

THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI
Minutes of June 27, 2026 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, June 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 706 South Byers Avenue, Joplin, Missouri.

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 (by telephone)
~~Canon Tom Kokjer, Assistant Treasurer (non-voting)~~
Mr. Philip Lofflin
The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, President/Bishop
Mr. Phil Metz
Ms. Amanda Perschall, Vice President
The Ven. Carol Peterson, Archdeacon
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
The Rev. Ryan Williams, Rector, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Joplin

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. Ms. Amy Garcia led Council in a devotion and prayer.

2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** Mr. Hayden Vaughn moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:
 - a. Approval of May 16, 2022²⁶ Diocesan Council meeting minutes
 - b. Receipt of June 17, 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 Central Deanery will hold a joint clericus with the Northwest-Metro Deanery on the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene on July 22.

- ii. Southern Deanery

- The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, Dean, reported that the Deanery will meet in July at St. James Episcopal Church, Springfield.

- iii. Northwest-Metro Deanery

- The Very Rev. Miranda Cully, Dean, reported that the diocese's digital bulletin board was up in Riverside. The Northwest-Metro Deanery will hold a joint clericus with the Central Deanery on the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene on July 22. Tentatively, the Deanery is planning a social time on September 9.

- b. **Strategic Planning Committee Report** (committee members: Cn. Shirley Bolden, Ms. Anne Breid, The Very Rev. Miranda Cully, The Rev. Chandler Jackson III, Mr. Philip Lofflin, The Very Rev. David Wilcox)
Mr. Philip Lofflin reported that the committee met with representatives of Saison Consulting, LLC, and are planning listening sessions and deanery gatherings. The next step is engaging with Holy Cow! Consulting for assessment surveys in September at a cost of \$2,700.

- c. **Standing Committee Report**

- The Bishop reported that the Standing Committee consented to three bishop elections and to four presbyter ordinations to be held at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral on August 29. The Rev. Cn. Robin James, President, was unable to attend Council due to the recent death of her mother.

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

- The Rev. Chandler Jackson III reported that he is continuing to process collections. He offered to consult with churches regarding their archives.

- e. **Archdeacon's Report**

- The Venerable Carol Peterson reported that in March the Bishop appointed her Archdeacon and appointed three deacons to the Council on Deacons:

Deacon Barbara Wegener, Deacon for Pastoral Care; Deacon Brock Slabach, Deacon for Formation; and Deacon Donna Stanford, Deacon for Administration. The Council has been meeting every two to three weeks. A Community of Deacons Zoom meeting was held on June 16. The Community will hold monthly meetings, alternating Compline and a topical discussion. The Council is working on a Bishop's Chaplain customary. The Archdeacon reported that deacons are serving with the Bishop and The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks, Canon for Common Mission, on visitations. Plans are being made for a pre-session with the Community of Deacons at the fall Clergy Conference. The Archdeacon also reported that deacons are working on developing a proposal concerning Church Pension Group minimal compensation for deacons and non-stipendiary presbyters. Three deacons have been impacted by deaths in their families recently: Deacon Vicky Anderson, Deacon Brock Slabach, and Deacon Barbara Wegener.

f. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported that correspondence sent and received by the diocese was included in the meeting packet.

g. **Treasurer's Report**

Finance Administrator Ron Weil reviewed the operating revenue and expense report and other financial reports, including reviewing budget expenses.

Mr. Hayden Vaughn moved, seconded by The Very Rev. David Wilcox, that the finance reports be received. **The motion carried.**

h. **Vice President's Report**

The Vice President had no report.

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

The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks reported that we are nineteen weeks away from Diocesan Convention, and planning is firming up:

- dinner will follow Eucharist Friday evening at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City
- the preacher/speaker this year will be The Rev. Jason Shank, Interim Church Planting Network Strategist on the Presiding Bishop's staff; Rev. Shank and his colleague, Haley Bankey, were in the diocese last week to discuss church revitalization and planting with staff
- the Convention business meeting will be held Saturday at the Convention Center in downtown Kansas City; the meeting will include presentations from churches and ministries in and around the diocese, such as St. Luke's Hospital on the Plaza, Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, Episcopal Relief and Development, and the Strategic Planning Committee

Canon Marks also reported that Gina Heise, St. Andrew's, Kansas City, will be our new diocesan ministry partner for Episcopal Relief and Development.

Beginning Well has been paused for operation reformatting.

Canon Marks continues to work with several churches in transition. The Rev. Jonathan Callison has received training from the Interim Ministry Network and has been called as interim rector of The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Kansas City.

Canon Marks reported on a diocese-wide opportunity for training. St. Philip's, Joplin, approached staff about resources for helping congregations serve or better serve people who are under resourced. The superior resource is aha! Process, an organization founded by Dr. Ruby Payne, most famous for her book "Bridges Out of Poverty." aha! Process provides training for clergy (which could count as continuing education) and parishioners to help Christian communities understand the dynamics of poverty, reduce barriers to success, and build better resources, based on the book, "Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself: Called, Equipped, Sent." The co-author of the book would present a full-day workshop on October 24 at Christ Episcopal Church, Springfield, for an all-inclusive cost of \$6,500. Ms. Amanda Perschall moved, seconded by The Rev. Cn. John Spicer, that the diocese pay for the \$6,500 workshop described by Canon Marks, with the specific allocation of funding to be determined later. **The motion carried.**

j. **Bishop's Report**

The Bishop reported that:

- in June, she attended the second year of the College for Bishops, finding helpful sessions on worship, relationships, identity, and "how-to"; The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, is her coach
- this is a period of discernment regarding the Canon for Discipleship position and the role of the youth missionary; the next step is to establish a Forming Disciples Committee (The Ven. Carol Peterson as tentative Diocesan Council representative) and a Striving for Justice Committee (Ms. Amy Garcia as Diocesan Council representative)
- regarding church planting and revitalization, the diocese had a site visit in Springfield from The Rev. Jason Shank, Interim Church Planting Network Strategist on the Presiding Bishop's staff and his colleague, Haley Bankey; the Bishop proposes cohorts of churches considering: (1) revitalization strategy, (2) regional ministry, (3) creation of small church network team to engage in a five-year process to plant a church in Christian County (located between Springfield and Branson), (4) whether congregations matches the community, (5) facility accessibility

The Bishop reviewed the June 2026 Diocesan Committees and Task Forces spreadsheet and noted that “committees” are formed by Diocesan Council and “task forces” are formed by the Bishop.

The Bishop also noted that the scheduled October 10 Diocesan Council meeting in Sedalia conflicts with the Sedalia Pride festival. The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by The Very Rev. David Wilcox, that the October Diocesan Council meeting be held at 10:00 a.m. on October 17 in Sedalia. **The motion carried.**

4. **Old Business**

- a. Review of ministry priorities from Diocesan Council retreat

The Bishop identified the following priorities:

- lifting up existing churches – desire to work on parish/mission status
- equipping lay people – training Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors; communication and communication strategy – what are people looking for; diversity and racial reconciliation training will be provided on September 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Clinton
- lifting up existing churches – teams to visit churches; resource (clergy) sharing
- missionally driven long-term planning; strategic planning, mission-pairing status ongoing

- b. Clarification regarding into which of the DFMS Portfolio’s 26 accounts the proceeds from the sale of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Maryville, should be deposited.

After discussion, Ms. Amanda Perschall moved, seconded by The Very Rev. David Wilcox, that the proceeds from the sale of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Maryville, be deposited into the Expansion Fund. **The motion carried.**

5. **New Business**

- a. Finance Administrator Ron Weil reported that the Finance Committee met on June 2, 2026, and approved for recommendation to Diocesan Council two property grants approved by the Property Grant Committee:

the Property Committee recommended granting 1/3 of the request of \$15,724 made by St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Joplin, for security cameras and door latches (it was explained that the Committee considered only the door latches necessary; the church could submit another grant application for the security cameras)

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Raytown, \$13,429.49 to replace 2021 insurance funds for new roof that was spent for other necessary

maintenance at the church; the 2025 insurance payments and this grant will allow them to replace the roof that is necessary

The Finance Committee moved for approval of a \$5,241 property grant to St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Joplin. **The motion carried**, with Mr. Phil Metz, parishioner at St. Philip's, abstaining.

The Finance Committee moved for approval of a \$13,429.49 property grant to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Raytown. **The motion carried.**

- b. Report on Diocese property/liability package changes
The Bishop reported that the Church Insurance Company umbrella limits have changed from \$20 million to \$10 million effective with the June 2026 renewal, with the premium adjusted downward by about \$2,000 for the upcoming annual term. It is believed that \$10 million is acceptable when compared to the risk and the cost--\$6,000 to increase limits by \$5 million.
- c. The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall, to table discussion of the allocation/distribution of the \$31,010 payout from the Religious Charitable & Educational Trust (RC&E). **The motion carried.**

6. Executive Session

The Very Rev. David Wilcox moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall that Council move into Executive Session to discuss pending legal matters. **The motion carried.** The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks, Finance Administrator Ron Weil, and The Rev. Ryan Williams left the meeting. Council remained in Executive Session from 1:10 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Hayden Vaughn moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall to adjourn. **The motion carried**, and the Bishop adjourned the meeting 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary