convention shall, on the  
149. nomination of the Ecclesiastical Authority, elect a Vice Chancellor to serve the  
150. remainder of the unexpired term.

151.

152.

**THE REGISTRAR**

153.

154. ~~SECTION 710. The Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical-~~  
155. ~~Authority, elect the Registrar. If a vacancy in the office of the Registrar occurs, the~~  
156. ~~Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy to serve~~  
157. ~~until the next annual meeting of the Convention at which a Registrar shall be elected~~  
158. ~~for a full term of three years. The Convention shall, on the nomination of the~~  
159. ~~Ecclesiastical Authority, elect a Registrar to serve a term of three years. If a vacancy~~  
160. ~~occurs in the office of Registrar due to death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, the~~  
161. ~~Ecclesiastical Authority shall have the power to appoint a Registrar to serve until the~~  
162. ~~next Annual Convention, at which time the Convention shall, on the nomination of~~  
163. ~~the Ecclesiastical Authority, elect a Registrar to serve the remainder of the unexpired~~  
164. ~~term.~~

## Explanation

This amendment addresses several issues.

-- It renames the Associate Treasurer position as Assistant Treasurer, as the term assistant appears to be more common than associate in other canons (including the national canons).

-- It creates an Assistant Secretary position. Currently, the canons only provide for “Assistants to the Secretary” for purposes of helping the Secretary at the Annual Convention. This amendment creates a subordinate diocesan office for an Assistant Secretary, similar to the Associate/Assistant Treasurer and the Vice Chancellor. One of the goals for these subordinate offices is to encourage succession planning in the various offices.

-- It creates an Assistant Registrar position so that all primary diocesan officers have an assistant officer.

-- It changes the terms of Treasurer and Secretary (as well as their assistants) from one year to three years. This is to harmonize the terms of office with those of the other diocesan officers (Chancellor/Vice Chancellor and Registrar/Assistant Registrar).

-- It sets term limits of two consecutive three-year terms for all diocesan officers. The goal is to encourage succession planning and to involve more individuals in the governance of the diocese. Note that it applies to consecutive terms; like with vestries, a person could serve additional terms after an appropriate interval has passed.

-- It clarifies how vacancies of diocesan offices are filled. Specifically, when a vacancy occurs, either the Bishop or the Diocesan Council (depending on the office) will make a temporary appointment until the next Annual Convention, at which time the Convention will elect an individual to fill the remainder of the officer’s term. This ensures that terms remain constant.

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**Title** Non-Voting Members of Diocesan Convention

**Proposer** Constitution & Canons Committee

1. Be it resolved that the Constitution of the Diocese of West Missouri be amended as
2. follows:
- 3.
4. **ARTICLE VIII - MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION**
- 5.
6. SECTION 1. The members of the Diocesan Convention shall be the following, all
7. with seat, voice, and vote, unless otherwise noted:
8. (a) The Bishop;
9. (b) The Bishop Coadjutor, if any;
10. (c) The Bishop Suffragan, if any;
11. (d) The Archdeacon, if any;
12. (e) Every cleric in good standing in the Church who is canonically resident
13. in this Diocese;
14. (f) The Secretary of the Diocese ([seat and voice, but no vote](#));
15. (g) The Treasurer of the Diocese ([seat and voice, but no vote](#));
16. (h) The Chancellor of the Diocese (seat and voice, but no vote);
17. (i) Any other Officers of the Diocese, if any (seat and voice, but no vote);
18. (j) Lay delegates from every Parish and Congregation in union with the
19. Diocese duly chosen and entitled to seats, as hereinafter provided.

---

## Explanation

This amendment converts the other primary officers of the diocese (other than the bishops) to non-voting members of Convention. This is consistent with the practice of other dioceses in which diocesan officers are ex-officio, non-voting members.

---

**Title** Composition of Diocesan Council  
**Proposer** Constitution & Canons Committee

1. Be it resolved that the Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri be amended as  
 2. follows:

3.  
 4. **CANON IX - DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

5.  
 6. **MEMBERSHIP**

7.  
 8. SECTION 1. The Diocesan Council shall be composed of the following members, all  
 9. with seat, voice, and vote, unless otherwise noted:

10.  
 11. (a) The Bishop;  
 12. (b) The Bishop Coadjutor, if any;  
 13. (c) The Bishop Suffragan, if any;  
 14. (d) The Secretary of the Diocese (seat and voice, but not vote);  
 15. (e) The Treasurer of the Diocese (seat and voice, but not vote);  
 16. (f) The Chancellor of the Diocese (seat and voice, but not vote);  
 17. (g) Eight (8) laypersons elected by the Annual Convention;  
 18. (h) Four (4) clergy elected by the Annual Convention;  
 19. (i) Four (4) laypersons appointed by the Bishop;  
 20. ~~(j) The President of the Episcopal Churchwomen, ex-officio;~~  
 21. (kj) The President of the Standing Committee, ex-officio (seat and voice,  
 22. but not vote);  
 23. ~~(k)~~ The Deans of the Deaneries, ex-officio; and  
 24. ~~(ml)~~ Any other Officers of the Diocese, if any (seat and voice, but not vote).

25.  
 26. Each Annual Convention shall elect four (4) laypersons and two (2) clergy to serve as  
 27. members of the Diocesan Council for a two-year period, and the Bishop shall appoint  
 28. two (2) laypersons to serve for a two-year period. No member of the Diocesan Council  
 29. may be elected to serve for more than three (3) consecutive two-year terms.

---

## Explanation

This amendment addresses several issues.

-- It converts the other primary officers of the diocese (other than the bishops) to non-voting members of Diocesan Council. This is consistent with the practice of other dioceses in which diocesan officers are ex-officio, non-voting members.

-- It retains the Standing Committee President as an ex-officio member of Diocesan Council, but with seat and voice only (not vote). Standing Committee and Diocesan Council have different roles in the governance of the church. While it makes sense for the Standing Committee President to serve in an ex-officio capacity on Diocesan Council, to keep Council abreast of its work, it does not follow that the Standing Committee President should be a voting member of Diocesan Council.

-- It removes Episcopal Churchwomen President as a member of Diocesan Council. The original goal was to increase the number of women in church governance, at a time when the composition of church governing bodies skewed male. There is much more parity in those numbers today.

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DRAFT

Title Term Limits for Members of Commissions and Boards

Proposer Constitution & Canons Committee

- 1. Whereas, diocesan commissions and boards have no term limits; and
- 2.
- 3. Whereas, term limits would encourage more (and new) people to get involved with
- 4. diocesan commissions and boards.
- 5.
- 6. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri be
- 7. amended as follows:

**CANON XXIV - COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

- 10.
- 11. SECTION 1. The Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical
- 12. Authority, elect a Commission on the Ministry consisting of twelve persons from the
- 13. Diocese: six in the clerical order and six in the lay order. Additional members, not to
- 14. exceed six in number, may be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority after
- 15. consultation with the Commission. For every two additional members appointed,
- 16. one must be in the clerical and one in the lay order.

- 17.
- 18. SECTION 2. The members of the Commission on Ministry shall hold office
- 19. for the term of three years and may succeed themselves for additional terms. No
- 20. member of the Commission on Ministry may serve more than two consecutive
- 21. three-year terms.

- 22.
- 23. SECTION 3. Any Deacon who has been accepted, prepared and ordained
- 24. specifically for diaconal ministry and who subsequently desires to be an ordained
- 25. priest must reapply for ordination to the presbyterate and be accepted for screening
- 26. in preparation for the presbyterial ministry, according to Title 3, Canon 2, of the
- 27. *Constitution and Canons* of the Episcopal Church.

**CANON XXV - EXAMINING CHAPLAINS**

- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32. SECTION 1. The Convention shall, on the nomination of the Ecclesiastical
- 33. Authority, elect a Board of Examining Chaplains, consisting of at least two Presbyters
- 34. within the Diocese.

- 35.
- 36. SECTION 2. The members of the Board of Examining Chaplains shall hold
- 37. office for the term of three years. No member of the Board of Examining Chaplains
- 38. may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

\* \* \* \* \*

42. **CANON XXIX - BISHOP KEMPER SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY**

43.

44. SECTION 1. The Bishop Kemper School for Ministry (BKSM) is a jointly-owned  
45. subsidiary of the Dioceses of West Missouri, Kansas, Western Kansas, Nebraska,  
46. Missouri, and Iowa, incorporated in the State of Kansas, governed under its own By-  
47. Laws, and operated for the mutual benefit of the six (6) dioceses.

48.

49. SECTION 2. The Diocese of West Missouri is entitled to three (3) seats on  
50. BKSM's Board of Directors. The Annual Convention shall elect the three (3) Directors  
51. - one layperson, one Deacon, and one Priest.

52.

53. (a) All pending terms of Directors shall end at the conclusion of the 2023  
54. Annual Convention. After the 2023 Annual Convention, the terms shall be staggered  
55. so that there are three (3) classes of Directors and one (1) Director is elected each  
56. year. At the 2023 Annual Convention, upon nomination by the Bishop, the Priest  
57. Director shall be elected to a one-year term (expiring at the 2024 Annual  
58. Convention), the Lay Director shall be elected to a two-year term (expiring at the  
59. 2025 Annual Convention), and the Deacon Director shall be elected to a three-year  
60. term (expiring at the 2026 Annual Convention). Subsequent terms for each class  
61. shall be three (3) years, and Directors shall be elected by the Annual Convention. No  
62. BKSM Director may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

63.

64. (b) In the event of a vacancy occurring among the Directors representing  
65. West Missouri on the Board of Directors, such vacancy shall be filled at the Bishop's  
66. or Ecclesiastical Authority's discretion by action of the Diocesan Council upon  
67. nomination by the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority.

68.

69. SECTION 3. Annually, the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority will appoint one  
70. Director from the Board of Directors of BKSM, plus a member in good standing of  
71. the Diocese who is not on the Board, as members of the Board of Directors' Finance  
72. Committee.

---

## Explanation

This amendment provides for limits of two consecutive three-year terms for the Commission on Ministry, the Board of Examining Chaplains, and the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry board of directors. Note that it applies to consecutive terms; like with vestries, a person could serve additional terms after an appropriate interval has passed.

---

Title Election of Deanery Deans

Proposer Constitution & Canons Committee

- 1. Whereas, Canon VIII of the Constitution & Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri
- 2. allows the Convention to “adopt rules, regulations, or provisions concerning
- 3. Deaneries, their organization, and functions.”; and
- 4.
- 5. Whereas, the Convention has adopted an appendix to the Constitution & Canons
- 6. which contains such rules and regulations; and
- 7.
- 8. Whereas, there has been some confusion as to how a Dean of a Deanery is to be
- 9. elected.
- 10.
- 11. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Appendix containing the rules and regulations
- 12. of the Deaneries of the Diocese of West Missouri be amended as follows:

**APPENDIX  
DEANERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**

17. Section I. Roster of Deaneries

- 18.
- 19. 1. The Diocese of West Missouri shall be divided into three (3) geographical
- 20. Deaneries as follows:
- 21. 1.1. The Metro-Northwest Deanery shall encompass the following parishes
- 22. and congregations:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23.</li> <li>24. <a href="#">Excelsior Springs, St. Luke's</a></li> <li>25. Kansas City, Good Shepherd</li> <li>26. Kansas City, Grace &amp; Holy Trinity Cathedral</li> <li>27. Kansas City, Redeemer</li> <li>28. Kansas City, St. Andrew's</li> <li>29. Kansas City, St. Augustine's</li> <li>30. Kansas City, St. Peter &amp; All Saints'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kansas City, St. Mary's</li> <li>Kansas City, St. Paul's</li> <li>Kansas City, St. Peter &amp; All Saints'</li> <li>Liberty, Grace</li> <li>Saint Joseph, Christ</li> <li>Savannah, St. Mary's</li> <li>Skidmore, St. Oswald's</li> </ul>
---	--

- 31.
- 32. 1.2. The Central Deanery shall consist of the following parishes and
- 33. congregations:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34.</li> <li>35. Belton, St. Mary Magdalene</li> <li>36. Blue Springs, Resurrection</li> <li>37. Boonville, Christ</li> <li>38. Chillicothe, Grace</li> <li>39. Clinton, St. Paul's</li> <li>40. <del>Excelsior Springs, St. Luke's</del></li> <li>41. Fayette, St. Mary's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independence, Trinity</li> <li>Lee's Summit, St. Anne's</li> <li>Lee's Summit, St. Paul's</li> <li>Lexington, Christ</li> <li>Raytown, St. Matthew's</li> <li>Sedalia, Calvary</li> <li>Trenton, St. Philip's</li> </ul>
--	---

42. Harrisonville, St. Peter's  
43. Independence, St. Michael's  
44. Warrensburg, Christ

\* \* \* \* \*

46. Section II. Deanery Councils

48. \* \* \* \* \*

49. 5. Officers

51. 5.1. Officers of the Deanery Council shall be:

53. 5.1.1. ~~a Dean, who shall be in the priest order, /Deanery Council Chair~~  
54. ~~(see paragraph (iii) of this sub-section)~~

56. 5.1.2. a Vice-Chair, who shall be in the lay order,

58. 5.1.3. a Secretary, who shall be of any order, and

60. 5.1.4. and any other officers deemed necessary by the Deanery  
61. Council and elected as the Council shall devise.

63. \* \* \* \* \*

65. 5.4. All officers of the Deanery Council, ~~except the Dean,~~ shall be elected  
66. by the full Deanery Council, lay and clergy, in such manner as may be  
67. established in the By-Laws of the Deanery.

69. Section III. Deans

71. 1. Election and Term of Office

73. 1.1. Deans shall ~~be elected from among the presbyters of the Deanery and~~  
74. ~~serve terms of two (2) years.~~

76. \* \* \* \* \*

Explanation

This proposed amendment makes two substantive changes. First, pursuant to Section I.2 of the Appendix, The Church of St. Luke the Beloved Physician in Excelsior Springs (“St. Luke’s”) petitioned Diocesan Council to move from the Central Deanery to the Northwest-Metro Deanery. Diocesan Council approved the transfer on December 9, 2023.

Second, the amendment clarifies how a Dean of a Deanery is to be elected. Section III.1.1 of the Appendix requires a Dean to “be elected from among the presbyters of the Deanery.” While the Deaneries all agreed that the Dean had to be a priest, there was confusion as to whether only priests, as opposed to the entire Deanery Council, could vote to elect a Dean. This amendment makes clear that the entire Deanery Council elects a Dean, not just priests, and therefore gives proper meaning to the call of Section II.4.1 that “All representatives, whether lay or clergy, shall have equal voice and vote on Deanery Councils.”

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DRAFT



**Title** Clarification of Reimbursable Costs in Title IV Proceedings

**Proposer** Constitution & Canons Committee

1. Be it resolved that Canon XXII of the Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri be
2. amended as follows:
- 3.
4. **Canon XXII - Ecclesiastical Discipline**
- 5.
6. \* \* \* \* \*
- 7.
8. Section 3.02 Costs Incurred by the Respondent. In the event of a final Order
9. dismissing the complaint, or by provisions of a Covenant approved by the Bishop, the
10. reasonable defense fees and costs incurred by the Respondent may be paid or
11. reimbursed by the [\[respective\]](#) Diocese, subject to budgetary constraints as may be
12. established by [\[named budget authority\]](#) [the Diocesan Council](#).

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### Explanation

When this provision was adopted from the national canons, the parentheticals were accidentally left in. This amendment corrects that issue.

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**Title** Authorizing Diocesan Council to Correct Clerical Issues  
**Proposer** Constitution & Canons Committee

1. Whereas, there are a number of clerical, formatting, and non-substantive issues contained in
2. the current version of the Constitution & Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri; and
- 3.
4. Whereas, those issues include various fonts, different indentation and line spacings,
5. inconsistent use of the Oxford comma, and various labels for individuals and groups; and
- 6.
7. Whereas, proposing these changes in a resolution (or resolutions) to the Convention would
8. be inefficient and time-consuming; and
- 9.
10. Whereas, Diocesan Council is charged with conducting the business of the Diocese between
11. Annual Conventions.
- 12.
13. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Convention authorizes Diocesan Council, upon the
14. recommendations of the Constitution & Canons Committee, to fix the clerical, formatting,
15. and non-substantive issues contained in the Constitution & Canons of the Diocese of West
16. Missouri.
- 17.
18. Be it further resolved that Diocesan Council's approval and enactment of the clerical,
19. formatting, and non-substantive changes will have the same force and effect as if they had
20. been approved by the Convention.
- 21.
22. Be it further resolved that Diocesan Council will complete such work on or before July 1,
23. 2025, at which time the final version of the Constitution & Canons of the Diocese of West
24. Missouri will be published on the diocesan website.

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## Explanation

This resolution is fairly self-explanatory. There are a number of inconsistencies contained in the Constitution & Canons. For example:

-- There are at least 3 different fonts used throughout the document.

-- The Oxford comma is sometimes used and sometimes not.

-- Members of the Clergy are variously referred to as Clerics, clergypersons, Clergypersons, and Members of the Clergy.

This resolution allows Diocesan Council to consider and make proposed non-substantive

changes so that Convention would not be bogged down with handling the task. It is an issue of efficiency and use of time and resources.

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DRAFT

# Slate of Nominees

## *Bishop's Slate of Appointments*

### *Bishop Kemper School for Ministry*

*Three year term*

- The Rev. Anne Meredith Kyle (Calvary, Sedalia)

### *Board of Examining Chaplains*

*Three year terms*

- The Rev. Ron Verhaeghe (Christ, Warrensburg)
- Mr. Channing Horner (St. Oswald's in the Fields, Skidmore)
- Dr. Victor Matthews (St. John's, Springfield)

### *Commission on Ministry*

*Three year terms*

#### **Clergy**

- The Rev. Larry Ehren (non-parochial; retired)
- The Rev. Katherine Mansfield (Christ, Springfield)

#### **Lay**

- Ms. Paula Shepherd (St. Alban's, Bolivar)
- Mr. Gary Gee (Good Shepherd, Kansas City)

### *Disciplinary Board*

*Three year terms*

- The Rev. Anne Cheffey (St. Mark's, Kimberling City)
- Ms. Mary Johnson (St. Michael's, Independence)

# 2024 Courtesy Resolutions

## For our BISHOPS RESIGNED and THEIR SPOUSES

WHEREAS, the pastoral presence of our Bishops resigned and of their spouses continues to be witness powerfully to our common life in Christ which transcends distance and unites us in love, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 135th Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri instruct the Secretary of Convention to send greetings to

Mrs. Peggy Buchanan, wife of VI Bishop of West Missouri, and  
The Rt. Rev. Barry R. Howe, VII Bishop of West Missouri and his wife, Mary, and  
The Rt. Rev. Martin S Field, VIII Bishop of West Missouri and his wife, Donna.

## For the DIOCESAN STAFF

WHEREAS, the Diocesan Staff has exemplified extraordinary dedication and perseverance throughout the past three years, navigating a landscape of continuous change and uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, they have worked tirelessly to ensure that all voices are heard and included in this Convention, whether gathered in person or participating from afar; and

WHEREAS, their commitment to excellence is reflected in their patience and willingness to address countless inquiries, embodying a spirit of service that inspires all who encounter them;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this 135th Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri extends its profound gratitude to the Diocesan Staff for their unwavering commitment and the essential ministries they uphold. Their contributions have strengthened our Diocese and fostered a vibrant community of faith.

