

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

September 14, 2022

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met via Zoom on September 14, 2022. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, offered a prayer for the late Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III.

Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Members of the Council of Trustees present by Zoom were:

- Bishop Cathleen Chittenden Bascom
- The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder, President
- The Rev. Greg Doll
- Ms. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon
- The Rev. Helen Hoch
- The Rev. Marc McDonald
- Mr. Mike Morrow
- The Rev. Andrew O'Connor
- The Rev. Doreen Rice
- Mr. John Smittle
- Ms. Marilyn Trubey
- Ms. Diana Waddell-Gilbert
- Mr. Richard Wilson

Members of the Council of Trustees absent:

- Deacon Jim Cummins
- Mr. Lawrence Hannan

Also present as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

- Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer
- Mr. Frank Taylor, Chancellor

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. Ryan Patrick, Senior Warden, Good Shepherd, Wichita
- The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Campus and Digital Missioner
- Deacon Fran Wheeler, Chair of the Alleluia Grant Committee

Bishop Bascom presented the August 24, 2022 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Morrow, duly seconded by Dean Rohleder, and approved unanimously.

Comptroller's report

Mr. Currie presented the Bethany Garden Fund report. There are still some pledges being fulfilled. The fund has been reduced due to draws for construction costs. The Bethany House and Garden Maintenance and Ministry Fund is growing slightly. Bishop Bascom noted that the \$74,000 pledged but not yet received is from the William T. Kemper Foundation - Commerce Bank, Trustee.

Mr. Currie presented the financial statement for the diocese as of August 31, 2022. He reported that things are positive for this point in the year.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Geary offered the Finance Committee report. The Finance Committee met last week with the auditor. The auditor walked through the draft of the audit. There were a couple of notes. There was discussion about obtaining an actuaries estimate of future retiree health care liability in order to get an unqualified opinion. However, the cost of the unqualified opinion outweighs the benefit. Mr. Currie is working with the auditors on clarifying a few things. The audit should be ready next month. The Committee did discuss the 2023 Mission Plan and prepared for the roadshows

Mr. Geary then invited Fr. Andrew O'Connor and Senior Warden, Mr. Ryan Patrick, to present on behalf of Good Shepherd, Wichita regarding its request for apportionment forgiveness. Mr. Patrick reported that the vestry decided to pass a balanced budget in 2021 which meant furloughing some employees and cutting back on expenses as well as not paying its full apportionment. Mr. Currie noted that in the financial report through August 2022, Good Shepherd is fully up to date on paying apportionment.

Mr. Geary called for a motion. Dean Rohleder moved that the Council recommend lay representatives from Good Shepherd be granted seat, voice, and vote at the 163rd Diocesan Convention. Mr. Morrow duly seconded the motion, which passed with Fr. O'Connor abstaining.

Dean Rohleder moved that the Council recommend forgiveness of Good Shepherd's past due apportionment of \$15,820. Mr. Morrow duly seconded the motion, which passed with Fr. O'Connor again abstaining.

Bishop Bascom asked for feedback from the Southeast and Southwest Convocation Roadshows. Mthr. Helen Hoch indicated her parish representatives came away feeling better prepared and knowledgeable about the business of the upcoming convention than they have in the past. Fr. O'Connor echoed a similar feeling of being better informed for the convention after the meeting

Deacon Fran Wheeler joined the meeting to present the 2023 Alleluia Grant applications. She presented a report from the Alleluia Grant task force, outlining the three applications recommended for approval. She summarized the applications:

St. Jude's, Wellington requests \$3,000 to provide blankets to Kansas Highway Patrol officers for stranded motorists.

Grace, Winfield requests \$3,000 to stock the parish Blessing Box with food and hygiene items.

St. Thomas, Overland Park requests \$3,000 to provide an 18-hour Godly play training session, open to parishes in the dioceses of Kansas, Western Kansas and West Missouri.

Following discussion, Mr. Wilson moved to accept the three funding recommendations from the Alleluia Grant Committee. Fr. O'Connor duly seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Council did discuss, however, the short time-frame offered this year to parishes to submit grant application. The Alleluia Grant Committee was instructed to accept two additional grant applications that were to be submitted as soon as possible.

Dean Rohleder presented a report from the Diocesan Leadership Institute team. She introduced a book called *Joining God, Remaking Church, and Changing the World* by Alan J. Roxburgh for minster members to read and discuss in 2023. A copy of the book will be available to all clergy at the Gathering of Clergy in late September 2022

She also announced that this meeting would be her last meeting as the President of the Council of Trustees. She said it has been an honor to serve the body and invited members to prayerfully consider running for President of the Council. Bishop Bascom thanked Dean Casey for her courage, grace, and wisdom shown in this role.

Canon to the Ordinary's Report

Canon Funston deferred the transition report later in the meeting when Debbie Kremers, Diocesan Transitions Missioner would join the meeting.

He then moved on to the diocesan convention portion of his report. The Southeast and Southwest Convocation pre-convention meetings took place on September 10, 2022 and the Northeast and Northwest Convocation will take place on September 17, 2022. Mr. John Smittle was re-elected to be the Council lay representative for the Southeast Convocation; Mr. Mike Morrow was re-elected for the Southwest Convocation. Canon Funston presented a booklet of outcomes on the Minster and Convocation Listening Process. The staff met with Grace Cathedral regarding the liturgy for the Ribbon Cutting for the Bethany Garden and Convention Eucharist. Canon Funston asked for questions.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Bascom presented her report. She is working with parishes to take advantage of a tool called *Abundant Life*. This is being used at several parishes in the diocese including St. Paul's, Leavenworth; St. Matthew's, Newton; the churches in the Little Church on the Prairie Minster (Epiphany, Independence, St. Paul's, Coffeyville and Ascension, Neodesha), Epiphany, Sedan and St. Martin's, Edwardsville.

Bishop then offered a construction update for Bethany Garden. The construction is on schedule, with a planned completion date of October 3, 2022.

Bishop then requested the Council move into an Executive Session. Dean Rohleder moved to do, which was duly seconded by Mr. Morrow. The motion passed unanimously.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 12:03 p.m. Fr. Marc McDonald led the council in Noonday Prayer remembering Holy Cross Day. Recess for lunch followed. The meeting resumed at 1:01 p.m.

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

Debbie Kremers, Missioner of Transitions, joined the meeting to offer the Transitions Report. A few Letters of Agreement have been prepared or updated. Amanda Northrop is the new Biodiversity Intern for Bethany House and Garden and ShaMecha King Simms is the new St. Simons Justice & Advocacy Community Coordinator. Mrs. Kremers offered help to any clergy with renewing Letters of Agreement. Grace Church, Ottawa has called the Rev. Mary Donovan as vicar. Bishop noted that Rev. Donovan will continue to work with Canterbury, Lawrence but no longer with Canterbury, K-State. St. David's, Topeka has finished taking applicants with a group of very good candidates. St. Paul's, Leavenworth is getting closer to finalizing its OTM information parish profile. St. Matthew's, Newton is working with the Abundant Life tool and finalizing the parish profile and OTM information. Epiphany, Sedan is also beginning to work with Abundant Life with the Rev. Kitty Shield leading them as the Minster Shepherd. St. Paul's, Kansas City has reposted the position for an associate and has four very interested candidates. St. Martin in the Fields, Edwardsville is going to start working with Abundant Life and a new Letter of Agreement was prepared for Fr. Laird MacGregor.

Dean Rohleder moved that the council return to executive session, which was duly seconded by Mthr. Rice and passed unanimously.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 1:38 p.m. The bishop returned to her report. She followed-up on previous reporting about the possibility of a Yambio South Sudan diocesan partnership. She has empowered Council Member Deacon Jim Cummins to act as a conversation partner for this effort, due to his ministry work in South Sudan. She also reported recently about a meeting with the Council of Deans, asking the deans to continue to serve. She is also in on-going conversation about the Communion Forest Project on her visitations throughout the diocese.

The bishop reminded the Council about the four priority goals and asked the Council to keep them in mind and in their prayers leading up to the November Council meeting. Canon Funston sent a poll for the Council to select a date for the November Council retreat. The Council determined it would be the evening of Wednesday, November 16 lasting the afternoon of Thursday, November 17.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

The Rev. Doreen Rice
Secretary

Addendum to the September 14, 2022 Council of Trustees Minutes

On October 6, 2022, the Council of Trustees was informed of additional items requiring an e-mail vote before the next Council meeting. Council members were given 48 hours to respond and vote on the following items:

2023 Apportionment Update

Due to a misreporting by Trinity, Arkansas City, the apportionment schedule needs to be adjusted. To meet the same budget amount, the update requires an increase in the effective apportionment rate from 17.25% to 17.30%.

With Council approval, the updated apportionment schedule will be printed and shared at diocesan convention. This will be the only schedule proposed to convention.

Additional Alleluia Grants

On September 14, 2022, the Council approved the following Alleluia Grants:

- St. Jude's, Wellington: \$3,000
- Grace, Winfield: \$3,000
- St. Thomas, Overland Park: \$3,000

As discussed and approved at the September meeting, the Alleluia Grant committee received two additional grants applications:

- Covenant, Junction City: \$3,000
- St. Stephen's, Wichita: \$1,219

Pursuant to the bylaws, the Council was given 48 hours to respond by email or other means, the results:

1. Apportionment Schedule Update, Unanimous Approval, 14-0
2. \$3,000 Alleluia Grant to Covenant, Junction City, 13-0 (D. Rice Abstention)
3. \$1,219 Alleluia Grant to St. Stephen's, Wichita, 13-0 (M. Morrow Abstention)

The Rev. Doreen Rice
Secretary