

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

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, March 8, 2025, 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  
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 Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Bishop-elect  
                             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. The Very Rev. Jean Long led Council in prayer.
  
2.     **Consent Agenda Adoption.** Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by The Rev. Cn. John Spicer, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:

- a. Approval of February 8, 2025 Diocesan Council meeting minutes, as corrected
- b. Receipt of March 4, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes
- c. Receipt of reports, if any, from committees, commissions, and ministries
  - i. Youth Ministry Commission report

**The motion passed.**

### **3. Reports.**

#### **a. Deanery Reports**

- i. Southern Deanery  
The Rev. Chandler Jackson III reported that a clericus meeting will be held on March 13 at Christ Church, Springfield.
- ii. Northwest-Metro Deanery  
The Very Rev. Jean Long reported that the Deanery will host a farewell event for Bishop Diane on Friday, March 14. A Deanery meeting will be held on March 22, with clergy gathering at 9 a.m. and council gathering at 10 a.m.
- iii. Central Deanery  
The Very Rev. Kary Mann reported that the Deanery will host a farewell event for Bishop Diane on March 16. A clericus meeting will be held on March 22.

#### **c. Standing Committee Report**

Mr. Eric Rhodes, President, reported that the Standing Committee met on February 11. The Committee consented to: the ordination of Dr. Brian Cowley; the reunion of the Diocese of Bethlehem and the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania (officially becoming the Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna on January 1, 2026). The Committee continues to work with the Consecration Committee. There have been \$119,699 in search expenses to date out of a total budget of \$261,000. Gift funds for the Bishop-elect are still invited.

#### **d. Transition Committee Report**

Canon Shirley Bolden, Co-chair, reported that the committee is organizing farewells for Bishop Bruce. The first event was a Motown Dance held 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. with 150 people attending. Other events are planned for Friday, March 14, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. (Eucharist and reception at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral and Founder's Hall); Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. (Eucharist and reception at Christ Church, Springfield); Sunday, March 16, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. (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 meeting weekly. Communications regarding gifts for the Bishop-elect will be coming out soon. Among the people joining us at the consecration service to be held at 10:00 a.m. on May 3, 2025, at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, will be 13 visiting Bishops, the co-consecrators, and 71 people from Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Committee is finalizing the website information for hotel blocks, the schedule for the weekend, and maps of the Cathedral campus. The Committee encourages people to register to attend the consecration service before the registration deadline of March 29.

f. **Task Force Report**

Ms. Amanda Perschall reported that the task force is awaiting information from the Chancellor before meeting to discuss and make recommendations concerning status of congregation or parish, change of status, and canons related thereto (task force members: The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, convenor; Cn. Shirley Bolden; Ms. Kate French; Ms. Amanda Perschall; Mr. Erik Rhodes).

g. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary had no report except to state that the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry will soon announce the next Dean of the School.

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

The Treasurer submitted a written report and the minutes of the March 4, 2025 Finance Committee meeting. Per the Diocese's most recent report from DFMS, the long-term investment portfolio gained 11.2% in 2024. The Treasurer reported that St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church's \$850,000 20-year commercial real estate loan with Central Bank at 3.25% is up for a 5-year balloon payment in July. The Diocese is a co-signer on the loan that was originally for \$2 million. The Treasurer projects the new rate to be over 7%. He will present options at the April Council meeting.

Mr. Ron Weil, Finance Administrator, reported on the variances in the Operating Revenue and Expense Report ending February 28, 2025.

The Treasurer reported on the status of the proposal to amend the Christ Church Episcopal, Boonville, line of credit request to a grant from the Rust Fund. The Treasurer reported that Christ Church has asked for the amendment to a grant, which request will be taken up by the Finance Committee next month, with a follow-up to Council at the April Council meeting.

The Treasurer presented several action items on behalf of the Finance Committee. The Treasurer reported that the Property Committee recommended to the Finance Committee a \$6,571 Property Grant for replacing sewage grinder pumps. The Treasurer also reported that the

Property Committee recommended to the Finance Committee a \$9,625 Property Grant to replace an HVAC pump system.

i. **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Belton, grant  
St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Bolivar, grant**

After discussion, the Finance Committee moved that a \$6,571 Property Grant for St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Belton, to replace sewage grinder pumps, and a \$9,625 Property Grant for St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Bolivar, to replace an HVAC pump system be approved.

**The motion passed.**

ii. **Write-off legacy receivables**

After discussion, the Finance Committee moved that the legacy receivables of Episcopal Churches of the Ozarks (EChO) (St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Monett, \$2,300; St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Ozark, \$2,153; and All Saints' Episcopal Church, West Plains, \$147) be written off from the general fund.

**The motion passed.**

Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by The Very Rev. Kary Mann, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. **The motion passed.**

i. **Vice President's Report**

The Rev. Susan Roberts reported on FaithX, the Congregational Vitality Assessment, and the training session led by Bishop Skelton.

j. **Bishop's Report**

The Bishop reported that she will attend the House of Bishops meeting March 18–25 in Nauvoo, Alabama, with Bishop-elect Amy. She is still working on her "to do" list. The Bishop thanked Council for the Motown Dance Party farewell gathering. She is working and consulting with Bishop-elect Amy. She has visited hospitals and Bishop Spencer Place to provide pastoral care. She is making last visitations and presiding at ordinations before retiring. She is also filling out retirement paperwork. At the March 12 Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Finance, she was asked to become Vice Chair of the Finance Committee and to chair the Joint Committee on the Budget. The Bishop reported that she is in good health and is home in California for a visit.

k. **Bishop-elect's Report**

Bishop-elect Amy thanked Bishop Diane. Bishop-elect Amy spent 10 days in Kansas City at the end of February. She made 2 unofficial visitations (to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, and Christ Episcopal

Church, St. Joseph) and attended a Youth Commission meeting. Bishop-elect Amy will be on vacation next week and then attend the House of Bishops meeting March 18-25.

4. **New Business**

a. **Bishop-elect home purchase line of credit**

After discussion, the Finance Committee moved that a line of credit of up to \$110,000 from the Transition Fund at 0% interest with a 6-month maturity date be approved for the Bishop-elect's home purchase.

**The motion passed.**

b. **Bishop-Elect housing allowance resolution**

After discussion, Mr. Eric Rhodes moved, seconded by The Rev. Cn. John Spicer, that the following housing allowance resolution for the Bishop-elect be approved.

Resolution of the Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri  
To Designate a Portion of Clergy Salary for IRS Parsonage Exclusion

WHEREAS, The Diocese of West Missouri ("Diocese") employs certain clergy ("Clergy") to provide ministerial services; and

WHEREAS, the Diocese does not provide housing to the Clergy;  
and

WHEREAS, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits members of the clergy to exclude from gross income (in computing federal income taxes) a designated allowance paid to the clergyperson as part of their compensation (the "Parsonage Exclusion") to the extent such funds are used by the clergyperson for actual expenses in owning or renting a home (including furnishings, utilities, and maintenance);  
and

WHEREAS, the Parsonage Exclusion must be authorized by the governing body of the clergyperson's employer; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Diocese, as the employer of the Clergy, through the Diocesan Council, its Board of Directors, hereby authorizes the Parsonage Exclusions for the Clergy listed below for the calendar year 2025 to be pro-rated as appropriate for any partial employment during said calendar year:

Bishop-Elect Amy Dafler Meaux ..... \$45,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount of the Parsonage Exclusions authorized for the calendar year of 2025 to Bishop-Elect Amy Dafler Meaux shall continue on an annual basis for all subsequent

years thereafter unless the Diocesan Council shall duly adopt by budget or resolution a different amount for said housing or rental allowance.

**The motion passed.**

**c. Point of personal privilege**

The Rev. Cn. John Spicer requested a point of personal privilege, which the Bishop allowed. The Rev. Cn. Spicer thanked Council members for their support during this time of bereavement for his late wife.

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by The Rev. Susan Roberts, to adjourn. **The motion carried,** and the Bishop adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Donna Stanford  
Diocesan Secretary