

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI
Minutes of May 16, 2026 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Members attending:

Canon Shirley Bolden
Ms. Anne Breid
Ms. Hayley Cobb
The Very Rev. Miranda Cully, Dean, Northwest-Metro
~~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 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: The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks, Canon for Common Mission
Mr. Ron Weil, Finance Administrator

1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer.** Bishop Meaux determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Canon Mark Galus led Council in a devotion and prayer, remembering Justice Thurgood Marshall, a lifelong Episcopalian and the first African American appointed to the U.S. Supreme

Court, whom The Episcopal Church honors on May 17th, his official feast day on the church's liturgical calendar.

2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** The Very Rev. David Wilcox moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:
 - a. Approval of April 11, 20226 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
 - b. Receipt of May 6, 2026 Executive Committee meeting minutes
 - c. Receipt of reports, if any, from committees, commissions, and ministries

The motion carried.

3. **Reports.**
 - a. **Deanery Reports**
 - i. Central Deanery
The Very Rev. David Wilcox, Dean, reported that the Deanery met but there was not a quorum to conduct business.
 - ii. Northwest-Metro Deanery
The Very Rev. Miranda Cully, Dean, reported that the Deanery met on April 23 and discussed the World Cup, emergency safety procedures, communication, and volunteer opportunities. There will be a diocesan digital billboard in Riverside during the World Cup. The next planned in-person Deanery meeting will be on October 1.
 - iii. Southern Deanery
The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, Dean, had no report.

The Bishop noted that there will be no Deanery picnics this summer.

- b. **Standing Committee Report**

The Rev. Cn. Robin James, President, reported that the Standing Committee is currently working with Canon Anne Meredith Kyle on the role of Standing Committee in the ordination process beyond the canonical requirement of interviewing those applying for Candidacy. The Standing Committee is also developing a set of Bylaws which will codify how the Committee organizes itself and conducts its business. In June, the Standing Committee will consider the request to consent to the election by The Episcopal Diocese of Long Island of the Rev. Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker as its ninth bishop.
- c. **Registrar's/Archivist's Report**

The Rev. Chandler Jackson III reported that he visited Christ Episcopal Church, Warrensburg, and St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Fayette, to advise them on archiving documents. Fr. Jackson noted that St. Mary's, Fayette, is the second oldest church in the Diocese of West Missouri, and he found the 1847 contract for construction of the original church building. Fr. Jackson will visit any church in the diocese to review documents suitable to

archive. He advised that churches only need to keep their financial records for seven years.

d. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary had no report.

e. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that the Finance Committee met on May 5, 2026. Finance Administrator Ron Weil reviewed the financial reports, noting that investment income was down 2.4% in the first quarter, but the financial markets are up in the second quarter. The expenses are in line with the budget. He also reviewed the 2027 Budget Timeline and will send out a preliminary draft of the budget in July.

The Treasurer reported that the Finance Committee accepted three property grants approved by the Property Grant Committee. The Finance Committee moved for approval of property grants for:

Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church, Branson, \$8,377 for parking lot repairs, resurfacing, striping, and curb repairs;

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Monett, \$1,450 to replace fluorescent fixtures in parish hall with LEDs;

All Saints Episcopal Church, West Plains, \$9,337 to replace two HVAC units that need repair and are beyond their lifespan.

The motion carried.

The Finance Committee also moved for approval of a line of credit up to \$9,338 as part of the replacement of two HVAC units that need repair and are beyond their lifespan.

The motion carried.

f. **Vice President's Report**

The Vice President had no report.

g. **Canon for Common Mission's Report**

The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks reported that he has visited churches in transition, including Trinity Episcopal Church, Independence (where he preached and led a retreat); Church of the Good Shepherd, Kansas City; and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Raytown. Also in transition are St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Kansas City; and St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Bolivar (The Rev. Silas Engstrom served as the church's curate; however, he transitioned to a new ministry position in the Diocese of West

Tennessee). On May 17, Cn. Marks will be at Grace Episcopal Church, Liberty and will lead Evensong at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City.

Cn. Marks reported that:

- he attended the Provinces 5, 6, and 7 gathering for transitions (30 full-time positions from 15 dioceses; 6 clerics were presented at the conference);
- he and The Rev. Cn. Robin James drafted diocesan liturgy guidelines;
- he met with the Council of Deacons;
- interviews are being conducted for the Canon for Discipleship position;
- he hosted training for the Vocations Hub for the Dioceses of West Missouri and Missouri.

Cn. Marks also informed Council that, regarding Canons 12 and 13 concerning parishes and congregations, the Diocese has 47 churches with 30 in parish status and 17 in congregation status; however, 17 of the churches in parish status do not qualify under the canonical definition as they do not employ full-time clergy.

h. **Bishop's Report**

The Bishop reported that:

- she has been making visitations, including to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, to celebrate their 135th anniversary;
- Diocesan staff and Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral staff had a planning retreat;
- she has taken vacation days;
- a stewardship workshop for clergy was presented;
- the St. Luke's Hospital Spiritual Wellness Committee is now under hospital board support; she is working with Bobby Olm-Shipman, president of St. Luke's Hospital, to build relationships between the Plaza hospital and churches in the Northwest-Metro Deanery;
- she invited the Property Committee to tour the Diocesan Offices as the upstairs space needs renovation and expansion to accommodate additional staff;
- camp volunteers 18 years and older are needed from May 31-June 6;
- as a candidate for receipt of The Episcopal Church planting funds, the Diocese will have a discernment phone call and host a June site visit;
- she is working with the Intake Officer to develop a Title IV pastoral team;
- she will share a list of positions that need appointments and will accept names of persons willing to serve.

The Bishop reported that the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed several consultants. Cn. Shirley Bolden summarized why the Committee recommends engaging Saison Consulting, LLC, based in Durham, North Carolina. It is estimated that the development of a 3-to-5-year strategic plan will take approximately 9 months. Cn. Bolden moved, seconded by Mr. Hayden Vaughn, that Council approve a maximum of \$35,000 out of the Expansion Fund to pay Saison Consulting, LLC to develop a 3-to-5-year strategic plan for the Diocese of West Missouri.

The motion carried.

4. Old Business

- a. Review of ministry priorities from Diocesan Council retreat
Council agreed with the Bishop's recommendation to table this agenda item and to include it on the June meeting agenda under Old Business.
- b. Election of a replacement to fill the vacant clergy seat on Council, which was held by Mtr. Miranda Cully before her election as Dean of the Northwest Metro Deanery
The Bishop asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the vacant clergy seat on Council. Hearing none, the Bishop reported that only one candidate came forward for the position, The Venerable Carol Peterson. As there was a single, unopposed candidate, the Council voted by acclamation on the election of Archdeacon Peterson.

Archdeacon Peterson was elected to fill the vacant clergy seat on Diocesan Council.

5. New Business

The Bishop stated that there was no new business to come before Council.

The Bishop recognized Cn. Shirley Bolden. Cn. Bolden invited members of Council to a "Family Reunion" party at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral on June 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in celebration of Juneteenth. The event is sponsored by the Diversity and Reconciliation Commission of the Diocese. Cn. Bolden also informed Council that the Diversity and Reconciliation Commission will host a workshop on September 26 in Clinton.

The Bishop recognized Mr. Raja Reed, who requested prayers and participation in three Pride Fest events to be held June 6 in Kansas City, June 13 in Springfield, and June 27 in St. Joseph.

The Bishop reminded Council that the next meeting will be held on June 27 at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Joplin.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Hayden Vaughn moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, to adjourn. **The motion carried**, and the Bishop adjourned the meeting 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary