



**Diocesan Council Agenda
February 13-14, 2026
Grace Church, Jamestown**

Minutes

Present Friday night: Bishop Brian Thom, Elsie Magnus, Beth Lipp, Tyrrell DeCoteau, Jael Mogga, Robert Hoekstra, Lindsey Dwarf, Jamie Parsley, Bishop-elect Shay Craig, Carmen Goodhouse, Angela Goodhouse, Harvey Henderson, John Floberg, Harvey Henderson, Amy Phillips (Recorder)

Absent Friday night: Leo Wilking, Jason Thoms, Ashley Hubbard, Hal Weidman, Raphael DeCoteau, Peter Akicmeir, Susan Lisok, Rachel Schmidt, Karilee Liberman, Susan Lisok

Present Saturday: Bishop Brian Thom, Elsie Magnus, Beth Lipp, Tyrrell DeCoteau, Jael Mogga, Robert Hoekstra, Lindsey Dwarf, Jamie Parsley, Bishop-elect Shay Craig, Carmen Goodhouse, Angela Goodhouse, John Floberg, Harvey Henderson, Ashley Hubbard, Jason Thoms, Amy Phillips (Recorder)

Guest: Jess Krzewina

Absent Saturday: Leo Wilking, Hal Weidman, Raphael DeCoteau, Peter Akicmeir, Susan Lisok, Rachel Schmidt, Karilee Liberman, Susan Lisok

Red items reference the February Council Packet (pages are in parentheses)

Assignments or action items highlighted in yellow. Motions highlighted in blue.

Friday, February 13, 6:15-8:30pm

- Arrivals, social time, and dinner at Grace (Famous Pizza Provided by Fr. Robert Hoekstra!)
- Member Introductions, Roles of Council and Standing Committee; Group Conversation
- Night prayers and Recess – Chaplain Shay Craig+

Saturday, February 14, 8:15-11:45am

Continental Breakfast provided by Grace Church

I. Opening Devotion -- Chaplain Shay Craig+

II. Land Acknowledgement (p. 4) & Respectful Communication Guidelines (p. 5)

III. Review Action Items from Previous Meeting(s) and New Business Items

Action Items from November meeting

1. *The Finance Committee will review Designated & Donor Restricted Funds for the purpose of clarifying, understanding, and potentially combining some of these funds.* Bishop reported that there has been no action taken so far. **Moved to action items.**
2. *The Standing Committee will take action on the sale of Diocesan Property in Bismarck.* Beth Lipp reported that an offer was accepted and closing is happening 2/24/26.
3. *Action will be taken to request reimbursement from the City of Moorhead for damage to St. John the Divine (based on the city blocking the sewer connection to church).* Bishop reported that there has been no action on this. **Moved to action items.**
4. *The Finance Committee will develop a procedure for congregations to apply for grants through the Real Estate fund.* Bishop reported that there has been no action on this. **Moved to action items.**
5. *The Treasurer will report when the “All Saints, Valley City and St. Peter’s, Williston monies will be making their way from our Savings Account into the Real Estate Fund through DFMS/Trust & Endowment.”* Bishop reported that no action has been taken on this. Phillips reminded the Council of the fiduciary responsibility of the Council and requested that the Finance Committee move these funds as quickly as possible to the Trust & Endowment fund (since interest in a savings account is much less than interest in the T&E fund). **Moved to action items.**
6. *Bishop will discuss with Treasurer the possibility of using Bakken Funds for SC audit of properties and mineral rights.* Tabled to later in this meeting.
7. *SC will create a form that churches will fill out, and submit to SC, related to their properties and needed property repairs.* Jason Thoms reported that no action has been taken on this. **Moved to action items.**
8. *Worship location for St. Peter’s, Williston.* Hubbard reported that no new location has been chosen yet. **Moved to action items.**

New Business – Phillips to request funds for Know your rights trainings.

