

2024



**JOURNAL
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN KANSAS
OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

JOURNAL
of the
DIOCESE OF WESTERN KANSAS
of the
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Journal of the Fifty Fourth Annual Diocesan Convention
Liberal, KS. October 18-19, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>DIRECTORIES AND COMMITTEES</u>	Page
DIOCESAN GENERAL DIRECTORY	1
2025 PAROCHIAL DIRECTORY (Congregations)	2
CLERICAL DIRECTORY:	
Bishop	5
Parochial Clergy	5
Retired Clergy–Living in the Diocese	7
Canonically Attached – Live Elsewhere	7
Former Bishops	8
2025 DIOCESAN COMMITTEES:	
Trustees for the Diocese of Western Kansas	9
Disciplinary Board	10
Commission on Ministry	10
Diocesan Positions	11
Business & Finance	11
Trustees of the Diocesan Endowment	11
Delegates to the 54th Annual Convention	12
2024 Convention Committees	13
Dispatch of Business	14
Necrology List	17
Minutes of the 2024 Diocesan Convention	18
Sheaf Reports	29
FINANCIAL REPORTS, BUDGET, AND STATISTICS	
2024 Comments on Financials	30
2024 Year to Date Budget Profit and Loss	31
2025 Proposed Budget	33
2023 Endowment Financials	35
2024 Official Acts of the Bishop	37

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN KANSAS

THE DIOCESAN OFFICE

1 North Main, Suite 411
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501
Telephone: 620-669-0006

THE BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Cowell
Consecrated December 1, 2018
m_a_cowell@yahoo.com

THE ASSISTING BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Michael P. Milliken
Consecrated February 19, 2011
BishopMilliken@gmail.com

CANON TO THE ORDINARY

The Rev. Canon Cameron Randle
crandle777@yahoo.com

DIOCESAN TREASURER

Mr. Mitch Hixson
mitchhixson1@gmail.com

SECRETARY OF CONVENTION

Mrs. Toni Cottrell
tec.wks2011@gmail.com

ASSISTING SECRETARY TO CONVENTION

Mrs. Chris Higdon
chigdondiowks@outlook.com

CHANCELLOR

Mr. Mark Kliewer
marc.kliewer@skylandgrain.com

DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR

Toni L. Cottrell
tec.wks2011@gmail.com

2025 PAROCHIAL DIRECTORY

(Figure shown in parenthesis indicates number of communicants in good standing as of December 31, 2024.) * = less than 50 ** = less than 100

1 = 100+ 2 = 200+ 3 = 300+ 4 = 400+

CONGREGATIONS

COLBY	Ascension-on-the-Prairie (*)	785-462-7198
Location:	1170 Wheatridge Rd., Colby 67701	
Mailing:	1170 Wheatridge, Colby 67701	
Vicar:	The Rev. Donald Martin, 1715 W. 5 th , Colby 67701	Email: donaldmartin04@yahoo.com
Warden:	Mr. J. Steven Molstad, 915 East 6 th , Colby 67701	
Treasurer:	Mr. Abe Johns, 506 S. Hudson Ave., Colby 67701	
DODGE CITY	St. Cornelius (1)	620-227-6975
Location:	200 West Spruce, Dodge City 67801	
Mailing:	P.O. Box 1414, Dodge City 67801	Email: stcorneliusdodgecity@gmail.com
Rector:	VACANT	
Warden:	Mr. Andy Treder, 2200 Thompson Ave., Dodge City, 67801	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Lori Bone, 1911 Country Club, Dodge City, 67801	
GARDEN CITY	St. Thomas (*)	620-276-3173
Location:	712 N. Main, Garden City 67846	Fax: 620-276-9181
Mailing:	712 N. Main, Garden City 67846	Email: stthomasgc2018@gmail.com
Vicar:	The Rev. Cameron Randle, 710 N Main St. Garden City 67846	
Warden:	Mrs. Margie Prewitt, 1022 N. 5th Garden City, 67846	
Treasurer:	Diocese	
GOODLAND	St. Paul's (*)	785-462-7198
Location:	13 th & Center, Goodland 67735	
Mailing:	P.O. Box 452, Goodland 67735	Email: donaldmartin04@yahoo.com
Priest	The Rev. Donald Martin, 1715 W. 5 th , Colby 67701	
In Charge:		
Deacon:	The Rev. Scott Mentzer, 916 E 7 th , Goodland 67735	
Deacon:	The Rev. Pat Schiefen, 3223 E. 10 th , Goodland 67735	
Warden:	Mrs. Deborah Mentzer, 916 East 7th Goodland 67735	
Treasurer:	Ms. Gennifer House, 1010 W 10 th St., Goodland, KS. 67735	
GREAT BEND	St. John's (*)	620-639-1879
Location:	2107 Tyler St, Great Bend 67530	Email: teresalahar@gmail.com
Mailing:	2107 Tyler St., Great Bend 67530	
Vicar:	The Rev. Teresa Lahar	
Warden:	Mrs. Karen-Kline Martin, 108 W. 4 th , Ellinwood 67526	
Treasurer:	Mr. Mark Mingenback, 6020 Broadway Great Bend, 67530	
HAYS	St. Michael's (*)	
Location:	2900 Canal Blvd., Hays 67601	
Mailing:	P.O. Box 1352, Hays 67601-1352	Email: StMichaelshayskansas@gmail.com
Vicar:	The Rev. Benjamin Houchen, 3710 Summer Ln, Hays 67601	
Warden:	Dr./Mrs. Perry and Ashley Harrison, 102 W 25 th St., Hays, 67601	
Treasurer:	Mr. Richard Dinkel, 202 Northridge Dr., Hays 67601	

HAYS (Rural)	St. Andrew's (*)	
Location:	2422 Hyacinth Ave., Hays 67601	
Mailing:	P.O. Box 247, Hays 67601	Email: StMichaelshayskansas@gmail.com
Vicar:	The Rev. Benjamin Houchen, 3710 Summer Ln, Hays 67601	
Warden:	Mr. Dennis Johnson, P.O. Box 1423, Hays 67601	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Gwen Johnson, PO Box 1423, Hays 67601	
HUTCHINSON	Grace (4)	620-662-8024
Location:	2 Hyde Park Dr., Hutchinson 67502	Fax: 620-662-2930
Mailing:	2 Hyde Park Dr., Hutchinson 67502	Email: grace.hutch@sbcglobal.net
Rector:	The Rev. Dr. J. Ted Blakley, 200 E. 19 th , Hutchinson 67502	
Priest:	The Rev. Larry K. Steadman, 401 Kisiwa Village, Hutchinson 67502	
Asst. Priest:	The Rev. Amy Long, 73 Eastwood, Hutchison 67502	
Asst. Priest:	The Rev. Bill Waln, 4802 E. 28 th , Hutchinson 67502	
Deacon:	The Rev. Todd Ray, 610 E. 41 st , Hutchinson 67502	
Deacon:	The Rev. Shane Schneider, 610 S. Clark, Lyons, KS 67554	
Warden:	Mr. Jan Steen, 14413 Hodge Rd., Arlington, KS. 67514	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Toni Cottrell, 1007 Old Farm Estates. Hutchinson 67502	
KINGMAN	Christ Church (*)	620-532-2488
Location:	332 N Spruce, Kingman 67068	
Mailing:	P.O. Box 323 Kingman 67068	Email: kerschen212@gmail.com
Vicar:	The Rev. Charles "Tom" Kerschen	
Warden:	Mrs. Gayle Dye, P.O. Box 107, Kingman 67068	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Clara Martin, 501 W. F, Kingman 67068	
KINSLEY	Holy Nativity (*)	620-285-9601
Location:	8 th & Niles Streets, Kinsley 67547	
Mailing:	P.O. Box 233, Kinsley 675 47	
Vicar:	The Rev. Mark Cowell, 501 W. 5 th , Larned 67550	
Warden:	Mr. Bill Roenbaugh, 2949 S. Rd., Haviland 67509	
Treasurer:	Diocese	
LAKIN	Church of the Upper Room (*)	620-355-6077
Location:	406 W. Kingman, Lakin 67860	
Mailing:	P.O. Box 634, Lakin 67860	Email: stockton.rita@yahoo.com
Vicar:	The Rev. Rita Stockton, P.O. Box 634, Lakin 67860	
Warden:	Mr. Robert Price, 1723 Rd W2, Deerfield 67838	
Treasurer:	Ms. Nikki Smith, P.O. Box 924, Lakin 67860	
LARNED	Sts. Mary & Martha of Bethany (*)	620-285-9601
Location:	803 Main Street, Larned 67550	
Mailing:	P.O. Box 333, Larned 67550	Email: m_a_cowell@yahoo.com
Vicar:	The Rev. Mark Cowell, 501 W. 5 th Street, Larned 67750	
Warden:	Ms. Jennifer Mick, 1211 River Rd., Larned, 67550	
Treasurer:	Ms. Rita Kurtz, 701 Fareway Dr., Larned 67550	
LIBERAL	St. Andrew's (*)	620-624-3944
Location:	521 N. Sherman, Liberal 67901	Fax: 620-624-2012
Mailing:	P.O. Box 250, Liberal 67901-0250	Email: standrews-liberal@sbcglobal.net
Vicar:	The Rev. Jeff Mitchell, 810 Arrowhead Lane, Liberal, KS 67901	
Warden:	Mr. Fred Miller 2170 Dahlia Ln., Liberal 67901	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Jacki Mitchell, 810 Arrowhead Lane, Liberal 67901	

LYONS	St. Mark's (*)	620-257-595
Location:	524 East Avenue South, Lyons 67554	
Mailing:	524 East Avenue South, Lyons 67554	Email: bviel@cox.net
Vicar:	The Rev. Brian Viel, 800 West 32 nd Ave., Hutchinson 67502	
Deacon:	The Rev. Joe Withrow, 210 S. Kent #4, Nickerson, 67561	
Warden:	Susan Barker, 1045 12 th Rd., Lyons, KS 67554	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Jean Swisher, 321 S. Clark, Lyons, KS 67554	
MCPHERSON	St. Anne's	
Location:	105 W Sutherland, McPherson 67460	
Mailing:	P.O. Box 577, McPherson 67460	Email: stannesmcperson@gmail.com
Vicar:	Supply Clergy	
Warden:	Mr. Tom Frankenfield, 1201 Turkey Creek Dr., McPherson, 67460	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Kristi Fowler, 961 18 th Ave., McPherson, KS 67460	
MEDICINE LODGE	St. Mark's (*)	620-886-5131
Location:	204 N Walnut, Medicine Lodge 67104	
Mailing:	6316 W 53 rd St, Mission, KS 66202	
Vicar:	The Rev. Karen Lemon, 20081 SW 20 th Ave., Pratt 67124	
Warden:	Mrs. Ann Bell, P.O. Box 208, Medicine Lodge, KS 67104	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Cathy Small, 6316 W. 53 rd St., Mission 66202	
NORTON	Trinity (*)	785-871-0665
Location:	319 N. State Street, Norton 67654	
Mailing:	319 N. State Street, Norton 67654	
Priest		
In Charge:	Supply Clergy	
Warden:	Mrs. Georgia Briery, 601 Johnston Rd., Norton, 67654	
Treasurer:	Mr. Steve Horney, 514 N. First, Norton 67654	
PRATT	All Saints (*)	620-672-2308
Location:	218 N. Main, Pratt	
Mailing:	218 N. Main, Pratt 67124	Email: vicar_karen@yahoo.com
Vicar:	The Rev. Karen Lemon, 20081 SW 20 th Ave., Pratt 67124	
Deacon:	The Rev. Sandra Herder, 511 Ridgeway Ave, Pratt 67124	
Warden:	Mr. Robert Bitter, 501 Ridgeway, Pratt 67124	
Treasurer:	Ms. Debra Lemon, 20081 SW 20 th Ave., Pratt 67124	
RUSSELL SPRINGS	St. Francis (*)	785-751-4278
Location:	Off Hwy 25 East of courthouse, Russell Springs	
Mailing:	1509 County Rd. 220, Russell Springs 67764	
Vicar:	The Rev. Donald Martin, 1715 W 5 th , Colby 67701	
Warden:	Mr. Jason Lamb, 1509 County Rd. 220, Russell Springs 67764	
Treasurer:	Mrs. Molly Kay Lamb, 1509 County Rd. 220, Russell Springs 67764	
SALINA	Christ Cathedral (1)	785-827-4440
Location:	138 S. 8 th , Salina 67401	Fax: 785-825-0974
Mailing:	138 S. 8 th , Salina 67401	Email: christcathedral@christcathedralsalina.org
Dean:	The Very Rev. Shay Craig, P.O. Box 215, Assaria, 67416	
Associate Priest:	The Rev. Basil Price, 2601 E Crawford St. #220, Salina 67401	
Warden:	Mr. Steve Hoffman, 906 Merrily Dr., Salina 67401	
Treasurer:	Mr. John Ryberg, 824 Highland, Salina 67401	

