

*Built By
the Spirit*



2025 Reports to Convention Diocesan Received

Filed in order of receipt



— The **Diocese of** —
West Missouri

1. DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Prepared by The Rev. Chandler Jackson, Diocesan Archivist

Who are the members of your committee?

The Rev. Chandler Jackson

Mr. Craig Amason

When does your group regularly meet?

Irregularly

How many meetings were held this year?

Nine

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

- Much has happened in the Diocesan Archives since the convention in 2024. We welcomed our new Assistant Archivist, Craig Amason. He has begun rehousing materials in the collection into archivally appropriate folders and boxes and inventorying those parts of the collection as he moves forward.
- Another major step was the acquisition of a new flat-file cabinet to hold blueprints and other oversized documents. Each of the blueprints in the collection are being pressed and housed in large folders. This is a time-consuming process, but will ensure their preservation. While we do not have blueprints for all of the buildings in the diocese, we do have many and, if a congregation has need to borrow the documents for a project, please contact us.
- With approximately five hundred linear feet of materials in the collection, and very little of it processed according to archival standards prior to 2023, it will take a considerable amount of time to complete the process and complete a total inventory of the collection. At this time, we have completed the papers of all of the bishops and the papers of several of the governing bodies of the diocese. Most of the Journals of the Conventions since 1840 are now available through the diocesan website. We will work with the Diocesan Council to secure funding to have the remaining journals digitized and added to this collection.
- Throughout the year, we have been able to respond to many requests for information from materials held in the collection. This includes history of congregations, people looking for information about grandparents and other relatives, and former clergy of the diocese. We look forward to doing this research as it shows the value of maintaining this vast storehouse of records.
- We encourage those with enquiries to contact us by emailing archivist@diowestmo.org.

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

- We will continue to process the collection and respond to questions utilizing the materials in the collection. One area of the collection we will be focusing on is the blueprint collection of diocesan buildings.

2. INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH GRANT COMMITTEE

Prepared by the Ven. Bruce Bower, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

The Venerable Bruce Bower, Archdeacon	Chair
The Rev. Dcn. Donna Stanford	Clergy Member
The Rev. Dcn. Lynda Hurt	Clergy Member
David Westervelt	Lay Member

When does your group regularly meet?

This committee does not meet regularly. Instead, we communicate via email and telephone when IOG grant applications are received from parish churches.

How many meetings were held this year?

No meetings were held over the last year. We did communicate as a committee approximately twelve times as we considered and approved international outreach grant applications.

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

The highlight for the IOG Committee this year was arranging for grant applications and submissions to be handled electronically via the diocesan website. This significantly streamlined the application process for participating WEMO parishes.

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

IOG Committee plans for 2026 center on having better communication with WEMO parishes to encourage greater participation in the IOG Grant program.

3. DIOCESAN CHANCELLOR

In accordance with the custom of this Convention and Canon V of the Canons of this Diocese, it is our privilege to report on the following matters that were handled by and through the Chancellor's Office since the 2024 Convention:

1. Provided regular advice and counsel to the Bishop Provisional on various Diocesan matters.
2. Provided regular advice and counsel to the Bishop Diocesan on various Diocesan matters.
3. Attended Diocesan Council and Diocesan Council Executive Committee meetings and provided advice and counsel from time-to-time during their deliberations.
4. Provided advice and counsel to the Standing Committee and its *ad hoc* committees regarding the ordination and transition processes for the Ninth Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese.
5. Provided advice and counsel to Diocesan Officers in the course of their duties.
6. Provided advice and counsel to Diocesan Staff in the course of their duties.
7. Provided advice and counsel to various Diocesan constituents, including the Intake Officer and the Disciplinary Board, regarding interpretation and application of National and Diocesan Constitution & Canons.
8. Provided advice and counsel to Rectors, Wardens, Vestries, and Churches on various matters, including personnel matters, insurance matters, corporate organization and governance, bylaws revisions, and the purchase, sale, and lease of property.
9. Chaired, served on, and/or participated in various Diocesan committees, including the Constitution & Canons Committee.
10. Gathered information from Episcopal attorneys within the Diocese to form a Lawyers Network.
11. Participated in national Chancellor's Conference events to stay updated and informed on best practices for the Chancellor's Office.

Faithfully submitted,
Cn. Mark J. Galus, Chancellor
Ms. Jennifer M. Snider, Vice Chancellor

4. CENTRALIZED GRANT COMMITTEE

Who are the members of your committee?

The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux	Bishop
Canon Mark Galus	Chancellor
Mr. Tom Kokjer	Treasurer
Mr. Ron Weil	Finance Administrator
Ms. Marie Ebert	Chair
The Rev. Vicky Anderson	Secretary
The Rev. Canon Robin James	Standing Committee Representative
Mr. Jim Newman	Property Committee Representative
The Rev. Susan Roberts	Standing Committee Vice-President
Ms. Elizabeth Barns	
Mrs. Mindy Swayne	
The Rev. Ryan Williams	

When does your group regularly meet?

This committee meets the third Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. via Zoom

How many meetings were held this year?

Nine.

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

We have experienced a slower request rate in 2025 as to 2024. We have granted a total of \$46,479 in grants as compared to \$72,779 in 2024. Some of the grants in 2024 are still in process into 2025 so the total may be explained by that fact. However, there is great need in our committees that would benefit from the grant process. There are currently outreach missions that are being funded by the individual churches that could benefit with grant money infusion of cash. We would like to get the Deaneries to focus on the needs of their communities and apply for funding or to develop similar programs in their committees, i.e. review the Centralized Grant Testimonial page for programs that could be expanded in their Deanery. For Example: we have awarded some new grants focusing on advertising for the church and await the testimonials from these grants.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Ebert, Chairperson, Centralized Grant Committee

Additionally submitted Analysis:

The Southern deanery is the largest user of Centralized Grants in support of regional ministries. The largest funding goes to Trinity Lebanon for the Project 360 that provides transportation to youth in the region to area programs designed to support teens after school.

In 2024, Church of the Redeemer made a grant request seeking funds for a program for tree planting. That program was an unfunded initiative approved at convention in 2023. The recommendation was to go back to the Diocese and request funding in support of the approved initiative.

Please ask if further breakdown is needed.

Deaneries and churches are encouraged to seek funding for initiatives the church wishes to fund. The Centralized Grants Committee has a reserve of funds to share to promote God's Kingdom throughout our Diocese. Please encourage our churches to prayerfully consider how a church might request and use funds in their area to help reach out into their communities.

Peace,
The Rev. Deacon Vicky Anderson
Secretary, Centralized Grants Committee

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

We plan to meet regularly each month to review submitted grant requests. We need to plan on a way to get each Diocese to submit for the work that they are currently doing and to expand to other outreach grants by sharing the success of the grant recipients. We will work with each area dean and share the successes of other grants in the Diocese.

A list of the Centralized Grants distributed is available below.

Centralized Grant Committee Distributed Grants through September 30, 2025

Congregation	Title of Project	Amount	Pillars
St Philip Trenton	Sunday Evening Radio Compline Service	\$ 2,184	Forming Disciples, Proclaiming the Good News, Serving Others
St Anne's Lee's Summit	A/V Equipment Upgrade	\$ 1,620	Proclaiming the Good News
Grace Liberty	Grace's Grocery Feeding Ministry (Outdoor Pantry, Thanksgiving and Christmas Meals, Personal Care Items, and Operational Supplies).	\$ 3,000	Serving Others
St. Stephen's Monett	Little Free Pantry - Food and Toiletries	\$ 2,100	Practicing God's Economy, Striving for Justice, Serving Others
St. Stephen's Monett	Crosslines Thrift Store serving Barry and Lawrence Counties.	\$ 400	Practicing God's Economy, Striving for Justice, Proclaiming the Good News, Serving Others

Congregation	Title of Project	Amount	Pillars
St. Stephen's Monett	The Pregnancy Care Center is a compassionate, confidential nonprofit providing free pregnancy testing, education, and support services for individuals facing unexpected pregnancies.	\$ 600	Practicing God's Economy, Striving for Justice, Forming Disciples, Proclaiming the Good News, Serving Others
St. Stephen's Monett	Children's Center is a nonprofit child advocacy center that offers forensic interviews, medical exams, trauma-focused therapy and support for children and families impacted by abuse or witnessing serious crime.	\$ 300	Practicing God's Economy, Striving for Justice, Serving Others
St. Stephen's Monett	The Scott Regional Technology Center (SRTC) in Monett is a career-technical education facility offering high-school students hands-on programs in fields like welding, auto technology, culinary arts, health occupations & IT to prepare them for college & careers.	\$ 600	Practicing God's Economy, Striving for Justice, Serving Others
St. Stephen's Monett	Braille Workers #69 is a volunteer branch of workers that produces and distributes braille religious materials free of charge for the blind and visually impaired.	\$ 600	
Springfield	To provide registration costs for Ozarks Pridefest (parade participation/booth)	\$ 200	Striving for Justice, Forming Disciples, Proclaiming the Good News
St. Matthew's Ozark	A/V Equipment Upgrade	\$ 1,500	Forming Disciples, Proclaiming the Good News, Serving Others

Congregation	Title of Project	Amount	Pillars
St. Michael's Independence	To furnish and equip areas of the church for Youth and Children's Ministry.	\$ 1,000	Forming Disciples
St. Philip's Joplin	St. Philip's Fall Family Retreat at Sky Ranch in Cave Springs, Oklahoma.	\$ 3,350	Forming Disciples
Church of the Resurrection	Support for Backsnack Program, Meals to homeless camps, Hillcrest Ministries (Housing for the less fortunate), School supplies through the Blue Springs Community Services League, and Christmas gifts through the Community Services League.	\$ 2,500	Practicing God's Economy, Striving for Justice, Serving Others
St. Paul's Clinton	Newspaper ads in local free newspaper.	\$ 3,000	Proclaiming the Good News
St Anne's Lee's Summit	Hope & Kindness Bags for people who are experiencing homelessness.	\$ 1,000	Forming Disciples, Proclaiming the Good News, Serving Others
Church of the Redeemer	Industrial Freezer for SPEAC food pantry (an ecumenical outreach ministry of the Church of the Redeemer).	\$ 7,500	Practicing God's Economy, Forming Disciples, Serving Others
St. Matthew's Ozark	Newspaper ads in local free newspaper.	\$ 2,400	Proclaiming the Good News
Trinity Lebanon	Give Our Youth A Lift - A grant to Project 360 Youth Services to help provide transportation to homeless and at-risk teens between the ages of 13-18 who are provided essential services year-round.	\$ 12,625	Proclaiming the Good News, Serving Others

2025 Total	\$ 46,479
2025 Budget	\$ 100,000
Prior Year Holdover	\$ 27,221
Remaining Amount	\$ 80,742

5. MISSIONER FOR TRANSITIONS

Prepared by the Rev. Canon Chas Marks

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

- Three parishes called new clergy: St. Mary Magdalene Church in Belton called the Rev'd David Wilcox as Rector, St. John's Church in Springfield called the Rev'd Benjamin George-Thoms as Rector, and the Rev'd Bill Myric was called as Priest-in-Charge of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Branson. Christ Church, St. Joseph and St. Augustine's, Kansas City recently entered transition.
- Newly ordained and new to our diocese clergy have been participating in the Beginning Well initiative, meeting regularly on Zoom for guided discussions and three times annually in person for fellowship and relationship building. Ten clergy participated in the program in 2025.
- Twenty-two churches completed the Congregational Vitality Assessment, with several more completing it by year's end. However, organizational issues with the assessment's creator complicated the process, and the CVA doesn't meet our smaller churches' needs. We will not be renewing this partnership and are exploring better alternatives.
- In February, Archbishop Melissa Skelton, a founder of the College for Congregational Development, presented workshops on Congregational Development for Diocesan leadership and all interested participants. Attendance was strong, and Archbishop Skelton effectively introduced us to congregational development language and processes.
- Bishop Amy and I attended Part B of the College of Congregational Development in Rochester, NY this summer. We have both now completed this program.
- I continue serving as one of the conveners of the Province V-VI-VII transition officers. We met in Baltimore with transition officers church-wide earlier this year and hosted several Zoom meetings. We'll gather again in December in Texas to discuss transition trends, consult on searches, and hear updates on The Episcopal Church's efforts to re-imagine church-wide transition processes.

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

- In the coming year, we'll explore congregational development training possibilities at the Deanery and congregation levels. As the College for Congregational Development has no regional partners in our area currently, we hope to have discussions with other Dioceses in our region about the possibility of bringing this program to this area.
- As things are changing church-wide in regard to the "how" of transitions, I'll be updating our transition materials and posting them on the Diocesan website.
- To ensure congregations have clergy to serve them, we're looking at our congregations and upcoming transitions across the Diocese. We hope this will allow for more innovation and creativity in this process. Ministry Developer and Curacy funds remain available for churches interested in new partnership approaches. I encourage the full use of these resources.
- I plan to visit our congregations regularly, including Sunday mornings, throughout the year. This will help me know our parishes better and discover how we can together share our gifts to advance the spread of the Gospel in West Missouri.

6. DIVERSITY AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

Prepared by Canon Shirley Bolden, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

Canon Shirley Bolden, Chair
Mr. Drew Brown
The Very Rev. Don Compier
The Rev. Ted Estes
Mrs. Jeanne Goolsby
The Rev. Deacon Lynda Hurt
The Rev. Canon Chas Marks

Ms. Amanda Perschall
Mr. Raja Reed
The Rev. Deacon Robin Rusconi
The Rev. Mary Margaret Saxon
The Rev. Canon Galen Snodgrass
Mrs. Meg Townsend

Introduction

“The fundamental truth undergirding this vision [of the Beloved Community] is that all are made in the image of God. It is in our diversity that we discover the fullness of that image....

Whenever individual or community behaviors work against God's vision, we have promised to respond in ways that will serve to heal: "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? I will with God's help (Book of Common Prayer p305)."

Foundational Statement

In a pastoral letter dated March 21, 2006, from the House of Bishops titled “The Sin of Racism: A Call to Covenant,” the importance of responding to racism was emphasized. The letter reinforces the commitment to justice and peace, and the responsibility to respect the dignity of every human being.

Commission Commitment and Mission

The Diversity and Reconciliation Commission stands in solidarity with those calling for justice for all who have suffered from institutional and systemic injustice and oppression because of race. The Commission affirms the belief that every person is created in God's image and likeness and acknowledges that the sin of racism affects everyone in the community: the oppressed, the oppressors, and those who are indifferent.

In response, the Commission has dedicated itself to the work of dismantling racism. This commitment is carried out through a combination of education, prayer, repentance, confession, forgiveness, and direct action. The Commission invites all people in West Missouri to join in this vital work.

Support and Resources

The Commission exists to provide resources, support, education, and training for anyone who is prepared to participate in this redeeming work. These offerings are available to all who seek to make a difference.

2025 Diversity and Reconciliation Commission Activities

As of October 2025, the Diversity and Reconciliation Commission has convened six Zoom meetings to further its mission and engage participants in ongoing efforts for justice and reconciliation.

The Diversity and Reconciliation Commission held six (6) zoom meetings as of October 2025.

Diversity and Reconciliation Commission 2025 activities:

The Beloved Community of Care and Love Book Study

- Completed “Black History AF, The Un-whitewashed Story of America” By Michael Harriott.
- Completed “One Mighty and Irresistible Tide, The Epic Struggle Over American Immigration 1924-1965” by Jia Lynn Yang.
- Our next book study will start Thursday, October 16, 2025, 7:00 p.m. via zoom. “A Map is Only One Story. Twenty writers on Immigration, Family and the Meaning of Home” edited by Nicole Chung and Mensah Demary.

The book study group continues to foster open and thoughtful discussions, encouraging participants to share personal insights and experiences related to each reading. These conversations have helped deepen understanding around issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and have strengthened the sense of community among members. In addition to the book studies, the Commission has prioritized creating safe spaces for dialogue and reflection. Through these initiatives, members have been empowered to voice perspectives and share stories that enrich the community’s collective understanding. The ongoing commitment to fostering inclusivity remains central to all Commission activities.

Martin Luther King, Jr Celebration – Saturday, January 18, 2025

- Luncheon: Over 90 attendees; featuring a conversation with The Most Rev. Michael Curry.
- Evensong Service at 4:00 p.m.: 140 in attendance with The Most Rev. Michael Curry as guest preacher.

National Day of Racial Healing – January 21, 2025

- A joint service was held at St. Augustine’s with 15 attendees at noon.

Black History Month Program

On February 15, 2025, the Diversity and Reconciliation Commission hosted a luncheon with the guest speaker, The Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart, author of titled “Black Episcopalian: The Struggle of Inclusion.” On February 16, 2025, The Absalom Jones Celebration was held at St. Augustine’s featuring The Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart as the guest preacher. Attendance exceeded 90 participants, reflecting strong community engagement with the event.

In honor of Black History Month, the Commission also presented three video presentations featuring notable figures:

- James Baldwin https://youtu.be/F_hBFtd27uE
- Charles Radford https://youtu.be/bj28ej0Jq_A
- Adolpho A Birch, Jr. <https://youtu.be/11HFXJwNDdc>

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Conference

On April 2, 2025, commission members attended the opening Eucharist and discussion session of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Conference at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City. The event welcomed approximately 60 attendees from across the United States and Asia. The Diversity and Reconciliation Commission contributed \$10,000 to support the conference, which was subsequently included as a separate line item in the Diocesan Budget.

Spring Diversity Workshop

The Commission organized its spring Diversity Workshop at St. James Episcopal Church in Springfield, Missouri, on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Twenty-five participants attended, engaging in meaningful discussions and activities centered on diversity and inclusion.

Juneteenth Celebration and Educational Visits

On June 19, 2025, the Juneteenth Celebration featured a presentation by Mr. Biscoff, a writer and longtime reporter for The Monett Times. He spoke about the lynching of Will Godley, an African American resident of Pierce City, as well as the shooting of two other individuals, French Godley and Pete Hampton, during a violent mob attack in 1901. This presentation was particularly impactful on Juneteenth, a day that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, as it underscored the ongoing struggles for freedom and justice faced by African Americans.

Following the celebration, members of the Diocese of West Missouri participated in a visit to The George Washington Carver Museum in Diamond, Missouri. The group then traveled to St. Philips Episcopal Church in Joplin, Missouri, a site of historical significance due to a lynching that occurred at the old city jail, which no longer exists. The choice of this location highlighted the area's complex history, including the expulsion of many African American residents following the tragic events.

These visits fostered reflection and education on the legacy of racial violence and its enduring impact on local communities. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions about historical injustices and the importance of reconciliation, deepening their understanding of the challenges faced by African Americans throughout Missouri's history.

The Diversity and Reconciliation Commission's dedication to promoting diversity and reconciliation was evident throughout the summer, with a particular focus on education and community engagement. Members worked closely with local organizations to facilitate dialogues concerning both historical and contemporary issues affecting marginalized groups. These initiatives not only promoted greater understanding and healing but also helped to build stronger partnerships within the broader community.

A service featuring the Litany of Lament, written by The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of Missouri, was held to honor all those who were lynched in Pierce City and Joplin. During this service, participants came together to remember these individuals and acknowledge the lasting impact of such tragedies on their descendants and the wider community. The Litany of Lament served as a powerful call to continued advocacy, remembrance, and meaningful action to address the wounds of the past.

Fall Diversity Workshop – Saturday, September 27, 2025

- St. Peter and All Saints Episcopal Church
- 30 participants

National Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15 to October 15

An article by Very Rev. Don Compier appeared in the September 2 issue of *The New Spirit Update*.

To honor National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Commission collaborated with local Hispanic organizations to host educational events and cultural celebrations that recognized the contributions and history of Hispanic Americans. These activities fostered greater appreciation for diversity within the community and encouraged ongoing dialogue about the experiences of marginalized groups. There are plans to write an article or video on Doctrine of Discovery-Native American in November.

Diversity and Reconciliation Commission Budget

2025 Budget \$34,700

Items	Expenses
Diversity Workshops (Spring Workshop)	\$2,717.41
Book Club	\$ 0.00
Union of Black Episcopalians	\$ 750.00
Pilgrimages	\$2,639.75
Celebration and Commemoration	\$4,373.02
History of the Churches	\$ 0.00

Comments:

Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE)

There was no in-person conference in 2025, the Union of Black Episcopalians' Board opted for the 2025 Conference on July 26, 2025. There was an all-day zoom meeting.

AAPI Conference

In the 2025 Diversity Budget, \$10,000 was set aside for the AAPI Conference that was held in Kansas City in 2025. The budgeted amount was later pulled from the Diversity and Reconciliation Commission's budget and as a separate line item in the 2025 Diocesan Budget.

Proposed Budget and Events for 2026: \$30,700

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Guest Preacher: The Rt. Rev. John Harmon, Bishop of Arkansas

Date: Saturday, January 17, 2026

Location: Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, 415 W 13th Street, KCMO

Service: Evensong

Time: 4:00 p.m.

National Day of Racial Healing

Date: January 20, 2026

Location: To be Announced

The Absalom Jones Celebration

Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux

Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026

Location: St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 2732 Benton Blvd., KCMO

Time: 4:00 p.m.

AAPI Conference

Date: April 2026

Location: Seattle, Washington

Juneteenth Celebration

Litany of Lament Service

Locations: Maryville Historical Museum

St. Joseph Black Archives Museum

Monument of Lloyd Warner

Latino Heritage Month

September 15th through October 15th

Indigenous Peoples/Native American Heritage Month

November

Book studies will continue**Diversity Workshops**

Two Diversity workshops will be held in 2026 (one in the spring, one in the fall).

UBE Conference

The President and one other board member will attend the Annual UBE Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina July 21-24, 2026.

Dismantling Racism Podcasts

Deacon Lynda Hurt will continue to facilitate future podcasts on dismantling racism.

7. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Prepared by Zachary Phillips, Director of Communications

Who are the members of your committee?

Zachary Phillips, Chair <mailto:communications@diowestmo.org>
Walker Adams
Hayley Cobb
Emily Davenport
JW Keckley
The Very Rev. Jean Long
The Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok

When does your group regularly meet?

The 4th Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

How many meetings were held this year?

Six

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

- Our focus of the year was to ensure a smooth transition with Bishop's Amy's consecration and ordination. This included making sure that tickets for the service were created and shared successfully, reaching out to people for deadlines and information, and other details.
- Merging the WEMO Youth website onto the main diocesan website (diowestmo.org) so that information can all be stored and accessed from one location.
- The Communications Committee has also started a "Communications Support Group" for all communicators across the diocese. This group is focusing on discussing best practices, how the diocese can provide support, and opening communications between parishes to better support each other.

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

- Our current plan is to provide 2-3 Communication Workshops across our deaneries for 2026. This will include teaching people best practices for social media, tools and resources parishes can use, and potentially how to make edits to your website.

8. BOARD OF EXAMINING CHAPLAINS

Prepared by Victor Matthews

Who are the members of your committee?

The Rev. John Coil
The Very Rev. Peter DeVeau
Mr. Channing Horner
The Rev. Dr. Sean Kim
The Rev. Morgan Ladd
Dr. Victor (Vic) Matthews
Dr. Linda Robertson
Mr. Bill Stancil
The Rev. Ronald Verhaeghe

When does your group regularly meet?

We do all of our work by email when there is a candidate to review.

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

- In February 2025, we reviewed the GOE responses of C.J. Duffy, Brian Cowley, and Keith Johnson. We recommended that Duffy and Johnson be ordained. We found that only Brian Cowley required additional work in the areas of The Holy Scriptures, Christian Theology, Christian Worship and The Practice of Ministry. He subsequently worked with Dr. Bill Stancil on these non-proficient areas and in September Dr. Stancil reported that Brian was now proficient in these areas and the Board recommended that he be ordained a priest at the end of his time as deacon.
- We reviewed the 2022 GOE responses of Christopher Dodson. We asked him to rewrite the response to the question on Christian Theology, which he did. We then recommended him for ordination.
- We administered the diaconate exam to Anita Philbrick (in Oct. 2025) and Jory Mertens (in July 2025). Both did well on the exam, and we recommended them for ordination as vocational deacons.

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

- The DBEC will continue its work examining candidates for the priesthood and the diaconate.

9. EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Prepared by Canon Shirley Bolden

Who are the officers of your committee?

Mrs. Judith Turner, President

Mrs. Barbara Mountjoy, Treasurer

Canon Shirley Bolden, Secretary and Chair of Continuing Education

Mrs. Elizabeth Fuemmeler, Member-at-Large

The Episcopal Church Women is a community of Episcopal women who give, care, and empowers women to do Christ's ministry in the world. Our vision for all women of the Episcopal Church is that we become a vibrant blend of all ages, coming together as a peacemaking, healing part of the Church. We aspire to be a God spark, shining and sharing the love of Christ.

The ECW sponsors and administers the United Thank Offering program and promotes the Church Periodical Club Church Periodical Club | Dedicated to the Ministry of the Printed Word. We offer scholarships to women studying for the priesthood or diaconate.

We continue to encourage all women to participate actively in our ministries and outreach programs. By working together, we can make a meaningful impact both within our church community and in the wider world. Our efforts are rooted in faith, service, and the belief that every woman's contribution matters.

Diocese of West Missouri Episcopal Church Women received \$500 in dedication to Bishop Diane's Provisional Ministry and \$658.36 to the United Thank Offering, administered by the Diocese.

Applying for a 2026 UTO Grant

For those interested in applying for a 2026 United Thank Offering (UTO) Grant, the application process will open early next year. We encourage potential applicants to begin gathering necessary documentation and project details in advance.

All UTO Grants must be approved by your Diocesan Bishop, prior to submission.

The 2026 UTO grants will focus on the theme of justice and bridging divides. If you are interested in applying, please consult the grant proposal guidelines at <https://unitedthankoffering.com/apply> as soon as possible. In addition, plan to attend at least one of the on-line webinars that UTO offers to help you prepare a successful grant. Remember that grants are for new mission and ministry projects, not simply expanding your current activities to serve more people or for doing church renovation projects that solely benefit your parishioners. In addition, this year is somewhat different than in previous years because successful projects must be undertaken in concert with at least one group with which you do not traditionally work. Please carefully read the criteria on-line at the website above for a thorough explanation. Feel free to email me (tsmecker@cox.net) with questions and I will be happy to help you navigate the process.

Church Periodical:

The Church Periodical Club's ministry is to provide written materials, both religious and secular, such as paper or electronic books, magazines, workbooks, and educational software, through grants to organizations sponsored by the Episcopal Church or Anglican Communion who otherwise cannot obtain them, and to raise the money to do this.

Bishop Kemper School of Ministry is now set up with the National Church Periodical Club and will be able apply for grants for their students.

Other Details:

This past year, the Episcopal Church Women awarded \$800 from our Continuing Education Funds to an attendee at Bishop Kemper School of Ministry.

We are a self-sustaining committee, with our funds managed by a financial institution. The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of West Missouri do not receive financial support from the Diocese.

We will attend the Triennial in Phoenix, Arizona in 2027.

10. UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS

Prepared by Canon Shirley Bolden

"Set us free, O God, from every bond of prejudice and fear...that we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of God..."

MISSION

To unify the diverse cultures, concerns, and gifts of Black Episcopalians by offering preparation and encouragement for living the Baptismal Covenant and actively participating in the mission and governance of The Episcopal Church.

VISION

- To raise awareness among young men and women of African descent about the vocation to the clergy.
- To promote strong lay leadership among communities of African Descent within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.
- To incorporate fiscal responsibility into the life, work, and ministry of UBE.
- To develop a systematic approach to ensure that Black Congregations and other Communities of African Descent remain sustainable and viable within their environment.

Introduction

Since the founding of St. Thomas Episcopal Church by Absalom Jones in 1794 in Philadelphia, through the election of Barbara Harris as Suffragan Bishop of Massachusetts, Black Christians have consistently maintained a significant presence within the Episcopal Church. Influential individuals such as James Holly, Henry Delaney, John Walker, Tollie Caution, Charles Lawrence, Deborah Harmon Hines, among many others, have played vital roles in its history.

Founded in 1968 as the Union of Black Clergy and Laity, the organization continued the work of previous groups focused on Black ministry in the Episcopal Church. It was renamed the Union of Black Episcopalians in 1971.

The Union of Black Episcopalians consists of over 55 chapters and interest groups across the continental United States and the Caribbean. The organization also includes members located in Canada, Africa, and Latin America.

The Union of Black Episcopalians is dedicated to promoting the full inclusion and participation of Black people at every level of the Episcopal Church. Through advocacy, education, and community engagement, the organization works to address issues of racial justice and to celebrate the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of Black Episcopalians.

Founded in 2022, the Reverend Canon Edward L Warner Chapter began with twenty single members, three church organizations, and the Diocese of West Missouri as a silver member.

Our organization operates under the oversight of the Diversity and Reconciliation Commission. As a member of the Diocese of West Missouri, the Bishop is entitled to attend all meetings and conferences of the National Union of Black Episcopalians.

The UBE is organized by regions, and our affiliation is with the Mid-Western Region.

The Provisional Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce, together with Treasurer Canon Shirley Bolden, and The Rev. Rita Kendagor, outgoing president, attended the 2024 Union of Black Episcopalians Annual Conference in Alabama. The 2025 Annual Conference was conducted virtually. The 2026 Annual Conference is scheduled to take place from July 21 to July 24, 2026, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

At the 2024 Conference, the three participants visited the Legacy Museum and the Peace and Justice Museum. Their itinerary also included a guided tour of the Civil Rights Museum, the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, and a walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

This led to the proposal of visiting sites within our Diocese in Missouri associated with instances of lynching, to formally acknowledge the sin of racism. At each location, we would hold a Litany of Lament. We have visited Springfield, Kansas City, Pierce City, and Joplin, locations where incidents of lynching have occurred. In 2026 our plans are to visit Maryville and St. Joseph, Missouri.

Renewal of membership is due on and before March 1, 2026.

Union of Black Episcopalians, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22304,
Attn: The Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman, National UBE President

11. ECUMENICAL INTERFAITH AND RELATIONS

Prepared by The Rev. Miranda Cully and the Rev. Jonathan Galles

Who are the members of your committee?

The Rev. Miranda Cully

The Rev. Jonathan Galles

When does your group regularly meet?

Quarterly, as necessary

How many meetings were held this year?

Three

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

After a period of dormancy, this commission is proud to renew old and develop new interfaith and ecumenical relationships across the diocese. In 2025 this included new connections with representatives of the Assemblies of God and the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph. In addition to engaging in dialog, members of the committee attended interfaith and ecumenical events such as the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph's Pledging Our Hearts to the Heart of America gathering.

Our focus is on the future: creating relationships among faith leaders outside of the Episcopal Church and sharing in conversation around issues we uphold together. This year we began conversation with a scholar of ecumenical studies who is helping us find colleagues in other denominations who are doing this work. Miranda participated in the Shalom Hartmann Christian Jewish Clergy Partners program and was paired with a rabbi at Congregation B'nai Jehudah.

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

We hope:

- to continue to seek out and develop new interfaith and ecumenical relationships with other religious leaders and practitioners to promote better mutual understanding and fraternity between the many churches and faiths in our region.
- to draft other members to this Commission.
- to keep a pulse on our possible future affiliation with the United Methodist Church. St, Luke's, Excelsior Springs is one congregation regularly engaging in ecumenical services with the United Methodist Church; could there be more?
- to remain supportive and alert to ways that other religions might be discriminated against in the political environment.
- to encourage parishes to engage in more local ecumenical and interfaith activities in their communities.

12. COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY COMMISSION

Prepared by The Rev. Alisa Carmichael

Who are the members of your committee?

Dcn Alisa Carmichael, Chair
Riley Brown
The Rev. Miranda Cully
The Rev. Katherine Mansfield
Tristan Rouse
The Rev. David Wilcox
The Rev. Ryan Williams

When does your group regularly meet?

The second Tuesday of each month during the academic year

How many meetings were held this year?

Five

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

College & Young Adult Ministry in our diocese embraces the wide variety of life stages and experiences among those aged 18 to 40. Our focus is to nurture discipleship by providing resources and opportunities that foster community and help young adults find a spiritual home within the Church. Our group of clergy and lay leaders are here to support diocesan outreach and ministry to young adults and college students.

All Things....Episcopal is a podcast created three years ago by the College & Young Adult Ministry Commission. The purpose of the podcast was to reach out to young adults, introducing the Episcopal Church from multiple perspectives and with different voices, and utilizing social media to find out what questions students may have about who we are and what we do. Guest speakers, including college students from around our diocese, were scheduled to speak with three rotating hosts.

Last year, podcast production expanded to include a partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. There are now six rotating hosts, with three representing each diocese. Each episode features one host from the Diocese of West Missouri and one host from the Diocese of Kansas.

Now starting a fourth season, All Things...Episcopal has produced thirty episodes, with a total of over 7,000 downloads. Listeners tune in from across the United States and 24 different countries around the world.

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

We are thrilled with the addition of Riley Brown, the new Young Adult Discipleship Team Missioner, now on staff with the Diocese. We will be reorganizing in the year ahead and working closely with Riley to find new ways to reach out to young adults in our diocese.

13. YOUTH MINISTRY COMMISSION

Prepared by Kim Snodgrass, Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator and Discipleship Team Facilitator

The Youth Ministry Commission has spent the past year in discernment. Guided by prayer, hope, and courage, we have embraced a new direction.

As the year began, we entered a season of transition in both leadership and vision. With the election of Bishop Amy, it was important to allow her the space to reflect on her long-term formational goals for the diocese. At the same time, we sought to move forward with clarity—establishing thoughtful expectations so that anyone stepping into this formational role would be well supported and set up to thrive.

Collectively, we have come to recognize that the seeds of youth ministry are planted in the church nursery, nurtured through youth and young adult activities, and strengthened by fellowship, shared experiences, and the support of the wider church community. Expanding our perspective to embrace formational ministries for all ages does not replace youth-centered programs. Rather, it broadens the vision—cultivating a continuous and supportive environment of spiritual growth in which youth ministry provides a vital foundation for an interconnected, life-giving model of discipleship that enriches the whole church.

Out of this vision, a Discipleship Missioners Team has taken shape with a mission to advocate for Christian formation by listening to the needs of West Missouri congregations and responding with care. By curating and sharing resources, recommending best practices, and helping congregations create intentional pathways to formation, the team seeks to draw people of all ages closer to each other and to God.

In August, Meredith Seaton (Youth) and Riley Brown (Young Adults) came on board as the first two missioners. Their focus is to nurture Christian formation opportunities within their age groups. Following this report, you'll find more information on their age-related areas of ministry.

This broader vision affirms that Christian formation nurtures spiritual growth, shapes Christian practices, and encourages theological reflection. We believe formation is transformative shaping how we understand morality, politics, economics, labor, family, the environment, hospitality, justice, friendship, and forgiveness.

Becoming the heart, hands, and feet of Christ—loving and serving God and others—is the fruit of formation. It occurs not only within the church but also in the rhythms of daily life. Formation begins at birth and continues throughout our lives, as we grow in awareness of the Spirit's movement within us. Jesus himself *"increased in wisdom and in years..."* Luke 2:52

We witness the depth of formation in these words attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux: *“The man who is wise, therefore, will see his life as more like a reservoir than a canal. The canal simultaneously pours out what it receives; the reservoir retains the water till it is filled, then discharges the overflow without loss to itself ...”*

From Meredith –

Rooted in Faith. Growing in Community. Called to Lead.

As Youth Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri, my role is to build and sustain relationships between congregations by crafting formation activities that help youth define their faith—whether that’s in your church or across the whole diocese.

