

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

April 19, 2023

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met on Zoom on April 19, 2023. Prior to the start of the meeting, Bishop Bascom offered the prayer for a church meeting from the Book of Common Prayer.

Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 Very Rev. Casey Rohleder
Ms. Teresa Ryther
Mr. John Smittle
Ms. Diana Waddell-Gilbert

Member absent was:

The Rev. Doreen Rice

Also present as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

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

Also present:

The Rev. Jennifer Allen, Diocesan Missioner
Mr. Jay Currie, Comptroller
Ms. Michael Funston, Executive Assistant to the Bishop
Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Young Adult and Communications Ministries
The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta, Canon for Spiritual Life & Clergy Care
The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Campus & Digital Missioner

Bishop Bascom presented the March 22, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. John Smittle, seconded and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Jay Currie, comptroller, reported that the diocese is in the process of changing software and so the reports are going to look a little different as the diocese makes this change. Mr. Currie then asked the Council to look at the Balance Sheet as of the end of March 2023. This is the new report and what it will look like with the new software. Mr. Currie then directed the Council's attention to the Income Statement. So far there has not been a draw on the endowment. This will change after this month as St. Paul's, Kansas City calls a new priest and the diocese continues to help support their new hire through the Millspaugh-Wise Fund. There may be some additional draw for work on the rectory at St. Paul's.

Fees income will start to increase as camp fees come in as well as convention registration. Mission Management is over by a large amount because of front ended subscriptions and software fees. Mission and Outreach is also over because of an overpayment for the Episcopal Church apportionment from the diocese. This will level out as the year goes forward. With the new software there will be one quarterly statement that will combine the information from the Designated, Temporarily Restricted and Custodial funds. Mr. Currie thinks this new report will do a better job of giving an overall view of the Mission Plan and budget for the diocese.

Mr. Brian Geary, treasurer for the diocese, responded to questions and concerns about apportionment issues. He said that with this year's budget process already underway and the new audit process there would not be time this year to address these concerns. Bishop Bascom said that perhaps looking to scheduling listening sessions in 2024 may be a possibility for this feedback. Mr. Geary said the Finance Committee is in the process of coming up with some new treasurer training for the diocese. The Finance Committee feels that this will help in the process of educating on the new audit policy. Father Andrew O'Connor pointed out that this is not a new concern and that it may be appropriate for the diocese to use communication outlets to be more transparent about what is being done currently around these concerns.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Brian Geary, treasurer, reported that the first draft of the Mission Plan will be part of the May Council meeting. The audit process is starting earlier this year. The Finance Committee is helping work through the new audit policy. There is a financial training program that the Finance Committee is working on to help parish treasurers.

Mr. Geary gave an update on the St. Margaret's, Lawrence Capital Campaign which is going better than expected. The Council approved making a matching grant. There was no cap on this gift from the diocese.

After a brief break, the Council resumed its business at 11:02 am by hearing from President Dr. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon on plans for working on the Priority Goals and Strategic Planning.

Father O'Connor led the council in Noonday Prayer remembering Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury and Martyr, 1012. The meeting adjourned for lunch and resumed at 1:17 pm

Standing Committee Business

Bishop Bascom spoke to the Council ahead of consent to the election of the Rev. Charlie Holt as it has been a controversial election within the Episcopal Church. She drew attention to a document shared by the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, Bishop for Pastoral Development in the Episcopal Church, about consents to bishop elections. Bishop Bascom also spoke to how the Bishop's recent meeting with the House of Bishops helped her continue to discern her decision. Bishop Bascom opened the conversation to the Council for questions for her or about the document from Bishop Ousley. Bishop Bascom then returned the floor to President Fitz Gibbon who called on Parliamentarian Mr. Mike Morrow to review the rules for this process with members of the Standing Committee.

President Fitz Gibbon, presented a request for consent to episcopal election:

- Mr. Mike Morrow moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Charlie Holt as Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of Florida. It was seconded and failed unanimously.
- Mr. Mike Morrow moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Ann Ritonia as Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries. 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 Carrie Schofield-Broadbent as Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of Maryland. It was seconded and carried unanimously.

