

Approved: 12/13/25

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI

Minutes of October 11, 2025 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, October 11, 2025, at The Church of Saint Luke the Beloved Physician, 404 Regent Street, Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

Members attending:

Ms. Regina Berens
Cn. Shirley Bolden
~~Ms. Anne Broid~~
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.** The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Council President determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage led Council in a devotion and prayer.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Cn. Shirley Bolden that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:
 - a. Approval of September 13, 2025 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
 - b. Receipt of October 1, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes
 - c. Receipt of reports, if any, from committees, commissions, and ministries
 - a. Stewardship Commission (Qualified Charitable Distribution message)
 - b. Vocations Missioner
 - c. Youth Ministry Commission

The motion carried.

3. **Reports.**
 - a. **Deanery Reports**
 - i. Northwest-Metro Deanery
The Very Rev. Jean Long reported that the next Deanery meeting will be on Saturday, October 18, at Church of the Good Shepherd, Kansas City. Dean Jean invited nominees for Dean, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The Deans are working on the Clergy Conference scheduled for the end of October.
 - ii. Southern Deanery
Ms. Amanda Pershall reported on behalf of The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok that the next Deanery meeting will be on Thursday, October 23, via Zoom.
 - iii. Central Deanery
The Central Deanery had no report as The Very Rev. Kary Mann is on sabbatical.

The Bishop reported that The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, Dean of Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, will become a member of the Deans Council.
 - c. **Standing Committee Report**
Mr. Eric Rhodes, President of the Standing Committee, reported that in September, Ms. Marsha Patterson resigned from the Standing Committee, and the Committee elected Dr. Jeremy Chesman to fill Ms. Patterson's unexpired term ending at the 2026 Convention. The Standing Committee has sent out the Mutual Ministry Review Survey.
 - d. **Registrar's/Archivist's Report**
The Rev. Chandler Jackson III reported that he is still receiving materials from the Bishop search process. He is processing blueprints from around the diocese and working on files from closed congregations.

e. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported that letters were received from the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and Episcopal Relief and Development thanking the Diocese for International Outreach Grant donations.

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

The Treasurer submitted a written report and the minutes of the October 7, 2025 Finance Committee meeting. The Treasurer reported that Diocesan revenue and expenses are tracking favorably to budget currently.

Grant Funds Balances Update:

Central: \$119,259 spent; \$80,741 balance remaining; 22 churches have received grants

Property: \$285,703 spent; \$124,297 balance remaining; 27 churches have received grants

Mr. Chris Morrison recommended that the Central Grants Committee provide Council with a narrative description of approved grants.

Action Items:

a. **property grant and line of credit:**

The Finance Committee moved for approval of a property grant request of \$25,000 and a line of credit of up to \$25,000 for St. John's Episcopal Church, Springfield, for rectory renovation. **The motion carried.**

b. **assessment relief:**

The Assessment Review and Finance Committees moved that the following relief requests be approved (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):

a. St. Mary Magdalene, Belton, requested relief of \$17,253 on an assessment of \$23,253

b. St. Anne's, Lee's Summit, requested relief of \$2,867 on an assessment of \$9,877

c. Grace, Liberty, requested relief of \$17,716 on an assessment of \$19,716

d. Christ, St. Joseph, requested relief of \$5,781 on an assessment of \$19,031

e. St. Mark's, Kimberling City, requested relief of \$1,692 on an assessment of \$7,280

The motion carried.

c. **draft 2026 budget:**

The Treasurer and Financial Administrator reported that the Finance Committee reviewed recommended changes to the draft budget, which now has a surplus of just under \$10,000 (\$9,727). After the Treasurer and Financial Administrator itemized the changes made, and after Council's discussion regarding the budget surplus, Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Treasurer Kokjer, that the \$10,000 budget surplus be added to the Property Grant Fund. **The motion carried.**

After further discussion, Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by The Rev. Susan Roberts, that the amended 2026 Diocesan budget be approved for submission to Convention. **The motion carried.**

d. **independent auditor's report:**

The Treasurer reported that the Diocese received a clean audit from Welch & Associates, L.L.C., independent auditor. Treasurer Kokjer moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Pershall, that the independent auditor's report be approved. **The motion carried.** Council expressed gratitude to Mr. Ron Weil and Ms. Elaine Gilligan for their work.

g. **Vice President's Report**

The Rev. Susan Roberts submitted a written report and reported that The Rev. Mark Jeske is happy in his new position. St. Luke's has hired a new chaplain to take Mark's place. Mtr. Susan expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve on Council and as Vice Chair.

h. **Bishop's Report**

The Bishop reported:

- She had a good report after her annual doctor's visit.
- She has attended Church Pension Group meetings, at which she learned that many clergy and lay participants are not using their church medical trust benefits
- The relationship between Haiti and the Dominican Republic was discussed at the House of Bishops meeting in the Dominican Republic; the largest affinity group at the House of Bishops meeting was college and young adult ministry
- She had a conversation regarding chaplains with The Rt. Rev. Ann Ritonia, who is currently serving as bishop suffragan for Armed Services and Federal Ministries
- She is preparing for the Diocesan Convention, which has 192 registrants
- She is making parish visitations
- There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the memory care unit at Bishop Spencer Place
- She attended the Church Pension Group Bishops Conference

- On future events, including the Grandparents for Gun Safety Community Forum titled “Faith and Firearms: Turning Faith into Action”; St. Luke’s Day; and the Clergy Conference
- She discussed working on a proposal for a 5-year grant for clergy with The Episcopal Church’s missionary for church planting
- The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks will update Council on FaithX at the Clergy Conference
- The name of an honorary canon, whose name will be made public at Convention

4. **Old Business**

a. **2026 Minimum Clergy Compensation recommended by the Human Resources Commission.** As to the 2026 Minimum Clergy Compensation, the Human Resources Commission noted that clergy minimums were adjusted in 2023 for 2024. No changes were made in 2025. It was agreed to not recommend changes for 2026. Churches will be responsible for the 7.05% increase in medical premiums for clergy. Churches are reminded to consider an annual compensation percentage increase of 2-5% to be viable and competitive in the marketplace.

The Bishop spoke to the process of arriving at the foregoing recommendation, with the Commission gathering data from the Church Pension Group and from surrounding dioceses. The Commission found that the Diocese’s clergy minimums are higher than in most dioceses.

Ms. Amanda Pershall moved, seconded by Mr. Chris Morrison, that the data used by the Human Resources Commission to support the recommendation be included in the December Council packet. **The motion carried.**

The Bishop granted The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage a point of personal privilege to thank Ms. Elaine Gilligan, Human Resources Administrator, for her help in answering Mtr. Brittany’s questions.

5. **New Business**

a. **authorization of change of registered agent:**
The Rev. Susan Roberts moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that the following resolution authorizing a change in the corporation’s registered agent be adopted:

Resolution Authorizing Appointment of Bishop Meaux as Registered Agent

Whereas, The Diocese of West Missouri is organized as a corporation under the Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Act; and

Whereas, the Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri serves as the corporation's board of directors; and

Whereas, the Act requires each corporation to name a registered agent; and

Whereas, The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, former Bishop Provisional, is currently listed as the corporation's registered agent; and

Whereas, The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Bishop Diocesan, consents to serve as the corporation's registered agent; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri hereby authorizes the change of registered agent from The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, former Bishop Provisional, to The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Bishop Diocesan.

The motion carried.

- b. **designation of beneficiary for Convention Eucharist collection:**
Ms. Amanda Pershall moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that Episcopal Relief and Development be designated as the beneficiary for the Convention Eucharist offering. **The motion carried.**

6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Mr. Chris Morrison, to adjourn. **The motion carried,** and the Bishop adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary