

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

March 22, 2023

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met on Zoom on March 22, 2023. Prior to the start of the meeting, Bishop Bascom offered prayers for water.

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

Members of the Council of Trustees present on 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:

- Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer

Also present:

- The Rev. Jennifer Allen, Diocesan Missioner
- Mr. Jay Currie, Comptroller
- Ms. Michael Funston, Executive Assistant to the Bishop
- The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary
- Mrs. Michele Moss, Director of Operations
- Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Young Adult and Communications Ministries
- The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Campus & Digital Missioner

Bishop Bascom presented the February 15, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Ms. Teresa Ryther, seconded and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Jay Currie, comptroller, reported on the Operating statement for February 2023. He noted that there has not been a draw on the endowment so far this year. Mr. Currie noted the heavy operating expenses in the beginning of the year with computer software, BKSM commitment for the year and Health Savings Account expenses. Net income is down about \$110,000 for the year. The apportionment is coming in consistently. So far there has only been one parish (St. Luke's, Shawnee) that has had financial difficulties this year.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Brian Geary, treasurer, reported that the budget process has begun. The goal is to bring the first budget to the May Council meeting. The audit policy update is underway. Canon Funston is in touch with parishes who are working with this new policy and auditors are also working with the Finance Committee. The Committee is reviewing some of the canons as well. Bishop Bascom remarked that this is a busy time for the Finance Committee, and they are doing a lot of good work.

Reports from Council of Trustees and Staff

President Fitz Gibbon called on Mr. Mike Morrow, Intake Officer and Council Member, to explain Title IV: Ecclesiastical Discipline in the Canons of the Episcopal Church and what his role is as Intake Officer. This mini-training was requested at the February meeting following recent Council discussion about topics relating to Ecclesiastical Discipline, especially the case of Michael Combs.

Bishop Bascom asked Canon Funston to speak to the draft of the policy on dealing with known sex offenders attending an Episcopal Church in the diocese. The draft of the policy was presented at the February meeting and has not changed from that meeting. Bishop Bascom asked the Council to read through the policy over the next month and to come to the April meeting with any questions.

Bishop Bascom called on Deacon Jim Cummins to report on the continued conversation about joining in relationship with the Diocese of Yambio in Sudan. Deacon Cummins explained that this relationship would not be like the Kansas2Kenya relationship. Bishop Bascom asked if there were council members who would join the bishop and Deacon Cummins in discussing the possibility of developing this relationship. Mother Doreen Rice and President, Dr. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon offered to join the bishop and Deacon Cummins for this discussion.

Standing Committee Business

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 Rev. Dr. David G. Read as Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of West Texas. It was seconded and carried unanimously.

Priority Goals and Strategic Planning

President Fitz Gibbon moved on to the Priority Goals and Strategic Planning. She asked the Council to each take a personal 10 minutes to reflect on their group work as well as reviewing what was reported from the last council meeting. The Council then broke out into their objective groups to discuss. The groups came back together at 12:01pm. President Fitz Gibbon asked for groups to send their reports to her rather than report at this meeting.

Bishop Bascom asked the Council for prayer requests. Deacon Jim Cummins led the council in Noonday Prayer celebrating James De Koven, Priest, 1879. The meeting resumed at 1:00 pm.

Diocesan Staff Reports

Bishop Bascom called on staff members to speak to their submitted reports.

Mother Karen Schlabach, Youth, Campus & Digital Missioner, reported on the current registration for camp this summer and recruitment of counselors.

Mother Jenn Allen, Diocesan Missioner, reported on the small groups happening at Bethany House & Gardens. These are groups of high school students from Topeka High School. There will also be an Earth Day event on Saturday, April 22 with food trucks and a viewing of Wall-EE. ShaMecha King Simms will stay on as the St. Simons Fellow. There are also two more hires for the summer.

Canon Patrick Funston noted some upcoming dates and work towards this year's diocesan convention including working with each of the convocations on finalizing the dates of the September roadshows when the bishop and diocesan staff attend the convocation meeting ahead of convention. Diocesan staff is working on scheduling the diocesan convention dates and locations three years out.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Bascom reviewed items on her report. She touched briefly on the transition report. Mother Helen Hoch reported that the Agape Minster is working with Father Daryl Stanford on a Letter of Agreement for this shared ministry. The Little Church on the Prairie Minster is ready to begin their interview process for a shared ministry.

Bishop Bascom has been meeting with people throughout the diocese for the past year during her visitations who are land owners, gardeners, farmers, etc. These people and all members of the diocese have been invited to attend the Creation Trustees Gathering to talk about creation care in our spirituality, possibly giving land as a bequest to the diocese as well as gardening help with native species. Representatives of

the Kansas Audubon Society will be at this event since they deal with gifts of land of this kind for bird sanctuaries and can help us.

Bishop Bascom reported on the GOE results from our current seminarians. The diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains will be working with candidates on remediation of non-proficient areas. Fr. O'Connor noted that Commission on Ministry was, at its March meeting, unable to certify one candidate's formation and unable to make recommendation for ordination based on GOE results and the current state of coursework. He asked that the Commission be kept in the loop on the plans for this candidate's remediation and coursework toward the degree so that such certification and recommendation can be made in a timely fashion. The bishop affirmed the Commission's role and directed Fr. O'Connor to be in touch with Fr. Cox, Chair of the Board of Examining Chaplains.

Bishop Bascom then moved on to discuss the Rev. Kelley Lackey. She is in conversation Canon Patrick Funston, Ms. Julia Hart, President of the Disciplinary Board, Fr. Marc McDonald, Dean Laurie Lewis and others. After opening the floor to the Council there were no questions. Bishop Bascom will inform the Council of her decision (and any parameters) at the right time.

Bishop Bascom reported on a candidate for the bi-lingual priest at St. Paul's, KCK. His main ministry has been social justice with youth. This is a very promising candidate for this position. St. Paul's and the diocese is ready to make an offer, and should he accept work will begin on obtaining a work visa. The Millspaugh-Wise Fund will be used to help with repairs on the rectory at St. Paul's, Kansas City.

Bishop Bascom presented her ongoing discernment about New Clergy coaching. This has come about because there are priests coming out of BKSM without field education and starting in senior parish leadership as bi-vocational priests. There is a three-fold proposal: Thresholds in Ministry, Mentors in Ministers and a New Clergy Coach. The bishop opened the floor to questions and Fr. O'Connor again wondered about how the Commission on Ministry can be helpful affirming the thrust of the idea. He noted the need for real mentor training and understanding that some clergy are not going to be good mentors and that's okay. President Fitz Gibbon noted that this set of ideas aligns well with Strategic Plan Working Group #4's goal: Develop Lay and Clergy Leadership Capacity.

Other written reports included in the packet:

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

Bishop Bascom gave a blessing, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:57pm.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk