

**Minutes of the Diocesan Council of
the Diocese of Western Massachusetts**

October 9, 2025

4 p.m. via Zoom

Present

The Rt. Rev. Doug Fisher, President
The Rev. Nathaniel Anderson, Vice President
Holly Dolan
Kim Foster, CFO
Roland Holstead
Kurt Hultgren
Steve Lewis, Trustee Representative
The Rev. Dcn. Pat O'Connell
Mark Rogers, Treasurer
The Rev. Mary Rosendale
The Rev. Michael Tuck
The Rev. Dcn. Beth Washburn
Amanda Watroba
Wende Wheeler, Secretary
The Rev. Steven Wilco, Interim Canon to the Ordinary

Absent

The Rev. Martha Sipe

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00. Gathering time prayer was led by Pat O'Connell.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Recommendations regarding members of the Budget and Financial Planning Committee

This resolution was initially presented at the September meeting. Voting was held until this meeting in order to allow Council members time to thoroughly review the material.

RESOLVED

Effective January 1, 2026

That the composition of the Budget and Financial Planning Committee be composed of the following:

- Treasurer of the Diocese, Chair *ex officio*
- Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese, *ex officio*
- Executive Director of the Trustees, non-voting *ex officio*
- Six additional members

Members appointed by Diocesan Council will serve for three-year terms. Members will be eligible for three additional three-year appointments. Terms are staggered so that two seats will be open each year.

After a lapse of one year, individuals are eligible for reappointment.
If the Assistant Treasurer should also be a member of Diocesan staff, they will have seat and voice, but no vote.

Be it further

RESOLVED

That the Audit Committee be composed of the following:

- Treasurer of the Diocese, Chair *ex officio*
- Two additional members appointed by Diocesan ~~Convention~~ Council

The members of the Budget and Financial Planning Committee nominate these two additional members to the Diocesan Council.

The resolution was moved and seconded as presented.

Brief discussion followed. It was noted that the second portion of the resolution as printed referring to the appointment of the Audit Committee mistakenly reads: *appointed by Diocesan Convention*. An amendment to the resolution was made to change the word *Convention* to *Council* to accurately capture the intent of the authors. The amendment was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

The amended resolution was then passed unanimously.

Recommendations for Internal Control Processes and Procedures

These recommendations were initially presented at the September meeting. During the discussion, questions were raised as to whether the Commonwealth of Massachusetts allows non-profit organizations to take votes by email regarding the disbursement of funds; and, whether the Budget and Financial Planning Committee currently has the authority to authorize spending between \$3K and \$10K. Further discussion and a vote on these recommendations was deferred until the October meeting in order to allow these questions to be addressed.

Mark Rogers reported that while Chancellor Don Allison affirmed that Council has the ability to delegate the authority to approve certain spending, that the necessary votes could *not* be taken by email vote.

Further, Mark reported that Don still had some outstanding questions that he wished to research. Accordingly, this matter is deferred again until the December meeting for action.

2026 Budget presentation

Kim Foster, CFO presented the proposed Diocesan Budget for 2026. The budget forecasts \$2,818,850 in revenue, and \$2,818,308 in expenditures, resulting in a small surplus. Following brief conversation, the motion to approve the budget as presented was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Bishop's Time

The Bishop covered the following updates, among others:

- Expressed his gratitude for all of the work done by his staff, both in matters that are seen by Council and others, as well as countless hours devoted to unseen issues.
- Thanked Mark Rogers for all the work he's done in directing and raising money for Human to Human.

- Noted that we are the diocese that does the most in the area of Creation Care, thanks to the work done by Rachel Field and Margaret Bullit Jonas, which has led to WMA being the “go to” diocese for the wider church.
- Thanked all those who are working on creating the slate of candidates for the episcopal election, and on the transition in general.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wende T. Wheeler, Secretary