121st Convention of the Episcopal Church in Utah
Report of the Diocesan Council

Members

Council Executive Committee

Bishop Phyllis Spiegel - President, Don Wood - Vice President, Deacon Ranee Hollinger - Secretary, Kathy Paulin

Regional Representatives

Eastern/Southeastern Region - Kathy Paulin
Northern Region - Diane Behl
Salt Lake Region - Don Wood, Open (Was Joseph Frank)
Southern Region - Open (Was Sandra Corp, Esq.)

At Large Lay Members

Clifford Gravett, Marlin Haws

Clergy Members

The Reverend Gabriel Atem, The Reverend Deacon Anita Miner, The Reverend Kathalin Walker, The Reverend Deacon Ranee Hollinger

Ex Officio Members

CFO - Bill Potts, Treasurer - Melissa Wank, Parliamentarian to Council - Brandon Burningham, Esq.

Administrative Support

Angie Rogers

Changes in Membership as of this Convention

Leaving Council: Don Wood, Sandra Corp, The Reverend Kathalin Walker, Clifford Gravett, Esq., Marlin Haws

Mandate

The Council shall develop, adopt, and monitor the annual budget of the Diocese, advise the Bishop on financial issues, oversee Diocesan programs, engage with the Bishop in strategic planning, develop and periodically adjust Clergy compensation guidelines, and perform such other work as may be committed to it by the Bishop.

2026 Goals

- Approve the 2026 Diocesan Budget.
- Fund all of our Diocesan Missions and Ministries.
- Add the following new positions to the Diocesan staff: Executive Director of ERCC/Camp Tuttle, Camp Director, Assistant Camp Director, Facilities Manager, Communications Executive Director, Advisor (Consultant to the Bishop).
- Implement the cost sharing approach for medical insurance in the Mission Churches in the Diocese.
- Fund our Mission Churches through our Grant Process.

- Begin using the Diocesan Council Handbook developed last year.
- Review our Alcohol Policy and implement it throughout the Diocese
- Revise our Assessment Formula and prepare a resolution for the 2026 Convention

2027 Plans

- Training and orientation of the new members of Council because of the large turnover in 2026.
- Look for additional streams of income.
- Correcting the Assessment Formula (will be voted on at the 2026 Diocesan Convention.
- Ensure that we a competitive salary structure for our Clergy and Diocesan staff.
- In conjunction with the work the Trustees are doing and the work the Council has done to control expenses, we hope to have the loan against the trust payed down to zero during 2027.
- Explore the possibility of combining the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council. This exploration activity is defined in resolution 5 to be presented at the 2026 Convention.
- Review and revise, if necessary, an additional five policies.

Analysis of Actions (Because Convention is held later in the year than our previous Conventions, many of our 2026 goals are either complete or underway)

- A budget was approved for 2026 that funds our Missions and Ministries, and performance to budget is tracked monthly at our Council meetings.
- We hired all of the new positions for the Diocesan staff that were identified in our goals for 2026.
- The medical insurance cost-sharing program has been rolled out to the Mission Churches.
- The Grants Evaluation Committee has been selected and is working with the Mission Churches as they develop their grant requests
- We have been using our Diocesan Council Handbook as defined in our 2026 goals.
- We revised our Alcohol Policy and implemented it through the Diocese.
- We have prepared a resolution to revise the Assessment Formula and are prepared to present it to the 2026 Diocesan Convention.

Findings and Conclusions

The work of the Council has been and will continue to be focused on having financial stability for the Diocese. We believe we have made good progress toward this.
Because half of the Council will be new members in 2027, we will need to spend considerable time training and mentoring them

Recommendations

- Continue to meet annually or even more frequently with the Guiding Councils of the Episcopal Church in Utah.
- Aggressively move forward with the actions described in this report and solicit the support of the entire diocese to make them happen

How does the Diocesan Council's work fit into the mission strategy of the diocese?

The Council is the group that operationally funds and drives the mission of the Diocese of Utah. It is our job to ensure we have sufficient resources to continually move the mission forward year after year.