

**THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**  
Minutes of January 11, 2025 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Members attending:

Ms. Regina Berens  
Cn. Shirley Bolden  
Ms. Anne Breid  
The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, President  
Ms. Hayley Cobb  
Ms. Zella Forsythe  
Ms. Kate French  
Cn. Mark Galus, Chancellor  
Ms. Amy Garcia  
The Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Registrar  
Mr. Tom Kokjer, Treasurer  
The Very Rev. Jean Long, Dean of the Northwest Metro Deanery  
~~Anne Jetter Maas, Associate Treasurer~~  
Mr. Phil Metz  
Mr. Chris Morrison  
Ms. Amanda Perschall  
The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, Dean of the Southern Deanery  
~~Ms. Jennifer Snider, Vice Chancellor~~  
Mr. Eric Rhodes, President of the Standing Committee  
The Rev. Susan Roberts, Vice President  
~~The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage~~  
~~The Rev. Cn. John Spicer~~  
The Rev. Donna Stanford, Secretary  
Ms. Judith Turner, President of Episcopal Church Women  
Ms. Elisa White  
Mr. Steven Williams

Also attending: Mr. Ron Weil, Finance Administrator

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

2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Ms. Amy Garcia, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:

- a. Approval of December 14, 2024 Diocesan Council meeting minutes, as amended

- b. Receipt of January 7, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes
- c. Receipt of reports, if any, from committees, commissions, and ministries
  - (a) Vocations Missioner Report for the fourth quarter of 2024
  - (b) Youth Ministry Commission – January 2025

**The motion passed.**

### **3. Reports.**

- a. **Deanery Reports**
  - i. Northwest-Metro Deanery  
The Very Rev. Jean Long, Dean, reported that the first Deanery meeting of 2025 will be held the end of February.
  - ii. Southern Deanery  
The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok reported that he was elected Dean on January 4.
  - iii. Central Deanery  
There was no report from the Central Deanery.
- c. **Standing Committee Report**  
Mr. Eric Rhodes, President, reported that \$110,437 of the Search Committee budget has been spent. The Standing Committee is in the process of negotiating a letter of agreement with Bishop-Elect Amy Dafler Meaux. The Bishop-Elect will begin work in February and will attend the joint Standing Committee/Diocesan Council retreat. The Standing Committee is working with the Consecration Committee on plans for the Bishop-Elect's consecration.
- d. **Transition Committee Report**  
Canon Shirley Bolden, Co-chair, reported that the committee is organizing farewells for Bishop Bruce. The first event for members of the Diocese and family and friends of the Bishop will be a Motown Dance on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral's Founder's Hall from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Music will be by a D.J. The food will be hot and cold appetizers with beverages of coffee, tea, and punch. Other events are planned for Friday, March 14, 2025 (Eucharist and reception at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral and Founder's Hall); Saturday, March 15, 2025 (Eucharist and reception at Christ Church, Springfield); Sunday, March 16, 2025 (Eucharist and reception at St. Paul's, Clinton).
- e. **Consecration Committee Report**  
The Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Co-chair, reported that the Committee will meet Monday, January 13, via Zoom, and will meet every two weeks thereafter. The Committee has created task lists for subcommittees. Now on the Diocesan website is a donate button for gifts for the Bishop-Elect.

The Committee is securing blocks of rooms at local hotels for attendees of the Consecration event. The Bishop-Elect will be attending the Zoom meetings of the Committee going forward.

f. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary had no report.

g. **Treasurer's Report** (with reports of Finance and Property Committees)

The Treasurer submitted a written report and the minutes of the January 7, 2025 Finance Committee meeting. The Treasurer reported that the Diocese's long-term investment portfolio is up about 14% this year to date and 19% year over year. The Diocese finished 2024 with revenue running above budget due to strong long-term investment performance, as well to moving liquidity out of operating bank accounts and buying Treasury bills, resulting in \$27,000 in interest earnings. Expenses finished the year with a positive variance of \$170,000. New funds for the Curacy Program, Area Bookkeepers, and Shared Ministry Developers will hold carried-over unspent funds for those programs.

The Treasurer noted that The Episcopal Church parochial report form has changed.

The Treasurer reported that Ms. Amy Amason is planning stewardship webinars this year and has three church visits planned for the first quarter of 2025.

The Treasurer submitted a Grand Log from the Centralized Grant Committee and a Grant Log from the Property Grant Committee and gave the following Grant Funds update:

Central: \$72,779 spent; \$27,221 balance remaining

Property: \$172,956 spent; \$169,673 balance remaining

Mr. Ron Weil, Finance Administrator, reviewed the financial reports submitted to Council.

Ms. Judy Turner moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. **The motion passed.**

h. **Vice President's Report**

The Rev. Susan Roberts reported that she attended a FaithX survey meeting. She also gave an overview of the joint Standing Committee/Diocesan Council retreat.

i. **Bishop's Report**

The Bishop reported that she is ill and will be resting this weekend. Due to the wildfires in California, her daughter and family had to evacuate and are staying at the Bruce home in California. The Bishop:

- gave an update on the wildfires in the Los Angeles area and asked for prayers for the Diocese of Los Angeles,
- is working with the Bishop-Elect,
- is doing lots of pastoral care addressing illnesses, life changes, and general anxiety,
- is wrapping up projects on her to-do list.

The Bishop urged that the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council attend the Zoom congregational vitality workshop to be held February 21 at 6:00 p.m. led by Bishop Melissa Skelton. She also urged Council members to spend February 22 in Kansas City with Bishop Skelton.

The Bishop reported that she received correspondence from The Rev. Isaac Petty, St. James Episcopal Church, Springfield, requesting up to \$27,000 in additional funds to support the church's curacy ministry with St. Albans Episcopal Church, Bolivar.

After discussion, Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Ms. Kate French, that Diocesan Council grant \$27,000 in additional funds from the Curacy line item in the Diocesan Budget to St. James Episcopal Church, Springfield, to support the church's curacy ministry with St. Albans Episcopal Church, Bolivar. **The motion passed.**

#### 4. **New Business**

##### a. **Election**

The Bishop stated four nominations were received from members of the clergy (priest or deacon) (The Rev. Katherine Mansfield, Christ Church, Springfield; The Rev. Deacon Carol Peterson, St. Philip's, Joplin; The Rev. Ross Stuckey, Non-Parochial; The Rev. James Yazell, Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City) to serve as a member of Diocesan Council for the final year of The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok's two-year term, as he is transitioning from being an elected member of Council to being Dean of the Southern Deanery. After members voted by ballot, the Bishop announced that The Rev. Katherine Mansfield had been elected. The Bishop will inform the nominees of the result of the election.

- b. **Wildfire relief.** After discussion, The Rev. Susan Roberts moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall, that the Martin Luther King Day Evensong offering be designated for California wildfire relief and sent to the Diocese of Los Angeles's One Body and One Spirit Fund. **The motion passed** (the Bishop abstained from the vote).

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by The Very Rev. Jean Long, to adjourn. **The motion carried**, and the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Donna Stanford  
Diocesan Secretary