# 2024 Courtesy Resolutions

## For Our ANGLICAN and ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

WHEREAS, The Diocese of West Missouri is a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion, and more particularly, of The Episcopal Church and of Province VII of this Church; and

WHEREAS, The Diocese of West Missouri is in full communion with the ELCA Lutheran Central States Synod, and has entered into a closer relationship through the sharing of office space and administrative staff, and stands in full communion also with the Northern Province of the Moravian Church, although there are at present no congregations of that denomination in our diocese, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 135th Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri, assembled at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, instruct the Secretary of the Convention to send greetings to those bishops most closely tied to us by reason of geography or heritage:

The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, 105<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of All England,

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church

The Bishops of Province VII of The Episcopal Church,

and

The Rev. Susan Candea, Bishop of the Central States Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and

The Bishops of the Moravian Church in the Northern Province

# 2024 Courtesy Resolutions

## For MR. ERIC RHODES

WHEREAS, Eric Rhodes has served with dedication and integrity as the President of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Eric has provided visionary leadership, fostering collaboration and open dialogue among members of the Committee and the wider Diocese; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to the mission and ministry of the Church has inspired those around him, guiding us through challenges and celebrating our successes; and

WHEREAS, Eric's thoughtful stewardship and deep faith have been evident in his work, encouraging the growth and vitality of our Diocese; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the members of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri, extend our deepest gratitude to Eric Rhodes for his exceptional service as President of the Standing Committee. We honor his contributions and recognize the lasting impact he has made on our Diocese.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we wish Eric every blessing in his future endeavors and assure him of our continued support and prayers as he embarks on new journeys.

# 2024 Courtesy Resolutions

## For CANON DAVID POWELL

WHEREAS, dedicating his time, expertise, and passion to the mission and ministry of our Diocese; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, David has provided invaluable guidance, legal counsel, and unwavering support to our clergy and lay leaders, fostering a spirit of collaboration and unity; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to the Church and its mission has inspired many and has contributed significantly to the growth and vitality of our Diocese; and

WHEREAS, David's leadership has been marked by integrity, wisdom, and a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our community; and

WHEREAS, he has been a faithful steward of our values and has tirelessly worked to uphold the principles of justice and inclusivity within our Church;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the members of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri, express our profound gratitude to Canon David Powell for his exceptional service as Vice Chancellor. We honor his contributions and celebrate the positive impact he has made in our Diocese.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we wish David every blessing in his future endeavors and assure him of our continued prayers and support as he embarks on new journeys.



# 2024 Courtesy Resolutions

## For STEPHEN BRUCE, THE FIRST GENTLEMEN OF THE DIOCESE

WHEREAS, Stephen Bruce has been a devoted partner to Bishop Diane Jardine-Bruce, supporting her ministry and the mission of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Stephen has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the values of faith, community, and service, enriching the lives of those around him; and

WHEREAS, his presence has brought warmth and compassion to our Diocese, fostering connections among clergy, lay leaders, and parishioners alike, especially bring connection and building relationships among clergy spouses of this diocese; and

WHEREAS, Stephen has actively participated in various diocesan events and initiatives, embodying the spirit of generosity and hospitality; and

WHEREAS, his encouragement and support of Bishop Diane's leadership have been instrumental in advancing the mission of our Diocese;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the members of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri, express our heartfelt gratitude to Stephen Bruce for his support and dedication. We honor his contributions and the positive impact he has made within our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we wish Stephen continued blessings and fulfillment in all his future endeavors, assuring him of our prayers and appreciation.

# 2024 Courtesy Resolutions

## In Honor of THE SEARCH COMMITTEE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI

WHEREAS, The Search Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri has faithfully and diligently undertaken the important task of discerning candidates for the next bishop of our Diocese; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Search Committee have devoted countless hours in prayer, reflection, and collaboration to identify four exceptional candidates for consideration; and

WHEREAS, their commitment to seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit has been evident in every step of the process, ensuring that the needs and aspirations of our Diocese are met; and

WHEREAS, the Search Committee has demonstrated integrity, transparency, and a deep understanding of the qualities necessary for effective leadership in our community; and

WHEREAS, their work has provided a solid foundation for our Diocese as we move forward in this critical transitional period;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the members of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri, express our heartfelt gratitude to The Search Committee for their exceptional service and dedication. We honor their tireless efforts and the significant impact they have made in our discernment process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we assure the members of the Search Committee of our continued prayers and support as we enter this next chapter in our Diocese's journey.

# 2024 Courtesy Resolutions

## In Honor of THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI

WHEREAS, The Transition Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri has served with humility and dedication in assisting our Diocese during this important time of transition; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Transition Committee have worked tirelessly to create an environment of welcome and openness for the four candidates being considered for our next bishop; and

WHEREAS, their commitment to facilitating meaningful meetings and opportunities for discernment has enriched the process and fostered a spirit of community among candidates, clergy, and lay leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Transition Committee has demonstrated compassion, wisdom, and a deep understanding of our Diocese's needs, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued; and

WHEREAS, their efforts have provided a vital support structure as we seek to discern the future leadership of our Diocese;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri, express our sincere gratitude to The Transition Committee for their exceptional service and dedication. We honor their contributions and the significant impact they have made in welcoming and guiding the candidates through this discernment process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we assure the members of the Transition Committee of our continued prayers and support as we move forward in this pivotal time for our Diocese.