SCOTT CITY **St. Luke's** (*) 620-872-3666
 Location: 303 Epperson Dr., Scott City 67871
 Mailing: 303 Epperson Dr., Scott City 67871 Email: donaldmartin04@yahoo.com
 Vicar: The Rev. Donald Martin, 1715 W. 5th, Colby 67701
 Warden: Mr. Bill Lewis, 1205 Russell, Scott City 67871
 Treasurer: Mr. Rick Brittan, 1204 S. Antelope, Scott City, KS 67871

CLERICAL DIRECTORY

The Reverend Clergy of the Diocese of Western Kansas in alphabetical order.

BISHOP

The Rev. Mark Cowell (Julie) 620-669-0006
 1 North Main, Suite 411, Hutchinson, KS 67501 CELL: 620-285-9601
 Res: 501 W. 5th St., Larned, KS 67550 E-Mail: m_a_cowell@yahoo.com

ASSISTING BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Michael P. Milliken (Kathleen) 620-665-7386
 Res: 514 E 24th, Hutchinson, KS 67502 CELL: 620-694-6037
 E-Mail: BishopMilliken@gmail.com

PAROCHIAL CLERGY

The Rev. Eric Anderson-----816-509-8629
 Res: 1108 N. Kuney
 Abilene, KS. 67410
 E-Mail: cayusee35@gmail.com

The Rev. Carolyn T. Ballinger-----620-388-2753
 Res: P O Box 502, Bluff, UT 84512
 Email: adventuresofpioneerwoman@gmail.com

The Rev. Dr. J. Ted Blakley (Rebekah)-----620-314-7520
 Res : 1101 Prairie, Hutchinson 67501
 E-Mail : frted.grace@gmail.com

The Rev. Canon Shay Craig (John) -----785-376-2000
 Res: P.O. Box 215, Assaria, 67416
 E-Mail: dean@christcathedralsalina.org

The Rev. Sandra Herder (Deacon) -----316-303-2521
 511 Ridgeway Ave, Pratt 67124
 E-Mail: Sandra.herder@gmail.com

The Rev. Ben Houchen (Nikki)-----785-235-8878
 3710 Summer Lane, Hays 67601
benhouchen@gmail.com

The Rev. Charles T. Kerschen (Karen) -----620-899-9183
 Res: 212 N. Henderson, Cunningham, 67035
 E-Mail: kerschen212@gmail.com

The Rev. Teresa Lahar (Raymond)-----620-639-1879
 Res:302 NE 40 Avenue, Great Bend, 67530
 E-Mail: teresalahar@gmail.com

The Rev. Karen D. Lemon (John) -----620-388-0693
 Res: 20081 SW 20th Avenue, Pratt, 67124
 E-Mail: vicar_karen@yahoo.com

The Rev. Amy Long (Brandon)-----620-960-0716
 Res:73 Eastwood, Hutchinson, 67502
 E-Mail: amylaurellong@gmail.com

The Rev. Donald G. Martin (Evelyn) -----785-462-3041
 Res: 1715 W. 5th, Colby, 67701
 E-mail: donaldmartin04@yahoo.com

The Rev. Scott Mentzer (Deacon) (Deborah)-----785-899-4682
 Res: 916 E. 7th St., Goodland, 67735
 E-Mail: smentzer@st-tel.net

The Rev. Jeff Mitchell (Jacki)-----620-629-7750
 Res: 810 Arrowhead, Liberal, KS 67901
 E-Mail: jjmitch492@yahoo.com

The Rev. Cameron Randle-----626-390-1700
 Res: 710 N Main St., Garden City 67846
crandle777@yahoo.com

The Rev. Todd Ray (Deacon) (Susie)-----620-899-3134
 Res: 610 E. 41st, Hutchinson, 67502
 E-Mail: tsray@sbcglobal.net

The Rev. Pat Schiefen (Deacon)-----785-821-5020
 Res: 323 E. 10th, Goodland, 67735
 E-mail: paschiefen@gmail.com

The Rev. Shane Schneider (Deacon) (Teri)-----620-728-3245
 610 S. Clark Ave., Lyons, 67735
 E-Mail: schneid6628@gmail.com

The Rev. Christine "Chris" Seaton (Rev. Robert) -----612-816-2521
 Res: 2350 Hillside Dr., Salina 67401
 E-Mail: christine.seaton76@gmail.com

The Rev. Rita G. Stockton ----- 620-355-6077
 Res: P.O. Box 634, Lakin, 67860
 E-Mail: stockton.rita@yahoo.com

The Rev. Brian J. Viel (Mary) -----620-259-6794
 Res: 800 West 32nd Avenue, Hutchinson, 67502
 E-Mail: bviel@cox.net

The Rev. William (Bill) Waln (Michelle)-----620-669-1407
 Res: 4802 E. 28th, Hutchinson, 67502
 E-Mail: frbillwaln@gmail.com

The Rev. Joe A. Withrow (Deacon) -----620-422-3242
 Res: 210 S. Kent #4, Nickerson, 67561
 E-Mail: Joe67561@cox.net

RETIRED CLERGY – LIVING IN THE DIOCESE

The Rev. Larry Carver (Joyce) -----620-532-4545
 Res: 18 East 28th St., Hutchinson 67502
 Email: larrycarver44@gmail.com

The Rev. Robert P. Layne -----620-241-1494
 Res: 1017 Darlow Drive, #304, McPherson 67460
 E-Mail: fatherbob1933@gmail.com

The Rev. Basil Price -----785-827-9649
 Res: 2601 E Crawford St. #220, Salina, 67401
 E-Mail: bhprice2@cox.net

The Rev. John Seatvet (Jeanette)-----620-408-8981
 Res: 2505 Thompson
 Dodge City, KS 67801
 E-Mail: jkseatvet@gmail.com

The Rev. Larry K. Steadman (Diane) -----620-664-5141
 Res: 401 Kisiwa Village Rd., Hutchinson 67502
 E-Mail: ldsteadman123@gmail.com

RETIRED and/or CANONICALLY ATTACHED – LIVE ELSEWHERE

The Rev. Richard S. Brooks----- N/A
 Res: 5401 McKinney Ranch Pkwy, McKinney, TX. 75071
 E-Mail: frbrooks@nckcn.com

The Rev. Linda English ----- 785-760-5368
 Res: 3203 Rainier Dr., Lawrence, KS 66047
 E-Mail: englishcook@outlook.com

The Rev. Phyllis B. Flory ----- 785-825-5230
 Res: 16 Grand Manor, Monticello, Arkansas 71655

The Rev. Charles J. Griffith, III (Renee)-----479-667-9820
 Res: 8605 Beulahland Drive, Ozark, AR 72949
 E-Mail: crjqxyz@gmail.com

The Rev. Eileen Heden -----316-833-8213
 Res: 212 N Henderson, Cunningham, 67035
 E-Mail: eileenheden@gmail.com

The Rev. John M. Knox (Carole) -----N/A
 Res: 6019 W. 80th St., Lenexa, KS 66219-2027

The Rev. Christine K. Lampe (Deacon) -----620-765-0058
 Res: 18647 SW Hawk, Rosehill, KS 67133

The Rev. Robert Layne-----N/A
 The Cedars 1017 Darlow Dr. #304, McPherson 67460
 E-Mail: fatherbob1933@gmail.com

The Rev. Peter B. Nissen -----785-202-2817
 E-Mail: althaogu@gmail.com

The Rev. Canon Dr. John Ashley Null, F.R. Hst. S. -----N/A
 P.O. PO Box 26587, Overland Park, KS. 66225
 E-Mail: ashley.null@cantab.net

The Rev. Canon Phillip Rapp (Anne) -----703-266-3073
 Res: 6529 Clifton Road, Clifton, VA 20124
 E-Mail: p_rapp@yahoo.com

The Rev. Dr. Konrad Rock (Brenda) -----620-727-3445
 Res: P.O. Box 605 (228 Vickers Lane)
 E-Mail: berock@centurytel.net

The Rev. Michael R. Williams (Chaplain, Lt. Col.) (Becky)-----N/A
 Res: 10315 Rosslake Dr., Peyton, CO 80831
 E-Mail: ravenchap@aol.com

FORMER BISHOPS

The Rt. Rev. James Mr. Adams (Stacey) -----608-518-1777
 Res: 1965 Scheuring Rd. Apt 1, DePere, WI 54115
 E-Mail: jma4wks@gmail.com

The Rt. Rev. Vernon E. Strickland (Joyce) -----307-684-2190
 Res: 665 N. DeSmet, Buffalo, WY 82834
 E-Mail: ojwandng@yahoo.com

The Rt. Rev. Michael Milliken (Kathleen)-----620-665-7386
 514 E. 24th, Hutchinson, KS 67502
 E-Mail: bishopmilliken@gmail.com

2025 DIOCESAN COMMITTEES

Trustees for the Diocese of Western Kansas President: Bishop Mark Cowell

The Rev. Don Martin (25)
1715 W. 5th Street
Colby, Kansas 67701
785-443-0894
donaldmartin04@yahoo.com

The Rev. Jeff Mitchell (25)
810 Arrowhead Ln. Liberal, KS 67901
620-629-7750
jjmitch492@yahoo.com

The Rev. Charles Kerschen (25)
212 N. Henderson, Cunningham, KS. 67035
620-899-9183
kerschen212@gmail.com

The Rev. Shay Craig (26) (President of SC)
P.O. Box 215, Assaria, KS. 67416
785-376-2000
dean@christcathedralsalina.org

Vacant

The Rev. Cameron Randle (26) Vice President
710 N. Main St., Garden City, KS. 67846
785-628-0384
crandle777@yahoo.com

Mr. Mitch Hixson – Treasurer
620-899-0459
mitchhixson1@gmail.com

Mrs. Jennifer Higgins (25)
632 Union Ave.
Hebron, NE 68370
785-787-2278
catzfavre@yahoo.com

Mrs. Harvetta Von Fange (25)
105 N. Skyline Dr. Salina, KS. 67401
785-643-1944
harvettaanne@gmail.com

Mr. Rick Wulf (25)
16744 NE 40th St., Cheney, KS 67025
316-833-1217
rickwulf73@gmail.com

Mr. Butch Pyle (26)
509 E. Andrew St., Dodge City, KS 67801
620-225-5851
butchpyle@hotmail.com

Mrs. Carolyn Peterson (26) Secretary
2052 Leland Way, Salina, KS 67401
785-452-2277
carolyn.peterson47@gmail.com

Mrs. Nan Pyle (26)
509 E Andrew St., Dodge City, KS 67801
620-225-5851
nanhpyle@gmail.com

Mr. Mark Kliewer - Chancellor
620-349-1031
marc.kliewer@skylandgrain.com

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

The Rev. Karen Lemon

Mr. Steve Fontaine

The Rev. John Seatvet

Mrs. Pam Smith

The Rev. Todd Ray

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Rt. Rev. Michael P. Milliken – Chair

The Rev. Teresa Lahar (25)
302 NE 40th Ave
Great Bend, KS. 67530
620-639-1879
teresalahar@gmail.com

Mrs. Sara Kirkhart (25)
215 W 7th Street
Colby, KS. 67701
785-443-0201
sara.c.martin92@gmail.com

The Rev. Sandra Herder (25)
511 Ridgeway Ave
Pratt, KS 67123
316-303-2521
Sandra.herder@gmail.com

Carolyn Peterson (25)
439 N. Emporia
Valley Center, KS 67147
785-452-2277
Carolyn.peterson@gmail.com

The Rev. Todd Ray (26)
610 E. 41st
Hutchinson, KS 67502
(620) 899-3134
tsray@sbcglobal.net

Mrs. Margie Prewitt (26)
215 W. 7th St.
Garden City, KS 67846
620-260-7965
margieprewitt@gmail.com

The Rev. Scott Mentzer (26)
916 E. 7th St.
Goodland, KS 67735
785-899-4682
smentzer@st-tel.net

Mrs. Debra Mentzer
916 E. 7th St.
Goodland, KS 67735
785-
deb_mentzer@yahoo.com

DIOCESAN POSITIONS

BISHOP:	THE RT. REV. MARK A. COWELL
ASSISTING BISHOP:	THE RT. REV. MICHAEL MILLIKEN
DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR:	MRS. TONI COTTRELL
DIOCESAN ASST. ADMIN	MRS. CHRIS HIGDON
CANON TO THE ORDINARY:	THE REV. CANON CAMERON RANDLE
CHANCELLOR:	MR. MARK KLIEWER
TREASURER:	MR. MITCH HIXSON
SECRETARY TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION	MRS. TONI COTTRELL
ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO DIOCESAN CONV.	MRS. CHRIS HIGDON
DISPATCH OF BUSINESS FOR DIOCESAN CONV.	MRS. CAROLYN PETERSON
E.C.W. REP.	VACANT
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING REP.	MRS. PATTI WAMSLEY
UTO CHAIR:	VACANT
DIOCESAN YOUTH COORDINATOR:	VACANT

BUSINESS & FINANCE COMMITTEE

MR. MITCH HIXSON-TREASURER	620-899-0459
THE REV. TERESA LAHAR	620-639-1879
THE REV. DON MARTIN	785-443-0894
EX-OFFICIO:	
MRS. TONI L COTTRELL	620-669-0006

TRUSTEES OF ENDOWMENT

MR. MIKE BEATTY, 121 OVERHILL RD., SALINA 67401

DR. SHELBY JONES, 1002 SUMMIT PLAZA, SCOTT CITY 67871

MR. JIM RICHARDSON, 2600 RIVERBIRCH RD., HUTCHINSON 67502

THE RT. REV. MICHAEL MILLIKEN, 514 E. 24TH, HUTCHINSON, KS. 67502



LAY DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION

October 18-19, 2024, Liberal, Kansas

COLBY: Mr. Floyd Noel
Mrs. Marlene Pfeifer

LIBERA

LIBERAL: Mr. Fred Miller
Mrs. Sarah Miller

DODGE CITY: Mr. Butch Pyle
Mrs. Nan Pyle
Mrs. Sydney Horacek

L

LYONS: Mrs. Susan Barker
Mrs. Jill Stromberg

GARDEN CITY: Mrs. Marilyn Small
Mr. Marvin Feezor

r.

MCPHERSON: Mr. Scott Fowler
Mrs. Kristi Fowler

GOODLAND: Mr. Dennis Misurell
Mrs. Debra Mentzer

E

MEDICINE LODGE: Mr. Arron Small
Mrs. Cathy Small

GREAT BEND: Mrs. Rose Kelly
Mrs. Nancy Cale

NORTON: Mr. Steve Horney

HAYS (St. Michael's): Mr. Perry Harrison
Mrs. Nikki Houchen

PRATT: Mr. Darren Perkins
Mr. James Schiefen

HAYS (St. Andrew's) Mr. Dennis Johnson
Mrs. Denise Johnson

RUSSELL SPRINGS: Mr. Jason Lamb
Mrs. Molly Lamb

HUTCHINSON: Mr. Steve Fontaine
Mrs. Polly Dame
Mr. David Higdon
Mrs. Julie Steen

SALINA: Ms. Jennifer Higgins
Mr. Arthur Jones
Mrs. Kathleen Crouch-Malone
Mrs. Harvetta Von Fange

S

SCOTT CITY: Mr. Rick Brittan
Mrs. Kathy Haxton

KINGMAN: Mr. Rick Wulf

LAKIN: Mrs. Debbie Fredrick
Mrs. Linette McKinley

LARNED: Mrs. Linda Hampton
Ms. Juanita Lemon

DIOCESAN CONVENTION COMMITTEES FOR 2024

DISPATCH OF BUSINESS:		MRS. CAROLYN PETERSON
SECRETARY TO CONVENTION:		MRS. TONI COTTRELL
ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO CONVENTION:		MRS. CHRIS HIGDON
PARLIAMENTARIAN/CHANCELLOR		MR. MARK KLIEWER
NOMINATIONS:	CHAIR:	THE REV. SHAY CRAIG THE REV. TODD RAY
RESOLUTIONS: & CONGRATULATIONS & GRATITUDE	CHAIR:	THE REV. KAREN LEMON THE REV. SANDRA HERDER
CREDENTIALS:	CHAIR:	THE REV. SCOTT MENTZER MRS. DEBORAH MENTZER
BUDGET & FINANCE:	CHAIR:	MR. MITCH HIXSON THE RT. REV. MICHAEL MILLIKEN THE REV. TERESA LAHAR MRS. TONI COTTRELL MRS. CHRIS HIGDON MRS. CAROLYN PETERSON
CONSTITUTION & CANONS:	CHAIR:	THE RT. REV. MICHAEL MILLIKEN
NECROLOGY:	CHAIR:	THE REV. DENNIS GILHOUSEN
TELLERS	CHAIR:	THE REV. AMY LONG MRS. POLLY DAME MRS. JENNIFER HIGGINS
FUTURE CONVENTIONS	CHAIR:	THE REV. TED BLAKLEY
COMMITTEE TO REVIEW BISHOP'S ADDRESS:	CHAIR:	THE REV. DONALD MARTIN THE REV. PAT SCHIEFEN MR. RICK BRITTAN

DISPATCH OF BUSINESS
Episcopal Diocese of Western Kansas
54th Annual Convention
October 18-19, 2024, Liberal, KS

Reverend Clergy, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Honored Guests, the Dispatch of Business asks that you move and adopt the following order of business:

The Schedule of Business
The Order of Business
The Special Order of Business

We move that the following schedule be adopted for this Convention:

Friday, October 18, 2024

2:00 P.M. 1st LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Opening prayers
2. Call to order
3. Appointment of Dispatch of Business
4. Report from Dispatch of Business
5. Welcome to Liberal
6. Election of Parliamentarian
7. Election of Convention Secretary
8. Appointment of Assistant Secretary of Convention
9. Introduction of appointed Tellers
10. Seat and Voice
11. Committee on Credentials
12. Announcement of a quorum
13. Dispatch of Business

Reports:

14. Resolutions Committee
15. Presentation from the Budget Committee for the 2025 budget (not open for discussion or action currently).
16. Constitution and Canons
17. Nominations Committee: Nominations may be received from the floor.

- 3:30 P.M.** Break and Refreshments
- 3:40 P.M.** Introduction to Building Facebook Church Page – The Rev. Canon Shay Craig
- 4:30 P.M.** **Potluck Project** - Sharing Experiences
- 5:00 P.M.** **Hearings, Committee Meetings** – TBA
- 6:00 P.M.** **Social Time, banquet, awards, and raffle**

2nd LEGISLATIVE SESSION: Saturday, October 19

- 9:00 A.M.** Clergy Spouse Breakfast – **Board Room in Convention Center**
- 9:00 A.M.** Pilgrims Breakfast- **Lobby of Convention Center**
- 10:00 A.M.** **Morning Prayer and UTO Ingathering at the Liberal Conference**
- 11:00 A.M.** **Legislative Session Continues to conclude Convention Business**

Dispatch of Business

1. Credentials
2. Report from Committee on Resolution – discussion and action
3. Report from Committee on Constitution & Canons – discussion and action
4. Elections
5. Reports from selected Committees and Officers
6. Financial Report of the Diocese
7. Vote of 2025 budget – discussion and action
8. Diocesan appointments
9. Time and place of future conventions
10. Congratulations and Gratitude
11. Dispatch of Business
12. Announcements
13. Adjournment

We so move.

Be it further moved, that the following special order of business be adopted.

- The Bishop's address has been given during the Opening Eucharist on Friday October 18.
- The Necrology Report will be given during the Morning Prayer on Saturday.
- Offerings from the Convention Worship service will be used to support the *Laundry Love* Outreach in Liberal.
- That this Convention sends greetings to The Rt. Rev. Michael & Kathy Milliken, The Rt. Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Strickland and The Rt. Rev. and Mrs. James M. Adams, Jr.
- That any special order of business may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at this convention, providing there is a quorum of the House present.

We so move.

Colby, Ascension on the Prairie	Liberal, St. Andrew's
Herbert Rudolf Schritter, Colby, KS 2-18-2024	Kenneth W Hamilton, Liberal, KS, 02-11-2024
Dodge City, St. Cornelius	Lyons, St Mark's Episcopal
Mary Claire Shipps, Dodge City, KS, 10/21/2023	Carol Near, Lyons, KS 2-16-2024
Garden City, St Thomas	Pratt, All Saints
Shelby Cramer, Garden City,KS, 01-15-2024	Mark Allen Sutton, Pratt, KS 7-8-24
Lee Cramer, Garden City, KS, 01-21-2024	Steven W. Mead, Pratt, KS 8-19-24
Mary Ann Kosan, Benbrook, TX, 03-21-2024	
Chris Angeles, Garden City, KS, 05-22-2024	Salina, Cathedral
Pat Feezor, Garden City, KS, 06-15-2024	Dr. Jack Favre, Salina, KS 9-1-2023
Joe Currey, Garden City, KS, 08-18-2024	Beverly J. Hower, Salina, KS 1-30-2024
	Mary Collins, Salina, KS 4-22-2024
Goodland, St. Paul's	Patricia Mary Morrison, Salina, KS 5-2-2024
Candace Amack Goodland, KS 2-15-2024	Gary F. Collette, Salina, KS 6-22-2024
Frances Augusta Marick Goodland, KS 5-23-2024	Dorothy W. Lynch, Lawrence, KS 7-23-2024
Hutchinson, Grace	Scott City, St. Luke's
Suzanne Brown, Hutchinson, KS 10/07/2023	Kathleen Ann Moore, Scott City, KS 4-18-2024
Margaret "Maggie" Robinson, Hutchinson, KS 01/08/2024	Lowell Lloyd Rudolf, Scott City, KS 8-3-2024
David "Dave" Hederstedt, Hutchinson, KS 05/07/2024	
Mary Jack Mcfarland, Hutchinson, KS 05/17/2024	



**MINUTES OF THE
FIFTY - FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN KANSAS OCTOBER 18-19, 2024**

The Opening Eucharist was held in Liberal at St Andrew's Episcopal Church, with The Rt. Rev. Mark Cowell as Celebrant and preacher and gave his Bishop's Convention Address.

FIRST LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bishop Cowell gaveled the Diocesan Convention to order at 2 pm. Bishop Cowell began the meeting with an appointment of the Dispatch of Business, Carolyn Peterson. The Dispatch of Business, Carolyn Peterson, asked that we move and adopt the following order of business: The Schedule of Business, The Order of Business, The Special Order of Business, It was moved, seconded and carried. It was further moved that the following Special Order of Business be adopted, the Bishop's address was given during the opening Eucharist on Friday, October 18, the Necrology report will be given during morning prayer on Saturday, offerings from the convention worship service will be used to support Laundry of Love outreach in Liberal. This Convention sent greetings to The Right Rev. Michael and Kathy Milliken, The Right Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Strickland, The Right Rev. and Mrs. James M. Adams Jr. The Order of Special Business needs to be adopted by a 2/3rds vote of voting members present at this convention providing there is a quorum of the house present. It was so moved, seconded and carried.

The election of Parliamentarian, Marc Kliwer, Convention Secretary Toni Cottrell. It was moved, seconded and carried. Appointment of Assistant Secretary of Convention, Chris Higdon. Introduction of Tellers The Rev. Amy Long, Polly Dame and Jennifer Higgins.

Bishop Mark moved that we give Seat and Voice to given to The Right Rev. Silvestre Romero, it was seconded and carried.

Committee on Credentials Chair: Committee on Credentials, The Rev. Scott & Deborah Mentzer announced of the 29 eligible clergy members 22 had checked in which means 76% have reported in. Of the Laity delegates 39 of the 46 have reported in which 85% have reported in. Rev. Scott Metzger announced this does constitute a quorum. Bishop Cowell asked the Dispatch of Business if we had a quorum and Carolyn replied we do have a quorum.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Rev. Karen Lemon and Rev. Sandra Herder presented one resolution as follows: The Committee on Constitution and Canons moved that elections for the Diocesan Council and the Standing Committee be dispensed with at this Diocesan Convention so that the diocese moves to compliance with the newly revised Diocesan Constitution. We will have discussion and vote tomorrow.

A welcome to Liberal was given by Reynold Hamilton.

A greeting from Bishop Vernon and Joyce Strickland was read by Bishop Mark Cowell.

DIOCESAN FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET 2025

Mitch Hixson, Diocesan Treasurer, was called on to present his report and to present the 2025 budget for the diocese.

Mitch spoke about the Endowment Fund and briefly about the current year income figures, as well as the 2025 budget. The following changes have been made for the 2025 Proposed Budget COL increase of 2.6% for staff and raises for the Bishops, Toni Cottrel and Chris Higdon. Our pledge to the National Church which is based off of the income we get. We pulled some money from the Endowment to cover the increase. The Multicultural Ministries Garden & Liberal were increased because of insurance plans (family plan in Liberal, single in Garden City). The Rectory expenses went down for the next year. Line item 5310-Diocesan Ministry Expense went up due to inflation cost. 5900-line items were due to COLA. 5940 raised due to COLA, 5946 small increases for travel expenses, 5950-Dues, Fees & Subscription small increase. 5965-Diocesan Expenses went down. 5976-Office rental went up due to moving to a new office.

Mitch made himself available in the hallway during break for questions.

Bishop Mark talked about the Heritage Project and encouraged people to remember the Diocese in their wills and estate planning so we can fund projects in the Diocese. Bishop Cowell and Milliken will be in the hallway during break and they welcome discussion regarding this project fund.

CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

Bishop Mike Milliken talked about the amendments to the Constitution and Canons. Last year we passed the changes, but it takes two votes to pass it, so he is bringing it back this year for a second reading and discussion and vote. Basically, we are taking out any reference to the Diocesan Council and changing it to trustees. Once that passes, we go to The Resolutions Committee resolution dealing with elections because in order to take the combined Diocesan Council and Standing Committee which is about 18 to 20 people, we are going to combine that down to 8, 4 Clergy and 4 laity elected by convention. This year we will not have an election for Diocesan Council, and we will let people fall off as their term ends. Bishop said he would make himself available for any question members may have.

Bishop Mark advised one of the reasons for the changes was that our Constitution and Canons did not match the National Constitution and Canons.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Rev. Shay Craig and the Rev. Todd Ray, co-chair of Nominations, presented the slate of the committees as follows:

Standing Committee: One clergy and one lay person to be elected for a -three-year term and one Clergy member for a two year term. **(PENDING PASSING OF NEW CANON CHANGE)**

Clergy:

Lay:

Incumbents: Rev. Don Martin, Mrs. Jennifer Higgins, The Very Rev. Shay Craig, Mr. Butch Pyle

Diocesan Council: Two clergy and two lay members to be elected for a three-year term. **(PENDING PASSING OF NEW CANON CHANGE)**

Clergy:

Lay:

Incumbents: Rev. Jeff Mitchell, Mrs. Harvetta Von Fange, Mr. Rick Wolf, The Rev. Charles Kerschen, Rev. Jerry Jones. Mrs. Carolyn Peterson, The Rev. Cameron Randle, Mrs. Nan Pyle

Commission on Ministry: One clergy and one lay member to be elected for a two-year term. (Two clergy and one lay person and a chairperson from the clergy order to be appointed by the Bishop.)

Clergy: The Rev. Todd Ray approved; the Rev. Scott Mentzer appointed

Lay: Margie Prewitt, Deborah Mentzer, appointed

Incumbents: Rev. Teresa Lahar, Rev. Sandra Herder, Carolyn Peterson, Sara Kirkhart

The Disciplinary Board: **3 members will be appointed by the Bishop for a three-year term.**

Incumbents: Karen Lemon, John Seatvet, Rev Todd Ray, Rev. Todd Ray, Mr. Steve Fontaine, Mrs. Pam Smith

PROVINCIAL SYNOD/GENERAL CONVENTION – Eight clergy and eight lay members. (Four deputies and four alternates in each order.) Those will represent the Diocese at the Provincial Synod and General Convention. (Provincial Synod: Online Meeting Spring 2027, General Convention: July 2027, Phoenix, AZ)

CLERGY NOMINATED

1. The Rev. Shay Craig
2. The Rev. Charles “Tom” Kerschen
3. The Rev. Cameron Randle
4. The Rev. Todd Ray

LAY-PERSONS NOMINATED (VOTE FOR 4)

1. Toni Cottrell
2. John Houston
3. Jan Steen
4. Harvetta Von Fange
5. Jennifer Higgins

INTRODUCTION TO BUILDING FACEBOOK

Mother Shay gave a presentation that introduced us all to how to build a captivating Church Facebook page. Many people asked questions, and it was well received by all. Thank you, Mother Shay

POTLUCK PROJECT

The Rev. Teresa Lahar shared about the potluck dinner St. John’s /Great Bend shared at the Central Kansas Dream Center in Great Bend. St. John’s along with the 1st Congregational Church usually serves a meal there every other month on the third Sunday of the month. One church provides the meal and the other the dessert. For this occasion, they gave the other church the day off. St. John’s ordered some chicken and made the side dishes. The people that were served do not normally get a meal on the weekend not only St. John’s but several other churches provide a meal on Sundays. We invited not only the members that came but the volunteers and staff that provided the meal. They had about 42 people that showed up. St’ John’s had a little service before the meal just to explain things on how it would work. The Rev. Lahar shared various stories about how some people shared and the people felt safe to talk and answer questions. Toni Cottrell shared pictures from St. John’s event.

Bishop Mark shared about their Potluck. The wonderful thing that happened was two families that were on the periphery of joining the church, they both had young girls who played together, and those families made a connection which would not have happened had the Potluck not happened.

Rev. Randle shared St. Thomas of Garden City had a backyard dinner at Margie & Bob Prewitt’s home. They invited two leaders of the new nonprofits to help, maybe, form an alliance with them. The two nonprofits are a new faith-based recovery ministry group. Their objective was to invite some folks in who may be consistent in their work with the mission that St. Thomas is involved in doing. This was the first time St. Thomas had met in someone’s home for a meal. They had around 30 people attend. Margie Prewitt shared they invited their neighbor and someone that had just moved into the area that Margie had met at their dumpster, both attended.

Rev. Randle shared that he had the privilege to attend three Fr. Don’s potluck dinners that he had helped Fr. Don set up. The one that stood out to Fr. Cameron was from one of the smaller churches over in St. Francis in Russell Springs. They had a group from that congregation and also the Lutheran Church who also had kids, so they took that opportunity to plan a Vacation Bible School, with the kids there telling them what they wanted, what they liked and didn’t like.

The other two churches, St. Paul's in Goodland and Accension on the Prairie in Colby. We had a couple of visitors; one in St. Paul's had just started coming to our church.

Another shared they had about 15 people attend, some that were not happy in their current church, so they were invited to attend. They played a trivia game that helped everyone participate and work together. They felt it was a great event that they would like to do again.

Father Tom from Kingman shared they went a different route; they joined up with a group called Core. It is a group that tries to lift people out of poverty. They have a meal every Monday night along with classes with about three other churches. Two of the attendees were from Fr. Tom's church.

Toni Cottrell's mother, Pat, is ill and her birthday was today so we all sang "Happy Birthday" to her while Toni recorded it. Toni then sent it to her mom who very much appreciated it.

After a few announcements from Bishop Mark Cowell the 1st Legislative Session was adjourned.

The banquet was held on Friday evening. The prizes were awarded for the Bishop's Cup. The Bishop's Cross was awarded to Deacon Todd Ray for his selfless service as a deacon at Grace Church in Hutchinson and beyond. The annual ECW basket Raffle concluded the evening.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Following morning prayer and the UTO Ingathering, Clergy and delegates were certified by the Chair of the Credentials Committee, Rev Scott Mentzer, who stated we did have a quorum present.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Dispatch of Business by Carolyn Peterson: Would like to make a change to the Order of Business. We will be voting by having Resolution Committee come after the Constitution and Canons. Bishop Mark mad note that items on your agenda #'s 2 and three will now be items #'s 3 and 2.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTION

Bishop Mike Milliken reported the reason we changed the order is there is a conical sequence here the first thing we will do is vote to approve the second reading of the revised Constitution of the Diocese. If that passes, we will move on to the resolution proposing the changes to the Diocesan Canons. If that passes that will affect how we hold elections afterwards. The Committee on Constitutions and Canons moves that the 54th Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas approve the second reading of the revised Constitution of the diocese, it was seconded and carried. You have the second one that is the revision of the relevant Canons, basically we are changing all references to the diocesan council to the trustees of the diocese. Bishop Mike moved that the adoption to the canonical changes you have in your packet be adopted, it was seconded and carried. The Committee on Constitution and Canons moves those elections for the Diocesan Council and the Standing Committee be dispensed with at this Diocesan Convention so that the diocese moves to compliance with the newly revised Diocesan Constitution, it was seconded and after discussion it carried.

REPORT FROM SELECTED COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS

Monte Giddings, the current Dean from BKSM came to give us a brief update to where they are as they are in very good shape and mention some opportunities. The board, the staff, the faculty and students greet you. You are all very important to us. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Diocese of Western Kansas. You have been a partner, a participant and a sponsor. We have two founding members on the board that are here in the room. The first being Carolyn Peterson, who has served for many years and just recently retired. She has served in many different positions on the board and gave her a lot of time and drive miles. (applause) and we also have Bishop Michael Milliken who is a founding member of BKSM. He has been on the board from the very beginning. We have 41 students right now; we have 6 diocesans. We took in the diocesan of Iowa and the diocesan of Missouri which is in St. Louis in the last two years. So, we have grown substantially, and we have a lot going on. There are a lot of students on a lot of different tracks, but the Diocese of Western Kansas has 13 alumni, many of you are here, two students, three people on the board and three instructors, which is very important to us. We also have the support and love of your Bishop and that is the most important thing, and we appreciate that greatly. We have a number of programs that I want to tell you about, just real briefly because I think our emphasis going forward the diaconal track and the literal track and we've been doing very well with that but we also have 4 lay tracks that we really want people to think about and let it rest on your heart and I would say that in the next year during my internship and also when the next Dean comes in we are going to focus on lay education and try to really roll that out to all the six diocese that we have. So just to tell you what they are you can be certified, and you are certified by the school and your Bishop as a Lay Evangelist. We try to provide resources to people who want to be evangelists in the diocese. There is a Lay Preacher track. I think that could be very helpful for a lot of small churches and there is a certificate. Each one of these has about 6 or 7 classes you have to go to, to earn that certificate. Lay Catechist is a person who is qualified to prepare people for baptism, confirmation, renewal and reaffirmation. Pastoral Leader certificate, that one is how to become a pastoral person and all things you need to do which most of us are already doing but this could be some other skills for that. We are very excited about this, and we will probably roll out a couple of other ones coming up because we have asked people to participate. I'd say that you currently have two students, Iowa has four, Missouri has 5, Kansas 10 and West Missouri has 9. We have a really good representation of this school, and we are financially very viable, everything is going very well, and we are deep in the search now for the next Dean. We've issued all the papers, they are out there floating around, and we have had people ask us with inquires about what the school is planning, where the school is going. I will tell you that I don't think we are going to grow more dioceses at this point, but we are having people come from other dioceses under the supervision of their Bishops and other denominations are also joining us. The last thing I will tell you is that we've had at St. Paul's Seminary which is in Kansas City contact us to talk maybe about developing a program where our students would be qualified to join them to get a Master of Divinity. There's just a lot going on and it is all good stuff. I know when our Deacon Don retired it was a little bit of a shock, but he put in a lot of years, he structured, he helped all of us and for somebody that has been on the board for about 10 years I think he has done a wonderful job. We had a thankful reception for him, and we realized that was far to far for many of you to attend because it was in Kansas City, Mo. But 100 people showed up including 2 bishops. If you have an interest in ministry, be sure to talk your local parish leadership and then your Bishop. (applause)

Bishop Mike mentioned yes there was a lot going on at BKSM as he said we are in communication with St. Paul's in Kansas City, we are in communication with the Iowan collaborative out of Texas and next week I am going to be in corresponding with Lidia Kelsey Bucklin who is the new Dean EDS Seminary, being installed this weekend. EDS is a Seminary on paper only. She is working on ideas for distance education for Clinical Pastoral Education and other things online, so they are kind of meshing the same way we are with an alternate track for theological education in this country.

A lot of great things are going on and it is good to have people like Monte and Casey and Fran who runs the office in Topeka, our board and Scott who is on the board. Scott heads up the program committee, I head up the curriculum committee and now we are discovering that we overlap a lot, so we are going to have some lunches to be paid for by the school. Remember the school, if you want to send us some money we will take it, if you want to send us some students we will take them too. It is a great program, and we get a lot of inquiries from around the country about what we are doing.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE DIOCESE

We will have two motions: one to approve the budget for 2025 and one for keeping the assessment at 15% this year. We did talk about the budget yesterday so I will open the floor for any **discussion about the budget. No discussion so it was moved and seconded that we approve the budget**, motion carried. It was moved that we keep the assessment at 15%, motion seconded and carried.

ELECTIONS

Bishop Mark asked the tellers to hand out ballots and announced that we have a number of positions that we only have one person running for example Commission on Ministry we do have just the right number of Clergy Deputies to General Convention, but we have 6 nominees for 4 positions Lay Deputies to General Convention which will be in Arizonia in July. We will elect 4 out of the six and we will also take nominees off the floor. The 4 highest nominees will be our Deputies, and the others will be alternates. The alternates will still be able to go and if one of the Deputies drops out, they will be moved up. Rev Todd Ray asked for them to mark their ballots. Rev. Todd asked that look at the nominations for Commission on Ministry we approve Todd and Margie Prewitt with a consent to the slate, seconded and carried. The tellers will be doing the tally and get back to us.

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Mark appointed Scott & Deb Mentzer to the Commission on Ministry and Mark Kliever as Chancellor.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT CONVENTION

The Rev. Tedd Blakley announced the Diocesan is doing an experiment over the next three years. They have worked out a contract with the convention center and are working on the hotel contract in Dodge City. The next three years the Diocesan convention is going to meet in Dodge City. So the location and hotel will already be planned out and different congregations are still going to be hosting the convention but there will be less work for each sponsoring congregation to do. They are still working out what those details are. In 2025 Grace Episcopal will be hosting the convention. We have openings for 2026 and 2027. One of the reasons why the diocese is moving in this direction is Dodge City is more centrally located so it is an easier trip for those in the diocese, we feel bad for St. Cornelious who will have to drive across town. (laughter) It also means that smaller parishes will be able to sponsor more easily. Those are a couple of reasons they have done this. Any volunteers come speak with Father Ted or Bishop Mark or Toni. Even if you just have an interest as to what it would look like for our parish to sponsor it contact us. A question was asked if there was an appropriate golf course in Dodge City? Bishop Mike replied, across the street.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GRATITUDE

Rev Shane Schneider and Julie Steen proposed that this 54th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas express its gratitude to The Rt. Rev. Mark Cowell, 6th Bishop of Western Kansas and his wife Julie for their service to the people this diocese and of the Episcopal Church as a whole. We propose that this 54th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas continue its prayers for lives and faithful ministries of the 3rd Bishop of Western Kansas The Rt. Rev Vernon Strickland and his wife Joyce and the 4th Bishop of Western Kansas The Rt. Rev. James Adams and his wife Stacey and The Rt. Rev. Michael Milliken and his wife Kathy that the greetings be forwarded to them from this convention. We propose that this 54th Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas express its gratitude to The Rev. Jeff Mitchell and the good people of St. Andrews for their hospitality and for preparing and hosting this year's convention, especially for the delicious baked potato bar Thursday evening. After almost two decades of fundraising for the Pilgrimages to England, we, the Episcopalians of Western Kansas, know a good potato when we see one! (laughter and applause) We propose that this 54th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas express its gratitude to the lay and clergy members of the Diocesan Committees for their time and effort freely given to the betterment of the Diocese and the furthering of God's mission in Western Kansas. We propose that this 54th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas express its gratitude to The Rt. Rev. Mark Cowell to the Diocese for helping us to see the challenges of Mission, Ministry, and of Mortar as our congregations seek to be voices for hope and love within the communities we serve. We also express our gratitude for the pleasure of training and support for the congregations of western Kansas as we address the concerns of pastoral care, proclaiming the Word, fear of closing and attracting new members. We propose that this 54th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas express its support and appreciation for The Rt. Rev. Silvestre Romero and The Rev. Cameron Randle and the bridges they are building with our Latino and Koran brothers and sisters. We propose that the 54th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas express its gratitude for the support the Bishop Kemper School of Ministries now in its 10th year for providing quality leadership training for western Kansas and 5 other dioceses.

May we be renewed and inspired as students complete their studies and return to exercise their Lay, Diaconal and poricidal ministries on the western plains of Kansas. We also pray for Bishop Kemper's success for finding a new Dean to lead the school in the next decade. We propose that this 54th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas express its gratitude to Tonni Cottrell for all her work and skill as the Administrator of the Diocese and to Chris Higdon as the Administrative Assistant not least their work making all this possible and to Mitch Hixson in his role as treasurer for help us all understand what all of those numbers mean. We propose that this 54th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas give thanks for the youth and young adults of the Diocese, for their passion, their energy, their optimism and their faith. We propose that this Annual Convention GO forth and make a Facebook page for their church that shares their unique story and gifts with those that need it most.

We also encourage all churches to reach out to each other and their neighbors to break bread, enjoy fellowship, tell stories and perhaps share a potluck. We also propose that this 54th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas give thanks that the Gospel begins with Go, we also propose that this 54th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Kansas give thanks and praise for the Love of God, the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit as we prepare to go forth to love and serve the Lord. May we learn to serve each other our communities and our Lord with grace and humility using all the skills, resources and talent God has generously bestowed upon us. After battling the wind across the Kansas plains we've battled through the wind of convention meetings and now its time to ride the breath of the Spirit home. The harvest is plentiful, and the laborers are few. All deacons stood and told us "So GO, let us Go into the World rejoicing the power of the Spirit" Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia. (applause)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELLECTIONS

Rev. Todd Ray announced the elections as follows:

The four clergy delegates:

The Rev. Shay Craig

The Rev. Charles "Tom" Kerschen

The Rev. Cameron Randle

The Rev. Todd Ray

The four lay delegates:

Toni Cottrell

Jan Steen

Julie Steen

Jennifer Higgins

Alternates are:

Harvetta Von Fange

John Houston

Rev. Todd Ray thanked us all.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Rev. Don Martin said before he presents the resolution, he needs to ask our permission to present the resolution. It was moved that we be able to present the resolution as a special order, seconded and carried.

The resolution was read by The Rev. Pat Schiefen. The resolution from the committee of response to the committee to review the bishop's address. Whereas the Bishop has outlined four areas of concern discovered by discussion in congregations around the diocese. Pastoral Care, Proclaiming the Word, Fear of Closing and Attracting new members, including young people. And whereas the diocese has planned training and support to the congregations of Western Kansas, especially in these areas. Therefore, be it resolved that we pledge to GO, trained and untrained, worthy and unworthy to serve in the world in Christ's name. Don Martin said we so move. It was seconded and carried.

DISPATCH OF BUSINESS

Carolyn Peterson said she hopes we all travel safely on our way home and how she was encouraged by the number of new faces that she has seen at this convention. There are lots of old friends that we see every year but the new faces this year are an encouragement that God is among us and working with us to bring new ones so that we prosper and move forward. Continue to encourage those in your congregations and those that are not in your congregations to come and join us. I know that we have already given praise and adoration for all the work done to get ready for this convention, but I believe that a show by standing ovation for Bishop Mark and his leadership and for Julie would be appropriate at this time. (applause)

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Silvestre Romero talked about a group of people who have been gathering each Monday to discern to listen and to share about the scripture. Along the way we have discovered that need each other and we love each other and needless to say, I hope, we like each other. So, one of the things we discerned along the way was how do we include others in this journey. We don't want to be selfish to be just joyful with the group that we have but open these conversations up to everyone. Bishop Silvestre passed out another QR code sheet that you can use to practice and how to use the QR code. This is a group that meets every Monday at 7:00 pm. We open the doors as we call it at 6:45 pm so we have some time of conversation, and anyone is encouraged to come. We would like to build this community so that the whole diocese can come together as able as you are.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Mark asked that we give our name tags back so they can be used again next year. The good people of St. Andrew's would like for you to show your appreciation for all the hard work they did for this convention by stacking your chairs as you leave.

A couple of quick dates to remind everyone of are as follows:

Acolyte Festival is on January 11th. You will be getting more information soon.

The Constant Contact Workshop will be on Jan 25th in Garden City and in Hutchinson on Feb 1st.

Pastoral Care will be on Feb 15th in Hutchinson and March 1st in Garden City.

We have some youth going on Pilgrimage in England to Canterbury Lenton Pilgrimage on March 14th to 24th .

Hearing no other announcements, it was moved and seconded that we adjourn this convention.

Respectfully Submitted
Chris Higdon
Assistant Secretary of Convention

SHEAF OF REPORTS

**DIOCESE OF WESTERN
KANSAS**

**TO THE FIFTY THIRD ANNUAL
CONVENTION**

These reports from diocesan institutions, task forces, committees, special officers, and staff are intended to inform the Convention of progress and accomplishments in the mission the Convention has charged us to do. Please take time to look through them.

INDEX:

A - Diocesan Council

A - The Standing Committee

B - Commission on Ministry

B - Canon to the Ordinary

C - Treasurer's Report

C - Endowment Fund Trustees' Report

D – Episcopal Church Women

E - Secretary of Convention

E– Diocesan Youth

E- United Thank Offering

F- Multicultural Ministries

A

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Western Kansas held regular meetings in 2024. The business of the Diocese was presented and discussed and voted on as needed. This year has again brought difficult situations declining attendance. The Multicultural ministry is the future of the western portion of our Diocese and that is alive and well and taking root. Dodge City, Garden City and Liberal all have a large Latino population and outreach to those communities offer an opportunity of growth and ministering to those not served. A Strategic Plan is being developed that will help with the future planning for the Diocese. The areas being reviewed are Mission, Mortar and Ministry. The Council is an active and caring group and asks the hard questions and supports the new opportunities that come before us.

Carolyn Peterson - Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Standing Committee is an advisory committee to the Bishop Diocesan in cooperation with the Diocesan Council. Members serve three-year terms with an elected President. Members of the Standing Committee in 2024 were Mrs. Pam Smith, Mr. Butch Pyle, Ms. Jennifer Higgins, Rev. Don Martin, Rev. Shane Schneider and Very Rev. Shay Craig (President). In the past year we have approved the election process for Bishops in the Dioceses of California, Mississippi, Rochester, Olympia, and Massachusetts. We look forward in the coming year to working in close concert with the Diocesan Council if we vote to combine the two bodies.

Respectfully Submitted, Shay Craig+

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Canons of the Episcopal Church direct that the Commission on Ministry shall advise and assist the Bishop in:

- The implementation of the Title III Canons of the Episcopal Church.

- In the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons.

- In the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness, therefore.

The Commission is composed of the following diocesan clergy and laypersons: The Rev. Scott Mentzer (Goodland), The Rev. Teresa Lahar (Great Bend), The Rev. Sandra Herder (Pratt), Mrs. Margie Prewitt (Garden City), Mrs. Sara Kirkhart (Colby), Mrs. Carolyn Peterson (Salina), and Mrs. Debra Mentzer (Goodland). Since our last diocesan convention, the Commission on Ministry has met twice either in person, or electronically. At those meetings the application for Ordination to the Priesthood (Ben Houchen) was considered, and a positive recommendation was made to Bishop Cowell. The Com, at its second meeting in September, considered the application for Postulancy from Josiah Smiddy from Liberal. The COM voted to recommend Josiah to Bishop Cowell for admission as a Postulance contingent of his meeting a couple of canonical requirements.

B

Commission on Ministry (contd)

Finally, it should be noted at the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. Still growing and expanding, with the addition of the Dioceses of Iowa and Missouri as governing members. Currently BKSM in the process of searching for a new Dean.

Respectfully Submitted

The Rt. Rev. Michael P. Milliken

Chairman, Commission on Ministry

THE CANON TO THE ORDINARY

In many ways, this past year has been a year of firsts. Not exclusively in the sense of accomplishments, but rather in the sense of initial experiences. I began serving the Diocese of Western Kansas as Canon to the Ordinary at the 2023 diocesan convention (my first since returning home to Kansas from coastal Virginia) last year. My tenure commenced at the conclusion of many years of devoted service rendered by The Rev. Canon Jerry Jones.

In the time since last year's diocesan convention, most of my attention as Canon to the Ordinary has been directed toward transition and strategic planning. Preparing the vestry and congregants at St. Cornelius in Dodge City for the call to a new rector has been a priority. I began meeting with the vestry at St. Cornelius in November of 2023. Together with Bishop Silvestre Romero, I have met with that group, and subsequently with the parish search committee, on a monthly basis to facilitate collective discernment and provide structure and direction to the search process. There was much work to be done before the calling of a new priest and the leadership of St. Cornelius engaged faithfully in that process. At this writing, St. Cornelius is receiving applicants.

With The Rev. Jeff Mitchell and other colleagues on Bishop Cowell's Strategic Advisory team, I've dedicated a number of months to assessing the current status of our church properties, as well as the use to which our properties are put during weekday hours. To date, I have physically visited 17 churches in our diocese to better understand the challenges and opportunities before us. This information is being gleaned with an eye toward both short- and long-term planning for the future of our ministries in western Kansas.

In the coming months, I hope to make further contributions to mentoring those in the discernment process for a call to holy orders. I hope to help in crafting new diocesan policies on the arrival and departure of clergy for parish ministry; exploring ways for new and innovative approaches to clergy and lay leadership formation; helping to broaden our resources and expertise in pastoral care; and generally envisioning paths to implementing Bishop Cowell's projects and priorities.

It's an honor to serve the diocese as Canon to the Ordinary. We have been gifted with faithful congregations and with a number of exceptional servants/leaders who are willing and ably equipped to contend with the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities that are before us.

May God continue to give us the grace and imagination to bring our future to fruition.

Gratefully,

The Rev. Canon Cameron Randle

TREASURERS REPORT

The budget for 2025 will have a few changes from 2024. These changes have been approved by the Diocesan Council during a September 14th meeting via Zoom. These changes are due to needs in the Diocese, and on the recommendation of Bishop Mark and the Diocesan administrator, Toni Cottrell. I will propose the Diocesan assessment not be changed for 2024, and that it will remain at the 15% rate it has been for the last few years. I believe the changes are good and will benefit the Diocese. The budget will be presented during the business meeting on Friday, but will not be open for discussion at that time. A meeting will be held at the end of the business meeting for any specific questions. The budget will be up for a vote on Saturday morning with the floor open for further discussion at that time. I see a bright future ahead for our Diocese and hope you do as well. Thank you for your service to the parish and this Diocese.

Mitch Hixson, Treasurer - Diocese of Western Kansas

ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEES' REPORT

Endowment investments had an outstanding gain last year of \$1,863,326 or 23% on average invested assets. The S & P 500 gained 22% with dividends. Seven of the nine securities we owned had double-digit gains and these nine companies returned a compound average of 28% for the year. Including this gain, the Endowment has returned a compounded 16% per year including dividends over the past 10 years. The Trustees sold Colgate, Johnson & Johnson and Proctor and Gamble and bought shares of Automatic Data Processing last year. Page 4 shows the details of the current Investments. The investment gain for the year was allocated proportionally among 23 funds based on last year's average monthly balance for each. See page 5.

In addition to the investment performance, \$285,545 in new funds were received by the Endowment last year including \$250,000 to the Heritage Project Fund from Zan Williams. Support for the Diocese has been made possible by many donors over the past 36 years, but by far the largest single donation (other than from stock market gains) was by Donna and Jack Vanier of Salina, who gave the Endowment \$542,000 in 2005. This single Undesignated donation has produced nearly half of the annual Endowment support for the operation of the Diocese.

Endowed Funds were given with the intent that the original gift would be preserved and only investment earnings be used by the beneficiaries. In this way, the gift could "keep on giving" forever. But if all investment earnings were spent annually, only the original gifts would remain, and inflation would eventually erode the value of these gifts. So, we accumulate investment earnings (and losses) in Temporarily Restricted accounts. Then we calculate a Trustee determined 5% of the average of the most recent three years' Original Contributions and Temporarily Restricted fund balances for each Endowed Fund as the amount of new money to make available for spending. The 5% amount is then transferred to the corresponding Spendable Fund. Any investment earnings over the 5% transferred are accumulated in the Temporarily Restricted Accumulated Earnings accounts – see page 5 for these calculations.

D

ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEES' REPORT (contd)

This year, \$178,855 of new Spendable money was made available for use by the Diocese and other beneficiaries. The total Spendable money is now \$1,412,707. See page 2. The Endowment distributed \$700,541 to the Diocese and other beneficiaries last year.

Managed Funds are not endowed and may be withdrawn in part or in total by the depositor. Partial withdrawals are permitted upon the request of the depositor or on a regularly scheduled monthly or quarterly basis. Withdrawals of entire Managed Fund balances may be made in January each year by written notice to the Trustees.

Council Restricted Funds are not endowed and may be withdrawn by the Diocese, subject to these guidelines:

- The Future Ministry Epiphany Grant Funds balance is \$374,251 and is to be used at the discretion of the Bishop and Council.
- The Future Ministry Opportunity Funds balance is \$901,735 and is to be used at the discretion of the Bishop and Council.
- The Heritage Project Fund balance is \$305,778 and is for the future mission of the Diocese.
- The Lambeth Fund balance is \$42,725 and is to be used to help fund the Bishop's travel expenses to the Lambeth Conference.
- The Leadership Fund balance is \$75,580 and is to be used at the discretion of the Bishop and Council.
- The Standing Committee Fund balance is \$7,348 and is to be used at the discretion of the Bishop and Council.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Michael Beatty, Trustee
Dr. Shelby Jones, Trustee
Jim Richardson, Trustee

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of the Diocese of Western Kansas is an organization of women that exists to support women as we remain committed to serving our Lord Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, service, and fellowship. All women in the Diocese are members of the ECW by their membership in the Episcopal Church.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is the Basket Raffle at Convention. I want to thank all who contribute and purchase tickets and donate baskets!

*Respectfully submitted,
Toni Cottrell*

SECRETARY OF CONVENTION

I am honored to serve as the Secretary of Convention. I'd like to Thank the Assisting Secretary, Chris Higdon for keeping the minutes and transcribing them, from the 53rd Diocesan Convention, which was held in Salina and hosted by Christ Cathedral. I enjoy being at the convention and seeing all the wonderful people in our Diocese. We are truly blessed in the Diocese of Western Kansas!

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Cottrell, Secretary

Diocesan Youth Report

Many youths from around the diocese are participating in a Lenten Pilgrimage to Canterbury in March, 2025. In preparation for this pilgrimage, several youths completed a "dress rehearsal" trip to New Jersey/New York this past August. While in New York, they visited Trinity Church, St. Paul's chapel, Times Square, many fine apparel establishments, and attended Aladdin on Broadway. In New Jersey, they went to the beach, ate strange food, and they also went deep sea fishing. On the fishing trip, they caught dinner, and many enjoyed the wonders of sea sickness.

The Pilgrims will also meet in Larned on December 22, 2024, for last minute discussions and Christmas Cheer. (Santa sent his regrets for this party due to his busy schedule, but Nole Pole Inc. promised an "elf or other suitable representative". We had to remind them that Donner, the reindeer whom they sent last year is not welcome because of the rather unfortunate incident with the restroom.

Youth Convention was again held at Camp WaJaTo in Lyons, Kansas. About 20 youth attended. The theme for Youth Convention this year was "Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve". The youth explored how their behavior and interactions with others reflect this choice. They also had a shaving cream fight, and, afterwards, well needed showers.

There is an Acolyte Festival on January 11, 2025, in Larned. Please mark your calendars! There will be acolyte training, of comprehensive discussion of and a vote on the issue of unionizing in the diocese. Each church that sends a group can participate in the famed Acolyte Olympics where in the acolytes compete for fame, glory, and the amusement of the festival organizers.

UNITED THANK OFFERING

2023 was a great year for UTO. We collected \$3,415.63 at the Diocesan Convention in Salina. We all realize the importance of this mission and we appreciate all who participated either in using the Blue Box or writing a check.

It is well to remember both dates that Western Kansas designates for UTO Ingathering: once in the spring on Mothers' Day, and once in the Fall on the 3rd Sunday in September.

I hope most people will try using the Blue Box. It is just a daily reminder to remember the many blessings God has given to each one of us.

We pray that next year will be a blessing for each of you individually, and for the Diocese of Western Kansas.

E

Multicultural Ministry

This October, I will complete a year as an Assistant Bishop and Missioner in the Diocese, and I want to express my deep gratitude for your support and prayers.

The initial focus of my call to the Diocese was to address a significant need in Liberal—the growing Latino population. While this need remains unchanged, another situation also required attention: a congregation that had begun ministering to the changing demographics of its town but lost its Rector. Bishop Cowell, as the chief pastor in our Diocese, recognized that this congregation needed support during its transition to a new permanent leader. He asked me to step in and assist the congregation of St. Cornelius'. For the past eight months, I have walked alongside them, offering guidance and support.

From December to February, during Advent and Epiphany, I also engaged in a program of *Intentional Discipleship* with some members of St. Andrew's. This 12-session program aimed to begin the process of discernment and lay the foundation for the ministry needed to welcome new segments of the community. During Lent, I participated in a reflection on *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis with St. Andrew's congregation.

At one point, the question arose whether I might be considered for the position of Rector at St. Cornelius'. After prayerful discernment and conversations with others, I realized that my place was to respond to the original call that brought me to the Diocese. This decision does not reflect a lack of desire or commitment to supporting St. Cornelius'. Rather, it is crucial that the congregation be fully open to the search process and not feel limited to a candidate out of practicality or comfort.

In July, with clarity about where I believe God has called me, I re-engaged with St. Andrew's in Liberal to begin a process of outreach and planning for our future. We initiated a community outreach program by assisting families at a local laundromat. On August 10, we helped 35 families, timing this effort to help them prepare for the new school year by freeing up funds for school supplies or other necessities for their children.

I also began conversations with the mayor about how the Episcopal Church can assist in reaching and engaging the Latino community in Liberal. The mayor expressed great enthusiasm for having someone to assist in this vital effort. Our connection with the local chambers of commerce has also provided valuable insights into the community, and we are awaiting our church's inclusion in the list of local congregations.

Every Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning, I spend a couple of hours at a local Latino shop or restaurant, sitting with a sign inviting people to join me for prayer or casual conversation. There is a significant need for our church to be present outside our sanctuaries and engage with the community where they are.

We have also started a weekly worship service at St. Andrew's every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. As of writing this report, we've held two services, with only one family attending so far. Some might view this as minimal, while others see it as a promising first step. I encourage us to focus on faithfulness to God's call as the true measure of success, trusting that the outcome will reveal itself in time. We have also created a Facebook page for San Andres Episcopal Church, where we post daily and stream our Wednesday worship services live.

Recently, I secured the help of a 16-year-old to assist with the technological aspects of transmitting our services. This is a wonderful sign of the fruitfulness that comes from remaining faithful.

Looking ahead, we plan to continue our worship services, making adjustments as we learn more about the spiritual needs of the community. Our pastoral care for those we have connected with will continue, as well as our efforts to reach new families. Collaborating with local authorities and organizations in engaging and supporting the community will remain a key focus. The laundromat ministry will continue, and we aim to increase its frequency by involving local businesses. We also hope to build connections with local nursing homes, shelters, and schools, further extending our presence. The *Church in the Shops* program will carry on as we strive to meet people where they are and show them that the church is with them in their everyday lives.

Submitted by
The Rt. Rev. Silvestre Romero

COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

The financial statements of The Diocese of Western Kansas at September 30, 2024 are for the period January 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 and are unaudited. The assessment income represents income received for the period January 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024 and reflects September assessments received through October 11, 2024. Expenses incurred are for the period January 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024. The financial statements that will appear in the 2024 Journal of the Diocese will be audited as of October 2024.

The audited assets and liabilities of the Endowment Fund represent balances as of December 31, 2023. The audited Endowment Fund statement of assets, liabilities and fund balances are incorporated into the financial statement of the Diocese of Western Kansas at year end and will appear in the 2023 Journal of the Diocese of Western Kansas.

2024 Episcopal Church in Western Kansas Profit & Loss Budget Performance
Through September 2024

	Total		
	Actual	Budget	Annual Budget
Revenue			
4000 Assessment revenue	132,515.91	146,250.00	195,000.00
4166 Reimbursable Items	16,966.13		
4710 Income from Endowment Fund	270,000.00	286,359.75	381,813.00
4900 Other Revenue	528.48	375.02	500.00
Total Revenue	\$ 420,010.52	\$ 432,984.77	\$ 577,313.00
Gross Profit	\$ 420,010.52	\$ 432,984.77	\$ 577,313.00
Expenditures			
4001 Reconciliation Discrepancies			
5000 Outside of Diocese Expenses			
5010 General Church Program Pledge	9,952.50	14,928.75	19,905.00
5020 General Convention Deputies	1,449.60	3,750.03	5,000.00
5040 Provincial Assessment		250.00	250.00
5050 Provincial Delegates		0.00	0.00
5060 Lambeth Conference		0.00	0.00
Total 5000 Outside of Diocese Expenses	\$ 11,402.10	\$ 18,928.78	\$ 25,155.00
5300 Ministry Expense			
5302 Multicultural Ministries			
53021 Multicultural Ministry -Garden City	64,085.50	75,000.01	100,000.00
53022 Multicultural Ministries-Libera	79,583.30	75,000.01	100,000.00
Total 5302 Multicultural Ministries	\$ 143,668.80	\$ 150,000.02	\$ 200,000.00
5303 Liberal Rectory	4,086.10	11,250.00	15,000.00
5310 Diocesan Ministry Expense	6,376.68	3,750.02	5,000.00
5360 Clergy Evaluations and BG Check	950.00	2,250.00	3,000.00
Total 5300 Ministry Expense	\$ 155,081.58	\$ 167,250.04	\$ 223,000.00
5600 Diocesan Program Expense			
5601 Program Expense	130.07	0.00	0.00
5620 Diocesan Youth Program	909.52	7,499.97	10,000.00
5621 Diocesan Youth Travel Expense		1,500.03	2,000.00
5650 Clergy Conference	336.76	1,500.03	2,000.00
5651 Clergy Spouse Hospitality Exp		450.00	600.00
5674 Commission On Ministry		187.47	250.00
5676 Prairie Spirit & misc pub Exp	526.97	1,500.03	2,000.00
5680 Bishop Search Process Expense		749.98	1,000.00
5690 Bishops Ministry/Evangelism Fnd		1,500.03	2,000.00
5691 Bishop Kemper School for Minist	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
5692 Bishop Kemper Tuition Expense		2,500.00	2,500.00
Total 5600 Diocesan Program Expense	\$ 11,903.32	\$ 27,387.54	\$ 32,350.00

Profit & Loss Budget Performance (cont.)

5900 Episcopate			
5901 Episcopate Stipend	56,558.73	56,558.25	75,411.00
5902 Episcopate Housing/Utilities	22,500.00	22,500.00	30,000.00
5903 Episcopate Pension	15,319.08	15,319.08	20,425.49
59035 Episcopate Social Security	6,047.61	6,047.91	8,063.90
5904 Episcopate Group Insurance		0.00	-
5906 Episcopate Hospitality Expense	2,646.22	2,250.00	3,000.00
5907 Episcopate Travel & Other Exps	12,387.93	11,250.00	15,000.00
5909 Continuing Education	1,700.00	2,250.00	3,000.00
5910 Assisting Bishop Expense	7,010.92	7,499.97	10,000.00
5912 Lambeth Conference			
Total 5900 Episcopate	\$ 124,170.49	\$ 123,675.21	\$ 164,900.39
59400 Office operations			
5940 Salaries			
59401 Salary-Administrative	35,796.78	35,796.78	47,729.00
59402 Wages- Admin. Asst.	5,250.06	5,249.97	7,000.00
Total 5940 Salaries	\$ 41,046.84	\$ 41,046.75	\$ 54,729.00
5941 Payroll Taxes	3,140.08	3,140.28	4,187.00
5942 Staff-Medical Insurance	16,272.00	16,272.00	21,696.00
5943 Staff-Pension	3,221.73	3,221.73	4,295.61
5946 Staff-Travel Expense	2,637.30	2,812.50	3,750.00
5948 Bank Fees and Service Charges		0.00	0.00
5949 Office Supplies Expense	2,071.98	1,874.97	2,500.00
5950 Dues, Fees & Subscriptions	3,594.16	2,250.00	3,000.00
5955 Phone and Internet Expense	1,820.83	1,950.03	2,600.00
5959 Office Equipment Expense	1,355.06	900.00	1,200.00
5960 Postage Expense	779.91	900.00	1,200.00
5965 Diocesan Insurance Expense	7,254.93	10,874.97	14,500.00
5975 Repair Office Equipment Exp	515.00	74.97	100.00
5976 Office Rental Expense	6,843.70	6,599.97	8,800.00
5977 Storage Rental Expense	360.00	0.00	0.00
5978 Audit Expense		5,100.03	6,800.00
5980 Diocesan Convention Expense	167.76	1,500.03	2,000.00
5981 Diocesan Journal Expense		37.53	50.00
5982 Diocesan Meeting Expense	781.23	375.03	500.00
Total 59400 Office operations	\$ 91,862.51	\$ 98,930.79	\$ 131,907.61
5954 Depreciation Expense			
Reimbursements			
Total Expenditures	\$ 394,420.00	\$ 430,446.13	\$ 577,313.00
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 25,590.52	\$ 2,538.64	\$ 23,051.88
Other Revenue			
6000 Additions To Reserves	313,085.53		313,085.53
Other Expenditures			
7500 Subtractions from Reserves	345,472.28		345,472.28
Net Other Revenue	(32,386.75)		(32,386.75)
Net Revenue	(6,796.23)		(9,334.87)

2025 Proposed Budget

			Budget 2024	Proposed Budget 2025
4000 · Assessment revenue			\$ 195,000.00	\$ 195,000.00
4166 · Reimbursable Items			\$ -	\$ -
4700 · Investment Income			\$ 381,813.00	\$ 406,331.66
4900 · Other Revenue			\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
			\$ 577,313.00	\$ 601,831.66
5000 · Outside of Diocese Expenses				
5010 · General Church Program Pledge			\$ 19,905.00	\$ 36,268.80
5020 · General Convention Deputies			\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Total 5000 · Outside of Diocese Expenses			\$ 24,905.00	\$ 41,268.80
5300 · Diocesan Ministry Work				
53021-MultiCultural Ministries-Garden City			\$ 100,000.00	\$ 103,000.00
53022-MultiCultural Ministries-Liberal			\$ 100,000.00	\$ 105,000.00
5303-Liberal Rectory Expenses			\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
5310-Diocesan Ministry Expense			\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
5360 · Clergy Evaluations and BG Check			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Total 5300 · Diocesan Ministry Work			\$ 223,000.00	\$ 225,000.00
5600 · Diocesan Program Expense				
5601 · Program Expense				
5620 · Diocesan Youth Program			\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
5621 · Diocesan Youth Travel Expense			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
5650 · Clergy Conference			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
5651 · Clergy Spouse Hospitality Exp			\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
5674 · Commission On Ministry			\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
5676 · Prairie Spirit & misc pub Exp			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
5680 · Search Process Expense			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
5690 · Bishops Ministry/Evangelism Fnd			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
5691 · Bishop Kemper School for Minist			\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
5692 * BKSM Tuition Expense			\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Total 5600 · Diocesan Program Expense			\$ 32,350.00	\$ 32,350.00

34
2025 Proposed Budget (contd.)

			Budget 2024	Proposed Budget 2025
5900 · Episcopate				
5901 · Episcopate Stipend			\$ 75,411.00	\$ 77,411.00
5902 · Episcopate Housing/Utilities			\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
5903 · Episcopate Pension			\$ 20,425.49	\$ 20,813.00
59035 · Episcopate Social Security			\$ 8,063.90	\$ 8,216.95
5904 · Episcopate Group Insurance			\$ -	\$ -
5906 · Episcopate Hospitality Expense			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
5907 · Episcopate Travel & Other Exps			\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
5909 · Continuing Education			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
5910 · Assisting Bishop Expense			\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Total 5900 · Episcopate			\$ 164,900.39	\$ 168,440.95
59400 · Office operations				
5940 · Salaries				
	59401 · Salary-Administrative	42	\$ 47,729.00	\$ 48,969.00
	59402 * Wages- Assistant Admin		\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,210.00
5941 · Payroll Taxes			\$ 4,187.00	\$ 4,297.70
5942 · Staff-Medical Insurance			\$ 21,696.00	\$ 23,600.00
5943 · Staff-Pension			\$ 4,295.61	\$ 4,407.21
5946 · Staff-Travel Expenses		2022	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 4,000.00
Episcopal Church in Western Kansas Endowment Fund Balance				
5948 · Bank Fees and Service Charges			\$ -	\$ -
5949 · Office Supplies Expense			\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
5950 · Dues, Fees & Subscriptions			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
5955 · Phone and Internet Expense			\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00
5959 · Office Equipment Expense			\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
5960 · Postage Expense			\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
5965 · Diocesan Insurance Expense			\$ 14,500.00	\$ 10,000.00
5975 · Repair Office Equipment Exp			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
5976 · Office Rental Expense			\$ 8,800.00	\$ 11,638.00
5978 · Audit Expense			\$ 6,800.00	\$ 7,000.00
5980 · Diocesan Convention Expense			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
5981 · Diocesan Journal Expense			\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
5982 · Diocesan Meeting Expense			\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Total 59400 · Office operations			\$ 131,907.61	\$ 134,771.91
Total Expenses			\$ 577,063.00	\$ 601,831.66

Episcopal Church in Western Kansas Endowment

Fund Balance Sheet

	12/31/2023	12/31/2022	12/31/2021	12/31/2020	12/31/2019	12/31/2018	12/31/2017
	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Assets							
Cash (Margin)-Charles Schwab	(1,013,888)	(799,127)	(432,564)	(114,218)	(429,240)	(294,439)	69,325
Investments (see page 4)	<u>8,830,346</u>	<u>7,167,255</u>	<u>8,122,091</u>	<u>5,959,536</u>	<u>4,940,276</u>	<u>3,892,986</u>	<u>3,907,909</u>
Total Assets	<u>7,816,458</u>	<u>6,368,127</u>	<u>7,689,527</u>	<u>5,845,318</u>	<u>4,511,036</u>	<u>3,598,547</u>	<u>3,977,233</u>
Managed Fund Liabilities							
Ashby House	537,095	484,294	766,614	627,867	510,466	607,717	819,827
Grace Church Anthony	-	-	-	(68)	2,652	2,000	2,034
Larned Pilgrimage	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,348
St. Elizabeth's Russell	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,643
St. Johns Great Bend	61,500	47,199	-	-	-	-	-
St. Mark's Medicine Lodge	21,744	25,703	48,999	41,190	40,627	30,636	31,154
St Paul's Goodland	89,980	69,057	78,432	70,017	56,925	42,926	43,652
St Thomas Garden City	13,057	103,426	167,378	155,640	131,510	99,168	-
Sts.Mary & Martha Larned	223,967	171,886	207,104	158,989	-	-	-
Trinity Norton	<u>59,707</u>	<u>45,823</u>	<u>47,469</u>	<u>36,441</u>	<u>29,627</u>	<u>22,341</u>	<u>22,719</u>
Total Managed Funds	<u>1,007,050</u>	<u>947,388</u>	<u>1,315,996</u>	<u>1,090,076</u>	<u>771,807</u>	<u>804,788</u>	<u>950,376</u>
Council Restricted Funds							
Future Ministry Epiphany Grant	374,251	287,224	326,217	250,430	-	-	-
Future Ministry Opportunity	901,735	924,141	1,130,044	757,168	615,590	305,309	310,473
Heritage Project Fund	305,778	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lambeth Conference	42,725	32,790	23,915	18,359	14,926	20,677	21,027
Leadership Fund	75,580	58,005	65,879	-	-	-	-
Standing Committee	<u>7,348</u>	<u>5,640</u>	<u>6,405</u>	<u>4,917</u>	<u>3,998</u>	<u>3,015</u>	<u>3,066</u>
Total Council Restricted Funds	<u>1,707,417</u>	<u>1,307,799</u>	<u>1,552,461</u>	<u>1,030,874</u>	<u>634,514</u>	<u>329,001</u>	<u>334,565</u>
Donor Restricted Funds							
Permanently Restricted Original Contributions							
Altar Guild	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Holy Apostles Ellsworth	-	-	4,180	4,180	4,180	4,180	4,180
Incarnation Salina	-	-	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
St Anne's McPherson	86,000	86,000	86,000	86,000	86,000	86,000	86,000
Undesignated Diocese	<u>1,180,019</u>	<u>1,180,019</u>	<u>1,180,019</u>	<u>1,180,019</u>	<u>1,180,019</u>	<u>1,180,019</u>	<u>1,180,019</u>
Total Original Contributions	<u>1,267,019</u>	<u>1,267,019</u>	<u>1,288,199</u>	<u>1,288,199</u>	<u>1,288,199</u>	<u>1,288,199</u>	<u>1,288,199</u>
Temporarily Restricted Accumulated Earnings							
Altar Guild	2,923	2,156	2,783	2,029	1,569	1,024	1,162
Holy Apostles Ellsworth	-	-	5,225	3,351	2,208	852	1,195
Incarnation Salina	-	-	13,269	7,263	5,220	500	1,545
St Anne's McPherson	194,796	139,904	183,789	130,046	97,253	58,344	68,203
Undesignated Diocese	<u>2,224,545</u>	<u>1,559,883</u>	<u>2,114,028</u>	<u>1,457,899</u>	<u>1,057,496</u>	<u>582,428</u>	<u>702,795</u>
Total Accumulated Earnings	<u>2,422,264</u>	<u>1,701,944</u>	<u>2,319,094</u>	<u>1,600,588</u>	<u>1,163,745</u>	<u>643,149</u>	<u>774,901</u>
Total Donor Restricted Funds	<u>3,689,283</u>	<u>2,968,963</u>	<u>3,607,293</u>	<u>2,888,787</u>	<u>2,451,944</u>	<u>1,931,348</u>	<u>2,063,100</u>
Spendable Funds							
Altar Guild	14,498	10,981	12,274	9,297	7,452	5,533	5,523
Holy Apostles Ellsworth	-	-	406	1,620	1,052	5,404	8,275
Incarnation Salina	-	-	4,600	2,505	8,141	5,394	4,736
St Anne's McPherson	145,149	100,993	101,487	28,235	15,352	13,042	32,683
St Michaels Hays	28,145	21,600	24,533	18,833	-	-	-
Undesignated Diocese	<u>1,224,915</u>	<u>1,010,404</u>	<u>1,070,479</u>	<u>775,091</u>	<u>620,774</u>	<u>504,038</u>	<u>577,976</u>
Total Spendable Funds	<u>1,412,707</u>	<u>1,143,978</u>	<u>1,213,778</u>	<u>835,582</u>	<u>652,771</u>	<u>533,411</u>	<u>629,192</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>7,816,458</u>	<u>6,368,127</u>	<u>7,689,527</u>	<u>5,845,318</u>	<u>4,511,036</u>	<u>3,598,547</u>	<u>3,977,233</u>

**2024 Episcopal Church in Western Kansas Endowment Fund
Funds Statement**

	1/1/2023- 12/31/2023	1/1/2022- 12/31/2022	1/1/2021- 12/31/2021	1/1/2020- 12/31/2020	1/1/2019- 12/31/2019
Receipts					
Future Ministry Opportunity	24,909.51	15,570.41	254,357.49	203,604.03	199,850.00
Grace Church Anthony		-	-	446.16	
Incarnation Salina	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage	260,635.63	-	-	-	-
Larned Pilgrimage	-	11,972.04			
Leadership Fund	-		51,573.00		
St Anne's McPherson			43,252.60		
St Johns Great Bend	-	51,285.50			
St. Michaels Ministry Hays			60,000.00	50,000.00	
St Thomas Garden City			25,000.00	-	-
Trinity Norton	-	4,400.00	-	-	-
Total Contributions	285,545.14	83,227.95	434,183.09	399,136.25	199,850.00
Withdrawals					
Ashby House	(75,000.00)	(200,000.00)	(50,000.00)	-	(240,000.00)
Future Ministry Opportunity	(282,015.34)	(131,000.00)	(115,000.00)		
Grace Church Anthony	-	-	-	(3,098.00)	-
Holy Apostles Ellsworth	-	-	(1,619.80)	-	(5,403.66)
Incarnation Salina	-	-	-	(10,000.00)	
Lambeth Conference	-	-	-	-	(11,000.00)
Larned Pilgrimage	-	-	-	-	-
St Anne's McPherson	-	-	-	-	(6,667.00)
St Cornelius Dodge City	-	-	(25,000.00)		
St Mark's Medicine Lodge	(10,100.00)	(18,500.00)	(4,000.00)	(7,700.00)	
Sts Mary & Martha Larned		(11,000.00)			
St Michaels Ministry Hays	-	-	(60,000.00)	(35,000.00)	
St Paul's Goodland	-	-	(10,000.00)		
St Thomas Garden City	(103,425.63)	(47,400.00)	(31,000.00)	(6,000.00)	
Undesignated	(230,000.00)	(100,000.00)	(65,000.00)	(90,000.00)	(123,000.00)
Total Distributions	(700,540.97)	(507,900.00)	(361,619.80)	(151,798.00)	(386,070.66)
Investments					
Dividends and Interest	78,288.44	75,487.59	67,381.00	71,039.87	66,990.89
Interest Expense	(67,943.22)	(17,378.69)	(968.64)	(3,356.35)	(15,571.34)
Realized Gain (Loss)	537,929.14	-	30,754.72	-	-
Taxes (Withheld) Refunded		-	-	-	-
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	1,315,051.72	(954,836.36)	1,674,479.05	1,019,260.64	1,047,289.53
Net Investment Income	1,863,326.08	(896,727.46)	1,771,646.13	1,086,944.16	1,098,709.08
Net Change in Fund Balances	1,448,330.25	(1,321,399.51)	1,844,209.42	1,334,282.41	912,488.42

OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE BISHOP

January 1, 2024 - December 31,

2024

Date	Church Visited	Confirmations	Received	Baptisms	Ordinations
January 28, 2024	St. Thomas Garden City				
February 11, 2024	St. Mark's, Lyons				
March 9, 2024	St. Michael's, Hays				The Rev. Ben Houchen (P)
March 10, 2024	St. Michael's, Hays	Don Chambers	Mary Jo Chambers	Llywellyn Harshbarger	
		Marsha Harshbarger	Eric Houchen	Oswyn Harshbarger	
		Rex Harshbarger	Pat Houchen	Jay Steinmetz	
		Dana Loewen	Charlie Schmanke		
		T. Silver	Jordon Schmeidler		
		Alpha Stienmetz			
March 23, 2024	Cathedral Salina		Debbi Wagner		
			Judee Boyd		
April 7, 2024	All Saints, Pratt	Darren D. Perkins			
		Dyllen M. Montei-Wallace			
April 21, 2024	St. Mark's, Medicine Lodge				
May 5, 2024	Christ Church, Kingman				
May 19, 2024	Grace Church, Hutchinson (Romero)	Sherry L. Cooper	Gina R. Long		
		Mackenzie K. Spears	Helen E. Porter		
			Dale H. Veerhusen		
July 7, 2024	Trinity Church, Norton				
September 8, 2024	St. Cornelius, Dodge City (Milliken)				
October 6, 2024	St. John's, Great Bend				
October 20, 2024	St. Andrew's, Liberal				
November 3, 2024	St. Anne's, McPherson				
December 1, 2024	Christ Cathedral				
Totals	15 Visitations	10 Confirmations	10 Received	3 Baptisms	1 Ordinations