

West Tennessee Endowment Corporation (WTEC) members started 2025 with the goal of maintaining and continuing outstanding performance after enjoying two exceptional years for the stock market. It is unusual to see such gains sustain into a third year, and the committee was diligent in addressing the challenge.

From January 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025, WTEC investments increased from \$19.5 million to \$22.2 million. Compared with 13.6% returns on WTEC's targeted, overall benchmark for stocks and bonds, WTEC produced 14.5% through the first nine months of the year. Among the strongest performers in our portfolio were large company stocks, particularly in the tech industry; gold; international stocks; and bonds. Our accounts maintained a balanced performance during market turmoil surrounding US tariff policy changes in spring 2025. Fund Evaluation Group, WTEC's investment manager, successfully rebalanced selected holdings to manage risk without overreacting to every week's news headlines.

In May 2025, Immanuel Episcopal Church in Ripley successfully transferred a portion of its Memorial Fund to WTEC to be managed. Six churches in the Diocese now have funds in the WTEC.

WTEC members are grateful for the work and leadership of Chair John Owen whose six year term ended in November 2024. He managed significant changes and improvements during his tenure. As of January 1, 2026, three WTEC committee members will rotate off the board after completing six years of service. WTEC members continue to work smoothly with diocesan staff and the Finance Committee.

The WTEC is charged with long-term stewardship of gifts and the assets of the Diocese. Our focus is to support the mission of the Diocese so it can engage the community of churches and clergy to consider spiritual and financial issues for the coming decades. This is a different mandate than is employed in budgeting at the congregational level.

Any endowment is an expression of the life of its community. Investments cannot be a separate function handled by a few people. Congregations are encouraged to nominate members to serve on the WTEC, even if the church has an endowment of its own. We can be most successful with broad participation from throughout the diocese.



Committee Report

WEST TENNESSEE ENDOWMENT CORPORATION

Report submitted by Jim Vogel
WTEC Chairperson

In early 2025, the Church Home Board awarded \$150,000 grants to Barth House and St. Columba—marking the second year of a five-year commitment to strengthen these ministries. Building on 2023's strategic planning process and subsequent needs assessment conversations with the two organizations, the Board affirmed that sustained, predictable funding empowers both organizations to plan, grow, and deepen their impact. These multi-year grants advance Church Home's mission to enrich the physical, spiritual, and emotional development of youth across the Diocese of West Tennessee by supporting vital operational, programmatic, and capital needs.

Multi-year, flexible funding has proven invaluable allowing both organizations to stay true to their missions and intended impact while adapting to unforeseen challenges. Amid leadership transitions for both grantees in late 2024, this sustained support provided essential stability and continuity to carry them into their next chapter.

Because the majority of funds were committed early in the year, the committee did not maintain a regular meeting schedule. A December 2025 meeting will re-engage the group, onboard new members, and set direction for 2026 and beyond.

The rest of the diocese can support or engage the work of this committee by supporting the committee's work by engaging with Barth House and St. Columba—cornerstone ministries enriching the lives of youth and young adults across our Diocese. Participate in their programs, learn their missions, and help identify other promising, youth-focused initiatives within or alongside the Episcopal Church as future funding opportunities are considered.

The committee wants to emphasize the power of flexible, multi-year funding that places trust in strong ministry partners. Sustained, adaptable support allows organizations like Barth House and St. Columba to plan confidently, respond to change, and continue enriching the lives of youth across our Diocese—no matter what challenges arise.



Committee Report

CHURCH HOME BOARD

Report submitted by Julia McDonald
Church Home Board Chairperson

The Standing Committee's work in 2025 has been productive, resulting in greater connection and communication with diocesan groups such as Bishop and Council and the Commission on Ministry. As a result, a member of the Standing Committee now regularly attends Bishop and Council meetings, and members of the Standing Committee will also attend a December meeting of the Commission on Ministry with postulants and aspirants.

The Standing Committee has also discussed and generated two resolutions to come before the 2025 diocesan convention: WTN 2025-1 MISSION STRATEGY FOR A CHANGING DIOCESE and WTN 2025-4 ENHANCING THE ROLE OF STANDING COMMITTEE IN CANON 15.

Last, the Standing Committee is actively seeking to live in to its role as a Council of Advice to the Right Rev. Phoebe Roaf.

In receiving the study report from the Rev. Christian Senyoni on WTN 2024-2: STREAMLINING DIOCESAN GOVERNANCE RESOLUTION STUDY REPORT, the Standing Committee learned that our purview in relationship to real property is quite limited, in comparison to the vast majority of standing committees across The Episcopal Church. A resolution for this convention, WTN 2025-4 ENHANCING THE ROLE OF STANDING COMMITTEE IN CANON 15, seeks to expand the role of our standing committee to include all real property (not just that used for divine worship), align our committee with operational practices across the Church, and enhance checks and balances between governing bodies in the Diocese of West Tennessee.

The ongoing challenge for our Standing Committee is to generate a connected and non-siloed presence in the Diocese of West Tennessee and the members of the Standing Committee welcome conversation, feedback, and ideas from any faith community from across the diocese. The presence of a Standing Committee is required by the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church. We seek to work with other governing bodies, Bishop Phoebe, diocesan staff, and all faith communities in our diocese to discern and chart a course of action that meets the needs of a changing diocese.



Committee Report

STANDING COMMITTEE

Report submitted by Sarah Cowan
Standing Committee President

In response to numerous General Convention resolutions, particularly Resolution 2015-A182 from the 78th General Convention in 2015 which urged dioceses and parishes to create opportunities to identify and address the sin of racism in their respective contexts, along with the Fall 2021 diocesan Mutual Ministry Review, which identified the need for focused racial healing work, the Becoming Beloved Community Commission began its formation in the fall of 2023 as a task force. During the 43rd Diocesan Convention in November 2024, the task force was formally established as the Becoming Beloved Community Commission, underscoring the Diocese's long-term commitment to dismantling racism and building a more inclusive church.

Since Convention 2024, the Commission has met on a regular basis to discuss next steps forward in establishing a program of training, study, and prayer in racial healing work. These programs will be designed to meet canonically required training, as well as provide further opportunities for significant diocesan and individual work around racial history and healing.

In the past year, members of the Commission have participated in the Union of Black Episcopalians' service in remembrance of The Reverend Absalom Jones; sponsored studies of the books of Philemon and Jonah at Barth House; been involved with the Barth House Fall Lecture "Sacred, Secular, Syncopated"; and held a listening session with faith communities that have utilized the Sacred Ground curriculum produced by The Episcopal Church's Office of Racial Reconciliation.

2026 is anticipated to be a year of significant progress in bringing racial healing opportunities to the diocese in anticipation of the time when The Beloved Community becomes a reality, where –

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)



Committee Report

BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY COMMISSION

Report submitted by Gerri Endicott
Commission Member

The members of Bishop and Council (B&C) support the financial and programmatic priorities of the diocese. This year, B&C helped to facilitate the first Small Church Conference hosted by the diocese. There were 16 churches with 45 representatives in attendance at St. Luke's Jackson April 4-5, 2025. Plans are underway for the next Small Church Conference in April 2026.

Supporting youth and young adults continues to be a diocesan priority. The Diocesan Youth Council had another successful year and DYC representatives attended the May 2025 B&C meeting to report on their activities. It is a blessing to get their insight and feedback regarding youth engagement with the diocese.

Every B&C meeting includes reports from St. Columba and Barth House, two of our diocesan ministries which focus on evangelism. This year, B&C handled several requests for loans from small congregations for building maintenance.

B&C members also engage in conversation regarding issues facing the larger church including church attendance and financial sustainability.

Please keep us in your prayers for discernment and reach out to us with your ideas.



Committee Report

BISHOP AND COUNCIL

Report submitted by Susan Kenny
Bishop and Council Vice President