

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

**December 14, 2022**

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met via Zoom on December 14, 2022. Prior to the start of the meeting, Bishop Bascom offered seasonal prayers.

Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Members of the Council of Trustees present by Zoom were:

- Bishop Cathleen Chittenden Bascom
- Dr. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon, President
- The Rev. Helen Hoch, Clerk
- Deacon Jim Cummins
- The Rev. Greg Doll
- Dr. David Littrell
- The Rev. Marc McDonald
- Mr. Mike Morrow
- The Rev. Andrew O'Connor
- Mr. Ron Olson
- The Rev. Doreen Rice
- The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder
- Ms. Teresa Ryther
- Mr. John Smittle
- Ms. Diana Waddell-Gilbert

Also present as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

- The Rev. John Bullock, Vice-Chancellor
- Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer
- Mr. Frank Taylor, Chancellor

Also present:

- The Rev. Jenn Allen, Diocesan Missioner
- Mr. Jay Currie, Comptroller
- Ms. Michael Funston, Executive Assistant to the Bishop
- The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary
- Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Young Adult and Communications Ministries

Bishop Bascom presented the November 17, 2022, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Mike Morrow, seconded, and approved unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Jay Currie reported the diocesan staff clergy requests for housing allowance.

- The Rev. Jennifer Allen requested 50% of her compensation be declared as housing allowance.
- The Rev. Karen Schlabach requested 42% of her compensation be declared as housing allowance.
- The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Bascom requested 35% of her compensation be declared as housing allowance.
- The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston requested 60% of his compensation be declared as housing allowance.

The Rev. Andrew O'Connor moved to approve the housing allowance requests as one. The motion was seconded, and the requests were approved unanimously.

Bishop Bascom has begun repurchasing a portion of the diocesan interest in her housing property in the amount of \$8,800 as of the present date.

There are a couple items for Bethany House and Garden that will not be completed until Spring. Mr. Currie stated the Bethany House Maintenance and Ministry fund was sitting at a little over \$21,000. The last of the construction on signage can be taken from this fund.

Mr. Currie then moved to the diocesan financial statement for November 2022. There is one parish that will not meet their apportionment for the year. Those that are a little bit behind are expected to get caught up. There is some lagging in the fees income line. Mr. Currie pointed out that the facilities budget is out of balance because of: 1) rising utility costs, 2) repairs needed and 3) grounds maintenance was higher during the garden fundraising. Mr. Currie is anticipating that the diocese will end the year about \$35,000 in the hole. There was discussion about how the diocese handles an unbalanced budget at the end of the year.

To avoid confusion on financial reports, expenses for Bethany Place will now be listed as Diocesan Campus-Bethany Place

**Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Brian Geary, treasurer, gave an update on the finance committee. They are working with different parishes throughout the diocese and will bring any issues to the Council as needed.

At the last Diocesan Convention, Debatable Resolution 1 on a review and revision of the diocesan policy on “Internal control and audit standards for parish funds and assets” was adopted. The Finance Committee is working with parishes to make sure they continue to report accurately.

Bishop Bascom mentioned that the rest of the Walsh bequest is coming to the diocese and the Council will set up this endowment in 2023.

**Standing Committee Business**

Mr. Mike Morrow presented reports on the following potential ordinands:

Susan Byler – Diaconate  
Caroline Howard – Priesthood  
Martha Lamoy – Priesthood  
Lory Mills – Diaconate

Mr. Morrow moved to approve Susan Byler for candidacy for ordination, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Morrow moved to approve Caroline Howard for candidacy for ordination, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Morrow moved to approve Martha Lamoy for candidacy for ordination, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Morrow moved to approve Lory Mills for candidacy for ordination, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Canon the Ordinary**

The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston continues to work with the bishop on staff development and working with parishes throughout the diocese.

**Bishop's Report**

Bishop Bascom would like the diocese to explore a companion relationship with the Diocese of Yambio, South Sudan. Deacon Jim Cummins, council member, has offered to help in this exploration. Ftr. Andrew O'Connor stated that if this is supposed to be a true relationship this needs to be well known throughout the diocese. Ms. Teresa Ryther asked why the diocese would explore this at all. Bishop

Bascom said that while she was in the Diocese of Iowa the companion relationships with other dioceses were fruitful. Deacon Cummins asked members to send questions and comments to him as he explores this possibility.

The bishop then moved on to talk about the Shared Ministry Minister model which envisions a combination of full-time priests, deacons, bi-vocational priests, and lay leaders working together to support the long-term vibrancy of the Episcopal faith in their region. Shared Ministry Ministers decide to pool resources together, often with financial help from the diocese, to hire a full-time priest who resides in one of the towns of the minister. The ministers exploring this model are the LED minister and Little Church on the Prairie minister. Council Members asked questions about this model.

Mr. Currie came back with a late housing request from the Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta for 60% of her compensation to be declared as housing allowance. This housing allowance request was moved for approval by Mr. Mike Morrow, seconded and approved unanimously.

Bishop Bascom asked staff attending the zoom meeting to speak to their written reports.

The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston reported about the Diocesan Leadership Institute group that has been working for the past two years. They will have a study guide for the ministers to work with around a book in the new year.

Other reports included in the packet:

- Bishop's Report
- Transitions Ministry Report
- Report from the Youth, Campus and Digital Missioner
- Report from the Director of Young Adult and Communication Ministries
- Diocesan Missioner Report

The council had a short break, reconvening at 11:43am.

### **Priority Goals and Strategic Planning**

Dr. Fitz Gibbon presented the results from the surveys on the Council Composition and Self-Assessment Analysis which were sent to council members, advisors and diocesan staff the previous week. Dr. Fitz Gibbon shared the strategic planning process to date.

The council had a short lunch break, reconvening at 1:03pm.

Bishop Bascom called on the Rev. Andrew O'Connor to speak to a possible property sale for Good Shepherd needing approval from the Council of Trustees before its sale. After Fthr. O'Connor's presentation, the bishop called on Chancellor Frank Taylor to explain the process for the Council of Trustees. Once the contract is finalized it will be presented to the Council for a vote.

Dr. Fitz Gibbon returned to the discussion around the identified priority goals for the Council of Trustees for this term. Dr. Fitz Gibbon asked council members, between the December and January meeting, to think about what working groups they would want to be part of for this strategic process and priority goals.

The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston asked if there were any questions that the Council wanted on the parochial reports before they were sent out at the beginning of January. After discussion, the Council decided it was too quick to turn around the questions needed.

In lieu of a full Noonday Prayer, the bishop asked Dr. David Littrell to provide a short prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

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The Rev. Helen Hoch  
Clerk