

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI
DRAFT Minutes of December 13, 2025 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, December 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in person at All Saints Episcopal Church, 425 E. Cherry, Nevada, Missouri. Members attending:

Canon Shirley Bolden
Ms. Anne Breid
Ms. Hayley Cobb
~~The Rev. Miranda Cully~~
Ms. Kate French
The Rev. Jonathan Galles
Canon Mark Galus, Chancellor (non-voting)
Ms. Amy Garcia
The Rev. Canon Robin James, President, Standing Committee
The Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Registrar/Archivist (non-voting)
Anne Jetter Maas, Treasurer
Canon Tom Kokjer, Assistant Treasurer (non-voting)
Mr. Philip Lofflin
The Very Rev. Jean Long, Dean, Northwest-Metro
The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, President/Bishop
Mr. Phil Metz
Ms. Amanda Perschall
The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, Dean, Southern
~~Mr. Raja Reed~~
~~Ms. Jen Snider, Vice Chancellor (non-voting)~~
The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage
The Rev. Cn. John Spicer
The Rev. Donna Stanford, Secretary
Ms. Judy Turner, President, Episcopal Church Women
Mr. Hayden Vaughn
Ms. Elisa White
The Very Rev. David Wilcox, Dean, Central

Also attending: Mr. Ron Weil, Finance Administrator

1. **Call to Order and Devotion.** Bishop Meaux determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The Rev. Donna Stanford led Council in a devotion and prayer.
2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:
 - a. Approval of October 11, 2025 Diocesan Council meeting minutes

- b. Receipt of December 3, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes
- c. Receipt of reports, if any, from committees, commissions, and ministries
 - (1) FaithX
 - (2) AED

The motion passed.

3. **Elect Diocesan Council Vice President**

The Chancellor stated that nominations for the office of Council Vice President were in order. The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, seconded by Ms. Elisa White, nominated Ms. Amanda Perschall. There being no further nominations, Ms. Elisa White moved, seconded by Mr. Hayden Vaughn, that nominations be closed.

The motion passed. Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage, that Ms. Perschall be elected by acclamation. **The motion passed**, and Ms. Perschall was elected Diocesan Council Vice President.

4. **Reports.**

a. **Deanery Reports**

i. Northwest-Metro Deanery

The Very Rev. Jean Long, Dean, reported that the Deans have begun planning for the 2026 Clergy Conference. She also reported that at the last Deanery meeting, she was reelected Dean, Mr. Philip Lofflin was elected Vice Chair, and Dcn. Lynda Hurt was elected Secretary.

ii. Central Deanery

The Very Rev. David Wilcox, Dean, reported that at the next Deanery meeting, a Vice Chair and Secretary will be elected.

iii. Southern Deanery

The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, Dean, reported that on December 6, The Rev. Benjamin George-Thoms was installed as the rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Springfield. He also reported that The Rev. Jose Palma held an event celebrating the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 7, at Grace Episcopal Church in Carthage.

c. **Standing Committee Report**

The Rev. Cn. Robin James, President, reported that she was elected President of the Standing Committee, Dr. Jeremy Chesman was elected Vice President, and Mr. Curtis Hamilton was elected Secretary. The Standing Committee consented to five Bishop elections, to Diocesan ordinations, approved The Very Rev. David Wilcox's appointment to the Disciplinary Board, and appointed the following Standing Committee members as commission/committee liaisons: The Rev. Tim Coppinger, liaison to the Commission on Ministry; Ms. Kathy Alexander, liaison to

Central Grants Committee; The Rev. Steven King, liaison to Property Grants Committee.

d. **Registrar's/Archivist's Report**

The Rev. Chandler Jackson III reported that he is continuing to flatten out blueprints from congregations for storage, is halfway through processing closed congregation materials, and is getting the last material from the bishop search process through consecration.

f. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported that correspondence thanking the Diocese for financial support was received from Grandparents for Gun Safety, ProspectKC, College for Bishops, and St. Luke's for the 2025 Heartland Gala. All are included in the meeting packet. The Secretary requested that Council members sign up to lead a 2026 meeting in devotion/opening prayer.

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

The Treasurer submitted a written Treasurer's report and a written report of the November 4, 2025 and December 2, 2025 Finance Committee meetings. Finance Administrator Ron Weil reviewed the financial reports. The Treasurer reported that through November 30, 2025, actual income exceeds budgeted income while actual expenses lag behind budgeted expenses. For the 2025 third quarter activity DFMS reports a 5.6% performance rate compared to a benchmark of 6.6%. The comparable performance rate for the fiscal year-to-date ending September 30, 2025 is 14.7% compared to a benchmark of 15.7%.

Grant Funds Balances Update:

Centralized: \$119,259 spent (23 churches received grants) with \$80,741 balance remaining.

Property: \$310,703 spent (26 churches received grants) with \$112,630 balance remaining at 12/2/25.

Action Items:

The Property and Finance Committees moved for approval of the following requests:

(1) Calvary Episcopal Church, Sedalia

\$900 grant for repair and replacement of signage

The motion passed.

(2) St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Independence

\$3,950 grant for roof repairs, replacement of a missing HVAC lid, and water damage repair

The motion passed.

(3) Shepherd of the Hills Church, Branson
\$7,350 grant to replace a 15-year-old HVAC unit (the church received \$6,000 from Church Insurance and is asking for half of the remaining cost)
The motion passed.

(4) Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Kansas City
\$8,500 grant and a 20-year interest free \$8,500 line of credit (LOC) to replace a 30-year-old HVAC unit (the church is currently providing \$1,250 to the project)
The motion passed.

(5) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Clinton
\$8,490 grant to replace a 30-year-old HVAC unit
The motion passed.

h. **Vice President's Report**

The newly-elected Vice President had no report.

i. **Bishop's Report**

The Bishop reported:

- She received positive feedback regarding Convention. The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks will chair planning for the 2026 Convention, which may be at a location in the Southern Deanery.
- She is working with Cn. David Powell and others regarding the Bishop's relationship with St. Luke's Hospital.
- She made visitations at Bishop Spencer Place, and in Sedalia and Joplin.
- She shared information from the Province VII Retreat that she attended.
- She attended a Next Steps Retreat.
- She made two unofficial visitations.
- She preached at Grace Cathedral in Topeka.
- She has moved her sabbath day to Monday.
- The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks has been appointed Canon for Common Mission commencing on January 1, 2026. Cn. Marks has served as Missioner for Transitions since January 2022. The Bishop asked for prayers for the people of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church where Canon Chas has served as priest-in-charge and then rector since June 2016.
- She has received a number of applications for the Canon for Discipleship position.

4. Old Business

- a. **Consideration of the data used by the Human Resources Commission to support the 2026 Minimum Clergy Compensation recommendation**
Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Ms. Amy Garcia, that the Human Resources Commission's motion recommending no changes to minimum clergy compensation for 2026 be moved back to the floor. **The motion passed.**

Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Mr. Hayden Vaughn, to approve the Human Resources Commission's motion recommending no changes to minimum clergy compensation for 2026. After discussion, the Bishop called for a voice vote and announced that the motion passed.

Mr. Metz moved, seconded by Anne Jetter Maas, for a division of the house. The Bishop then conducted a counted vote by a show of hands. After verifying the counted vote, and Bishop declared that the motion failed.

Ms. Amanda Perschall moved, seconded by Mr. Hayden Vaughn, that the minimum clergy compensation for 2026 be increased 2%. After discussion, The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok called the question, seconded by The Very Rev. David Wilcox. The motion to end debate passed. Council proceeded to vote on the motion to increase minimum clergy compensation for 2026 by 2%. **The motion passed.**

5. New Business

- a. **Approve 2026 Diocesan Council meeting schedule**
After review of the proposed meeting schedule (including the addition of a December 12, 2026 meeting date with location to be determined), Ms. Elisa White moved, seconded by The Very Rev. David Wilcox, that the proposed 2026 Diocesan Council meeting schedule be approved. **The motion passed.**
- b. **Diocesan committees and commissions and service of Council members as liaisons**
The Bishop stated that Council members may be asked to serve as liaisons to Diocesan committees and commissions.
- c. **Authorization of signatories to Diocesan bank account and to DFMS investments**
The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall, that Bishop Meaux, Finance Administrator Ron Weil, Secretary Dcn. Donna Stanford, and Assistant Treasurer Tom Kokjer be authorized as signatories to the Diocesan bank account; and that Finance Administrator Ron Weil, Treasurer Anne Jetter Maas, and Assistant Treasurer Tom

Kokjer be authorized as signatories to DFMS investments. **The motion passed.**

d. **Housing allowance resolution**

The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by The Very Rev. David Wilcox, that the following 2026 clergy housing allowance resolution be adopted:

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Diocese, as the employer of the Clergy, through the Diocesan Council, its Board of Directors, hereby authorizes the Parsonage Exclusions for the Clergy listed below for the calendar year 2026 to be pro-rated as appropriate for any partial employment during said calendar year:

The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux\$75,000.00

The Rev. Cn. Anne Meredith Kyle.....\$0.00

The Rev. Cn. Charles Adams (Chas) Marks\$37,000.00

The Rev. Cn. Jose Palma\$20,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the amount of the Parsonage Exclusions authorized for the calendar year of 2026 to The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, The Rev. Cn. Anne Meredith Kyle, The Rev. Cn. Charles Adam (Chas) Marks, and The Rev. Cn. Jose Palma shall continue on an annual basis for all subsequent years thereafter unless the Diocesan

Council shall duly adopt by budget or resolution a different amount for said housing or rental allowance.

The motion passed.

d. **Distribution of International Outreach Grant (IOG) balance**

Finance Administrator Ron Weil reported that to date, \$6,338 in 2025 IOG grant funds remain. The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall, that the IOG grant funds remaining as of December 31, 2025, be disbursed equally among the 2025 recipients so that the seven 2025 recipients each receive approximately \$900. **The motion passed.**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, to adjourn. **The motion carried**, and the Bishop adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m. Dcn. Donna Stanford gave the dismissal.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary