

Meeting of the SW Region 2025 Convocation
August 16th, 2025
10:00 AM

The meeting opened with prayer led by the Rev. Teri Shecter, SW Region Missioner. There were 16 participants from all around the Region and also included the Rev. Canon Vanessa Stickler Glass, meeting host.

The Rev. Teri Shecter presented the Missioner's Report and State-of-the-Region report. This year, we had two new churches join our region: Little Shepherd in the Hills in Crestone and Ascension in Salida. The Rev. Melissa George is the priest for both congregations. The region welcomed the newly re-invigorated congregation of St. Michael's Telluride and provided grant funding for support. The congregation is meeting in the local Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Rob Rose is now providing services for both St. Michael's and St. John's Ouray after the Rev. Mark Chambers stepped down from that position in December.

She said she was sad to report that on Sunday, August 17th, she will be driving to Lake City to participate in the de-consecration of St. James. She will along with the Rev. Canon Jon Anderson, will also honor the 40 years of service by the Rev. Ed Nettleton and his wife, Mary, have given to the church and their local community. Health concerns for the Nettletons and a shrinking congregation have led the Bishop's Committee of St. James to reach this decision.

Other transitions include, in April of this year, the Church of the Nativity, Grand Junction, petitioned the Standing Committee to move to the NW Region. The request was granted. The Rev. Doug Bleyle has accepted a call to the Denver area and St. Barnabas, Cortez is entering a search process for another priest.

The Office of the Bishop provided Teri with \$4000 for 2025 to fund three visits to the Episcopal Church Navajo Land. Each visit consists of one LPL and one deacon. She emailed all the deacons and LPL's in Colorado and she's happy to report that all of the slots were filled. The purpose of the visits is to increase interest in both these ministries (the Vocational Diaconate and Licensed Lay Pastoral Leader program.) Each group will submit pictures and a short video to the Colorado Episcopalian.

Teri asked for the video Grant Report from the Partnership of the Gunnison Valley to be shown. The partnership is made up of Good Samaritan Gunnison and All Saints in the Valley Crested Butte. Their Vicar is the Rev. Laura Osborne.

The Minutes from last year's Convocation were put up on the SW Region section of the Diocesan website prior to the meeting. The Rev. Wren Blessing shared the link to the documents prepared for this Convocation in the Zoom chat. Teri called for a hand vote to accept the minutes as presented. The vote carried by all in attendance with no dissenters.

The Proposed Budget for 2026 was presented by Missi Stone, SW Region Administrator. As Missi was presenting the proposed budget for 2026, she realized there was an alignment mistake with the cells. The Rev. Laura Osborne, Good Samaritan Gunnison, also mentioned that their pledge to the region needed to be \$1000 more than what was listed as their pledge for 2026. There was a question of how the unusual sum of \$34,063 for the 2026 grant season came from. The Rev. Teri Shecter, SW Region Missioner, said that due to Church of the Nativity leaving the region, we had subtracted their pledge and had to adjust the grants accordingly. The Executive Committee was committed to funding grants

Minutes of the August 16th All-Region & SW Region Convocation

The All-Region Convocation opened at 9:00 AM chaired by The Rev. Canon Jon Anderson. The meeting was well attended by delegates from all five regions in the Episcopal Church in Colorado. The meeting opened with a prayer for the mission and unity of the Episcopal Church in Colorado. Canon Jon introduced The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Colorado who began her address with the Gospel of John 13:34 & 35—"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." This will be the theme for Convention which was developed with the keynote speaker, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, former Presiding Bishop. Bishop Kym is excited about the Episcopal Church in Colorado moving forward into how to love and care for each other and living into your Baptismal covenant. She also spoke to the wonderful partnership ministries of the Gunnison Valley, Ascension Salida and Little Shepherd Crestone, and Brigit's Village.

She asked the Rev. Canon Greg Foraker to speak to the Iona Grant that was received again this year. He said that in addition to monies given for Diaconal and Lay Pastoral Leader programs and training, there will be a new category offered, Licensed Lay Preaching, next year. Bishop Kym added that there is a multi-year Lilly grant also to build on the gifts for Lay and ordained ministry through Caffeinated Church headed up by Canon Mike Orr.

Bishop Kym is also thrilled about the growth of the Youth and Young Adult ministries. She also mentioned programs that enable us to live out the life missions we are called to live including the Becoming Beloved Community Event that happened in the Missionary Diocese of Navajoland. Over 80 people went on Pilgrimage to the site of the Sand Creek Massacre. She finished with saying that ministry happens because of you!

Nancy Jones, Diocesan Bookkeeper, shared the proposed budget for 2026 that will be presented at this year's Convention. If anyone is interested, there will be a 9:00AM budget hearing on the Saturday before Convention (link on the Diocesan website.) We are working toward becoming a fully funded diocese which means every congregation is tithing 10%. This will enable funding for all the programs provided by the Diocese. The budget projected expenditures for 2026 are \$3,740,594.00 with an expected income of \$3,563,749.00. The resulting deficit of \$176,845.00 isn't worrisome since there are strong unrestricted reserves available to compensate. For 2025, actual Congregational giving is + \$135,000.00 so things look good. There is also \$25,000 in the Bishop's Ministry and Development line item that can be used for new church plants. This brought up the question of how St. Michael's Telluride is funding their new ministry. The Rev. Teri Shecter said that the SW Region funded a grant for them this year.

Sharon Caulfield, Vice Chancellor and Vice Chair of the Legislative & Resolutions Committee, shared that there are no new Resolutions but that there are two amendments to current Resolutions. 1—Legislative Proposal to Amend Article 5 on how we get Delegates to General Convention. 2—Establish an alternate membership in multiple parishes in Canon 3 Section 5. This will be voted on by a Majority by Orders, Clergy and Lay.

The video presentation for YES Trips—Mission Trip to Alaska was shown. This is also the grant presentation for the five regions.

The meeting closed with prayer led by the Rev. Canon Jon Anderson.

but not at a larger budget deficit even though there is money to compensate in the SW Region CDs with the bank and with CEF. With the adjustments, the proposed budget for 2026 has \$45,165.00 Total Income, with Total Proposed Expenses of \$48,587.00 leaving a net income of -\$3,422.00. A transfer of \$3,422.00 from the Alpine Bank MM account will compensate. Teri entertained a motion to include the necessary changes of the cell realignment and the \$1000 addition to Good Samaritan's pledge by a show of hands. All hands were raised and there were none dissenting. The 2026 Budget was approved.

There were no elections necessary at this Convocation. Canon Vanessa said that there will be elections at Convention so please bring a smart-phone or tablet in order to participate.

The 2025 Grant Reports were presented by Missi Stone. They are also posted on the SW Region section of the Diocesan Website. The video report to the All-Region Convocation from YES and the Partnership of the Gunnison Valley at the start of the SW Region Convocation have been presented in place of a written version. Teri said that she is happy about all of the ministries happening all around the region.

The closing prayer was led by the Rev. Teri Shecter.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44AM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Missi Stone, SW Region Administrator