



Episcopal Diocese of  
Eastern Oregon

**Diocesan Council**  
**January 28, 2025**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**ZOOM**

**Present:**

**Class of 2025**

The Rev. Kelly Mahon (SC)  
Cory Bradshaw  
The Rev. Pam Miller

**Class of 2026**

The Rev. Liz Cahill (SC)  
The Rev. Roy Green  
Barbara Reynolds (SC)  
Beth Spell  
Holly Hendricks

**Class of 2027**

The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones  
The Rev. Ray Jeff Spreier (SC)  
Betty Palmer  
Angela Pursel (SC)  
Kathy Thew

**Ex Officio**

Patty Olson-Lindsey, Treasurer  
The Rev. Charlotte Wells, Secretary of Convention

**Seat and Voice**

Amy Jayne, Ascension Executive Director  
Lisa Boquist, Secretary to Council

**Absent**

Ellen Nesbitt  
The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Bishop

**Call to Order**

Beth Spell called the meeting order at 6:00pm and offered a reflection and a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes**

Roy Green noted that his name was not included in the Canon Committee list.

**M/S/C**

*Motion to approve the minutes from November 15-16, 2024 as amended. (Betty Palmer, Charlotte Wells)*

## Bisbee Grant Awards

M/S/C *Motion to approve the following distribution of the 2025 Bisbee Grant funds. (Pamela Miller, Roy Green)*

*St. Peter's, La Grande \$3,000*

- *Funds for meals at K-House in La Grande, which is an ecumenical ministry that provides free meals and space to hang out for students at Eastern Oregon University. The program has seen a dramatic increase in the number of students participating in the ministry.*

*Ascension School \$2,000*

- *Funds to support the creation of a virtual community center, which is a website and hub for all activities associated with the Cove Community Center, Cove Community Association, and Ascension School. It would help to promote the new pool, sponsored activities, and other important community events.*

*Caretakers of the Land \$4,000*

- *Fund educational training with important Elders and Wisdom Keepers through a 2 week to month long training excursion.*

*St. Stephen's, Baker City \$2,000*

- *Fund the building of an emerging Youth Group at the parish.*

*Transfiguration, Sisters \$1,500*

- *Fund a project of the Indigenous Studies Group at the Church of the Transfiguration in Sisters, which would include planting native plants.*

*Transfiguration, Sisters \$1,500*

- *Fund the addition of a Family Ministry to their emerging Youth Ministry.*

*St. Matthew's, Ontario \$1,500*

- *Fund Oasis House, a day shelter program for families experiencing homelessness or severe economic hardship.*

## Communications Committee Report

Ray Jeff Spreier reported on the progress that the committee has made. The committee has met several times and has created an action plan and developed the scope of their work. The committee has drafted an introductory letter that introduces the committee, the purpose of the committee, and who they represent (Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, and staff). The letter will be signed by Beth Spell, as Diocesan Council Chair, and Kelly Mahon, as Standing Committee President. It will also offer an introduction to the model and resources that will be available for those who have questions or concerns. These resources will include an email address that will go directly to the committee and a page on the website. The website page will have a FAQ section, provide updates on the process, and other important information.

The committee would also like to create a packet, likely in pdf format, that would include a background explanation, timelines, points of contact, and job descriptions. This process will involve all committees and council to ensure that the appropriate information is going out.

## Canon Update Committee Report

Charlotte Wells reported that the committee met once online and did an initial review of the canons. The process is challenging as so many items are connected to one another and some canons need to be completely reworked as they are no longer relevant. The committee will meet again on January 29<sup>th</sup> to continue the work. They have until July to get the changes submitted to be voted on at Convention in October. They will be consulting with a Chancellor to ensure that the changes they are making are in accordance with TEC.

## Standing Committee Report

Kelly Mahon reported that Standing Committee has been working on Bishop Pat's new Letter of Agreement. The letter has been drafted and is going to be sent to a Chancellor or legal counsel for review. There are two possibilities for someone to serve as an add needed Chancellor or legal counsel, one in San Diego and one in Pendleton. Steve Corey in Pendleton has agreed to do some work but would not want to be an official Chancellor. Standing Committee is waiting to hear back from him regarding his willingness to look at the LOA and to find out what his fee might be.

Kelly committed to having a conversation with Rebecca Wilson, the new Chief of Strategy at the national church, to discuss the Team Episcopate plan. Margaret Rose, who also works for the national church and occasionally attends church at Trinity in Bend, may be a good contact as well.

Kelly gave an update on the properties in Klamath Falls. The price on St. Paul's has been reduced but there has been no offer so far, although it has been shown several times. One group is interested in possibly renting the facility. A rental might require more work than is currently possible due to all of the repairs that are needed on the facility. Elizabeth offered to talk with Ray Jeff and Barbara to coordinate driving down to Klamath Falls to check on the status of the facility in person and meet with the realtor.

The lot in Klamath Falls is still held up in Escrow while the company that made the offer works on getting permits to build on the property. Some of the funds from that sale will help with repairs and upkeep on the church property.

St. Paul's in The Dalles has expressed interest in buying the property at 601 Union Street. Pam Miller reported that the congregation is going to send a letter to Standing Committee with a proposal that the congregation/chapel planning committee will manage the property for 18 months, covering all the utility and property upkeep costs, to determine if the property can be self-sustaining under their management. The diocese will continue to pay the property insurance. If at the end of the 18 months, it is determined not to be a feasible endeavor, they will return it to the diocese to sell or dispose of in some way.

## Personnel Committee Report

Angel Pursel reported on the changes that they had made to the policy to adhere to the new model. Diocesan Council will review the changes that have been made and send any questions or thoughts to her, and she will bring those to the committee and make the appropriate updates. The committee will report again at the next meeting.

## Ascension School Report

Nate, Amy, and Megan will be leaving at the end of the week to attend the ECCC conference in North Carolina. Amy reported that they have fully funded the pool, \$750,000, and are now moving into the phase of fully funding the endowment to maintain the pool. There is less than \$270,000 left to reach that goal.

There are 5 outdoor schools scheduled for April and May. It is the busiest spring that Ascension School has experienced. She asked for prayers for the staff during this very busy time.

Ascension will be offering an Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunrise service this year, and in addition to the regular Adult Formation weekend August Megan is also developing an adult contemplative retreat to be held in November.

Caretakers of the Land had sent out a letter requesting funding for a special winter ceremony and the response was immediate and the event was fully funded. They also ended the year with a large surplus which is very encouraging.

Amy will be taking a sabbatical this summer from June 1<sup>st</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup> and is grateful for the amazing staff that is in place that is allowing her to confidently take this time during the camp season.

Jean Coe's service is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> at Ascension School and information will be sent out in Connections with more details.

### Adjournment

Beth announced that the next meeting will be February 25th at 6:00pm on Zoom. The Diocesan Council sent well wishes to Bishop Pat who was not in attendance and was feeling under the weather. Angela expressed hope that with the success of the Ascension School campaign that maybe that enthusiasm could be transferred to the parishes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.