# 2024 Courtesy Resolutions

## For GRACE and HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

WHEREAS, Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral has generously hosted the 135th Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the warm hospitality and welcoming spirit of the Cathedral staff and community have created an atmosphere of fellowship and collaboration for all attendees; and

WHEREAS, the Cathedral's beautiful facilities and dedication to service have enhanced our experience, allowing us to gather in prayer, discernment, and celebration; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral to the mission of our Diocese exemplifies the values of faith, community, and outreach that unite us all;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that this 135th Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral for their generous hospitality and support. We honor their contributions to our gathering and look forward to continuing our shared mission in the years to come.

## In Appreciation of THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI

WHEREAS, The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri has provided exemplary leadership and guidance over the past year; and

WHEREAS, their steadfast commitment to the mission and vision of our Diocese has fostered unity and spiritual growth within our community; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Standing Committee have diligently navigated the complexities of the bishop search process, demonstrating exceptional discernment and care in their work; and

WHEREAS, their dedication to transparency and collaboration has strengthened our collective efforts and ensured that all voices were heard throughout this important transition;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that this 135th Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri extends its heartfelt gratitude to The Standing Committee for their unwavering leadership and service. We honor their contributions to both the governance of our Diocese and the successful navigation of the bishop search process, and we look forward to their continued guidance as we move forward in faith.

# 2024 Courtesy Resolutions

## In Gratitude for BISHOP DIANE JARDINE BRUCE

WHEREAS, Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce has served as Provisional Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri with profound leadership and unwavering commitment over the past three years; and

WHEREAS, her compassionate pastoral care has been a source of comfort and strength, guiding our Diocese through times of challenge and transition; times of joy and celebration and

WHEREAS, Bishop Diane has worked tirelessly to heal past hurts within our community, fostering reconciliation and unity among our members; and

WHEREAS, she has consistently reminded us of God's love for each of us, inspiring hope and encouraging us to recognize that God is at work in this place; and

WHEREAS, her vision and dedication have not only enriched our spiritual lives but have also strengthened the bonds of fellowship within our Diocese;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that this 135th Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce for her exceptional leadership and pastoral care. We honor her contributions and the lasting impact she has made, and we look forward to continuing our journey of faith under her guidance.

# Compline with Litany and Commissioning

# Oficio de Completas con Letanía y Comisionamiento

*Officiant* The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

*Officiant* Our help is in the Name of the Lord;  
*People* **The maker of heaven and earth.**  
*Officiant* Let us confess our sins to God.

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father: We have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us all our offenses; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Officiant* May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us.  
*People* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Officiant and People*

**Gloria to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Psalm 134** *Ecce nunc*

- 1 Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, \*  
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.**
- 2 Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; \*  
the LORD who made heaven and earth  
bless you out of Zion.**

**Gloria to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Oficiante* El Señor todopoderoso nos conceda una noche tranquila y un perfecto fin. **Amén.**

*Oficiante* Nuestro auxilio está en el Nombre del Señor;  
*Pueblo* **Que hizo el cielo y la tierra.**  
*Oficiante* Confesemos nuestros pecados a Dios.

*Oficiante y Pueblo*

**Dios todopoderoso, nuestro Padre celestial: Hemos pecado contra ti, por nuestra propia culpa, por pensamiento, palabra y obra, y por lo que hemos dejado de hacer. Por amor de tu Hijo nuestro Señor Jesucristo, perdona nuestras ofensas y concédenos que te sirvamos en novedad de vida, para gloria de tu Nombre. Amén.**

*Oficiante* Que el Dios todopoderoso nos conceda el perdón de todos nuestros pecados, y la gracia y fortaleza del Espíritu Santo. **Amén.**

*Oficiante* Oh Dios, dignate libramos.  
*Pueblo* **Señor, apresúrate a socorrernos.**

*Oficiante y Pueblo*

**Gloria al Padre, y al Hijo y al Espíritu Santo: como era en el principio, ahora y siempre, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.**

**Salmo 134** *Ecce nunc*

- 1 Y ahora bendigan al Señor,  
siervos todos del Señor, \*  
los que de noche están de pie en la casa del Señor.**
- 2 Eleven las manos hacia el santuario, y bendigan al Señor. \*  
El Señor que hizo los cielos y la tierra,  
te bendiga desde Sión.**

**Gloria al Padre, y al Hijo y al Espíritu Santo: como era en el principio, ahora y siempre, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.**

*Officiant* May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

*Hebrews 13:20-21*

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

V. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

R. **For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.**

V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

R. **Hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

*Officiant* Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Officiant* Lord, have mercy.

*Officiant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

*Officiant* Lord, hear our prayer;

*People* **And let our cry come to you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

## Litany for Growing Anew

*Litanist* Gracious God, thank you for how you have revealed yourself in our diocese throughout the years. Your image is imprinted on our humanity, our ministries, and in our communities.

*People* Revealing God,  
**We thank you for showing forth  
your glory**

*Oficiante* El Dios de paz que resucitó de los muertos a nuestro Señor Jesucristo, el gran Pastor de las ovejas, por la sangre del pacto eterno, les haga aptos en toda obra buena para que hagan su voluntad, haciendo él en ustedes lo que es agradable delante de él por Jesucristo; al cual sea la gloria por los siglos de los siglos.

