



Episcopal Diocese of
Eastern Oregon

Diocesan Council
January 15, 2026
Zoom
Minutes of the Meeting

Present:

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Bishop

Class of 2026

The Rev. Liz Cahill (SC)

The Rev. Roy Green

Beth Spell

Holly Hendricks

Class of 2027

The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones (SC)

The Rev. Pam Miller

Cory Bradshaw (SC)

Betty Palmer

Kathy Thew

Class of 2028

The Rev. Katy Nesbitt (SC)

The Rev. Marilyn Roth

Julie Reynolds (SC)

Chris Baldwin

Officers

The Rev. Charlotte Wells, Secretary of Convention

Absent

Barbara Reynolds Mayo (SC)

Steve Welbourn

Seat and Voice

David Kosar, CFO

Lisa Boquist, Secretary to Council

The Rev. Amy Jayne, Executive Dir. Ascension

Call to Order and New Member Welcome

Beth Spell called the meeting to order at 12:02pm and offered an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: November 14-15, 2025

M/S/C *Motion to approve the minutes from November 14-15, 2025. (Marilyn Roth, Charlotte Wells)*

Standing Committee Report

Liz Cahill reported that Standing Committee and Bishop Pat had finalized his LOA for 2026 and he will be actively serving through March 31st, 2026 and then will begin his terminal sabbatical which will end at the end of June.

She also reported that they are still waiting on the national church and Rebecca Wilson, the person handling the process there, to provide more than one name for a provisional bishop. Bishop Akiyama is the only name provided but Standing Committee is insisting that they have more than one option. They would like a provisional bishop who will work with the diocese for a year or two and help to discern next steps, rather than focusing on merging dioceses. Liz will continue to talk with Rebecca Wilson and work towards that goal. David Kosar offered to meet with Standing Committee to work on what type of financial package could be put together for a provisional bishop.

The sale for the St. Paul's, Klamath Falls property fell through but there is still a very interested party that is working on finding investors. The vacant property is still in escrow and Standing Committee agreed to another 6-month extension so that the buyer can figure out options for getting water and sewer to the property.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Pat gave a brief update and welcomed David Kosar as the new CFO for EDEO. He reported that he has rescheduled his 2026 visitations to make sure that those who had been on the calendar beyond his new March 31st end date will still receive a final visitation. He had a very helpful and pastoral phone call with Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe. Bishop Pat also promised to send Standing Committee the names of two retired bishops who may be interested in serving as the provisional bishop for EDEO. He asked for prayers for St. James', Milton Freewater who will be holding their final service on January 18, 2026.

Financial Report

Beth welcomed David Kosar, the new Chief Financial Officer for the diocese. David thanked everyone for their support of his new role in the diocese. The following items were voted on as a part of bringing David on to the staff in his new capacity (CFO job description is included at the end of these minutes):

M/S/C *Motion to affirm the Chief Financial Officer job description and the hiring of David Kosar as the new Chief Financial Officer for EDEO, previously voted on and approved via email. (Roy Green, Betty Palmer)*

M/S/C *Motion to add David Kosar, in his capacity as Chief Financial Officer, as a signer on the US Bank checking account ending in 7424. (Roy Green, Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones)*

M/S/C *Motion to add David Kosar, in his capacity as Chief Financial Officer, as a signer on the State Street Global Advisors Asset Management Account through the Episcopal Church Foundation account ending in 4488. (Roy Green, Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones)*

M/S/C *Motion to add David Kosar, in his capacity as Chief Financial Officer, as a signer on the Banner Bank checking account ending in 7316. (Roy Green, Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones)*

David reported that St. Mark's, Hood River had written to Standing Committee and Bishop Pat requesting a reduction in their assessment rate from 22.5% to 18% for 2026. The letter technically should have gone to Diocesan Council, who holds the fiduciary responsibility in this case. There was no documentation showing the need for the reduction. David asked that Diocesan Council postpone any discussion on assessment reductions until he has had more time to study the processes and get a sense of what that type of adjustment would mean for the diocese, noting that if a decision is made to make an exception for one parish it will need to be done for all. He had begun looking at ways to lower assessments when he was slated to become our next treasurer, prior to his move to Illinois, and had helped develop the current property sale distribution policy with that goal in mind. Bishop Pat gave a brief history on how the current assessment rate was determined, stemming from several missionary dioceses who became full fledged dioceses in the 1970's needing to figure out a way to survive without the support of the national church and the advantage of a long history of established endowments and income. David is suggesting a meeting in March to focus on financial issues and we can have a larger discussion around the assessment and other issues. He will contact St. Mark's to let them know that no decision has been made on their request.

Liz Cahill shared that St. James', Milton-Freewater has requested that the Standing Committee consider donating the current church building to Frasier Farmstead Museum, a historical farmstead/museum that highlights the history of the area. They are also asking that the funds that the diocese holds from the sale of the rectory in St. James, about \$170,000, be used to pay for the moving of that building from its current location to the farmstead. The cost of the project could be anywhere from \$30,000 to \$150,000. The fund that is held by the diocese belongs to the diocese because it was the result of the sale of real property. If St. James would have wanted to use those funds to purchase another piece of property, they would have had access to the funds, with the approval of Standing Committee and Diocesan Council, to do so. The purpose of these funds is not for other types of projects and falls under the property fund policy. David also reiterated that the property sale policy was developed for just this type of situation – if St. James' does not use those funds for the purchase of property, then when the parish closes those monies are distributed according to the policy. A copy of the policy is included at the end of these minutes. He further stated that more research and discussion need to happen regarding this request including research into the value of the property, with and without the building, obtain official bids for what they are asking for, and when is it appropriate to deviate for an established policy and how are those exceptions arrived at. He stated that it would be irresponsible to move forward without all this information. There is also the possibility of making a donation to the museum in the name of St. James. Lisa shared that there needs to be funds available to cover expenses once the property becomes the responsibility of the diocese. She also shared that there may be other funds available in the form of grants for historic preservation. David recommended that the discussion continue at a future time and that there isn't a hurry to make this decision.

