



**Diocesan Council Agenda
November 21-22, 2025
St. Paul's, Grand Forks**

Minutes

Present Friday night: Elsie Magnus, Hal Weidman, Beth Lipp, Tyrrell DeCoteau, Jael Mogga, Robert Hoekstra, Lindsey Dwarf, Rafael DeCoteau, Karilee Lieberman, Jamie Parsley, Peter Akicmeir, Bishop Brian Thom, Carmen Goodhouse, Angela Goodhouse, Ashley Hubbard, Susan Lisok, Rachel Schmidt, Harvey Henderson, Amy Phillips (Recorder)

Absent Friday night: Leo Wilking, John Floberg, Jason Thoms

Present Saturday: Elsie Magnus, Hal Wediman, Beth Lipp, Jason Thoms, Tyrrell DeCoteau, Jael Mogga, Robert Hoekstra, Lindsey Dwarf, Rafael DeCoteau, Karilee Lieberman, Jamie Parsley, Peter Akicmeir, Bishop Brian Thom, Carmen Goodhouse, Angela Goodhouse, Ashley Hubbard, Susan Lisok, Rachel Schmidt, Harvey Henderson, Amy Phillips (Recorder)

Absent Saturday: Leo Wilking, John Floberg

Red items are included in/referencing the November Council Packet (pages are in parentheses)

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

Friday, November 21st 6:15-

6:15-7:00pm – Arrivals, social time, and dinner at St. Paul's

- I. **Welcome** – Bishop Thom welcomed new members of the Diocesan Council and thanked St. Paul's for hosting the meeting.
- II. **Opening Prayers by Fr. Hal Weidman**
- III. **Review of Land Acknowledgment and Respectful Communication Guidelines (pp. 4 & 5)**
- IV. **Update on Action Items from previous meeting(s)**
 1. *Bishop will ask Jess to be in touch with St. John's senior warden about needed repair of basement water damage and to ask church insurance to pay for basement repair.* Bishop reported that church insurance declined to cover basement water damage (saying that damage had been ongoing). Bishop also reported on shingle damage and that this is being covered by insurance and that a crack in nave wall and column is being appraised.

2. *Tyrrell DeCoteau and Raphael DeCoteau will talk with a St. Sylvan's neighboring property owner about paying the current tax and getting a quitclaim deed completed by October 1. If this cannot happen by October 1, the Diocese will pay the tax (\$811.86) so the church property isn't sold.* Bishop and Tyrrell DeCoteau reported that the issue has been resolved. The eldest son of the property owner took a copy of the deed to the county office so the Diocese is now off the registry.
3. *In relation to the St. Thomas pigeon damage, the Bishop will have Ashley Hubbard follow up with the pest control person and the contractor, and the Bishop and Tyrrell will stay in touch with each other about progress. A report to Council will be provided.* Bishop reported that members of Diocese are addressing this and Tyrrell DeCoteau will report on this later in this meeting.
4. *Raphael DeCoteau will do more research with Rolette County to determine if there are documents related to property titles. Donna Pettit volunteered to go to the Diocesan office to look for property records. A report to Council will be provided.* Bishop reported that this has been resolved.
5. *Bishop Thom will report on his decision on the Priest-in-Charge vacancy at St. Sylvan's by the September DC zoom meeting.* Bishop reported that the Bishop-elect is taking under advisement the posting of this position.
6. *John Floberg and Leo Wilking plan to report back to the Diocesan Council at its November 2025 meeting on the status of their mineral rights title/contract search.* A written report provided by the Treasurer was circulated.
7. *Finance Committee to review Designated & Donor Restricted Funds.* This will be addressed by Finance Committee at some point in the future. Placed on action items list.
8. *Sale of Diocesan Property in Bismarck.* Beth Lipp reported that an appraisal has been done and was received by the Standing Committee on 11-20-25. Lipp reported that appraisal came back at \$430,000. [On Saturday, Lipp reported that this seemed high and that she will talk with the Flobergs about making an offer to the SC.]
9. *Update on St. John the Divine Reimbursements.* Bishop reported that this is related to the sewer issue and potential attempt to get reimbursement from the City of Moorhead. No report available. Placed on action items list.
10. *St. Peter's, Williston – worshipping at Good Shepherd/ELCA?* Beth Lipp reported that this is not happening yet.
11. *Tyrrell DeCoteau will ask Jess if the Property Repair among from page 16 of the Designated Funds document reflect equipment purchase for Dunseith.* Bishop reported that this item is related to the purchase of a lawn mower.
12. *Budget Line 3580 (p. 14 of August 2025 DC packet) – The Bishop will check on what the expense of \$2,381.98 is.* Bishop reported that this was related to expenses for hosting the Diocese of Texas and possibly Canon Missioner expenses.
13. *The Finance Committee will develop a procedure for congregations to apply for grants through the Real Estate fund.* Finance Committee has not yet formally developed this. Placed on action items list.

V. New Business Items

1. *Approval of August 2025 Council Minutes (pp. 6-11) – Motion by Hoekstra to approve August 2025 minutes. Parsley seconded, all approved.*

2. *Approval of September 2025 Council Minutes* – Motion by Lipp to approve September 2025 minutes. Raphael DeCoteau seconded, all approved.

3. *Finance Report*
 - a. *YTD 10/31/2025 (pp. 13-18)* -- Motion by Lipp to receive budget to date as presented. Hoekstra seconded, all approved. Treasurer will be asked to 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.”
 - b. *Reimbursement rate for volunteers* – Motion by Hoekstra to table this report until the Treasurer is present at a meeting. Magnus seconded, all approved.
 - c. *Bakken Fund – proposal to change the use of these funds to correspond to the 2026 Diocesan Budget passed at Convention* – Motion by Lipp that the Bakken Fund can now be used for general diocesan budget purposes. Raphael DeCoteau seconded, all approved, with one abstention (Amy).
 - d. *Portion of clergy compensation from White shield and Dunseith proposed to be used to pay for new bishop salary for 2 weeks (she’s starting two weeks earlier)* -- Motion by Magnus for this happen. Akicmeir seconded, all approved.
 - e. *Oil royalties* – Council reviewed list of oil companies provided by the Treasurer. 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.

4. *Bishop’s calendar* – Council reviewed the Bishop Thom’s calendar (immediately below). Bishop-elect Craig will also meet with DC February 13-14 in Jamestown.
 Remaining Visitation Calendar:
 - November 19-23, 2025 – Diocesan Council & St. Paul’s, Grand Forks
 - December 10-14, 2025 – All Saints, Minot
 - February 4-8, 2026 – St. George’s, Bismarck
 - February 13-17, 2026 – St. John the Divine, Moorhead
 - March 11-14, 2026 – Consecration

5. *Location of 2026 Diocesan Convention* – It was confirmed that the 2026 convention will take place in Minot.

Closing prayers by Fr. Hal Weidman

Saturday, November 22nd 9:00—12:00 noon

Breakfast at hotel; Standing Committee meeting at St. Paul’s, Grand Forks

I. Morning Devotions – Fr. Hal Weidman

II. Reports

1. *Diocesan Missioner (pp. 31-32)* – Ashley Hubbard announced her book discussion group (“Canoeing the Mountain”). There is a reading schedule in the Council packet and everyone is invited to join. She announced a May 16 field trip to the Lewis and Clark interpretive Center and to Mary Johnson’s farm for lunch. She also invited the Council to

Lectio, Tuesdays at 12:00 (focused on the scripture for the coming Sunday). She also gave updates on additional activities in which she is engaged. Bishop noted that within 3 weeks Ashley will have completed her first year in the Diocese! Bishop hopes to make her a candidate for the priesthood today (then there will be a 12-month period before ordination).

2. *Diocesan Administrator (p. 33)* -- In the packet for review.
3. *Creation Care & Reconciliation (p. 34)* – In the packet for review.
4. *Commission on Ministry (p. 35)* – Harvey Henderson verbally reviewed the report that was passed out last night.
5. *United Thank Offering (p. 36)* – In the packet for review.
6. *North Dakota Council on Indian Ministry – NDCIM (pp. 37-38)* -- Tyrrell DeCoteau announced that he had been elected chair of NDCIM. He reported on property issues/work at the following churches (he provided photos of the work at each location):
 - a. *St. Paul's White Shield* – Significant unnecessary work by a contractor was done and this person did not repair the original damage or the damage done by the contractor. Tyrrell reported on extensive repair work being facilitated by himself/NDCIM. Previously acquired funds for a geothermal system are being used to finish structural work on the church. It is hoped that a service in the building will take place by Christmas.
 - b. *St. Thomas* – Tyrrell reported on significant work at the church building to mitigate the pigeon problem. NDCIM funds are being used for building repair. The congregation is currently holding service in the church hall next door to the church.
 - c. *St. Sylvan's* – Tyrrell reported on repair work at Rising Sun Hall (Tyrrell gave a brief history of Rising Sun, an important historical figure who used his treaty money to build a school and church at Turtle Mountain in the 1880s – the first Episcopal Church in North Dakota). The plan includes putting a shower in the Hall for supply priests or others coming from a long distance.
 - d. *Standing Rock churches* – Tyrrell is in touch with Fr. John Floberg about any needed work at these churches. Putting in a laundromat in a proposed Selfridge building has been suggested by Standing Rock Church of the Cross members.
 - e. *NDCIM's Triennial (Sustainability) Grant (p. 30)* – After an NDCIM meeting in November, the projects on packet page 30 were proposed. **Motion by Lipp to accept NDCIM spending report. Hoekstra seconded, all approved.** Bishop suggested the remaining \$32,000 be used for per diem for work crews traveling to work sites. Tyrrell reported that United Tribes may be willing to provide support for church projects. Phillips asked that if there is an opportunity for Diocesan members to help with work, that a call for a work crew be put out.
7. *Standing Committee* – Jason Thoms reported on several items:
 - a. A list of properties and mineral rights and documentation of the “health” of all these assets will be presented to bishop-elect. SC will be working with church insurance group to get some of this information. The goal is to be clear on the deeds to all properties and mineral rights. **Thoms asked that all information related to Diocesan properties be directed to the Standing Committee.** Raphael DeCoteau suggested that the senior warden at each church submit a list of the properties that churches own. **Thoms said that SC will create a form that churches will fill out related to their properties and needed property repairs.** Thoms recommends that a portion of the Bakken Fund, \$20,000, be used to fund this effort. He also recommended that every

5 years or so we do a review of properties. Bishop noted that currently there are no additional funds available in the budget, but he will talk with the Treasurer about this.

- b. *Transition Committee* – Several subcommittees have been formed: a) Consecration subcommittee comprised of Jamie Parsley, Jason Thoms, and John Baird. If anyone would like to be on this subcommittee, let a subcommittee member know; b) vestment committee (Parley and Thoms) which will engage in a \$10,000 fundraising campaign to purchase the bishop-elect’s vestments and possible crozier; c) a relocation committee will be formed. The bishop-elect is currently planning to live in Minot, have an office at All Saints Minot, and be involved in the life of all congregations across the state.
 - c. *Letter of Agreement with bishop-elect* – John Floberg, Leo Wilking, and Sean Burt have been working on a Letter of Agreement between the Standing Committee and the bishop-elect. This letter needs to be approved by the Standing Committee, the bishop-elect, and the Presiding Bishop’s office. The list of priorities for her work comes from the Diocesan Profile. The Letter also contains a Mutual Ministry Review. Some salary negotiation will take place. Motion by Magnus to accept potential change in salary line, with surplus going to travel. Weidman seconded, all approved.
 - d. SC officers – Jason was reelected chair, Beth Lipp re-elected as secretary.
8. *Appointments to Finance Committee* – The Bishop announced the appointment of Harvey Henderson, Hal Weidman, Beth Lipp, Jael Mogga, Corry Kenner, Elaine McLaughlin, and Chad Schmidt.

III. New Business

1. *Rectory Fire at St. John’s Dickinson* – The rectory has been rented to a tenant and 3 weeks ago there was a fire in the church. The fire department arrived, put out the fire, and cut a hole in the roof. Mary Massad is working with Church Insurance to get repairs covered.
2. *Join Diocese of South Dakota in Wounded Knee Resolution (pgs. 39-44)* – Motion by Weidman to support SD Resolution, with a separate ND Diocesan statement to be issued at some point. Second by Magnus, all approved.
3. *2026 Diocesan Council proposed dates (pg. 45)* – In the packet for review.
4. *Diocesan Council Contact Information (pg. 46)* – In the packet for review.
5. *Diocesan office art* – Bishop showed a plate of a previous church and a painting of a Haitian Madonna, both of which are in the Diocesan office. A parish in Wisconsin that deals with Haitian art is interested in the piece and it will go to them.

IV. Action Items review

1. The Finance Committee will review Designated & Donor Restricted Funds for the purpose of clarifying, understanding, and potentially combining some of these funds.
2. The Standing Committee will take action on the sale of Diocesan Property in Bismarck.
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).
4. The Finance Committee will develop a procedure for congregations to apply for grants through the Real Estate fund.
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.”

6. Bishop will discuss with Treasurer the possibility of using Bakken Funds for SC audit of properties and mineral rights.
7. SC will create a form that churches will fill out, and submit to SC, related to their properties and needed property repairs.

Prayers and Adjournment for Lunch

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 |

Calendar Dates

Diocesan Council	November 21-22, 2025 St. Paul's, Grand Forks
Bishop Consecration	March 14, 2026
House of Bishops Mtg	March 17-24, 2026 Texas
Province VI Gathering	August 2026