

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

February 15, 2023

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met at Upton Hall in Topeka on February 15, 2023. Prior to the start of the meeting, Bishop Bascom invited members of Council to share stories with each other of a time they were invited into relationship with God. She then offered prayers.

Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Members of the Council of Trustees present were:

Bishop Cathleen Chittenden Bascom
Dr. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon, President
The Rev. Helen Hoch, Clerk
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

Member of the Council of Trustees absent was:

Deacon Jim Cummins

Also present:

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
The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta, Canon for Spiritual Life and Clergy Care

Bishop Bascom presented the January 18, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by the Very Rev. Casey Rohleder, seconded and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Jay Currie, comptroller, reported on the Operating statement. He noted a correction on the first page as there was a switch in reporting. So far in 2023 there has been no draw on the endowment. The diocese received a large payment from BKSM for their usage fees. The other income is from the St. Margaret's loan payment. The expenses are very front loaded which makes the budget at this time of year appear distorted. Mr. Currie went over some of those higher expenses at the beginning of the year, i.e. computer software subscription, Camp Wood reservation and over paying the diocesan apportionment to the Episcopal Church. He went on to say there are no concerns at this time.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Brian Geary, treasurer, was absent and Mr. Currie gave the report from the Finance Committee. Mr. Currie and Mr. Geary met with St. Margaret's, Lawrence, the first week of February to discuss loan repayment with Father Marco along with the junior and senior wardens as they prepare to start their Capital Campaign.

Priority Goals and Strategic Planning

President, Dr. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon, presented the philosophy behind the diocesan strategic planning process. There was discussion around the stakeholders listed on Dr. Fitz Gibbon's report. The bishop requested adding Youth, and Dean Rohleder added Campus Ministry. Mother Rice wondered if community people who help with outreach ministries could be included on the list. Father O'Connor also added staff (Diocesan, BKSM, parish employees, etc.). The bishop also added the Earth and Creation. Dr. Fitz Gibbon agreed to amend the stakeholder list. She then described the process and timeline for strategic planning through the remainder 2023. Currently, the metrics portion is on hold as the Council considers how to measure the progress toward their goals, as many are more subjective than quantitatively measurable. Budgeting will be planned as the working groups proceed to determine what financial resources will be needed for their work. Dean Rohleder said her group is working with the current Mission Plan and what resources already exist toward this work. The bishop reiterated that some tactics will not be initiated until next year. There are already activities in process within the current Diocesan budget. The bishop asked Mr. Currie to include the four Diocesan objectives when he sends out budget requests this month for the 2024 Mission Plan, so diocesan ministries can keep them in mind as they plan their budget for the coming year. Mrs. Ryther asked how these initiatives will impact the diocesan staff and their time and salaries. There was consensus that this would be considered as the groups continued their work.

President Fitz Gibbon moved on to clarify planning language to help working groups with their assignment to define their objectives and determining goals and tactics in support of their objectives. She used a metaphor with the NFL Kansas City Chiefs team to differentiate among objectives, goals and tactics. Then Dr. Fitz Gibbon

presented some of the hard parts of accomplishing the work before us as the Council tackles these objectives.

Attendees broke out into their working groups and returned at 12:11 pm to share their objectives and goals. President Fitz Gibbon asked that groups type up their work and send it to her for the next meeting.

Dean Casey Rohleder led the council in Noonday Prayer celebrating Cyril and Methodius. The meeting resumed at 1:49 pm.

Standing Committee Business

Mr. Mike Morrow, standing in for President Fitz Gibbon, presented a request for consent to an episcopal election:

- Father O'Connor moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton as Bishop Provisional in the Diocese of Olympia. It was seconded and carried unanimously.
- Dr. Littrell moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election the Rev. Anne B. Jolly as Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of Ohio. It was seconded and carried unanimously.
- Dean Rohleder moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Matthew F. Heyd as Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of New York. It was seconded and carried unanimously.
- Father O'Connor moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Justin S. Holcomb as Bishop Diocesan in the Diocese of Central Florida. It was seconded and carried unanimously.
- Father O'Connor moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Canon Dr. Sally French as Bishop Diocesan in the Diocese of New Jersey. It was seconded and carried unanimously.

Bishop's Report

The bishop reported on St. Paul's, Leavenworth, and their search process for new leadership. There are four candidates with the possibility of a newly ordained person or seminarian in that position. If either of these candidates are elected, they would have an experienced clergy mentor.

The Missouri River Minster has added St. Thomas, Fall City, Nebraska. This is the official first cross-diocese minster.

The bishop reported on her work with Church of the Covenant, Junction City. The Rev. Steve Lipscomb will be coming on as the interim while they search for a new

priest. The bishop along with Chancellor Taylor and Comptroller Currie met with the vestry of Church of the Covenant to talk with them about their financial duties.

The bishop reported on the formation and academic issues of some of the diocese's current seminarians and their ordination process going forward.

The bishop then presented the report on Mr. Michael Combs. Mr. Combs used to be a priest in the Diocese of Kansas and was deposed in 1991. He has been serving time in prison for sexual abuse and is on parole and living back in Newton, Kansas. The bishop, through advisement from Julia Hart, president of the Disciplinary Board and an attorney in Kansas, has prohibited Mr. Combs from having any presence at all Episcopal Churches and land. That letter has been sent to Michael Combs, his parole officer and to the bishop of Western Kansas, the Rt. Rev. Mark Cowell, because of the proximity to his diocese. Archdeacon Jeff Roper is involved in prison ministry and is a point of contact for Mr. Combs. The next steps will be a letter to the diocese which will include a reminder of Title IV, Mr. Mike Morrow as the diocesan intake officer and the requirements of Safe Church, Safe Communities in the diocesan policy established in 2019.

The bishop asked Canon Funston to begin the conversation on an appendix to the diocesan policy on Safe Church that has guidelines for parishes on dealing with registered sex offenders. Council members offered their notes on the letter and resources that exist within the diocese. The Council will look at this proposed appendix and discuss this topic again at the next meeting of the Council of Trustees.

The bishop turned to St. Paul's, Kansas City, and their continued search for a bi-lingual candidate. Part of the package they would like to offer their potential new priest is a rectory. The St. Paul's rectory needs work before it is habitable. The bishop and Comptroller Currie are looking at the possibility of using money from the Millspagh-Wise Fund for this work. Dean Rohleder asked the bishop to consider if this would be a gift or if the diocese would expect part of the sale if the rectory was sold.

Other written reports included in the packet:

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

The bishop asked Mother Hoch to proclaim a dismissal and the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk

Addendum to the February 15, 2023 Council of Trustees Minutes

On January 23, 2023, the Council of Trustees was informed of the contract for the pending sale of a portion of land on the site of Good Shepherd, Wichita. The sale required the approval of the Council by an e-mail vote before the next Council meeting. Council members were given 48 hours to respond and vote on the following:

Real Estate Purchase Agreement

The Canon to the Ordinary, following conversation with Fr. O'Connor, reports that the contract is largely what the Council saw in December with the following notes:

- \$450,000 sale price
- Smaller area to be sold (Good Shepherd is keeping five feet on their side as a buffer)
- The buyer will construct a wall and do some landscaping facing Good Shepherd

With Council approval, Fr. O'Connor and/or Representatives of the Vestry of Good Shepherd, Wichita, will be free to sign the contract alienating this portion of their property.

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

The vote to approve the Good Shepherd property sale passed unanimously, among those who voted. The results were:

13 approved

0 not approved

1 abstention (Father A. O'Connor)