David let council know that he can be contacted through his EDEO email address, dkosar@edeo.org, and he has committed to working every Tuesday in his CFO capacity. Lisa will also share his cell phone with members of Council so that they can also reach him that way.

Chancellor Discussion

Pam Miller has spoken with a congregant, Karla Wenzel, who is an attorney and had asked for more information on what the role of a Chancellor entails. Bishop Pat agreed to reach out to her and talk to her about what a Chancellor would be called on to do in a diocese.

Bisbee Grant

The Bisbee Grant committee, Marilyn Roth, Betty Palmer, and Kathy Thew, discussed their recommendations for the 2026 Bisbee Grant.

M/S/C

Motion to award the following funds from the 2026 Bisbee Grant fund:

\$1350 to Ascension School for a new Lenten Series.

\$2500 to Caretakers of the Land for a canoe building project.

\$3350 to St. Peter's, La Grande for their work with K House, a college student ministry.

\$2350 to St. Stephen's, Baker City for support of a community center at St. Brigid's in Sumpter.

\$2250 to Church of the Transfiguration in Sisters for an intergenerational community group.

\$1350 to Trinity, Bend for support of the K.I.D.S. program.

\$1850 to St. Paul's, The Dalles for new playground equipment.

\$1217 to St. Paul's, The Dalles for support of programs using the historic chapel.

(Katy Nesbitt, Holly Hendricks)

New Business

Marilyn gave a brief update on her work with St. Andrew's, Burns. She has been working with a representative from the Lutheran Synod and Steve Grasty the Senior Warden of St. Andrew's on determining what the next steps are for the congregation with the impending retirement of their current pastor, Matt Littau. Marilyn will be going to visit the congregation on February 21st for an in-person meeting with the parties involved and will likely meet with them again in March. Lisa noted that funds from the Transition Officer line item should be used to cover the costs of Marilyn's time and expenses for this project.

Beth recommended that everyone log on and view or listen to the prayer vigil that was held for Minnesota in which their current bishop and Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe both spoke eloquently on the situation. Several other members seconded that recommendation from Beth.

Adjournment

Beth asked Roy Green to offer a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.

Action Items

Lisa

- Contact banking institutions with new signer information.
- Send out a potential date for a March financial meeting on Zoom.
- Send St. James', Milton Freewater building move request information to Diocesan Council.
- Send David's contact information to Diocesan Council members.

David Kosar

- Schedule a meeting with Standing Committee to discuss potential salary packages for a provisional bishop.
- Contact St. Mark's, Hood River about their assessment reduction request.

Bishop Pat

- Send Standing Committee names of potential provisional bishop names.
- Arrange to meet with Karla Wenzel to discuss the role of a Chancellor.



Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

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*As followers of Jesus, we are working toward the practice of unconditional love through the values of:
Human Dignity, Creation Care, and Spiritual Formation*

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- Ability to work collaboratively.
- Able to balance pastoral sensitivity with fiscal responsibility.
- Experience with non-profit or church finances.
- Knowledge of fund accounting and endowment management.
- Strong communication skills.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The CFO oversees and manages the financial, accounting, and business operations of the diocese. This includes budgeting, financial reporting, audit compliance, and support for parishes. The CFO works closely with the Bishop, the Diocesan Administrator, Ascension School Executive Director, Diocesan Council, Finance Committee, and other diocesan leadership to ensure transparency, stewardship, and long-term financial health.

- Works with the Diocesan Administrator and Finance Committee on developing and managing the annual diocesan budget.
- Works with the Ascension School Executive Director and the Ascension School Advisory Board on developing and managing the camp's annual budget.
- Works with Diocesan Council on long-term financial planning, including reserves and investments.
- Meets monthly or as needed with the Diocesan Administrator to make decisions related to asset management (cash flow, budget reconciliation, check verification, and bank statement reconciling/review) and prepares reports for the Diocesan Council.
- Presents the proposed budgets for approval at the annual Diocesan Convention.
- Review parish audits and provide support for parishes when questions arise.
- Assist the Diocesan Administrator with annual reports to the national church.
- Coordinates the triennial audit and assists with implementing recommendations.
- Ensures compliance with church canons, diocesan policies, and civil regulations (GAAP Compliance)

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon has a culture of transparency, collaboration, and thinking outside of the box.

- Reports to the Diocesan Council/Standing Committee/Bishop
- Works closely with the Diocesan Administrator
- Works closely with the Executive Director of Ascension School Camp and Conference Center
- Chair of Finance Committee

TRAVEL

- At least 2 in person meeting each year in addition to attendance at Diocesan Convention

STIPEND AND EXPENSES

- A stipend of \$30 per hour
- 8 hours per week for the first 6 months, to be evaluated after that.
- All travel expenses covered for in person meetings including air fare, car rental, lodging, and meals.

EDEO Property Funds Policy

Theological Statement

As The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon and followers of Jesus we are working toward the practice of unconditional love through the values of Human Dignity, Creation Care, and Spiritual Formation. We establish this policy in recognition that all our real property comes from the generosity of those who have gone before us and in the hope that that generosity is reflected in the following allocation of resources from the proceeds of property sales in the Diocese of Eastern Oregon to further the mission of our diocese:

- 50% Diocesan General Endowment Fund
- 30% Development and Emergency Fund
- 15% Indigenous Ministry Fund
- 5% Ascension School Endowment