

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF KANSAS, INC.**

**August 24, 2022**

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met at Upton Hall in Topeka, KS on August 24, 2022. Prior to the start of the meeting, Bishop Bascom led the group in prayer.

Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

Members of the Council of Trustees present were:

- Bishop Cathleen Chittenden Bascom
- The Rev. Casey Rohleder, President
- Deacon Jim Cummins
- The Rev. Greg Doll
- Ms. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon
- Mr. Lawrence Hannan
- The Rev. Helen Hoch
- The Rev. Marc McDonald
- Mr. Mike Morrow
- The Rev. Andrew O'Connor
- The Rev. Doreen Rice
- Mr. Richard Wilson

Members of the Council of Trustees on Zoom:

- Mr. John Smittle
- Ms. Marilyn Trubey
- Ms. Diana Waddell-Gilbert

Also present were:

- Mr. Jay Currie, Comptroller
- Ms. Michael Funston, Executive Assistant to the Bishop
- The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary
- Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer
- The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Campus, and Digital Missioner, via zoom
- Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Communications and Young Adult Ministry, via zoom
- Mr. Frank Taylor, Chancellor via Zoom

Bishop Bascom presented the June 22, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Morrow proposed that the content of Council minutes be more in line with *Robert's Rules of Order*. Bishop Bascom proposed that Mother Rice, the Secretary of the Council of Trustees, and other council members meet before the next meeting to determine best practices for the recording of minutes. Edits were suggested to the June minutes,

including clarification regarding outstanding pledge amounts for the Bethany House and Garden project. A motion to approve the minutes as amended with continued discussion was made by the Mr. Wilson duly seconded by Mother Rohleder and approved unanimously.

### **Comptroller's report**

Mr. Currie presented the financial statement for the diocese as of the end of July. He reported that things look good for this point in the year. Mr. Currie then moved onto the Bethany House and Garden Fund and announced the first major draw from the fund in August 2022 of approximately \$133,000 due to the beginning of the construction.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Geary offered the Finance Committee report. The diocesan audit will soon be completed. The Finance Committee met prior to the Council meeting to discuss feedback from Convocation meetings regarding the proposed Mission Plan.

Mr. Hannan provided feedback from the Northwest Convocation. There was a request for an “elevator speech” to help explain the Mission Plan. Additionally, there was concern that diocesan priorities were not readily apparent in the Mission Plan. Mr. Hannan expressed a desire that the priorities be pointed out in the Plan during pre-Convention Convocation meetings.

Mr. Morrow reported similar feedback from the Southwest Convocation and questions about escrow accounts and diocesan funds that are used at the Bishop's discretion.

The Bishop distributed a document that further explains the use of the funds under her discretion and asked for feedback from the Council. The document is attached to these minutes. Mr. Morrow asked that the insurance costs be explained during pre-Convention gatherings.

Mr. Geary noted apportionment rates for 2023 did not increase significantly. Father McDonald noted that diocesan staff salaries have not increased despite the increased cost of living. Bishop Bascom suggested the topic of clergy compensation be addressed by a working group of the Council of Trustees following Convention 2022.

Mr. Hannan moved to accept the proposed 2023 Mission Plan. It was duly seconded and approved unanimously.

Bishop Bascom then introduced Ms. ShaMecha Simms, the St. Simon's Justice and Advocacy Community Coordinator. Ms. Simms gave a report on the work happening at the Bethany House and Garden. She and Ms. Amanda Northrop, the Biodiversity Intern, work together to care for the surrounding diocesan grounds as well as connect with the surrounding neighborhood and communities. Together with Mother Allen they are establishing relationships with community organizations with a goal of welcoming the neighbors to Bethany Garden.

Canon Funston led the council in Noonday Prayer honoring the Feast of King Louis. Recess for lunch followed. The meeting resumed at 12:27 p.m.

**Standing Committee Business**

President Rohleder resumed business by updating the council on the consent process for the election of Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Florida, the Rev. Charlie Holt. She also discussed the four upcoming candidacy interviews ahead of Convention. Members of the Council will interview Martha Lamoy, Susan Byler, Lori Mills, and Caroline Day.

**Canon to the Ordinary's Report**

Canon Funston shared his report on transitions and diocesan convention. Parishes in transition include:

- Grace, Ottawa
- St. David's, Topeka
- Little Church on the Prairie Minster (Coffeyville, Independence, Neodesha)
- Epiphany, Sedan
- St. Matthew's, Newton
- St. Paul's, Kansas City

Clergy with new titles:

- Ryan Willis, Vicar, St. Peter's, Pittsburg
- Shawn Sherraden, Vicar, St. John's, Abilene

Canon Funston moved on to the diocesan convention portion of his report. He shared a mockup of the convention booklet that will go out to clergy and delegates in the next week. It will include amendments to the canons, debatable resolutions, elections as well as the mission plan. There is quite a great deal of business for this upcoming convention. Canon Funston also reviewed the convention schedule. It will begin on Friday afternoon, October 21, 2022. The majority of the business will be on Saturday. There will be garden tours on Friday afternoon and the Eucharist will begin in the gardens with the liturgy of the Word and then move to the nave of the cathedral for the sermon and the Great Thanksgiving. The banquet on Friday night will be at St. David's.

**Reports from Trustees and Staff on Mission and Ministry of the Diocese**

Bishop Bascom invited Ms. Michael Funston to give a report from the Kansas Deputation to General Convention. Ms. Funston reported on the COVID precautions, a few of the actions during legislative sessions of the House of Deputies, and the powerful testimony heard. Ms. Funston said that due to limited time at diocesan convention reports from deputies will take place at the Convocation meetings. The Episcopal Church will release a report on the General Convention in early 2023 with further actions and canons and constitution updates that will need to be read aloud at the following diocesan convention.

Bishop Bascom requested with all that is left on the agenda to move discussion of the Strategic Plan objectives until the September 2022 meeting. Council members read the four goals aloud to remind themselves of the objectives.

- Develop culture of invitation throughout the diocese
- Focus on Congregational Vitality as a major tenet of congregational and diocesan health; both spiritually and financially
- Increase youth and young adult participation in leadership and decision-making bodies of the Church

- Grow leadership capacity (clergy and lay) in all congregations

The Bishop indicated these items will be a focus of her address to convention.

### **Bishop's Report**

The Bishop offered her report on General Convention and the Lambeth Conference. The process of debate at both General Convention and Lambeth Conference was new for all the bishops and seemed to work well. The bishop played a portion of the Archbishop of Canterbury's address to Lambeth. The Archbishop's theme throughout the conference was "God's church for God's world."

Bishop Bascom is exploring a possible partnership with Yambio Diocese in South Sudan. The bishop there is Bishop Samuel Peni. Bishop Bascom knows him through a relationship from her time in the Diocese of Iowa. Reasons behind a possible partnership include Bishop Bascom knowing Peni as a loving individual and recognized leader; similar number of parishes or minsters, and Yambio has recently begun ordaining women and leadership is anxious to connect with women clergy. Finally, Yambio is located in a peaceful part of Sudan, outside the civil war.

Bishop Bascom introduced the Communion Forest. Bishop witnessed the drought and global climate change in Europe. Hearing this call to the Communion Forest, the Bishop will begin to do tree plantings during her visitations to parishes around the diocese.

Bishop Bascom brought the council's attention to the resolution from General Convention on Net Carbon Neutrality which proposes dioceses build creation care trustees with the lands within the diocese.

The meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm.

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The Rev. Doreen Rice  
Secretary