IV. Business Session

1. **Approval of November 2025 Council Minutes (pgs. 6-12)** – Hoekstra moved to approve the November 2025 DC minutes, Magnus seconded, all approved.
2. **Finance Report (pgs. 13-50)** – Floberg reported and answered questions about the following:
 - a. **2025 Budget & Year-End Finances (pgs. 13-18)**
 - i. Floberg reported a positive balance of \$2303.19 in 2025 budget.
 - ii. Floberg reported no significant discrepancies in budget. He said it was “an unremarkable year”
 - iii. Thoms noticed that Council overspent its budget. Floberg noted that this is rectified in the 2026 budget.
 - iv. Hoekstra requested that the mileage reimbursement as an equity issue be discussed further (volunteer reimbursement rate is 4 times lower than staff reimbursement rate). Floberg explained that the reimbursement difference was voted on for the 2026 budget. Hoekstra moved, Phillips seconded that the Finance Committee look for a more equitable approach to resolving this

issue. Bishop indicated that if the motion is approved, he will direct the Finance Committee to discern how to pay for any additional reimbursement. Motion passed (with 2 dissenting).

b. Designated & Donor Restricted Funds 2025 (pgs. 19-28)

Floberg reported that he is bringing a request today to the Finance Committee that the Donor Restricted fund be its own line item in the T&E fund. Some discussion occurred about the need for the Finance Committee to review all designated and donor restricted funds and how to clarify, eliminate, or merge these funds.

c. 2025 Diocesan Stewardship Share (pgs. 29-30)

Floberg reported that for 2026 the expected level of giving for each congregation's Diocesan Stewardship Share is 15%.

d. 2025 Royalties (pgs. 31-35)

Phillips reminded the Council of a Council action on 11/25—"Motion by Phillips that the Treasurer provide further information related to the location of wells, the accuracy of the amount of royalties, and actual documentation of contracts with oil companies. Lisok seconded, all approved." Phillips noted the spreadsheet in the packet was put together by Phillips and Rice in spring 2025 and that their research on Diocesan mineral rights found that the information on mineral rights that Jess made available in the Diocesan office appears to be old, outdated, and incomplete. They concluded that a mineral rights attorney is needed to do research on well locations, accuracy of royalties, and documentation of contracts. They reported this information to Bishop Thom via email. Phillips also noted that this is another fiduciary responsibility of the Diocesan Council and currently the Council is not exercising adequate stewardship of mineral rights royalties.

Thoms noted that at the September 2025 DC meeting, the Standing Committee announced that it would be taking over the review of Diocesan mineral rights and would "likely" give a report on needed information to the new Bishop by March 15 and to the Diocesan Council this April. Moved to action item.

3. *Supply Clergy Compensation (pgs. 40-41)*

Floberg reviewed the recommended compensation. Floberg made a motion to amend supply priest compensation based on changes in location for services. Tyrrell seconded. All approved.

4. *2026 Adjusted Budget (pgs. 42-48)*. Adjustments will be discussed in the Finance Committee meeting today.

5. *Housing Allowances for Bishop-elect Shay & Fr. John Floberg (pgs. 49-50)*

Hoekstra made a motion to approve the Bishop-elect 's housing allowance. Magnus seconded, all approved.

Tyrrell DeCoteau made a motion to approve the Floberg housing allowance. Thoms seconded, all approved.

6. *Proceeds from sale of house in Bismarck.* Floberg recommended putting proceeds into its own identifiable investment location. No action taken by Council.
7. *Partial Reimbursement for Staff Internet Costs (pg. 51).* Jess noted that these costs would likely come out of office expense or travel. **The Bishop can direct this to happen as a business expense.** No action needed by Council.

V. Old Business

1. 2026 Diocesan Convention in Minot, at the Taube Art Museum
2. Transition & Consecration Committee Update – no update provided

VI. Reports – These can be read in the packet

1. **Bishop-elect (pg. 52)**
2. **Diocesan Missioner (pgs. 53-56)**
3. **Diocesan Administrator (pg. 57)**
4. **United Thank Offering (pgs. 58-61)**
5. Standing Committee
6. **Letter of Agreement with Bishop-Elect (pgs. 62-67)**
7. Bishop's Report
Remaining Visitation: February 15, 2026 at St. John the Divine, Moorhead
John 3:29-30
8. No Reports available for:
 - Convention Planning Committee
 - Creation Care and Reconciliation
 - Commission on Ministry
 - NDCIM
 - ND Episcopal Foundation
 - Congregational Development Committee
 - Personnel Committee
 - Canons Committee
 - Episcopal Relief & Development

VII. New Business

1. Diocesan Delegation to WinterTalk 2026
2. Call for Diocesan Historian – Bishop Thom reported that there are a couple of individuals who might be interested, and proximity to Bismarck might be important.
3. Suicide Prevention Train-the-Trainer UTO Grant Application
4. 2026 Diocesan Council Meetings
 - April 24-25, 2026
 - August 21-22, 2026
 - October 23-24, 2026 – Diocesan Convention in Minot
 - November 20-21, 2026
5. Other New Business

- a. Phillips requested funds to hire immigration attorneys to offer Know Your Rights trainings which could be provided by Episcopal congregations around the state to support at-risk communities. Bishop Thom responded that the Bishop's discretionary fund (currently at \$10,000) can be used for this.
- b. Floberg reported that there will be 3 camps for youth at Camp Gabriel's this summer.

VIII. Action Items

1. The Finance Committee will review Designated & Donor Restricted Funds for the purpose of clarifying, understanding, and potentially combining some of these funds.
2. Action will be taken to request reimbursement from the City of Moorhead for damage to St. John the Divine (based on the city blocking the sewer connection to church).
3. The Finance Committee will develop a procedure for congregations to apply for grants through the Real Estate fund.
4. The Treasurer will report when the "All Saints, Valley City and St. Peter's, Williston monies will be making their way from our Savings Account into the Real Estate Fund through DFMS/Trust & Endowment."
5. Standing Committee will create a form that churches will fill out, and submit to SC, related to their properties and needed property repairs for the purposes of a Standing Committee audit of all church properties.
6. Worship location for St. Peter's, Williston.
7. Adjustments to 2026 budget will be discussed in the Finance Committee and communicated to Council.
8. Finance Committee will look for a more equitable approach to mileage reimbursement issue.
9. Standing Committee will "likely" give a report on mineral rights well location, accuracy of royalties, and status of contracts with oil companies to the new Bishop by March 15 and to the Diocesan Council in April 2026.

IX. Prayers and Adjournment at approximately 11:45am

Lunch & Finance Committee meeting.

Diocesan Council for 2025-2026

Standing Committee (Elected by Diocesan Convention)

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| • The Rev. Dn. Beth Lipp | St. George's, Bismarck | 1st term 2026 |
| • Dr. Jason Thoms | St. George's, Bismarck | 2nd term 2026 |
| • Tyrrell DeCoteau | St. Sylvan's, Dunseith | 1st term 2027 |
| • The Rev. Peter Akicmeir | St. John the Divine, Moorhead | 1st term 2027 |
| • The Rev. Jamie Parsley | St. Stephen's, Fargo | 1st term 2028 |
| • Carmine Goodhouse | St. Luke's, Fort Yates | 1st term 2028 |

East Region: (Elected by Regional Convention Delegates)

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Susan Lisok | St. John the Divine, Moorhead | 1st term 2026 |
| • The Rev. Robert Hoekstra | Grace, Jamestown | 1st term 2026 |
| • Jael Mogga | St. John the Divine, Moorhead | 1st term 2027 |
| • Amy Phillips | St. Stephen's, Fargo | 1st term 2027 |
| • The Rev. Harvey Henderson | St. Paul's, Grand Forks | 1st term 2028 |
| • The Rev. Dn. Elsie Magnus | St. Peter's, Walthalla | 1st term 2028 |

West Region: (Elected by Regional Convention Delegates)

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Raphael DeCoteau | St. Sylvan's, Dunseith | filling unexpired term 2026 |
| • Rachel Schmidt | All Saints, Minot | 1st term 2026 |
| • The Rev. Lindsey Dwarf | St. Luke's, Fort Yates | 1st term 2027 |
| • Karilee Liberman | St. Paul's, White Shield | 1st term 2027 |
| • The Rev. Hal Weidman | St. George's, Bismarck | 1st term 2028 |
| • The Rev. Dn. Angela Goodhouse | St. Luke's, Fort Yates | 1st term 2028 |

Ex Officio: (*with seat, voice, and vote*)

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| • Chancellor: Leo Wilking | St. Stephen's, Fargo |
| • Treasurer: The Rev. John Floberg | Standing Rock |