My passion is to walk with our youth as they explore what it means to live a life of faith, ask hard questions, name their beliefs, and grow into faithful adults. We believe youth are not only the church’s future, but its present heart and hands. God is calling this generation into deeper relationship, courageous discipleship, and creative leadership—within our diocese and beyond.

Core Aspirations of Our Youth Ministry

- **Formation:** Nurturing authentic faith rooted in scripture, tradition, and lived experience.
- **Belonging:** Building genuine communities where every young person finds friendship, spiritual gifts, and the love of Christ.
- **Leadership:** Empowering youth to use their voices, develop their talents, and take on leadership in ministry and mission.
- **Service:** Inviting youth to discover their calling to serve others—locally, nationally, and globally—through acts of mercy, justice, and creativity.
- **Partnership:** Linking youth, families, volunteers, and clergy in shared ministry, strengthening the Body of Christ across all ages.

What can Youth Formation in West Missouri look like?

- **Local Gatherings** - Confirmation retreats, Days of Fun and Service, seasonal workshops, and small-group meetups hosted by your church.
- **Diocesan Events** - Large-scale experiences like the Diocesan Youth Gathering, Missionpalooza, Camp, and youth-led service days that unite teens from every corner of West Missouri.
- **Equipping Youth for Ministry** - We’re developing vibrant resources to support Sunday formation and confirmation preparation, including:
 - Ready-to-use lesson plans and seasonal multimedia formation ideas
 - Confirmation guides, mentor pairings, and small-group curricula
 - Toolkits for planning shared or neighborhood-wide youth events

From Riley –

In my role as Young Adult Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri, I focus on creating opportunities for young adults to encounter God and community in ways that are honest, challenging, and life-giving. This stage of life is often marked by movement: new jobs, studies, relationships, and questions. It's also a season where faith can either deepen or fall away. My calling is to help young adults navigate that space with courage, curiosity, and hope.

Many in this generation carry wounds from past church experiences, yet they remain eager for authentic connection and spiritual grounding. The Episcopal tradition speaks powerfully to young adults such as these, honoring the mystery of God, the wisdom of scripture and tradition, and the insights of human reason. My hope is to extend an open invitation into this way of life: one that is both ancient and fresh, rooted yet expansive.

Guiding Commitments of Young Adult Ministry

- Hospitality: Offering spaces of trust where questions are welcomed, doubts are acknowledged, and belonging is real.
- Formation: Encouraging thoughtful, faithful reflection that engages scripture, tradition, and lived experience.
- Connection: Building bridges between congregations and nearby colleges or young adult networks, so no one journeys alone.
- Creativity: Exploring digital platforms, storytelling, and new expressions of community as ways to share the gospel.
- Mission: Inspiring service in daily life and in the wider world—living faith through justice, compassion, and witness.

Current Expressions of Young Adult Ministry

- Local Gatherings: Supporting Via Media, a Springfield-based young adult community rooted in open dialogue and shared faith exploration.
- Parish Partnerships: Working with clergy to discern best practices and strengthen outreach to young adults in congregational life.
- Campus Engagement: Connecting parishes with local colleges, encouraging intentional outreach to students in times of transition.
- Digital Presence: Producing episodes of the All Things...Episcopal podcast, offering accessible faith conversations across the diocese.

Looking ahead, my hope is to see young adult ministries flourish across West Missouri, each reflecting its own context while remaining connected to the wider church. Together, we can create pathways of discipleship that invite young adults into deeper faith, resilient community, and Christ-centered mission.

14. DIOCESAN PROPERTY GRANTS COMMITTEE

Prepared by Jim Newman, Chair

The centralized Diocesan Grants Committee is made up of three pillars, of which the Property Grant Committee is one. We meet the second Tuesday of each month to consider all the grants submitted by churches for help with various projects having to do with their church property. A certain amount of money is allocated by the Diocese yearly for the Committee to award grants to as many churches as possible. The main requirement is that the parish itself needs to have some vested interest in the project, such as monetarily, labor, etc.

Many churches struggle monetarily to do the maintenance required to keep the church functioning at the desired level. Some projects may be cost prohibitive and can't possibly be undertaken, however deferred maintenance is a primary consideration for us to consider. Whatever your situation you should be in a position to complete a grant form found on the Diocesan website for us to consider. Remember, we want to help as many parishes as possible.

As of August 2025, a total of \$223,694 in grants have been submitted and a total of \$72,905 has been awarded. Many are still being evaluated. Please consider requesting a diocesan property grant for us to consider whenever you desire to make property improvements.

Who are the members of your committee?

Jim Newman, Chair
Tom Kokjer
Ron Weil
Randy Bredar
Galen Stodgrass
Philip Lofflin
Robin James
Elaine Gilligan
Peter DeVeau

15. COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY COMMISSION

Prepared by The Rev. Robin Rusconi

Who are the members of your committee?

Raja Reed, co-chair
Robin Rusconi, co-chair
Jami Blakeley
Jennifer Blevins
Matthew Briggs
Cassie Brown
Alisa Carmichael
Rachel Decker

Trish Doran
Silas Engstrom
Thomas Flint
Donn Harrison
Lynette Harrison
Mary Margaret Saxon
Brandon Smee

When does your group regularly meet?

The second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

How many meetings were held this year?

Twelve

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

The LGBTQIA+ ministry kicked off Pride with a Eucharist held at St. Paul's Kansas City and celebrated by Bishop Amy. Despite the rainy weather, we were able to have our first ever float. We again were able to be a sponsor of the Kansas City PrideFest, where our volunteers greeted people from throughout the region for three days. The following weekend, for Springfield Pride, a second Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Amy, and our diocese was again a sponsor for the festival, where volunteers greeted many from southern Missouri throughout that 1 day event. In September, the diocese was a sponsor for Joplin Pride for both days of the event. Through Calvary Sedalia, we were also present at Sedalia Pride. We are now planning a eucharist for Trans Day of Remembrance which is Thursday November 20.

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

In 2026, in addition to our activities from 2025, we hope to support one more Pride event - hopefully in the northern part of the diocese.

We are also hoping to add a speaker's bureau, social gatherings, and potentially a book study. We are very interested in hearing how we can better serve our diocese.

16. VOCATIONS MISSIONER

Prepared by The Rev. Canon Anne Meredith Kyle

- The Vocations Missioner (VM) works hand-in-glove with the Commission on Ministry (COM). The VM, Canon Anne Meredith Kyle, shepherds those who are in the process of discerning a call to ordained ministry, supporting both individuals and, as needed, congregations. This support begins at the establishment of a congregational discernment committee and continues through the day of ordination.
- The VM participates in COM meetings, briefs the Standing Committee related to consents, and works with the COM co-chairs to plan and conduct the Next Steps retreats. Support and guidance is provided for congregations with an active discernment committee and those who have welcomed a nominee for their second congregational experience. The VM works in coordination with the bishop, bishop's assistant, and host congregation for ordination planning.
- Since the 2024 Diocese of West Missouri Convention, the Commission on Ministry (COM) has met for ten meetings and two Next Steps retreats. The COM met in-person following each retreat and via video conference for all other meetings.

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

- Recommendations to the bishop for ordinations, candidacy, postulancy, and nominee second congregational experience. Those in the ordination process include:
 - Four nominees, one of whom is in their second congregational experience.
 - Four postulants – two enrolled in The School of Theology – Swanee, one who will begin Seabury-Bexley hybrid program in January 2026, one presbyteral student at BKSM.
 - Five candidates – two are enrolled in Anglican studies students at BKSM and three have completed the requirements for ordination.
 - One transitional deacon (ordination pending)
- The Lay Ministry committee renewed licenses for
 - 83 Eucharistic Ministers
 - 32 Eucharistic Visitors
 - 9 Lay preachers
 - 6 Worship Leaders
 - 1 Catechist

A Continuing Education (CE) Committee has been formed and has recommended guidelines for clergy continuing education. The committee is also working on record keeping and reporting. The CE year is October through October.

The VM works with or leads various committees to review and revise the diocesan ordination process, the Next Steps retreats, the Second Congregational Experience, and clergy continuing education. The VM also participates in a monthly meeting of diocesan vocations staff from around TEC and participates in other DioWestMo staff duties.

17. LGBTQIA+ COMMITTEE

Prepared by Robin Rusconi, Co-Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

Raja Reed, co-chair	Trish Doran
Robin Rusconi, co-chair	Silas Engstrom
Jami Blakeley	Thomas Flint
Jennifer Blevins	Donn Harrison
Matthew Briggs	Lynette Harrison
Cassie Brown	Mary Margaret Saxon
Alisa Carmichael	Brandon Smee
Rachel Decker	

When does your group regularly meet?

The second Monday of each month

How many meetings were held this year?

12

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

The LGBTQIA+ ministry kicked off Pride with a Eucharist held at St. Paul's Kansas City and celebrated by Bishop Amy. Despite the rainy weather, we were able to have our first ever float. We again were able to be a sponsor of the Kansas City PrideFest, where our volunteers greeted people from throughout the region for three days. The following weekend, for Springfield Pride, a second Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Amy, and our diocese was again a sponsor for the festival, where volunteers greeted many from southern Missouri throughout that 1 day event. In September, the diocese was a sponsor for Joplin Pride for both days of the event. Through Calvary Sedalia we were also present at Sedalia Pride.

We are now planning a eucharist for Trans Day of Remembrance which is Thursday November 20 and will be held qat St. Mary's Kansas City.

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

In 2026, in addition to our activities from 2025, we hope support one more Pride event - hopefully in the northern part of the diocese.

We are also hoping to add a speaker's bureau, social gatherings, and potentially a book study. We are very interested in hearing how we can better serve our diocese.

18. SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMISSION

Prepared by The Rev. David Wilcox

Who are the members of your committee?

The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux
The Rev. David Wilcox, Chair
Anita Philbrick, Secretary
The Rev. Alisa Carmichael
The Very Rev. Don Compier

The Rev. Larry Ehren
Cosette Hardwick
The Rev. Kim Taube
Milt Tootle
The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage

When does your group regularly meet?

The second fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

How many meetings were held this year?

Nine

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

The Spiritual Formation Commission's mission is to advocate for Christian formation; explore the needs of West Missouri congregations and determine a helpful response. By sharing and discovering new resources, we can recommend 'best practices; assist congregations in the process of incorporating pathways to formation with intention; and if desired, offer training or educational events. Our goal is to encourage and nurture spiritual growth, Christian practices, and theological reflection, based on the belief that actively engaging in Christian formation is a transformative experience which affects our understanding of morality, politics, economics, labor, family, the environment, hospitality, justice, friendship, and forgiveness. In short, everything is a spiritual matter.

In 2025 we sought to live out the commission's mission by:

- Continued work on the diocesan lending library which includes Godly Play Materials. Materials for EFM, and required texts for classes at BKSM as well as other works on theology and spiritual life.
- Hosting the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton, retired Archbishop of New Westminster in Canada and founder of the College of Congregational Development for a workshop on congregational vitality.
- Facilitating a Diocesan-wide Lenten Book Study and lecture on the Book "Life in Christ" by the Rev. Dr. Julia Gatta, Bishop Frank A. Juhan Professor of Pastoral Theology at the University of the South.
- Awarded scholarships to help cover the costs of tuition and materials for Education for Ministry in the amount of \$1,110.

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

After conversation with the bishop about her vision for the future of Formation in the Diocese of West Missouri, the commission has decided to place itself in abeyance as we await next steps in implementing that vision in 2026.

19. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE DIOCESE AND OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Prepared by The Rev. Donna Stanford

TO THE 136TH CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI - 2025

It has been my privilege to serve as Secretary of the Diocese and of Diocesan Council. This report will explain the purpose of Diocesan Council, its structure, and the actions taken by the Council since the 2024 Convention to meet its canonical responsibilities.

Article XIII of the Constitution of the Diocese of West Missouri provides in part that Diocesan Council “shall exercise all the power of the Convention between meetings thereof, for the purpose of the unification, development and prosecution of the work of Missions and Church Extension, the development of congregational life, Christian formation and community life, social ministries of the Church and leadership development.”

Canon IX, section 4, of the Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri provides that the Officers of the Diocesan Council are a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary. The Bishop of the Diocese is the President of the Diocesan Council and is the head of all the work of the Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council elects from its membership a Vice President, and The Rev. Susan Roberts was so re-elected at the December 14, 2024 Diocesan Council meeting. The Secretary of the Diocese is the ex-officio Secretary of the Diocesan Council.

Canon IX, section 1, of the Canons of the Diocese of West Missouri provides in part that the Diocesan Council is composed of the following members, all with seat, voice, and vote:

the Bishop; the Secretary of the Diocese; the Treasurer of the Diocese; the Chancellor of the Diocese (seat and voice, but not vote); eight laypersons elected by the Annual Convention; four clergy elected by the Annual Convention; four laypersons appointed by the Bishop; the President of the Episcopal Churchwomen, ex-officio; the President of the Standing Committee, ex-officio; the Deans of the Deaneries, ex-officio; and any other Officers of the Diocese, if any (seat and voice, but not vote). The four laypersons and two clergy elected at each Annual Convention and the two laypersons appointed by the Bishop serve for a two-year period. No member of the Diocesan Council may be elected to serve for more than three consecutive two-year terms.

As of October 10, 2025, the officers, Executive Committee members, Deans, *ex officio* members, and elected and appointed members of Council were:

Diocesan Officers

The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, President
The Rev. Deacon Donna Stanford, Secretary
Mr. Tom Kokjer, Treasurer
Anne Jetter Maas, Associate Treasurer#
Canon Mark Galus, Chancellor#
Ms. Jennifer Snider, Vice Chancellor#
The Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Registrar#

Executive Committee Members

all Diocesan Officers

The Rev. Susan Roberts, Council Vice President

The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage, at-large member

Deans

The Very Rev. Kary Mann, Central

The Very Rev. Jean Long, Northwest-Metro

The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, Southern

Ex Officio Members

Mr. Eric Rhodes, Standing Committee President

Ms. Judy Turner, Episcopal Church Women President

Elected Members/Bishop's Appointments

through 2026 Convention

Canon Shirley Bolden (St. Augustine's, Kansas City) [elected in 2024, 2nd 2-year term]

Ms. Kate French* (St. Paul's, Clinton) [2nd appointed term]

Ms. Amy Garcia [elected in 2024, 1st 2-year term]

Mr. Phil Metz* (St. Philip's, Joplin) [2nd appointed term]

Ms. Amanda Perschall (Trinity, Lebanon) [elected in 2024, 3rd and final 2-year term]

The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage (St. Paul's, Kansas City) [elected in 2024, 1st 2-year term]

The Rev. Canon John Spicer (St. Andrew's, Kansas City) [elected in 2024, 1st 2-year term]

Ms. Elisa White (Grace, Carthage) [elected in 2024, 1st 2-year term]

Elected Members/Bishop's Appointments

through 2025 Convention

Ms. Regina Berens (St. Mary Magdalene, Belton) [elected in 2023, 2nd 2-year term]

Ms. Anne Breid (St. James, Springfield) [elected in 2023, 1st 2-year term]

Ms. Hayley Cobb (Christ, Springfield) [elected 2023, 1st 2-year term]

Ms. Zella Forsythe* (St. Matthew's, Raytown) [2nd appointed term]

Mr. Chris Morrison (Grace & Holy Trinity, Kansas City) [elected in 2023, 3rd and final 2-year term]

The Rev. Katherine Mansfield (Christ, Springfield) [elected by Diocesan Council in 2024 to serve for the final year of The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok's 2nd 2-year term, as he transitioned from being an elected member of Council to being Dean of the Southern Deanery]

The Rev. Susan Roberts [elected in 2023, 2nd 2-year term]

Mr. Steven Williams* (Trinity, Independence) (2nd appointed term)

non-voting member; * Bishop's appointment

Thanks to everyone who contributes to the work of Diocesan Council, especially the dedicated staff of the Diocese of West Missouri.

Yours in Christ, The Rev. Deacon Donna Stanford, Secretary of Convention

SUMMARY OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS

Since the 135th Convention, the following actions were taken by Diocesan Council:

December 14, 2024

- approved Property Fund grant requests:
 - 1) Calvary, Sedalia - \$5,000 spotlight camera and update existing play structure
 - 2) St. Stephen, Monett - \$3,267 bring ADA ramp up to code
 - 3) St. Paul, Clinton - \$4,104 urinal repair, AED maintenance, emergency door bar, security system upgrade
- approved that undisbursed budgeted amounts for ministry developer, curacy, and area bookkeepers be redistributed into designated funds
- elected The Rev. Susan Roberts as Diocesan Council Vice President
- approved proposed 2025 Diocesan Council meeting schedule be approved, with the May meeting cancelled
- adopted 2024 Clergy Housing Allowance Resolution for The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, The Rev. Cn. Anne Meredith Kyle, The Rev. Cn. Charles Adam (Chas) Marks, and The Rev. Cn. Jose Palma
- approved disbursement of the International Outreach Grant (IOG) funds remaining as of December 31, 2024, proportionally to the twelve 2024 recipients
- approved writing off St. Paul's, Maryville, accounts receivable
- approved the merger of NourishKC into The Prospect KC

January 11, 2025

- approved grant of \$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
- approved designation of the Martin Luther King Day Evensong offering for California wildfire relief and sent to the Diocese of Los Angeles's One Body and One Spirit Fund
- elected The Rev. Katherine Mansfield, Christ Church, Springfield, to serve as a member of Diocesan Council for the final year of The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok's two-year term, as he transitioned from being an elected member of Council to being Dean of the Southern Deanery

February 8, 2024

- approved \$43,715 for the purchase of a Honda CRV Hybrid for the Bishop Elect
- approved 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
- approved a \$13,000 line of credit for Christ Church Episcopal, Boonville, to fund required repairs on several windows, and the Finance Committee will consult with the church regarding amending the request from a line of credit to a grant from the Rust Fund
- approved \$1,250 for Brian Davenport to upgrade and make more secure email protocols at 17 of our churches

March 8, 2025

- approved a \$6,571 Property Grant for St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Belton, to replace sewage grinder pumps
- approved a \$9,625 Property Grant for St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Bolivar, to replace an HVAC pump system
- approved writing off from the general fund 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)
- approved a line of credit of up to \$110,000 from the Transition Fund at 0% interest with a 6-month maturity date for the Bishop-elect's home purchase
- adopted 2025 Clergy Housing Allowance Resolution for Bishop-Elect Amy Dafler Meaux, to be pro-rated as appropriate for any partial employment during said calendar year

April 12, 2025

- in accordance with the terms of the Bishop's Letter of Agreement (LOA), authorized a reimbursement to Bishop Bruce for travel expenses incurred in connection with remote diocesan work from California, provided sufficient documentation is presented to the Treasurer in accordance with diocesan financial procedures
- offered the Bishop the opportunity to purchase the vehicle purchased by the Diocese for her use during her tenure as Bishop Provisional for \$28,800

May 2025 meeting cancelled

June 21, 2025

- approved the Diocese paying down \$300,000 of the outstanding balance of St. Mary Magdalene's/the Diocese's \$833,000 20-year commercial real estate loan with Central Bank with funding coming from the Expansion Fund, contingent on the bank agreeing to a maturity extension on the remaining balance of the loan
- ratified the Executive Committee's approval of a revised grant request from St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Independence, for disbursement of up to \$17,000 for exterior building painting and wood rot repair, with immediate disbursement of \$12,000
- approved a \$3,818 Property Grant for Trinity Episcopal Church, Independence, to purchase an anti-theft cage for the air conditioning unit
- approved a \$5,195 Property Grant for Church of the Transfiguration, Mountain Grove, to remove 3 trees and building repairs
- approved a \$3,417 Property Grant for St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Joplin, to repair basement leak and associated damage

July 12, 2025 – no action items to report

August 9, 2025

- approved scheduling an in-person business meeting and full day retreat with the Standing Committee on December 13 at a location to be determined
- approved a \$2,500 Property Grant for Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church, Branson, for purchase of an AED device and installation and training
- approved a \$35,000 Property Grant for Trinity Episcopal Church, Independence, for a roof replacement

- approved the following changes to the draft 2026 budget:
 - 1) under the pillar How We Serve Others, the Centralized Grant 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
 - 2) 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 the Clergy Retreat budget for 2026 under the pillar How We Form Disciples be increased by \$5,000 from \$12,000 to \$17,000
 - 3) 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
 - 4) the Diocesan Convention budget for 2026 under the pillar How We Support This Important Work be increased from \$20,000 to \$40,000
- approved disseminating the current draft budget, with the approved changes, to the Deaneries for review and comment

September 13, 2025

- approved a property grant request of \$5,900 to St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, Noel, to replace a 3-ton HVAC unit at the rectory as the current unit is unrepairable
- approved granting St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Independence, a line of credit of up to \$3,000 to cover the deductible and other expenses related to roof repair due to a water leak that will cost \$17,000-18,000 (Church Insurance will be covering all except \$1,000)
- approved the 2026 Medical Trust Plan Selection:
 - 1) offering the same Medical and Dental plans as 2025
 - 2) the CDHP-20 Single monthly rate of \$1170 (7.05% increase over 2025) will be provided by the employer toward medical plans for eligible employees. Employees may elect at their own expense if they choose to select another plan or cover dependents.
 - 3) continuing the \$1000 annual HSA contribution by employer for those enrolled in a CDHP plan
- the issue of 2026 Minimum Clergy Compensation was referred back to the Human Resources Commission for further study and for the Commission to report on the rationale for their recommendation at the October Diocesan Council meeting

October 11, 2025

- approved a property grant of \$25,000 and a line of credit of up to \$25,000 for St. John's Episcopal Church, Springfield, for rectory renovation
- approved the following assessment relief requests (noting that the total relief of \$45,309 counts against our 2025 budget of \$35,000 for relief this year; we have now budgeted \$45,000 in the draft 2026 budget):
 - 1) St. Mary Magdalene, Belton, requested relief of \$17,253 on an assessment of \$23,253
 - 2) St. Anne's, Lee's Summit, requested relief of \$2,867 on an assessment of \$9,877
 - 3) Grace, Liberty, requested relief of \$17,716 on an assessment of \$19,716
 - 4) Christ, St. Joseph, requested relief of \$5,781 on an assessment of \$19,031
 - 5) St. Mark's, Kimberling City, requested relief of \$1,692 on an assessment of \$7,280

- approved adding the 2026 budget surplus of \$10,000 to the Property Grant Fund
- approved the amended 2026 Diocesan budget for submission to Convention
- approved the independent auditor's "clean audit" report of the Diocese
- requested that the data used by the Human Resources Commission to support the recommendation as to the 2026 Minimum Clergy Compensation be included in the December Council packet
- adopted a resolution authorizing a change in the corporation's registered agent from The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, former Bishop Provisional, to The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Bishop Diocesan
- approved designation of Episcopal Relief and Development as the beneficiary for the Convention Eucharist offering

20. CREATION CARE COMMISSION

Prepared by The Rev. Collin Larimore

Who are the members of your committee?

The Rev. Collin Larimore

Mr. Jory Mertens

The Rev. Ryan Williams

How many meetings were held this year?

Eight

How many events were held this year?

One

Concerning the work of the commission during the year 2025, we focused our efforts on producing a survey for the diocese to gather information concerning a broad spectrum of things concerning 'Creation Care' within the life of the church and on hosting one at least one event. A survey was produced to gauge the interest and awareness of creation care within the life of the diocese, and to see if something resonated across responses for the commission to highlight and focus attention towards. For example, among responses that were most common in the survey, many parishes are, or would be, interested in bringing their church building(s) to a greater efficiency and lower carbon footprint through capital improvements like solar panel installation. Another common response from our survey showed a desire for increased information and education regarding Creation Care. A third and final example worth highlighting from our responses to the survey showed an interest among parishes to find ways in which their physical assets might be more friendly towards wildlife populations and provide more hospitable conditions for them, though things like Monarch waystations, native landscaping, etc. As an immediate response to some things raised in the survey information gathered we have started looking for resources in local communities that might be best suited to work with parishes on projects like those aforementioned. The commission will always welcome related information if you have any to offer. Hosted one event at Prairie State Park for a day hike and noonday prayer. On a hot, but otherwise beautiful day we gathered and walked along the prairie, spotted Bison, and shared in prayer. Similar events are being planned. The commission continues to seek people who might be interested in serving on the commission.

21. HEARTLAND CURSILLO MINISTRY

Prepared by Mr. Raja Reed, Secretary

The Heartland Cursillo Ministry has experienced a season of renewal and joyful growth over the past year. After several years of pause, we are pleased to report that the Cursillo Movement within the Diocese of West Missouri is once again active and thriving.

In 2025, we have held four Ultreyas and one Day of Deeper Understanding Ultreya, providing opportunities for fellowship, prayer, and shared reflection among our Cursillistas and friends across the diocese.

Most notably, we celebrated our first Three-Day Weekend in August—the first since 2019. It was a deeply moving experience for all who attended, filled with grace, renewal, and the joy of Christian community. We were especially blessed to have Bishop Amy join us during the Saturday dinner, sharing in our worship and fellowship. Her presence was a sign of encouragement and unity for all involved.

The Heartland Cursillo Secretariat continues to serve faithfully in guiding the ministry's growth and mission:

Roberta Coons, Chair
Todd Puntney, Vice-Chair
Anne Frazier, Secretary
Raja Reed, Treasurer
Joy Bower, Bishop's Liaison
Joy Ellsworth, Member
Cheryl Hart, Member
Mtr. Martha Lamoy, Spiritual Director
Diocese of Kansas

We give thanks to God for the renewed energy and enthusiasm surrounding the Cursillo Movement in West Missouri and look forward to continued growth and deeper discipleship in the year ahead.

If anyone is interested in joining us or for more information about the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry please contact Rajareed@gmail.com.

De Colores!

Submitted by the Heartland Cursillo Secretariat

22. ACCESS FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Who are the members of your committee?

David Britt

Minda Cox

Rev Silas Engstrom

The Very Rev. Peter DeVeau, Co-Chair

Margie Gray, Secretary

Jenny Hatfield-Callen

Ginnie Miller, Co-Chair

Rev Meg Rhodes

Access for all God’s Children (AGC) is a team of laypersons and clergy of The Diocese of West Missouri representing a wide range persons living with disabilities and their advocates and friends. Our mission is to assist the local church in building awareness and dignified regard for the “differently abled” among us. We do this by building a network of mutual concern and friendship, educating our diocesan community about access, arranging for social, spiritual, and informational gatherings, and praying and giving thanks continually. We meet via Zoom most months.

Webpage The Access for All God’s Children Committee maintains a page on the diocesan website intended as a resource site and springboard for the diocese and beyond for growing in the acceptance, empowerment, and equipping for ministry of the disabled among us.

Articles on faith and living with disabilities written by members of the AGC team are being published in the online diocesan newsletter, ***New Spirit***.

Through our webpage and programing we seek to gently guide members of the Diocese of West Missouri and beyond in providing access to worship and community life for all.

Accessibility Inventory AGC in the process of developing an inventory for congregations to use for assessing access to buildings, worship, and ministries.

Disability and the Gospels AGC hosted a hybrid, in-person and Zoom event, Saturday, February 22, 2025, at Christ Church, Springfield and St. Anne’s, Lee’s Summit. We were delighted that a good number of persons attended in person and joined the Zoom from around the diocese and beyond! Eric Rhodes and Rev. Si Engstrom provided tech support.

Our Presenters The Rev. Stephanie Shockley and the Rev. Robyn King, co-producers of the *Accessible Altar Podcast* lead an interactive presentation on how the Gospels can shape our ministry among persons with disabilities. Robyn, a priest of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and Stephanie, a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey are ***advocates for being proactive, not reactive, in including people of all levels of ability*** in the church and society as a whole. Their *Accessible Altar Podcast*, “at the intersection of faith and disability,” is available wherever you stream your podcasts.

23. PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Prepared by Tara Bennett, Chair

Who are the members of your committee?

Tara Bennett

Lenette Johnson

Patti Ryder

Lynda Hurt

Robin Rusconi

Jonathan Callison

When does your group regularly meet?

Monthly, via zoom

How many meetings were held this year?

6

What are the highlights of your ministry for 2025?

Be SMART presentations to 2 churches plus a partnership to train the Heartland Presbytery through 3 additional Be SMART presentations. Multiple members of the Diocese of West Missouri joined Missouri Moms Demand Action Advocacy Day to lobby for common sense gun legislation in Jefferson City. Call to Action encouraging letters and emails to lawmakers from members of the Diocese of West Missouri to oppose a law mandating Guns in Churches, and the law never made it out of committee. Sponsorship of the Grandparents for Gun Safety Community Forum on Faith and Firearms with John Pavlovitz as keynote speaker, with at least a dozen KC metro area members of Episcopal churches attending.

What are your plans for ministry in 2026?

Continue to focus on promoting safe storage, opposing mandated guns in churches or large signage otherwise, and encompass other such focus areas as assigned by Bishop Amy.

24. STANDING COMMITTEE

Reporting Period: November 2024 – October 2025

Introduction

This report outlines the essential work, decisions, and consents carried out by the Standing Committee (SC) of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri during the 2024-2025 year. This period was defined by significant transitions, most notably the **election and consecration of a new Bishop**, alongside the critical ongoing work of property oversight and discernment for those called to ordained ministry. The Standing Committee executed its canonical duty to advise the bishop and administer key aspects of diocesan life with diligence and unity, ensuring continuity of mission during a time of change. This report details the actions taken, categorized by month for clarity and chronological understanding.

Membership

Ms. Alexandra Connors

Ms. Marsha Patterson – Nov 2024 to September 2025, resigned September 2025

Dr. Jeremy Chesman – Appointed October 2025 to fulfill remainder of Marsha Patterson's term

The Rev. Cn. Robin James (Vice President)

The Rev. Tim Copping

Mr. Eric Rhodes (President)

Mr. Curtis Hamilton (Secretary)

The Rev. Ron Verhaeghe

The Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok

Monthly Summary of Actions and Key Decisions

November 2024

- November (Zoom): opening prayer and Bishop's report on transition coaching and timeline for Bishop-elect arrival (consent process ~120 days; projected arrival Feb–Mar 2025).
- Consented to two episcopal elections: Angela Maria Cortinas (Bishop Suffragan, West Texas) and Amy Dafler Meaux (Bishop of West Missouri).
- Elections and appointments:
 - Eric Rhodes elected President
 - The Rev. Cn. Robin James elected Vice President
 - Curtis Hamilton elected Secretary.
 - The Rev. Tim Copping approved as SC representative to Commission on Ministry
 - Alexandra Connors and The Rev. Isaac Petty Pierjok appointed liaisons to the Consecration Committee
 - Marsha Patterson agreed to continue Grants Committee representation if needed; Robin James to Property Committee; Patterson and Ron Verhaeghe to Transition Committee liaisons.
- Set regular meeting schedule: second Tuesday, 5:00 PM Central; encouraged attendance at Next Steps retreat; discussed tentative joint retreat (7–8 Feb).

December 2024

- Meeting 10 December (minutes approved later): Bishop Bruce present; Vocations Missioner and several ordination candidates attended for context.
- Reviewed search/transition budget and Consecration/Transition liaison updates.
- Authorized \$3,800 for farewell celebrations for Bishop Bruce (Transition Committee proposal).
- Consented to the ordination of Ms. Jennifer Sackhoff to the Diaconate.
- Consented to the ordination of Mr. Keith Johnson to the Diaconate.
- Consented to the ordination of Mr. C. J. Duffie to the Diaconate.

January 2025

- Meeting 14 January (Zoom): minutes from prior meetings approved.
- Updates: Bishop Bruce and Bishop-elect Meaux coordinating transition; Meaux meeting weekly with Bruce; onboarding steps and new computer procured.
- Consent to the candidacy of Dr. Brian Cowley for ordination to the priesthood.
- Search budget updates: moving expense estimates for Bishop Bruce and Bishop-elect Meaux updated.
- Began draft review of Letter of Agreement for Bishop-elect Meaux.

February 2025

- Special meeting 7 February: approved Letter of Agreement with Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux by motion.
- Meeting 11 February: approved minutes and search budget update; Consecration Committee ticketing, tents, and hotel blocks reported; liaisons to Consecration provided written reports.
- Consented to ordination of Dr. Brian Cowley to the transitional diaconate.
- Consented to reunion of Dioceses of Bethlehem and Central Pennsylvania.

March 2025

- Reviewed consecration logistics and communications.
- Discussed pastoral care needs for ordinands.
- Planned for exit interview with Bishop Bruce discussed.

April 2025

- Meeting 8 April (Zoom): minutes approved; Bishop and Bishop-elect updates.
- Consecration logistics reported: ~700 registered attendees; tent, street-closing, and reception costs noted.
- Consented to episcopal election of Rev. P. Angel Roberto Rivers Rodriguez (Bishop of Cuba).
- Conducted exit interview with Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce; noted items compiled as Appendix: pastoral concerns, diocesan health, leadership quality, and lessons learned.

May 2025

- Meeting 13 May (Zoom): minutes approved; transition budget update provided.
- Transition committee: continued work on farewell events; meet-and-greet in Springfield reported success.
- Consented to the election of the Very Rev. Rob Price as Bishop Coadjutor or Dallas.
- Consented to the Ordination of the Rev. Dcn. Mark Bowers to the priesthood.
- Consented to the Ordination of the Rev. Dcn. Keith Johnson to the priesthood.
- Consented to the Ordination of the Rev. Dcn. Christopher (CJ) Duffie to the priesthood.

June 2025

- Bishop Meaux reported on post-consecration visitations, hospital board involvement, and congregational matters.
- Discussed staffing and youth missionary search; plan to use a team approach and hire canons in coming months.
- Consented to enrolling Mr. Jory Mertens as a candidate for ordination to the Diaconate.
- Received survey results regarding the search process.

July 2025

- Ordination consents: recommended Dr. Chris Dodson and Janette Platter for candidacy.
- Approved consent to alienate by sale Camp Shawio (Christ Church, Springfield) after Property Committee review.

August 2025

- Consented to the ordination of Mr. Brandon Smee to the transitional diaconate.
- Consented to the enrollment of Dr. Richard Liantonio as a candidate for the priesthood.
- Supported a grant application: Mr. Rhodes agreed to write a Standing Committee support letter for St. Paul's, Kansas City Becoming Beloved Community grant application.
- Approved meeting plan: in-person SC meeting in on Dec 12 and joint Diocesan Council participation Dec 13.

September 2025

- Discussed regarding vocations process
- Various other matters pertaining to the search for Bishop Amy

October 2025

- Discussed ordination process refinements with Bishop Meaux
- Resignation of Ms. Marsha Patterson (Sept 21 notice); received Chancellor guidance that Standing Committee may fill the unexpired lay term.
- Nominated and approved Dr. Jeremy Chesman to fill Patterson's unexpired term.
- Consented to demolish rectory at All Saints', West Plains to enable parish hall construction.
- Chris Dodson - transitional diaconate
- Consented to the Ordination of Chris Dodson to the transitional diaconate.
- Consented to the Ordination of Janette Platter to the transitional diaconate.
- Consented to the Ordination of Richard Liantonio to the transitional diaconate.
- Consented to the Ordination of Jory Mertens to the vocational diaconate.
- Consented to the Ordination of The Rev. Brian Cowley to the presbyterate.

Conclusion and Outlook

The 2024-2025 cycle proved to be an intense and profoundly productive period, successfully navigating the **episcopal transition** while maintaining a robust schedule of canonical duties. The smooth election and arrival of the new Bishop, validated by the Committee's timely consents, established a strong foundation for the future.

Signed,
Eric Rhodes
Standing Committee President 2024-2025