*Hebreos 12:20-21*

*Pueblo* **Demos gracias a Dios.**

V. En tus manos, oh Señor, encomiendo mi espíritu;

R. **Tú me has redimido, oh Señor, Dios de verdad.**

V. Guárdanos, oh Señor, como a la niña de tus ojos;

R. **Escóndenos bajo la sombra de tus alas.**

*Oficiante* Señor, ten piedad.

*Pueblo* **Cristo, ten piedad.**

*Oficiante* Señor, ten piedad.

*Oficiante y Pueblo:*

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,  
santificado sea tu Nombre,  
venga tu reino,  
hágase tu voluntad,  
en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.  
Perdona nuestras ofensas,  
como también nosotros perdonamos  
a los que nos ofenden.  
No nos dejes caer en tentación  
y líbranos del mal.**

*Oficiante* Señor, escucha nuestra oración.

*Pueblo* **Y llegue a ti nuestro clamor.**

*Oficiante* Oremos.

## Letanía para crecer de nuevo

*Letanista* Dios bondadoso, gracias por cómo te has revelado en nuestra diócesis a lo largo de los años. Tu imagen está impresa en nuestra humanidad, en nuestros ministerios y en nuestras comunidades.

*Pueblo* Dios revelador,  
**Te damos gracias por mostrar tu  
gloria**

<i>Litanist</i>	Thank you God, for how you pursued us your wayward children, through the prophetic descendants of Abraham and Sarah. Above all, thank you for how you have reconciled us to yourself through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh among us.	<i>Letanista</i>	Gracias Dios, por cómo nos has perseguido a tus hijos descarriados, a través de los descendientes proféticos de Abraham y Sara. Sobre todo, gracias por habernos reconciliado contigo mediante el nacimiento, la vida, la muerte y la resurrección de Jesucristo, tu Verbo hecho carne entre nosotros.
<i>People</i>	Reconciling God, <b>We thank you for bringing us back to yourself.</b>	<i>Pueblo</i>	Dios reconciliador, <b>Te damos gracias por habernos reconciliado contigo.</b>
<i>Litanist</i>	Thank you, God, for calling us to proclaim the gospel by word and example as you seek to reconcile all people to yourself and to one another in Christ.	<i>Letanista</i>	Gracias, Dios, por llamarnos a proclamar el Evangelio con la palabra y el ejemplo, mientras buscas reconciliar a todas las personas contigo y entre sí en Cristo.
<i>People</i>	Sending God, <b>We commit ourselves to your mission in the world and opening space for your mighty works.</b>	<i>Pueblo</i>	Dios que nos envías, <b>Nos comprometemos a tu misión en el mundo y a abrir espacio para tus poderosas obras</b>
<i>Litanist</i>	You are everywhere, God: in every place before we get there, every meeting before we arrive and in every moment of outreach before we reach. Help us to seek, name and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in every person we encounter.	<i>Letanista</i>	Tú estás en todas partes, Dios: en cada lugar antes de que lleguemos, en cada reunión antes de hacernos presentes y en cada momento de alcance antes de que lleguemos. Ayúdanos a buscar, nombrar y celebrar la presencia amorosa de Jesús en cada persona que encontramos.
<i>People</i>	Guiding God, <b>Inspire us to strengthen our community within the diocese and with those whom we have yet to know.</b>	<i>Pueblo</i>	Dios guía, <b>Inspíranos a fortalecer nuestra comunidad dentro de la diócesis y con aquellos que aún no hemos conocido.</b>
<i>Litanist</i>	Your gospel, God, is a story of your journey with your people, and you have formed a unique story with all those who are a part of this diocese. Nurture us in courage and readiness of speech so that we may bear joyful witness to the stories of your transforming presence in our lives.	<i>Letanista</i>	Dios, tu evangelio es una historia de tu viaje con tu pueblo y has formado una historia única con todos los que forman parte de esta diócesis. Nútrenos de valentía y prontitud de palabra para que podamos dar testimonio gozoso de las historias de tu presencia transformadora en nuestras vidas.
<i>People</i>	Speaking God, <b>Help us to tell it in the plains.</b>	<i>Pueblo</i>	Dios hablante, <b>Ayúdanos a contarlo en la llanura.</b>
<i>Bishop</i>	Lord Jesus Christ you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of a cross formed tree that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So cloth us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our branches in love may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. <b>Amen.</b>	<i>Obispa</i>	Señor Jesucristo, que extendiste tus brazos de amor sobre la dura madera de un árbol en forma de cruz, para que todos pudieran llegar al alcance de tu abrazo salvador: Revístenos, pues, de tu Espíritu para que, extendiendo nuestras ramas en el amor, llevemos a los que no te conocen al conocimiento y al amor de ti; para honra de tu Nombre. <b>Amén.</b>



## A Form of Commitment to Godly Service

## Una forma de compromiso al servicio de Dios

*Bishop* Canons, elected and appointed members of Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, members of all Diocesan Commissions, Clergy and Lay Delegates to this Convention, and all the faithful of the Diocese of West Missouri, you are invited to stand and affirm your commitment to Godly Service in the Diocese of West Missouri.

*Obispa* Canónigos, miembros electos y nombrados del Consejo Diocesano, Comité Permanente, Comisión de Ministerio, Miembros de todas las comisiones diocesanas, Delegados diocesanos (listados en su folleto); y todos los fieles de la Diócesis del Oeste de Misuri están invitados a ponerse de pie y afirmar su compromiso al Servicio de Dios en la Diócesis del Oeste de Misuri.

*Respondents*

**I come before you and this congregation today to commit myself to the Godly service of advising, leadership, decision making, representation, discernment, support and all ways in which I serve the Church and this Diocese. I will seek to carry out the work I have been called to do.**

*Respondedores*

**Me presento hoy ante ustedes y ante esta congregación para comprometerme al servicio piadoso de asesoramiento, liderazgo, toma de decisiones, representación, discernimiento, apoyo y todas las formas en que sirvo a la Iglesia y a esta Diócesis. Buscaré llevar a cabo el trabajo para el que he sido llamada(o).**

*Bishop* May God's Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the Kingdom. **Amen.**

*Obispa* Que el Espíritu de Dios les guíe y fortalezca, para que en esto, y en todo, hagan la voluntad de Dios al servicio del Reino. **Amén.**

*Bishop* Clergy and Lay Delegates to the 135th Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri: Will you affirm your commitment to be faithful stewards of your responsibility to prayerfully and thoughtfully elect the ninth bishop of the Diocese of West Missouri?

*Obispa* Clérigos y Delegados Laicos a la Convención 135 de la Diócesis del Oeste de Misuri: ¿Afirmarán su compromiso de ser fieles administradores de su responsabilidad de elegir con oración y reflexión al noveno obispo de la Diócesis del Oeste de Misuri?

*People* **We will.**

*Pueblo* **Así lo haremos.**

*Bishop* And will you further commit yourselves to the active and intentional support of your new bishop through prayer and collaboration, and encourage your brothers and sisters in the Diocese to do the same?

*Obispa* ¿Y se comprometen además a apoyar activa e intencionalmente a nuestro nuevo obispo o obispa a través de la oración y la colaboración, y alentarán a sus hermanos y hermanas en la Diócesis a hacer lo mismo?

*People* **We will.**

*Pueblo* **Así lo haremos.**

*Bishop* In the Name of God and of this diocese, I commission you electors of the ninth bishop of the Diocese of West Missouri.

*Obispa* En el Nombre de Dios y de esta diócesis, les comisiono a ustedes como electores del noveno obispo de la Diócesis del Oeste de Misuri.

*People* **Amen.**

*Pueblo* **Amén.**

*Bishop* Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have now affirmed their commitment to the ministry of the Church and this diocese and to serve in God's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our vocations of compassion to the world, and of service to others; in God's holy Name. **Amen.**

*People* **Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

*Officiant*  
Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.

*Officiant and People*  
**Gloria to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.  
**Amen.**

*Obispa* Dios Todopoderoso, mira con favor a estas personas que ahora han afirmado su compromiso con el ministerio de la Iglesia y de esta diócesis, y para servir en nombre de Dios. Dales valor, paciencia y visión; y fortalécenos a todos en nuestras vocaciones de compasión al mundo, y de servicio a los demás; en el santo Nombre de Dios. **Amén.**

*Pueblo* **Guíanos, Señor, despiertos, y guárdanos mientras dormimos; que despiertos velemos con Cristo, y dormidos descansemos en paz.**

*Oficiante*  
Ahora despides, Señor, a tu siervo, \*  
conforme a tu palabra, en paz.  
Porque mis ojos han visto a tu Salvador, \*  
a quien has presentado ante todos los pueblos:  
Luz para alumbrar a las naciones, \*  
y gloria de tu pueblo Israel.

*Oficiante y Pueblo*  
**Gloria al Padre, y al Hijo y al Espíritu Santo: como era en el principio, ahora y siempre, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.**

*Oficiante* Bendigamos al Señor.  
*Pueblo* **Demos gracias a Dios.**

*Oficiante* La gracia de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, el amor de Dios y la comunión del Espíritu Santo sean con todos nosotros, ahora y siempre. **Amén.**



# Participants

The Rev. Katherine Mansfield: *Officiant*

The Rev. Silas Engstrom: *Litanist*

## Diocesan Convention Planning Team

We give special thanks to the members of the Diocesan Convention Planning Committee. This team of committed individuals began working in January for this year's convention! Without their incredible efforts, our convention wouldn't be the success it was. Thank you!

Canon Shirley Bolden

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Diane Jardine Bruce

Mrs. Emily Davenport

The Rev. Dr. Bill Fasel

Canon Mark Galus

The Very Rev. Canon Robin James

The Very Rev. Dr. Andy Keyse

Mr. Tom Kokjer

Mr. Spencer Orr

Ms. Rachael Orth

Ms. Amanda Perschall

Mr. Zach Phillips

The Rev. Joe Pierjok

Mr. Eric Rhodes

The Rev. Susan Roberts

The Rev. Brock Slabach

The Rev. Donna Stanford

Mrs. Julie Toma

Mr. Ron Weil

Ms. Elisa White

The Rev. David Wilcox



— The **Diocese** of —  
**West Missouri**