Representing the Commission on Ministry (COM), Father O'Connor presented information received from the Rev. Canon Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary, relating to Title III Canon 8 Section 6 Part 2,. Fr. O'Connor reported that COM is working with Ms. Howard in her preparation for ordination. Ms. Howard is scheduled to be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on June 24, 2023, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Following review, Mr. Morrow moved to certify and recommend Caroline Howard for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate which was seconded, and the Council approved unanimously.

Father O'Connor presented documents regarding Martha Lamoy's preparation for ordination. Ms. Lamoy is scheduled to be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on June 24, 2023, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Following review, Mother Helen Hoch moved to certify and recommend Martha Lamoy for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate which was seconded, and the Council approved unanimously.

Father O'Connor presented documents regarding Lory Mills' preparation for ordination. Ms. Mills is scheduled to be ordained to the Diaconate on June 24, 2023, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Following review, The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder, Dean of the Northwest Convocation, moved to certify and recommend Lory Mills for Ordination to the Diaconate, which was seconded and the Council approved unanimously.

Canon Funston will email the recommendation letters to the voting Council members for their signatures. The Bishop's Office will be in contact with Ms. Howard, Ms. Lamoy and Ms. Mills regarding their recommendations.

Mr. Morrow presented the new Southwest Convocation Bylaws for approval by the Council of Trustees. Following review, Dean Rohleder moved to approve the new bylaws for the Southwest Convocation Board. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Reports from Council of Trustees and Staff

Mother Jennifer Allen reported on the ministry at Bethany House & Garden (BHG). She said that at that moment she was seeing the high school small group meeting outside in the garden. These community groups are part of a grant for ministry in the Bethany House & Garden. There are currently 23 students coming in two groups meeting every other week. The Bethany House & Garden ministry will have a workshop and booth at the All About Love Festival in Baltimore this summer. They will also be participating in the Topeka Juneteenth celebration this summer. The BHG has hired a groundskeeper, Willie Madl, who will begin work in May.

Bishop Bascom then presented the draft of the proposed Appendix to Diocesan Safe Church Policy on Parish Guidelines for Dealing with Registered Sex Offenders. The bishop opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Ron Olson pointed out that a release form would be required for therapy. Ms. Diana Waddell-Gilbert offered to get a release form that the diocese could attach to the policy. There were questions around language and Mr. Morrow and Mr. Frank Taylor both offered that it was okay to have some ambiguity around the terms. Father O'Connor moved the appendix of the policy for adoption. The motion was seconded, and the Council approved unanimously. The Executive Committee will add the release form and work on communicating to the diocese about this new policy.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Bascom reported that St. Thomas, Holton, has decided to list their church building. This is not ready for a vote for sale by the Council at this time but will come to this Council in the future. The bishop also shared her work with them around new Episcopal Communities or what the bishop is calling, re-plants. The bishop is looking to use the Sherman Episcopate Fund which names the church in Holton for its use. The other parish with a potential land sale is St. Martin in the Fields, Edwardsville. There is some land that the city of Edwardsville would like to buy to have access to a cemetery. There is no offer at this time but when there is it will come to the Council for approval. Responding to a question from Ms. Teresa Ryther, the Bishop reported that members of the parish support the sale.

Bishop Bascom presented the table or matrix on Formation of New Clergy in the Diocese of Kansas. She has been working with Canon Patrick Funston and Canon Lisa Senuta to put together this table of support for new clergy in the diocese. The bishop has asked Bishop Alan Scarfe, retired Bishop of Iowa, to be one of the first coaches. This would be funded through some of the curacy monies set aside. Mr. Currie said this would be funded through a new budget line in the 2024 Mission Plan.

The bishop spoke to the discussion on a possible relationship with the Diocese of Yambio. Bishop Bascom met with Deacon Cummins, Dr. Fitz Gibbon and Mother Doreen Rice and they discussed it. Due to the diocese's current relationship with the Diocese of Kenya through Kansas2Kenya and because they are about to have a new bishop in Naikuru which may produce more of a formalized relationship with Kenya, they did not think it wise to have Bishop Pena of the Diocese of Yambio wait on the Diocese of Kansas to see if the relationship with Kenya would be more formalized.

Other written reports included in the packet:

- Transitions Report
- Report from the Youth, Campus and Digital Missioner
- Report from the Director of Young Adult and Communication Ministries

The bishop moved the council meeting into Executive Session.

After sharing of concerns and requests for prayers, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:12 pm.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk