



Episcopal Diocese of
Eastern Oregon

Diocesan Council
Minutes
February 12, 2024
Zoom

Present:

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Bishop

Class of 2024

The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake (SC)

The Rev. Ray Jeff Spreier

Class of 2025

The Rev. Kelly Mahon (SC)

David Kosar

Cory Bradshaw

Ellen Nesbitt (SC)

Class of 2026

Barbara Reynolds (SC)

Beth Spell - Chair

Holly Hendricks

Call to Order

Beth Spell called the meeting to order at 6:01pm and opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Holly Hendricks noted several typos that needed to be corrected in the November minutes.

M/S/C

Motion to approve the minutes from November 17-19, 2023 as corrected. (Kelly Mahon, Aletha Bonebrake)

Ex Officio

The Rev. Charlotte Wells, Secretary of Convention

Seat and Voice

Amy Jayne, Ascension Executive Director

Lisa Boquist, Secretary to Council

Absent:

Angela Pursel

The Rev. Roy Green

Patty Olson-Lindsey, Treasurer

Betty Palmer

Standing Committee Report

The Rev. Kelly Mahon presented the Standing Committee report.

He noted the following items that Standing Committee had covered in their meeting:

- The real estate agreement with Caldwell Banker in Klamath Falls has been renewed, there have been several interested parties, but no offers have been made. Work on the plumbing issues is still on hold until the weather warms up.
- The deed for the Sumpter property has officially been recorded with Baker County.
- Standing Committee will be working with Bishop Pat on his new Letter of Agreement as he transitions from Diocesan Bishop to Assisting Bishop.

Bishop Report

Bishop Pat reported that he has submitted his resignation to the Presiding Bishop and is hoping that it will be accepted at the upcoming HOB meeting. The resignation will be effective as of March 1st and he will be working with Standing Committee on his new Letter of Agreement as Assisting Bishop. There will likely be very few changes, other than his title, in the new agreement.

Both the Faithful Innovation Commission and the Truth and Conciliation Commission have been actively meeting and working towards their goals. They continue to report to him on their activities and will provide reports to council at the April meeting.

Church of the Transfiguration in Sisters has called Pastor Lilliana Elana Stahlberg, a Lutheran from Colorado, as their next clergy person. She will be the first Lutheran in charge of a fully Episcopal congregation in EDEO. We have had other Lutheran pastors lead blended congregations, but not a fully Episcopal congregation. Her first Sunday will be February 18th. Trinity Bend, Sunriver Christian Fellowship in Sunriver, and Hopeful Saints in Heppner are all still in the search process. The Rev. Marilyn Roth has been doing a tremendous job as the Transition Minister and has several very promising candidates lined up for Trinity.

Diocesan Council/General Convention/COM Vacancies

Lisa asked that council members share the following opportunities for service with others in their congregations.

Standing Committee

- 1 Clergy

Diocesan Council

- 1 Clergy

General Convention

- 1 Clergy

Commission on Ministry (need 5 lay and 4 clergy minimum, currently have 3 clergy and 4 lay members)

- 1 - 2 Clergy
- 1-2 Lay

Ascension School Report

Amy gave an update on the Feasibility Study. The Vandersall Collective, who have been wonderful to work with, are almost ready to present the Case Statement. They are just waiting on the artistic renderings, which should be completed soon. The survey will be going out sometime in April to about 150 people and they will also be interviewing about a dozen people in person. The consultants will be present at the April meeting to talk to council and answer any questions that might come up. The Ascension Advisory Board is still recommending that the Capital Campaign funds be raised for a pool and to build up the Ascension Endowment, however the Feasibility Study will test that as well as other projects.

The Sportsman’s Club lease was not renewed in December, which caused some negative feedback from members of the club and the community. The negotiations with the club leadership went well and they decided to donate the building to Ascension School in lieu of having to remediate the lead. The club will also be allowed to hold their regular meetings and club events in the building, in perpetuity. The fact that the building will be used as a Community Center for Cove residents will, hopefully, alleviate any lingering ill will from the community. The final agreement has not been signed but that will hopefully happen soon. Caretakers of the Land has come up with a plan on how to remediate the lead using plantings and soil amendment techniques. Caretakers of the Land is thriving. They are expanding their culture camps to include the Nez Perce tribe and their tribal leadership will be here in the spring for a tule camp. This is an exciting new partnership for Caretakers.

The shop and archive building is almost complete. The electricity is in, the insulation is almost done with dry wall scheduled to go in next week. The HVAC system is ready to be installed once the other work is done and the work is on track for the archives to be moved to Cove in the spring.

Bisbee Grant Committee Report and Vote

Barbara presented the recommendations from the Bisbee Grant Committee and Diocesan Council voted to approve the following:

- M/S/C** *Motion to approve the following Bisbee Grant funds to:*
- \$2,000 to Caretakers of the Land for work on education and revitalization of the Dogbane species.
 - \$1,500 to St. Patrick’s, Enterprise for a Friday Camp during the summer months.
 - \$1,500 to Family Kitchen, Bend to repair meal delivery bags and purchase new ones.
 - \$1,500 to St. Matthew’s, Ontario for a day shelter for the local homeless population.
- (Ray Jeff Sprier, Charlotte Wells)*

St. Mark’s Episcopal & Church of the Good Shephard in Madras had applied for a Bisbee Grant but the application did not meet the grant criteria. Diocesan Council discussed other ways to make the project happen.

- M/S/C** *Motion to approve \$7000 from the Madras Fund for the cost of tree removal to St. Mark’s Episcopal/Lutheran Church of the Good Shephard. (Cory Bradshaw, Charlotte Wells)*

New Business

The financial overview session for Diocesan Council members has been rescheduled for March 19, 2024, at 6:00pm via ZOOM.

Future Meetings

- April 12-14, 2024, at Ascension School
 - Leadership Gathering Part II
- August 9-10, 2024, Location TBD
- November 15-17, 2024, Ascension School

Adjournment

Beth asked Charlotte to close with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 6:43pm.