

Approved: 3/8/25 (as corrected)

**THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI**  
Minutes of February 8, 2025 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, February 8, 2025, at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 706 Byers Ave, Joplin, following the joint Standing Committee/Diocesan Council retreat. 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~~  
The Very Rev. Kary Mann, Dean of the Central Deanery  
The Rev. Katherine Mansfield  
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:       The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks  
                              The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Bishop Elect

1. **Call to Order and Devotion.** Bishop Bruce determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:
  - a. Approval of January 11, 2025 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
  - b. Receipt of January 29, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes
  - c. Receipt of reports, if any, from committees, commissions, and ministries
    - i. Youth Ministry Commission

**The motion passed.**

3. **Reports.**

a. **Deanery Reports**

- i. Northwest-Metro Deanery – No report was given.
- ii. Southern Deanery  
The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok reported that everything was going fine.
- iii. Central Deanery  
The Very Rev. Kary Mann reported that she was excited to get started as Dean.

c. **Standing Committee Report**

Mr. Eric Rhodes, President, reported that a Letter of Agreement with the Bishop Elect had been signed. The Standing Committee continues to work with the Consecration Committee. There have been \$101,843 in transition expenses to date out of a total budget of \$266,000.

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). The homilist at all Eucharists will be the Chancellor, Canon Mark Galus.

e. **Consecration Committee Report**

The Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Co-chair, reported that the committee is finalizing the website information for registration, hotel blocks, the schedule for the weekend, and maps of the Cathedral campus. He reported that the parking garage across the street from the Cathedral will have 500 spaces available, and a permit from the city of Kansas City has been received to close 13<sup>th</sup> Street by the Cathedral. The reception

planning is ongoing. The consecration service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on May 3, 2025, at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City. Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe will preside at worship at Christ Church Episcopal, Boonville, on May 4. A reception will be held on May 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Church, Springfield.

f. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported that included in the meeting packet were letters received by the diocese from the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, Council of Churches of the Ozarks, Light from Light thanking the diocese for financial support of their ministries.

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 investments are doing well with \$210,000 to the plus and the portfolio YTD is at 14%. Per the most recent report from DFMS, the Diocese's long-term investment portfolio through November was up about 14% year to date and 19% year over year.

The Bishop had a visitation with Christ Church, St. Joseph, on February 2 and they presented her with a check to pay off their line of credit.

The Treasurer presented several action items on behalf of the Finance Committee:

- i. **Bishop-Elect Vehicle Purchase** – After discussion, the Finance Committee moved that \$43,715 be approved for the purchase of a Honda CRV Hybrid for the Bishop Elect.

**The motion passed.**

- ii. **St. Peter & All Saints Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Grant/Line of Credit**

The Treasurer reported that the Property Committee recommended to the Finance Committee a \$20,000 Property Grant and up to a \$40,000 Line of Credit to support a \$120,000 project focused on creating an ADA compliant restroom on the Nave level and retrofit two restrooms on the main level (lower) to become ADA compliant. SPAAS is providing the remaining \$60,000 from an earlier capital campaign. The SPAAS vestry approved the project and funding last month, and the Finance Committee recommended approval.

After discussion, the Finance Committee moved that a \$20,000 Property Grant and up to a \$40,000 line of credit for St. Peter & All

Saints Episcopal Church, Kansas City, to construct one ADA compliant restroom and retrofit two existing restrooms to make them ADA compliant be approved.

**The motion passed**, with one vote in opposition and one abstention (by The Rev. Donna Stanford, deacon assigned to St. Peter & All Saints).

iii. **Christ Church Episcopal, Boonville, Line of Credit**

After discussion, the Finance Committee moved that a \$13,000 line of credit for Christ Church Episcopal, Boonville, to fund required repairs on several windows, be approved. Ms. Amanda Pershall moved, seconded by The Rev. Susan Roberts, that the motion be amended by adding that the Finance Committee will consult with the church regarding amending the request from a line of credit to a grant from the Rust Fund. The motion to amend the original motion passed.

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

iv. **IT Funds Request** – The diocesan office requested \$1,250 to upgrade and make more secure email protocols at 17 of our churches. Brian Davenport will perform the work and consult with the affected parishes. It is estimated to be 45 to 50 hours of time.

After discussion, the Finance Committee moved that \$1,250 be approved for Brian Davenport to upgrade and make more secure email protocols at 17 of our churches.

**The motion passed.**

h. **Vice President's Report**

The Rev. Susan Roberts had no report.

i. **Bishop's Report**

The Bishop reported that she is still working on completing tasks. She has compiled a report on clergy and lay leaders and a report on convention committees for the Bishop Elect. The Bishop reported that the Diocese will host the 2025 Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Clergy and Lay Leadership Retreat from April 2 – 4, 2025. She also reported that the 40th Annual Episcopal Parish Network Conference will take place February 25-28, 2025, in Kansas City.

The Bishop announced that Ann Spicer, wife of The Rev. Cn. John Spicer, had been taken off life support and had passed away. The Bishop led Council in prayer. The Bishop's husband, Steve, will gather the Diocese's clergy spouses in prayer today.

4. **New Business**

- a. **Ministry Developer Proposal for the Eastern Central Deanery Churches (Christ Church, Boonville & St. Mary's Fayette)** – The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks led a discussion regarding a ministry developer/local evangelist position for the two most Eastern parishes of the Central Deanery – Christ Church, Boonville, Howard County, and St. Mary's, Fayette, Cooper County.

After discussion, The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Mr. Tom Kokjer, that the matter be tabled until the August 2025 meeting of Council.

**The motion passed.**

- b. **Transition Fund Update** – The Treasurer reported that the projected balance is between \$45,000 and \$55,000.

5. **Closing**

Ms. Amanda Perschall led Council in a devotion and closing prayer.

6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Ms. Hayley Cobb, to adjourn. **The motion carried**, and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Donna Stanford  
Diocesan Secretary