



*Episcopal Diocese of*  
Eastern Oregon

**Diocesan Council**  
**July 29, 2025**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Zoom**

**Present:**

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Bishop

**Class of 2025**

The Rev. Kelly Mahon (SC)

Ellen Nesbitt (SC)

**Class of 2026**

The Rev. Liz Cahill (SC)

The Rev. Roy Green

Barbara Reynolds Mayo (SC)

Beth Spell

Holly Hendricks

**Class of 2027**

The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones (SC)

The Rev. Pam Miller

Cory Bradshaw (SC)

Betty Palmer

Kathy Thew

**Seat and Voice**

Lisa Boquist, Secretary to Council

**Absent**

The Rev. Amy Jayne

Patty Olson-Lindsey, Treasurer

The Rev. Charlotte Wells, Secretary of Convention

**Call to Order**

Beth Spell opened the meeting at 6:04 pm and offered an opening prayer.

**Approval of Minutes: July 12-12, 2025**

**M/S/C**      *Motion to approve the minutes from July 11-12, 2025 (Kathy Thew, Betty Palmer)*

**Convention**

**Schedule**

Bishop Pat reviewed the schedule for Convention. He shared that he would like Diocesan Council and Standing Committee to participate/lead two portions of the event. The first being in the morning where a spokesperson can share what the status of the transitions is and offer time for questions, and the second would be in the afternoon where there will be table groups that will discuss hopes for what is next. The format of the table

groups is not quite developed and +Pat is hoping that when Amy Jayne is back from sabbatical she will help develop that format. There were some fears that the allotted time may not be enough, with several people commenting that they feel like convention attendees will have a lot of questions and will want longer discussions than the time allows for. +Pat felt that there is enough cushion built in to the schedule to allow for changes if needed. Roy suggested that a clear statement be written after convention, that could be shared with the diocese, outlining the discussions that were had so that the entire diocese could be kept informed.

## Elections

Lisa reported that she has still not received enough applications to fill the vacancies on Standing Committee and Diocesan Council and asked members to seek out people that might be willing and able to serve. She also still needs more applicants to serve as General Convention deputies, especially in the Lay category.

- o Diocesan Council – 1 clergy, 2 lay
- o Standing Committee – 1 clergy, 1 lay
- o General Convention Deputation - 4 clergy and 4 lay, as well as an alternate for each group.

The outgoing members are:

Standing Committee: The Rev. Kelly Mahon and Ellen Nesbitt

Diocesan Council: No outgoing members

## Elections

The deadline for resolutions to be submitted is August 15<sup>th</sup> and at this point there have been no submissions. Lisa will send out a reminder to parishes and clergy about this, and will also include a call for candidates.

## Profile Committee Update

Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones reviewed the draft profile that had been developed by the committee formed at the June meeting and had been shared with council members via email prior to the meeting. She asked for comments and suggestions. Lisa wondered about the absence of expected hours (1/2-time, full time, etc.) and if having a 12-month visitation schedule was practical based on part time hours. Elizabeth felt that the presence of a Bishop, especially right after the transition, would be needed and that is the reason behind the 12-month schedule. Council agreed to remove reference to the position of Canon for Diocesan Vitality, as that was created when the group was leaning more towards the Team Episcopate model and an Assisting Bishop. Council directed Kelly Mahon to share the document with Rebecca Wilson from the national church and asked him to bring her feedback back to the group. The document is included at the end of these minutes.

## Standing Committee Report

Kelly reported that Standing Committee had authorized one more extension on the sale of the lot in Klamath Falls, through the end of the year. Should the sale not be finalized by that time Standing Committee will relist the property with a new realtor.

He also shared that Standing Committee is working on an agreement with Blade Security to lease the St. Paul's Church building in Klamath Falls for a nominal fee and a reduction in their security services fees. The company's offices were recently damaged in a fire and this arrangement would allow them to have a space to operate from and also will have the added benefit of having the building occupied, and expenses lowered as they would be responsible for utilities, etc. The agreement is not final and more details are being ironed out. Kelly will report back once that deal is complete.

Kelly also reminded everyone that he will be going off of Standing Committee and new president will be elected at convention in October. He will also be leaving on sabbatical at the same time. Standing Committee will be working on a plan to make that transition as seamless as possible.

## Bishop Retirement Planning

Bishop Pat left the meeting to allow Council to discuss plans around his retirement. Notes on that discussion will be sent separately.

## Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm with Roy Green offering a closing prayer.

## Addendum: Indigenous Ministry Fund Request

The day following the meeting Bishop Pat shared that he had failed to request approval to spend funds from the Indigenous Ministry Fund to pay for the caterer hired to serve meals at the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery's annual meeting being held at St. Paul's in The Dalles on August 1-3, 2025. He requested approval for \$2430.00 to cover the cost of the meals. Diocesan Council voted by email and the request was approved.

*This is a Draft of a communication document that may be sent to potential Bishop Provisional candidates. It aims tell them about the Diocese and what we hope for in the candidate.*

### **BISHOP PROVISIONAL for the EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN OREGON**

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon (EDEO) seeks to partner with a Bishop Provisional. Having reached the age of mandatory retirement and extended his service for two years, our Bishop Diocesan, The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, is retiring in June 2026. As a diocese, now we are called to welcome the Holy Spirit into our discernment process and search for our next bishop.

As so well introduced on the EDEO website, we invite you to catch a glimpse of our context:

Follow the line of the Cascade Mountain range in Oregon north to south, and you have the western boundary of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon. From there, the 69,000-square-mile diocese is bounded by Washington state to the north with a small detour to include Klickitat County, Washington, by Idaho to the east, and Nevada and California to the south.

Rugged and wide open, with mountains and rangeland, high desert and pine forests, fruit orchards and wheat ranches, eastern Oregon lends its own character to the people who live there. The total population of the 18 Oregon counties and one Washington county that compose the diocese is about 552,000. There are more than 2,600 Episcopalians in the diocese's 19 parishes. Diocesan headquarters are located at Ascension School Camp and Conference Center, in Cove, Oregon – the heart of the diocese.

In many ways Eastern Oregon is different from the western side of Oregon, especially in our cultural and socio-political expressions of life. Our parishes are vibrant faith communities worshiping in the Episcopal tradition. Things are going well. Even still, opinions are as diverse among our members as anywhere else in the Episcopal Church. We tend to be independent souls who lean into a self-reliant ethos and the comfort of tradition. An ideal Bishop Provisional would help honor our independent nature, but also encourage us to seek opportunities for collaboration and growth. We seek to maintain the integrity of this Diocese and to continue supporting our mutual ministry, among them Indigenous ministries and "Faithful Innovation." Additionally, Ascension School is a ministry of the Diocese and the central gathering place for leaders and lay people. Its summer camps are legendary. Deeply rooted for generations of families and parishes, camp ministry holds a special place in the Diocese. We hope to continue to breathe new life into

congregations, perhaps bringing fresh eyes and new perspective to longstanding Episcopal programs that may have fallen by the wayside (Education for Ministry, Episcopal Church Women, Stephen's Ministry, etc).

### **EDEO Bishop Provisional At-a-Glance**

**Pastoral Leadership:** Demonstrated leadership in proclaiming and teaching the Gospel; assisting in implementation of strategic and long-term planning for the Diocese; guidance for worship and sacramental life throughout the Diocese; care and guidance for the spiritual health of the Diocesan family.

**Episcopal Visitations:** Visit all churches on an 12-month cycle; perform Baptisms and Confirmations.

**Diocesan Meetings (in coordination with visitation schedule):** Standing Committee; Diocesan Council; Chair of Diocesan Convention; and Collegium.

**Clergy:** Perform Ordinations; attend to Title IV matters; provide robust Pastoral Care for Clergy.

**Liaison to Province and National Church:** Be the conduit to local and provincial institutions; point person for correspondence; larger church representation; House of Bishops and General Convention.

**Working Relationships:** Works in collaboration with the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council, [proposed] Canon for Diocesan Vitality, and the Diocesan Administrator.

If it is true that people support what they help create, we offer ourselves as partners in this holy journey. The Bishop Provisional will find an engaged and dedicated Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and Diocesan staff who want to see this Diocese continue to flourish. Thanks be to God!