

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI
Minutes of August 9, 2025 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, August 9, 2025, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 N. Liberty St., Independence, Missouri.

Members attending:

~~Ms. Regina Berens~~
Cn. Shirley Bolden
Ms. Anne Breid
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~~
The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, President
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 Meaux determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Cn. Mark Galus led Council in a devotion and prayer.
2. **Consent Agenda.** Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by The Rev. Susan Roberts, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:

- a. Approval of July 12, 2025 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
- b. Receipt of August 6, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes
- c. Receipt of reports, if any, from committees, commissions, and ministries
 - i. Vocations Missioner Report
 - ii. Youth Ministry Commission Report

The motion passed.

3. Reports.

a. Deanery Reports

- i. Southern Deanery
The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok reported that the Southern Deanery picnic was held on August 1. Monthly clericus meetings are being held. The Southern Deanery will meet as a whole when the proposed budget is available for review.
- ii. Central Deanery
The Very Rev. Kary Mann reported that she is preparing for sabbatical. The Central Deanery Council meeting is scheduled, as is the Deanery picnic. The Central Deanery is offering five sessions on *Introduction to Islam: Getting Beyond the Myths*, hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lee's Summit, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on August 14, 21, 28, September 4, 11, and facilitated by Biagio Mazza, scripture scholar and theologian.
- iii. Northwest-Metro Deanery had no report.

c. Standing Committee Report

Mr. Eric Rhodes, President of the Standing Committee, reported that the Standing Committee is continuing to work on archiving the activities of the Bishop Search.

d. Registrar's/Archivist's Report

The Rev. Chandler Jackson III reported that he is receiving search process materials and is working through resources from closed churches.

e. Secretary's Report

The Secretary had no report.

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

The Treasurer submitted a written report and the minutes of the August 5, 2025 Finance Committee meeting. The Treasurer reported that the Diocese received its second quarter results from the Domestic and Foreign Mission Society (DFMS), and long-term financial assets are up 8%. The new St. Mary Magdelene loan closed with Bishop Amy and Fr. David Wilcox's signatures. Our revenue and expenses are tracking within 5% of budget currently.

Grant Funds Balances Update:

Central: \$95,743 spent. \$104,266 balance remaining

Property: \$242,303 spent. \$154,364 balance remaining

The Treasurer shared a personal note. The Diocesan Associate Treasurer, Ann Jetter, has agreed to be nominated at Convention as the next Treasurer. The Treasurer has agreed to stay on as the Associate Treasurer for as long as Bishop Amy and the Diocese desires.

g. **Vice President's Report**

The Rev. Susan Roberts had no report but shared a “closet cleaning” story.

h. **Bishop's Report**

The Bishop:

- (1) gave thanks for Zella Forsythe's presence and remembered her 12—year-old grandson, Blake Hirsch, who died tragically in an accident. The Bishop offered a prayer for the family
- (2) reported that she will be at a House of Bishop's meeting at the time of the September Diocesan Council meeting, and asked the Vice President, The Rev. Susan Roberts, to chair the meeting
- (3) reported that she and The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks attended year B of the College of Congregational Development; she shared information regarding content and presented two models:
reflection = data
change = organization
(Change = Dissatisfaction x Vision x First Steps > Resistance)
Diocesan Council engaged in discussion of the change equation.
- (4) reported that a December 2025 Council meeting needs to be scheduled. Ms. Amanda Perschall moved, seconded by Ms. Elisa White that an in-person business meeting and full day retreat with the Standing Committee be scheduled on December 13 at a location to be determined. **The motion carried.**
- (5) reported on Diocesan leadership structure changes, including Discipleship Team changes as reflected in the budget; specifically, a full-time Canon for Common Mission; a half-time Canon for Discipleship; a half-time Canon for Vocations. The Bishop also envisions the need for a diocesan strategic plan and a capital (missional) campaign.

4. **New Business**

- a. **Action Items** (two property grants that were approved by both the Property and Finance Committees):

- (1) Shepherd of the Hills Property Grant request for \$2,500 for purchase of an AED device and installation and training.

After discussion, The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved for approval of a \$2,500 Property Grant for Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church, Branson, for purchase of an AED device and installation and training. **The motion passed.**

- (2) Trinity Independence Property Grant request for \$35,000 to go toward a \$104,000 roof replacement. Trinity's annex has a flat roof that is the original roof from 1959. It has been repaired numerous times and now needs to be replaced.

After discussion, The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved for approval of a \$35,000 Property Grant for Trinity Episcopal Church, Independence, for a roof replacement. **The motion passed**, with The Very Rev. Kary Mann, rector of Trinity, abstaining from the vote.

- b. The Treasurer gave an overview of the draft 2026 budget. Finance Administrator Ron Weil reviewed the draft budget line-by-line. It was noted that under the pillar Practicing God's Economy, The Council of Churches of the Ozarks is now known as Crosslines Community Outreach (CCO). After discussion, the following changes to the draft 2026 budget were proposed.

- (1) The Treasurer moved, seconded by Mr. Eric Rhodes, that under the pillar How We Serve Others, the Centralized Granting Committee budget for 2026 be reduced from \$100,000 to \$80,000, and the Property Maintenance budget for 2026 be increased from \$80,000 to \$100,000. **The motion passed.**

- (2) The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by The Rev. Susan Roberts, that the Deanery Administration budget for 2026 under the pillar How We Support This Important Work be reduced by \$5,000 from \$15,000 to \$10,000, and that the Clergy Retreat budget for 2026 under the pillar How We Form Disciples be increased by \$5,000 from \$12,000 to \$17,000. **The motion passed.**

- (3) Ms. Amanda Perschall moved, seconded by The Rev. Cn. John Spicer, that the \$20,000 not included under Area Bookkeepers Personnel in the 2026 budget under the pillar How We Support This Important Work be moved from that designated fund into the general fund. **The motion passed.**

- (4) The Rev. Cn. John Spicer moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Pershall, that the Diocesan Convention budget for 2026 under the pillar How We Support This Important Work be increased from \$20,000 to \$40,000. **The motion passed.**

(5) The Treasurer moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Pershall, that the current draft budget, with the approved changes, be disseminated to the Deaneries for review and comment. **The motion passed.**

5. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, to adjourn. **The motion carried,** and the Bishop offered a prayer and adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary