



Diocesan Council Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2025, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, via Zoom

In attendance: The Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, the Rev. Mike Evers, the Rev. Amy Mayes, Taimi Kuiva, the Rev. Kristin Lee, the Rev. Lin Davenport, Shirley Wildman, Kim McAtee, the Rev. Melinda Bobo, the Rev. Lori Modesitt, Amy Irene, Erin Hastey, Sue Rector, the Rev. Mary Caucutt, Andrew Parra, Elizabeth Lance

Staff in attendance: Melissa Anderson, Kristi Wallin, Kira Bachus

The meeting was called to order, and changes to the agenda were discussed. An amendment was added to the agenda to allow Travis Helms and Mary Erickson to discuss the movement of funds from the ArtSpirit Line item to the Wyoming Episcopal Justice Taskforce. No other changes to the agenda were presented. Sue Rector moved to approve the consent agenda with changes. Melinda Bobo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Amy Mayes provided an opening prayer.

Mike Evers reviewed the work of the governing bodies during the most recent Confluence.

Lori Modesitt moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Taimi Kuiva seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Todd Ousley gave a Bishop's report. He has been completing visits to churches and meeting with clergy. The visitations should be completed by the end of July. Almost half of the clergy have had some contact. Ousley has also been tasked with reviewing the staff roles. Roles often overlap, and clarity is needed. Ousley will propose any changes to the Diocesan Council and Standing Committee. He anticipates no stress to the budget.

The Foundation Board has been in communication with Ousley, and he is encouraged by their conversations.

Ousley briefly discussed the Confluence. He is encouraged by the leadership's quest to clarify the purpose and roles of the various boards, councils, and other entities. Governing documents and other information will help to further clarify the purpose and roles.

Ousley made a request to disband the existing Cathedral Task Force and reconstitute it with him as chair, in collaboration with the Standing Committee.

Mary Erickson and Travis Helms joined the meeting. Mike Evers gave the council background information. The WEJust Task Force was commissioned during the Annual Convention; however, no budget or line item was added to cover the task force's expenses. Travis Helms, representing the ArtSpirit Committee, discussed that the committee is in the process of discerning how to continue its activities. The Indigenous Art Market, hosted yearly in Jackson, will need additional funding. Mary Erickson suggested that the ArtSpirit line item be used for the Indigenous Art Market.

Kristin Lee made a motion to move the \$22,000 from the ArtSpirit line item to fund the WEJust Equal Justice Summit. The motion was seconded by Lin Davenport. Discussion was that WEJust be funded from reserves, and the ArtSpirit line item be kept whole to fund the Indigenous Art Market. The council discussed the implications of this initiative, which had been headed by the previous bishop. Ousley recommends that mandates brought forward to the Convention include details on their funding to avoid budgeting issues in the future. The

The process of budgeting and resolutions, which could be an unfunded mandate line item that can be used at the discretion of the council. Kristin Lee withdrew the motion. Lori Modesitt seconded the withdrawal. Motion rescinded.

Todd Ousley moved to have the council recommend that the WEJust Task Force move the Summit event to the 2026 fiscal year and submit a budget request to the council. Taimi Kuiva seconded the motion. Motion carried with one nay.

Finance Committee Report

Jessica Reynolds gave the financial report. Auditors are in the office completing the 2024 audit. A reserves calculation has been added to the report and will be completed on a monthly basis. There is approximately \$2.3 million in the reserve fund, and the standard practice is to maintain at least six months of the operating budget in reserve, which amounts to approximately \$1.6 million.

The Bishop Compensation line item was budgeted for three-quarters time. However, the line item will need to be adjusted to account for the increase to full-time.

It is possible to adjust the budget by reallocating funds from other line items, as some areas have been over-budgeted while others have been under-budgeted. In accordance with our internal controls, budgetary adjustments need to be approved by the council. Kristin Lee made a motion to approve the salary adjustments as presented by Jessica Reynolds. Sue Rector seconded the motion. The documents were not available for review, and the council discussed the process moving forward. Motion tabled until further consideration could be made.

Cathedral Task Force

Melinda moved to disband the current Cathedral task force, form a new task force with the Bishop as chair, whose membership would be determined by the Standing Committee in relationship with the

cathedral. Seconded by Kristin Lee. The council discussed why the Standing Committee would determine the membership and the role of the Diocesan Council, as this is a diocesan task force. Melinda amended the motion to include ultimate approval of the membership by the Diocesan Council. Motion carried with one abstention from Taimi Kuiva.

The Very Rev. Rick Veit entered the meeting and gave an update on the Cathedral. History as a cathedral, past visions, and current needs. Stabilizing and moving ahead. Exploring a “At the Cathedral” series of different events, which are growing. Vision planning team that includes some vestry members. Wants to be connected to the diocese. There is much collaboration with Canterbury.

Todd Ousley will deliver the news of the Task Force's dissolution to all members.

Ethete Task Force

Shirley Wildman gave a report of the Ethete Task Force. Notable events included the tree planting ceremony and the commencement of roof construction on the museum. The contractors are starting to work on the interior of the museum as the next step. Plans have been drawn for the Parish Hall. Funds have been received from the sale of HR camp, so progress continues. Keith Ware, staff on the Reservation, shared that the community has taken a vested interest and is taking ownership of the Circle.

Property Committee

Mike Evers gave an update on the Property Committee. St. Mark's has received a draft Building Integrity Report (BIR) for St. Mark's in Casper. Comments and suggestions for improving the report were provided to CRObar. The church in Glendo had black mold, and use of the building has been discontinued. The remainder of the reports will be provided shortly. The Property Committee has been providing recommendations for Sacred Spaces grant applications sent to the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming's competitive granting cycle. Funding for the Property Committee's programming will need to be included in the 2026 budget. The committee's intention is to review every building.

Foundation Report

Kristi Wallin gave an Executive Director's report.

Black mold has been identified in Glendo, and use of the building has been discontinued. The diocese is developing innovative solutions for worship spaces.

Regional Rep Reports

Amy Irene gave a report. Sally Boyd's health is well.

Mary Caucutt - Regular Council members might consider partnership and outreach for communication to the churches.

Lori Modesitt - Douglas and Casper churches are doing well. Jennie Ketner is improving and is serving in Wheatland. Glenrock is a very vibrant church.

Erin Hastey - Foundation Financial Discernment on May 31 in Pinedale, with good responses about attending. Parochial reports and updated contact lists. Erin suggests including regional reps as congregational vitality assessments are being completed.

Sue Rector - Churches are doing well. Jordan Bishop is mourning a family member, but has returned to work at Trinity in Lander. Pamela Glasser is supplying in Atlantic City as the long-time priest Chuck Clarke has recently passed away. Dubois is in the process of discernment regarding calling a rector. Bonnie Deyo is serving as interim.

Andrew Parra - The concrete ADA project is finishing up. Sixteen trees are being planted for the apple orchard. The tree planting is planned for June 16, 2025.

John Sullivan - Not able to complete the work and will submit a formal letter of resignation soon.

Mike Evers will report back to WEJust.