



Episcopal Diocese of
Eastern Oregon

Diocesan Council
October 7, 2025
Minutes of the Meeting
Zoom

Present:

Betty Palmer

Kathy Thew

Class of 2025

Ellen Nesbitt (SC)

Class of 2026

The Rev. Liz Cahill (SC)

The Rev. Roy Green

Barbara Reynolds Mayo (SC)

Beth Spell

Holly Hendricks

Officers

Patty Olson-Lindsey, Treasurer

The Rev. Charlotte Wells, Secretary of Convention

Seat and Voice

Lisa Boquist, Secretary to Council

The Rev. Amy Jayne

Class of 2027

The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones (SC)

The Rev. Pam Miller

Cory Bradshaw (SC)

Absent

The Rev. Kelly Mahon

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Bishop

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes: July 29, 2025

M/S/C

Motion to approve the minutes from July 29, 2025 with a correction on page 2. (Cory Bradshaw, Charlotte Wells)

Report on Recent Conversations with Rebecca Wilson from the National Church

Beth reported that she, Liz Cahill, Patty Olson Lindsey, and Lisa Boquist had a discussion with Rebecca Wilson from the national church around the bishop transition.

Beth shared that the Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe and Bishop Pat will be having a conversation about the timing of +Pat's retirement. Rebecca shared that it was the responsibility of the Presiding Bishop to coach the retiring bishop through the retirement process. The process has become confusing due to the date of Pat's retirement being moved several times and the fact that he transitioned from a Diocesan Bishop to an Assisting Bishop. There has been very little discussion among the leadership around the implications of that date and the impact it may have on the diocese. After the discussion happens between +Pat and Presiding Bishop Rowe, Standing Committee will negotiate a new Letter of Agreement with +Pat for his final months in EDEO, they will also negotiate with the incoming Provisional Bishop.

Rebecca is working on a timeline for the upcoming process of electing the provisional bishop. The national church is recommending a shared episcopate model which would mean that EDEO's provisional bishop would already be serving as a bishop in another diocese, preferably one that is geographically close. In a shared bishop model each diocese remains separate entities with a bishop serving both. Rebecca noted that Bishop Akiyama, from the diocese of Western Oregon, has expressed interest in this model, but there are a few other bishops that may also be willing to serve in this way.

2026 Budget Discussion and Approval

Patty reviewed the proposed 2026 EDEO budget. Most numbers were kept the same from 2025 with the addition of staff salary increases.

M/S/C *Motion to approve sending the proposed 2026 EDEO budget to Convention for approval. (Roy Green, Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones)*

Amy reviewed the proposed 2026 Ascension School budget, noting that the loss of federal funds for Outdoor School programs has drastically impacted the Ascension School numbers.

M/S/C *Motion to approve sending the proposed 2026 Ascension budget to Convention for approval. (Barbara Reynolds Mayo, Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones)*

Convention Presentation Discussion

Lisa reviewed that Diocesan Council and Standing Committee are tasked with presenting to Diocesan Convention the state of the diocese with regards to the bishop transition. She shared that she had talked with Beth and Charlotte about the possibility of a panel discussion with questions and answers for and from the audience. Elizabeth suggested that people be assigned different components of the process to report on and that may answer many of the questions out there. Being gathered at Convention is the chance for the leadership to be transparent with diocese. The afternoon session will also include discussions on the future. Everyone agreed to meet at 8:00am on Saturday morning to solidify the presentation plan.

St. James', Milton Freewater

Standing Committee voted on October 3rd to approve the resolution on the closing of St. James' in Milton Freewater and Diocesan Council is also tasked with doing the same in order to have the resolution presented at Convention for consideration.

M/S/C *Motion to adopt the following resolution sent from Standing Committee on the closing of St. James', Milton Freewater to be sent to Diocesan Convention for consideration. (Holly Hendricks, Roy Green)*

Resolution on the Closure of St. James' in Milton Freewater

RESOLVED that this convention affirms the decision of the people of St. James', Milton Freewater, to close the parish, and that the ownership of all personal property held by the former congregation, together with all cash or endowment funds, registers, records and other materials, shall be conveyed to, and become the property of, the Diocese.

*Submitted by: Diocesan Council & Standing Committee,
on behalf of the people of St. James', Milton Freewater*

Explanation:

The faithful remnant of people from St. James', Milton Freewater, have been in conversation with the bishop over the past several months and have made the difficult decision to close the Church.

Whereas the people of St. James', Milton Freewater, can no longer sustain a congregation; and

Whereas the Standing Committee approved this request at their meeting on October 3, 2025, and the entire Diocesan Council voted to approve at their meeting on October 7, 2025 and move the matter to the floor of this Convention for affirmation,

This resolution acknowledges these realities and affirms the good-faith decision of the people of St. James', Milton Freewater, to close their parish.

Adjourn

Charlotte Wells offered the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.