

WELCOME!



Dear Diocese of West Texas,

Grace and peace to you. One of the greatest joys for me each year is gathering with our clergy, laity, guests, speakers, exhibitors, and staff at our annual Council gathering. Because we are a diocese that is spread across a large territory, Council provides a unique opportunity for us to enjoy time for fellowship and to worship and pray together.

I am excited that the Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, Bishop of Minnesota, has accepted my invitation to be the Guest Speaker at the Bishop's Luncheon on Friday, February 27.

There is much to share about the great work that is being done through our churches, ministries, and communities. During Council, we will have the opportunity to hear updates from representatives of our diocesan departments and ministries, as well as to conduct important business and elect clergy and lay to the open electoral positions for committees and boards.

We will have a chance to look back on 2025 and reflect on how God is working in our diocese and to give thanks for the many joyful occasions we were able to celebrate together, for a healthy and united diocese, and for his love, and comfort as the diocese mourned the terrible losses from the July 4 Hill Country flood, providing strength and guidance as the diocese came together in providing spiritual and financial aid to victims.

As I look forward to Council, I've had an opportunity to reflect on the past year and have been so heartened and proud of the way people in West Texas have responded to the call "Here Am I. Send Me." When I selected this verse from Isaiah 6:8 as our theme for the 2025 Council, I could not have imagined the magnitude of ways this call would be answered by laity, clergy, ministries, congregations, and communities. Thank you for answering the call.

The theme I have chosen for this year's Council is "Let Love Be Genuine" from Romans 12:9. I chose this theme as it explains how Christians are to live – not just in word but in deeds. Additionally, I selected this verse because Paul describes the genuine love that we are to have for one another in the church and how we are to model this love as Christians outside of the church. I will share more on this theme in my Council address.

I hope you will join us at the 122nd Council and look forward to seeing you!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+David Read". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross symbol at the beginning.

+David Read

The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D.
Bishop of West Texas

[Click here](#) to listen to Bishop Read's message on the Council theme.