



# Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

## **Diocesan Council March 19, 2026 4:00pm Zoom**

### **Present:**

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Bishop

### **Class of 2026**

The Rev. Liz Cahill (SC)

The Rev. Roy Green

Beth Spell

Holly Hendricks

Barbara Reynolds Mayo (SC)

### **Class of 2027**

The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones (SC)

The Rev. Pam Miller

Betty Palmer

Kathy Thew

### **Class of 2028**

The Rev. Katy Nesbitt (SC)

The Rev. Marilyn Roth

Julie Reynolds (SC)

Chris Baldwin

Steve Welbourn

### **Officers**

The Rev. Charlotte Wells, Secretary of Convention

### **Absent**

Cory Bradshaw(SC)

### **Seat and Voice**

David Kosar, CFO

Lisa Boquist, Secretary to Council

The Rev. Amy Jayne, Executive Dir. Ascension

## **Call to Order**

Bishop Pat called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. The Rev. Roy Green opened the meeting with prayer and shared a proverb that says “to do the work that is yours to do and to love the world that is yours to love”.

## **Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2026 Action Item**

**M/S/C**

*Motion to approve the minutes from January 8, 2026. (Marilyn Roth, Charlotte Wells)*

## Standing Committee Report -The Rev. Liz Cahill

The Rev. Liz Cahill took a moment to thank Bishop Pat for always being a constant presence in her life and the life of the diocese, and though we will miss him in the diocese, we know that he won't be far away.

### St. Alban's Sign Removal Request

**M/S/C**      *Motion to approve spending \$150.00 from the Diocesan Council budget lline item to remove the sign for St. Alban's from the Redmond shopping center where the congregations was previously meeting. (Roy Green, Charlotte Wells)*

- **Divide and conquer responsibilities**

Liz shared that the Standing Committee has been working on ways to maintain and support the health and well being of the diocese in the absence of a bishop. They have drafted a plan to divide different duties among the members of the committee in order to lighten the load. The following is how the duties will be divided:

**Barbara Reynolds Mayo** will be handling property issues, most prominently Klamath Falls and will be a liaison to the Truth and Conciliation Commission. Liz will be taking the lead on the St. James property.

**The Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley Jones** will be a touch point for active clergy and will be working with The Rev. Kathleen Patton to keep updated on retired clergy.

**The Rev. Katy Nesbitt** will be working with Commission on Ministry and assisting with Diocesan communications.

**Julie Reynolds** will be the liaison to Ascension School Camp and Conference Center.

**The Rev. Liz Cahill** will continue to be in contact with the National Church about the ongoing search for a provisional bishop.

- **Prov bishop search update**

Liz reported that the search committee is meeting regularly, and has been working on an updated profile, under the advice of the Rt. Rev. Jeff Lee who is consulting with them on the process. David asked if the completed profile could be shared with Diocesan Council when it is complete. Betty asked if the National Church has been encouraging the move from a half-time time bishop to something more like a one-third time. Liz said that there has been some discussion around that, as long as many other scenarios, but there has been no decision yet.

- **Chancellor Update**

Jim Foster, a former Chancellor of EDEO who served for many years, has agreed to help out when there is a need during this interim period.

## Financial Report – David Kosar

Beth introduced David Kosar to present his report.

### 2025 Year End and 2026 Adjustments

David reviewed the 2025 year-end numbers for the EDEO operating budget. The assessment income was up in 2025 approximately \$19,000. There are still assessments coming in from 2025 but the decision was made to

close the books and any additional funds that come in will be added to the 2026 budget as prior year income. David will be reviewing parochial reports and comparing that to assessments received and reaching out to parish treasurers to help with any issues or questions they may be having. He reviewed a few other income items and reported that the overall income was up over what was anticipated.

Expenses were slightly up over what was budgeted. David and Lisa are working on tightening up how things are coded to ensure a clearer picture of where expenditures are coming from. With the increase in income the diocese ended the year with a surplus of \$4,629 versus the anticipated deficit of \$3,022.

David went on to share some 2026 budget adjustments/projections. The assessment income was adjusted to reflect the increase that came in this year. The income and expense lines for the CFO position have been added, with the funding for that position coming from the Development and Emergency Fund. He also noted that he believes that the formula that is used to determine how much should be taken from the endowment each year may not have been calculated correctly, and may not be the current best practice that is recommended. He is working on figuring that out and will report more on this at our April meeting. The projected income shows an increase over what was originally budgeted due to the increase in expected assessment income and the transfer of funds for the CFO position.

Several updates were made to the expense portion of the 2026 budget to reflect the shifting expectations around the Episcopate and the expense lines associated with that. With those adjustments the projected deficit for 2026 went from \$66,867 to \$14,059.

### Ascension School – The Rev. Amy Jayne

Amy shared the 2025 year-end numbers for Ascension School. The projected increase in the deficit from the loss of Outdoor School funding was offset by booking several more schools for the program as well as a significant increase in camp registrations and outside rentals. The 2025 deficit came in well under what was anticipated at \$22,620. She also shared that inflation has caused a big increase in the cost of all consumables, and the insurance premium has also increased due to the addition of the new Shop/Archive building as well as the Community Center. Julie asked if those increases would affect the cost of camp. While the cost of camp did go up by \$5.00 on average, the cost of camp is never enough to cover the actual cost of camp so it will continue to be subsidized. Holly asked about the relationship with western Oregon and the upcoming Summer camp season. Amy reported that there has been a concerted effort for many years to bring camper from that diocese to Ascension School and this year she is expecting about 15 campers to attend camp. While that is not a lot, it is still a great start to creating that relationship.

Marilyn asked if Amy is anticipating a large increase in insurance costs once the pool is completed and Amy said there will be an increase, but she is not sure how high yet. The camp is already paying a high liability premium since campers are swimming at the Cove Pool, so the increase will not likely be in the form of liability, but more in the property coverage for the pool and pool house.

### Chapel grant for St. Paul's, The Dalles – Julie Reynolds

Julie reported that the Chapel Committee at St. Paul's is applying for a grant to repair the bell tower at the historic chapel located in The Dalles. Since the property is owned by the diocese she was asking for permission to pursue that grant. Since it is a property matter the issue was referred to Standing Committee for discussion.

### Ascension School Update -The Rev. Amy Jayne

Amy shared that the Lenten series being held each Wednesday in the chapel has been going so well, bringing in a wonderful collection of people from the community. It will end with the annual Easter Sunrise service.

The Ascension Advisory board met last weekend for a retreat and they spent a considerable amount of time reviewing and understanding the budget, and will be meeting in the early summer to start work on the 2027 budget which will include the new costs of having the pool. They also spent time working on a Tree Planting

and Replacement policy and a Waste Reduction and Disposal policy that will come before Diocesan Council in April.

The original pool company that Amy had been working with turned out to be unreliable and so she has brought in a new company that has proven to be significantly more responsive. The engineering plans are almost complete as well as the site plan, pool house plan, and cultural assessment. Once the cultural assessment is complete preliminary excavation can begin. Actual excavation will not start until permits are acquired. The Fire Marshall determined that there needs to be a fire hydrant closer to the facility which will involve replacing pipe along the highway to accommodate a larger water flow. Amy is negotiating with the City of Cove on a cost share for the project but is anticipating an additional \$30,000 cost to the pool budget. This is manageable but it will mean that less will go into the endowment than had been anticipated. The full cost is not yet known, but prices have gone up since the original bid due to tariffs as most pool parts are manufactured in Canada. Amy is anticipating an increase of around \$80,000 over what was projected.

### Convention Planning – Lisa Boquist/The Rev. Marilyn Roth

Lisa shared that the Commission on Ministry (COM) had met the first week of March and during the course of the meeting a discussion around Convention came up. With the absence of a Bishop the planning of the theme for Convention would likely fall to Diocesan Council. COM would like to suggest that the theme be focused around Lay ministry and leadership, and would like to spearhead the details around programming with that theme in mind. Marilyn also spoke on the success of the meeting and shared that there was a lot of energy behind the idea of highlighting the ministry of lay people at Convention. Diocesan Council gave their approval for COM to move forward, and Lisa and Marilyn will report back with more details at the April meeting.

### Update on St. Andrew's, Burns – The Rev. Marilyn Roth

Marilyn provided an update on St. Andrews Burns, where the Lutheran congregation is considering options following the upcoming retirement of Pastor Matt Littau. She reported meeting with the congregation and exploring potential partnerships with the nearby Presbyterian church, which currently lacks a pastor, and discussed the possibility of renting the building to a local Christian church.

### Bishop's Report -The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell

Bishop Pat expressed his gratitude to everyone present shared what a privilege it has been for him to serve as the Bishop for 10 years. He noted that while this may be his final meeting with Diocesan Council he will always be a part of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon and hopes to maintain the friendships and connections he has made during his tenure as Bishop.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.