

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI

Minutes of October 12, 2024 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in person at St. James Episcopal Church, 2645 E. Southern Hills Blvd, Springfield, MO 65804. Members attending:

Ms. Regina Berens
Cn. Shirley Bolden
Ms. Anne Breid
The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, President
~~Ms. Hayley Cobb~~
The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger, Dean of the Central Deanery
Ms. Zella Forsythe
~~Ms. Kate French~~
Cn. Mark Galus, Chancellor
The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Dean of the Southern Deanery
The Rev. Steven King
Mr. Tom Kokjer, Treasurer
~~The Very Rev. Jean Long, Dean of the Northwest Metro Deanery~~
Mr. Phil Metz
~~Mr. Chris Morrison~~
Mr. Spencer Orr
Ms. Amanda Perschall
The Rev. Joe Pierjok
~~Cn. David Powell, Vice Chancellor~~
Mr. Eric Rhodes, President of the Standing Committee
The Rev. Susan Roberts
~~Ms. Beverly Roggenkamp~~
The Rev. Galen Snodgrass
The Rev. Donna Stanford, Secretary
Ms. Judith Turner, President of Episcopal Church Women
Mr. Steven Williams

Also attending: Mr. Ron Weil, Finance Administrator
The Rev. Chas Marks

1. **Call to Order and Devotion.** Bishop Bruce determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chancellor Galus led Council in a devotion and prayer.

2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by The Rev. Galen Snodgrass, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:

- a. Approval of September 14, 2024 Diocesan Council meeting minutes, as amended (the Secretary will correct a clerical error in the Treasurer and Finance Committee Report to change “letter of credit” to “line of credit”)
- b. Receipt of October 2, 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes
- c. Receipt of reports, if any, from committees, commissions, and ministries

The motion passed.

3. Reports.

- a. Deanery Reports
 - i. Northwest-Metro Deanery. No report as the Dean was absent.
 - ii. Southern Deanery. The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Dean, reported that the Clergy Conference was held at Conception Abbey on October 7-9. The Southern Deanery Council will meet on October 26.
 - iii. Central Deanery. The Very Rev. Tim Coppinger, Dean, reported that St. Paul’s, Clinton, had an insurance claim. The Central Deanery Council will meet via Zoom on October 26.
- b. Standing Committee Report

Mr. Eric Rhodes, President, reported that the Standing Committee approved three persons for candidacy. The Standing Committee and the Bishop will conduct a mutual ministry review on October 23. Mr. Rhodes reported on Diocesan Convention procedure and post-convention consents. The Bishop search process has spent \$71,000, with \$15,000-\$20,000 spent but not yet posted. The budget is \$182,000; the process is underbudget; it is expected that there will be \$61,000 in reserve funds. Mr. Rhodes reported that the bishop candidate sessions were well attended.
- b. Transition Committee Report

Canon Shirley Bolden reported that each of the bishop candidate sessions had between 50 and 100 participants. A 25-passenger van was used to transport candidates. Canon Bolden reported that \$15,000 has been spent.
- d. Secretary’s Report. The Secretary did not have a report.
- e. Treasurer and Finance Committee Report

The Treasurer submitted a written Treasurer’s report and a written report of the October 1, 2024 Finance Committee meeting. The Treasurer reported that the Diocese’s long-term investment portfolio is up about 13% this year through September. Revenue is running about even with budget and expenses below budget so far this year. Expenditures are expected to ramp up during the remainder of 2024. The Federal Reserve lowered short-term rates 50 basis

points last month; however, longer-term rates (mortgages, etc.) remain stubbornly high. Deficit spending is creating massive amounts of U.S. Treasury debt that has to regularly be auctioned to the public. The Treasurer reported that Ms. Amy Amason has set up two on-line stewardship sessions on October 29 and November 12.

The Treasurer gave the following Grant Funds update:

Central: \$33,813 spent; \$66,187 balance remaining

Property: \$167,956 spent; \$169,544 balance remaining

The Treasurer also reported that the diocese received a “clean audit opinion,” meaning that the diocese received an unqualified audit opinion. The Rev. Susan Roberts moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall, that the audit report be accepted. **The motion passed.**

The Treasurer reported that Cn. David Powell tendered a letter of resignation as Chair of the Property Committee and, specifically, as Chair of the Property Grant Committee. His resignation was prompted by Council’s rejection of the Property Committee’s recommendation that grant amounts be a combination of grant money and interest-free loans from the diocese; instead, Council awarded the full amount of all grants. Cn. Powell viewed that action as a strategic mistake.

The Finance Committee moved that Diocesan Council approve a line of credit (LOC) request of up to \$8,000 to The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Kansas City, to facilitate building a new storage building. It is anticipated that this LOC will be paid off in a short amount of time. The liquidity will allow construction to begin prior to winter. **The motion passed.** The Rev. Galen Snodgrass, rector of Good Shepherd, abstained.

Ms. Amanda Pershall moved, seconded by Ms. Zella Forsythe, that the Treasurer and Finance Committee Report be accepted as presented. **The motion passed.**

Upon request of Council, Mr. Ron Weil, Finance Administrator, will send a grant spreadsheet to members of Council.

f. Vice President’s Report

The Rev. Susan Roberts reported that the bishop candidates visited the Chapel at St. Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City and, while at the hospital, were informed about Spiritual Wellness programs. The candidates also toured St. Luke’s Hospice House and Bishop Spencer Place. During St. Luke’s Week, the Bishop will preside at a St. Luke’s Day service and commissioning.

g. Registrar

The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Registrar, reported that 1991 microfilm, which includes convention journals and other information from 1840 to the 20th century will be digitized and made available on the diocesan website. Fr. Chandler also reported that Mr. Craig Amason will become Assistant Archivist.

h. Consecration Committee

The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III reported that equipment to expand bandwidth at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral for live streaming the annual diocesan Convention, including the election of the next bishop, will be purchased at a cost of approximately \$1,000 from funds in the Transition budget.

i. Bishop's Report

The Bishop reported that she had a conversation with the Bishop candidates.

She contacted 4 of the 10 parishes whose clergy salaries are under the minimum, and they were made whole regarding clergy minimum salary. She is working with the parish in Mountain Grove with non-stipendiary clergy. Fayette and Booneville will be made whole as of January 2025. Camdenton, Raytown, Liberty, and Independence are being worked on. The Bishop is partnering with clergy to help with increasing stewardship and with any other area that needs shoring up for the congregation.

Ms. Amy Amason will be working on planned giving.

Two clergy have volunteered to replace The Rev. David Kendrick as Ecumenical Officer: The Rev. Miranda Cully and The Rev. Jonathan Galles.

4. New Business

a. **Faith X:** The Rev. Chas Marks made a presentation regarding Faith X's assistance to the diocese and congregations in assessing Vitality (capacity to thrive) and Sustainability (capacity to survive). Fr. Chas gave Council members a Congregational Vitality Assessment (CVA) 2024 information sheet. In October 2024, Fr. Chas presents information to Clergy Conference, Diocesan Council, and all three Deaneries. In November 2024, an article will appear in diocesan communications regarding the CVA; Calvary, Sedalia; St. James, Springfield, and St. Augustine's, Kansas City, will participate in the initial CVA. In December 2024-early 2025, all the churches in the diocese will complete the on-line CVA, and each church's survey results will be discussed with that church. Final information will be presented to Council and will be ready for the Bishop-elect.

b. **Use of Maryville property sale proceeds of \$220,366.17:** After Council discussed how to use the proceeds from the sale of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church property in Maryville, Council agreed that the funds should be used to support rural ministry, including funding the salary of a shared ministry

developer in the northwest part of the diocese. Curacy funds could also be used. It was further agreed that a committee composed of the Bishop, The Rev. Chas Marks, The Rev. Anne Kyle, and Ms. Amanda Perschall will make a proposal to Council regarding use of the funds.

- c. **Annual Convention procedure:** The Chancellor discussed Annual Convention procedure. He proposed having all reports filed by title; Council agreed.
- d. **Designation of recipient of Convention Eucharist Offering:** The Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by The Very Rev. Chandler Jackson III, that the Episcopal Relief & Development Hurricane Relief Fund be designated the recipient of the 2024 Convention Eucharist Offering. **The motion passed.**
- e. **Location for the 2025 Diocesan Council-Standing Committee Joint Retreat:** After discussion, The Rev. Steven King moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that Council explore St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Monett, as the location for the 2025 Diocesan Council-Standing Committee Joint Retreat to be held February 7-8, 2025. **The motion passed.**
- f. **Consideration of draft 2025 Diocesan Council-Executive Committee meeting schedule:** Ms. Regina Behrens moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that Council approve the draft 2025 Diocesan Council-Executive Committee meeting schedule (with the addition of Monett as the location for the Joint Retreat on February 7-8, 2025). **The motion passed.**
- g. **Assessment relief:** Mr. Ron Weil, Finance Administrator, reported that the Assessment Review Committee met on September 30, 2024, and accepted the following requests for relief for 2024:

St. Mary Magdelene, Belton	\$17,680
St. Anne, Lee’s Summit	\$ 3,029
Grace, Liberty	\$17,151
Christ, St. Joseph	\$ 9,645

The Assessment Review Committee moved that Diocesan Council approve the 2024 assessment relief accepted by the Committee. **The motion carried.**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Spencer Orr moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, to adjourn. **The motion carried,** and the meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary