

The EPISCOPAL DIOCESE of OLYMPIA  
REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL (2023-2024)

The Diocesan Council (DC) is the convention in recess. It has responsibility to oversee the budget and program goals of the Diocese, and to carry out the priorities adopted by convention. DC members accept assignments, work on task groups, and attend regional, committee, and commission meetings as necessary. DC agendas include items for discussion and conversation, presentations, updates, action items, and reports. The DC meets on Zoom and in person to provide for more inclusion and access.

In 2024 DC members:

- Shared land acknowledgements at the beginning of each meeting, recognizing Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land upon which Diocesan Council members meet.
- Received reports from the Bishop Provisional and Diocesan regarding the activities of the Office of the Bishop and visitations.
- Received reports from the Canon to the Ordinary on congregations in transition.
- Received updates and reviewed financial reports.
- Participated with the other governing bodies in two virtual gatherings.
- Worked with Budget and Finance Committee to prioritize spending towards the vision of the Diocese of Olympia and Transition Areas of Focus.
- Participated in prioritizing and visioning activities in support of property and resource allocation work of the Board of Directors.

**Official actions taken by the Council November 2023 through August 2024:**

Financial:

- Adopted a resolution to be forwarded to the fall convention recommending the 2026 assessment rate be set at 14.5% of the Net Disposable Income (NDI).
- Adopted a balanced 2025 operating budget to be forwarded for ratification at the fall Convention.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Recorded 2023 housing allowances as required by the IRS.
- Received an annual report from Chaplains on the Harbor (COH) and charged a task force of COH and diocesan staff and leaders to discern how to support the work of Chaplains in the next chapter of its ministry.
- Received a report from St. John San Juan Olympia regarding the effect of strategic congregational development grant funds awarded for 2024-2028

Members of the 2023-2024 Diocesan Council: The Most Rev. Melissa Skelton, Bishop Provisional (January 1, 2023 - September 15, 2024); The Rt. Rev. Philip Labelle (September 16, 2024, continuing); Jo Burkholder, Be-Attitudes-Lay, St. Luke's, Seattle; The Rev. Doyt Conn, Holy – C, Epiphany, Seattle; Karen Fraser, Willapa – St. Benedict's, Lacey; Ruth Anne Garcia, BIPOC, St. James, Kent; The Rev. Allen Hicks,

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Sno Isle—Clergy Trinity, Everett; Lee Holland, Rainier—Lay, St. Matthew's, Browns Point/Tacoma; Josh Hosler, Evergreen—Clergy, Good Shepherd, Federal Way; Heather Irwin, Eastside-Lay, Holy Cross, Redmond; Sharalyne King, Columbia—Lay, St. Stephen's, Longview; Nic Mather, Columbia-Clergy, St. Stephen's, Longview; Maitland McKenzie, Rainier-Lay, St. Mary's, Lakewood; Malcolm McLaurin, BIPOC, Holy Cross, Redmond; Greg Peters, Be Attitudes-Clergy, St. Alban's, Edmonds; Baudelina Paz, Mount Baker-Clergy, Resurrección, Mt. Vernon; Jesús Reyes, BIPOC, St. Luke's – San Lucas, Vancouver; Karen Sjöström, Lay- St. John's, Kirkland; The Rev. Eric Stelle, Peninsula Clergy

Others with seat and voice: Judith Andrews, Diocesan Chancellor; Jim Beckwith, Treasurer; Cristi Chapman, Budget & Finance Committee chair; Arienne Davison, Canon to the Ordinary; Bryan Krislock, Diocesan Vice Chancellor; Dede Moore, Canon for Human Resources, Governance & Convention; Dennis Tierney, Diocesan Property Manager; Charles Thorne, Canon for Finance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Diocesan Council by, The Rev. Cn. Arienne Davison, Canon to the Ordinary.