**Approved: 10/17/2026**

# THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI

Minutes of September 12, 2026 Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council of The Diocese of West Missouri met Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, 415 W 13th St, Kansas City, 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
~~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: Mr. Walker Adams, Acting Associate Dean for Admission & Advancement, The University of the South
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. The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage led Council in prayer.

2. **Consent Agenda Adoption.** The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Ms. Elisa White that the following Consent Agenda be adopted:
   a. Approval of August 8, 2026 Diocesan Council meeting minutes
   b. Receipt of September 2, 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 had no report

      ii. Northwest-Metro Deanery
      The Very Rev. Miranda Cully, Dean, reported that the Deanery Garden Party was held at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral on September 9. The next Clericus and Deanery meeting will be held on October 15 at Church of the Redeemer, Kansas City.

      iii. Southern Deanery
      The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, Dean, reported that the next Clericus meeting will be held on September 15. The next Deanery meeting will be held the third week of October.

   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)
   Cn. Shirley Bolden reported that the strategic planning survey has gone out to all churches, with September 30 as the deadline for return of the survey. Listening sessions will be held at Clergy Conference and at Diocesan Convention, with online sessions held October 3 in the morning and October 20 in the evening.

   c. **Standing Committee Report**
   The Rev. Cn. Robin James reported that the Standing Committee has met twice since the last Diocesan Council meeting. The Committee has consented to the election of the Rev. Dr. Jenifer Chatfield, Bishop of Northwest Pennsylvania, and to the election of The Rev. David Sibley, Bishop of Lexington. The Committee met with The Rev. Cn. Anne Kyle regarding support of postulants and candidates. They discussed questions that may be asked during candidate interviews.

   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. It was suggested that archive guidelines be added to the Diocesan website.

e. **Archdeacon's Report**

The Venerable Carol Peterson was on vacation. The Secretary reported that the Community of Deacons is meeting monthly, and the Council of Deacons is working on projects in the areas of pastoral care, administration, and formation.

f. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary had no report.

g. **Vice President's Report**

The Vice President had no report.

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

The Rev. Cn. Chas Marks reported that:

• We are 8 weeks away from Diocesan Convention.

- As a reminder, following the Eucharist on Friday evening we will have dinner. Our hope is that delegates will stay for dinner. Fr. Jason Shank from the Presiding Bishop's staff will be present with us and be preaching at Eucharist and speaking at dinner. The Bishop's Shield awards will also be presented at dinner.
- Saturday will be our usual business meeting, but we will also have presentations from churches and ministries in and around the Diocese – including St. Luke's Hospital on the Plaza, Bishop Kemper School, Episcopal Relief and Development, and our strategic planning group.
- I have a question for Council regarding printing the Convention Booklet. Cost is about $3000. All of the information will be on the website and folks can print that off if they'd like to have a paper copy of it. If we decide to go completely paperless, we will make that clear in the communication to the Diocese leading up to the Convention.
- Parking both days will be available at the Cathedral as well as the parking garage across 13th Street.

• Beginning Well had our initial meeting for the year on September 10. We have a cohort of ten newly-ordained and new-to-the-diocese clergy

• Several churches remain in transition and work continues with them.

• We will meet with the three churches in the northwest corridor of the Diocese to discuss partnering and sharing a priest – St. Oswald's-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, Skidmore; St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Savannah; Christ Episcopal Church, St. Joseph. We have had a similar meeting with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Monett and St. Thomas a

Becket Episcopal Church, Cassville. Our plan is to make an ask to Council for assistance for these two regional partnerships from the Ministry Developer funds. That will continue to develop as these conversations continue.

- The task force looking at our canons regarding Congregations and Parishes has met and had some conversation. I am not certain at this point if there will be a resolution for Convention this year regarding this or not.
- Please share the information widely regarding a workshop titled "Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself: Called, Equipped, Sent" on October 24 at Christ Episcopal Church, Springfield (the cost is $40)

i. **Bishop's Report**

The Bishop reported that:

- she was grateful for vacation time for rest and renewal
- with Bylaws review following the combination of BJC HealthCare and St. Luke's Health System, the Spiritual Wellness Committee has been brought into St. Luke's on the Plaza
- committees of the pillars of Striving for Justice and Formation will meet on September 19 at HJ's to coordinate
- she spent three days at The University of the South: Sewanee and led a Sewanee quiet day as well as meeting West Missouri seminarians there
- she will welcome feedback on the strategic plan
- The Rev. Jason Shank, revitalization process advisor, will speak at Diocesan Convention
- three new cohorts are planned: Revitalization<br>Regional<br>Small Church Ministry Network

At the conclusion of the Bishop's Report, Ms. Amanda Perschall moved, seconded by The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok, that consideration of the Human Resources report, including 2027 Minimum Clergy Compensation, be added to the agenda under New Business. **The motion carried.**

j. **Treasurer's Report**

Finance Administrator Ron Weil reviewed the 1/1/26-8/31/26 Operating Revenue and Expense Report. Mr. Raja Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Haley Cobb that the report be approved. **The motion carried.**

The Treasurer reviewed the 12/31/25 Balance Sheet Summary (Fund Basis) and the 2025 Revenue and Expense Summary.

The Treasurer and the Finance Administrator reviewed, line-by-line, the proposed 2027 Budget Summary and Narrative Budget, including "placeholders for hope."

The Treasurer requested Council to consider creating a Budget Committee.

The Treasurer reported that the Finance Committee approved three property grants from the Property Grant Committee for recommendation to Diocesan Council. The Finance Committee moved for approval of grants to:

- St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, $17,375 for ½ the cost to remove the Hippo statue, repair foundation, and replace statue

- Trinity Episcopal Church, Lebanon, $5,611.29 for cost of supplies for nave carpet replacement (church will cover labor cost of $3,840)

- Christ Episcopal Church, St. Joseph, $24,324 for HVAC replacement (total cost is $54,324; church will withdraw $20,000 from investment funds and $10,000 from a donor)

**The motion carried.**

4. **Old Business**
   a. Update regarding nominations for Diocesan Convention
   Ms. Amanda Perschall reported nominations are open for Diocesan Council and other positions to be elected at Convention.

5. **New business**
   a. Review/approval of the proposed 2027 Diocesan Council/Executive Committee schedule
   The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Mr. Phil Metz, that the proposed 2027 Diocesan Council/Executive Committee schedule be approved as presented. **The motion carried.**

   b. Event planning process
   The Bishop advised that Rachael Orth is now designated as sole Events Coordinator for the Diocese and can be contacted at events@diowestmo.org.

   c. Presentation regarding becoming constituent diocese of Sewanee: The University of the South
   Mr. Walker Adams, Acting Associate Dean for Admission & Advancement for the School of Theology at The University of the South, presented a resolution titled Resolution 2023-4 "Intention to Become a Constituent Diocese of the University of the South." After discussion, Ms. Amanda Perschall moved, seconded by The Rev. Brittany Sparrow Savage, that

Diocesan Council adopt Resolution 2023-4 as its own resolution to present to Diocesan Convention as follows:

> Title: Intention To Become a Constituent Diocese of the University of the South
> Proposer: Diocesan Council
>
> WHEREAS, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH, Sewanee, Tennessee, worthily represents the contribution which the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America is making to the cause of Christian education in the country, and
>
> WHEREAS, The Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri desires to give its support and encouragement, formally and officially, to this great cause; therefore,
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> Be it Resolved, That the Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri hereby petitions the Board of Trustees of THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH to enroll the Diocese of West Missouri as an active member of the group of Dioceses owning and controlling THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH; and hereby pledges itself to accept and discharge whatever obligations, financial or other, may be involved in membership in this union, and
>
> Be it Resolved, That the Convention proceed to elect one presbyter and two lay representatives to attend the next meeting of the Board, and, with the Bishop, to present this petition and act as representatives of this Diocese on the Board of Trustees of THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH.

**The motion carried.**

d. Human Relations Report
The Very Rev. Joe Pierjok moved, seconded by Ms. Elisa White, that Diocesan Council approve the 2027 Minimum Clergy Compensation recommendation by the Human Relations Committee as presented.
**The motion carried.**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Phil Metz moved, seconded by Ms. Amanda Perschall, to adjourn. **The motion carried,** and the Bishop adjourned the meeting 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donna Stanford
Diocesan Secretary