

Report from Diocesan Council to the 161st Annual Diocesan Convention

Anthony Crisafio, President

The mission of Diocesan Council is set forth in Canon V, Section 1

“The Diocesan Council shall act on behalf of the Convention when the Convention is not in session. In particular, it shall evaluate the policies, programs, and other activities of the Diocese, make recommendations to the Convention, and give general oversight to the work, mission, budget and human resources of the Diocese. The Council shall perform such other functions and tasks as the Convention may assign to it.”

In essence, Diocesan Council serves as the “Convention in recess,” empowered to act on behalf of the Convention throughout the year.

Highlights from 2026

For 2026, I was elected president and the Rev Laura DiPanfilo was elected vice president at the December 2025 meeting; with Elieen Scharbaugh elected as secretary.

At the February meeting the following appointments were announced:

Judge of Assessments: the Rev Cn Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan

Judge of Audits: Bryan Webb

Budget & Assessment Working Group (BAWG): the Rev Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan (Judge of Assessments, *ex officio* & chair), the Rev Noah Evans (member), the Rev Laura DiPanfilo (Standing Committee liaison), the Rev Cn Joann Saylor (Diocesan Treasurer, *ex officio*), Anthony Crisafio (Council President, *ex officio*), the Rt Rev Dr Ketlen Solak (Bishop, *ex officio*)

Diocesan Nominating Committee: Anthony Crisafio (chair from June onwards); Cathy Dugan (Dist 4 Vice-Chair), Gary Hlavinka (Dist 3 Vice Chair), Stephanie Fair (Dist 1 Chair), the Rev Bill Gieger (retired clergy)

We thank Florence Atwood for her initial work as chair until May.

Over the summer, the following appointments were announced:

Clergy Compensation Committee: the Rev Sara Irwin, the Rev Diana Briody, Jim Neral, Tony Turo, Anthony Crisafio (chair, *ex officio*), the Rt Rev Dr Ketlen Solak (Bishop, *ex officio*)

Budget & Assessment Working Group (BAWG): the Rev Noah Evans as chair and the Rev Guy Brown as the Judge of Assessments.

Changes in Diocesan Council Membership

We thanked Bonnie-Marie+ for her work as a Judge of Assessments & Chair, Budget & Assessment Working Group, and a member of Council, which came to end at the end of

August. The Rev Kris Opat was elected to Standing Committee and as such an *ex officio* member of Diocesan Council.

Policies Adopted

In addition to ongoing oversight and discussion, Council completed its canonically required actions and appointments, including:

- Approving diocesan staff clergy housing resolutions
- Reallocating budgetary funding, as needed
- Awarding Parish Mission and Financial Partnership Grants to parishes and missions
- Granting diocesan assessment relief, where appropriate
- Recommending approval of the following for consideration of Diocesan Convention at the October meeting
 - The slate of Nominees for Diocesan Convention—elected positions (2026)
 - The 2027 Clergy Compensation Guide
 - The 2027 Diocesan Budget
 - The 2027 Diocesan Schedule of Assessments
- Approval of the Lay and Clergy Compensation and Medical Plan Guides (2027) at the September meeting for open enrollment

Membership of Diocesan Council

Council President: Anthony Crisafio, *St Andrew's, Highland Park*

Council Vice President: The Rev. Laura Di Panfilo, *St. Brendan's, Franklin Park*

Secretary: Eileen Sharbaugh, *St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon*

The Rt Rev Dr Ketlen A. Solak, Bishop

Andrew Roman, Chancellor

James Neral, *Christ Church, North Hills*

The Rev. Kris Opat, *St David's, Peters Township*

The Rev. Canon Natalie Hall, *Redeemer, Squirrel Hill*

Shannon Warchol O'Brien, *Calvary, East Liberty*

The Rev. Sara Irwin, *St. Andrew's, Highland Park*

Bruce Quayle, *Christ Church, North Hills* (District 1)

Bryan Webb, *Redeemer, Squirrel Hill* (District 2)

Norman Cable, *St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon* (District 3)

Daniel Sirianni, *St. Bartholomew's, Scottdale* (District 4)