

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

May 17, 2023

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met at Upton Hall in Topeka on May 17, 2023. Prior to the start of the meeting, Bishop Bascom shared collects from the Book of Common Prayer.

Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Members of the Council of Trustees present 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
Mr. John Smittle

Members absent were:

Ms. Teresa Ryther
Ms. Diana Waddell-Gilbert

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
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 & Clergy Care
The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Campus & Digital Missioner

Bishop Bascom presented the April 19, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Michael Morrow, seconded and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Jay Currie, comptroller, reported on the April 2023 financial statements. He pointed to page one which shows that the apportionment intake for the year is at a good place and actually running ahead of schedule. A fair amount of apportionment came in after the end of the month.

Mr. Currie pointed to the first draw on the endowment in 2023 as shown on page 2. Bishop Bascom clarified that this draw from the Millspaugh-Wise fund is within the expected amount as indicated on the 2023 budget.

On the expense side things are starting to smooth out for this time of the year as utilities lower after the winter. Camp expenses will even out as those fees come in.

Mr. Morrow reported that the Education for Ministry program has been saving money over the last few years as groups have been meeting online. In-person training for EFM mentors will start again within the next year which will cause those expenses to go up.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Brian Geary, treasurer, reported on the work within the Finance Committee.

The audit started earlier this year because of the switch to new accounting software for the diocese. This is the second year with the new auditing firm and Mr. Geary will meet with them soon to go over the audit. The Finance Committee continues to work through the new auditing policy with parishes. The committee is also working on classes for parish treasurers.

Mr. Geary then moved to reporting on the first draft of the proposed 2024 Mission Plan. He started with the Apportionment Schedule which shows a decrease. Father Andrew O'Connor asked Mr. Currie to remind the council how apportionment is calculated. In the past, the amounts were determined using figures from the prior three years. The new calculations will use a three tier and graduated rate. One of the tasks for the Finance Committee this year is to go over the apportionment Canon. If there are questions or additions for the budget, Mr. Geary asked that those be emailed to him, Mr. Currie and the Bishop ahead of the June and August Council meetings so that the best Apportionment Schedule and Mission Plan can get out to delegates for the September convocation meetings and October Diocesan Convention.

The Bishop pointed to the "Diocesan Funds for Mission and Parish Initiatives, 2024" sheet which breaks down how the "Bishop's Mission Fund", "Sherman Episcopate", and "Millspaugh-Wise" funds are being used and going out to missions and parishes. Mr. Geary pointed out that this helps the diocese in its effort to be more transparent about the use of these funds. The Bishop hopes to provide a sheet like this for all the grants that the diocese is receiving.

Mother Jennifer Allen, Diocesan Missioner, spoke to the New Episcopal Communities grant that will be used to help fund the ministry of Bethany House and Gardens.

Council members appreciated seeing the breakdown of the funds and suggested a narrative to go with it would also help.

Mr. Currie then went through the various lines of the proposed budget for 2024. The diocese anticipates an unpaid apportionment. St. Margaret's loan payment through their successful capital campaign looks to be paid. There is going to be a curate at St. Mary's, Galena, and the diocese will be paying for part of that curacy. Mr. Currie then went through each of the budget's departments. The "Young Adult Leaders" line has decreased since there is no full-time program assistant and peer ministers will be paid to do some of the roles that the program assistant used to do. Mother Karen Schlabach also said that some of those funds were given to Youth Ministry as the program assistants also gave a lot of time and work to that department as well. In the "Clergy Support" department there is an increase in funding for this work as more retreats and events and programs are started. Also, all staff is receiving a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA). There is a big increase in the "Congregational Development" department under "Minster Priests" as more minsters are moving to a priest for the minster. Under "Mission Management" the diocese will begin to pay "Auto Escrow" after a couple of years of not paying that. Also, the "Sexton Salary" moved from this department to the "Bethany Place" department. The personnel in "Mission Management" are still receiving a COLA. In the "Office of the Bishop" the Archdeacons are going to begin receiving a stipend for their work. In the "Seminarian and Curate Support" department the "Seminarian Support" has been zeroed as the Rev. Mary Donovan campus ministry position has moved to the "Campus Ministry" department. Mr. Chad Senuta reported as to the activities currently going on and what is being prepared for in the area of Campus Ministry.

After a brief break, the Council resumed its business at 11:39 am by hearing from President Dr. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon on plans for working on the Priority Goals and Strategic Planning. The Council broke into their Working Groups after which all participants reconvened and each group gave a brief report to the Council.

Dr. David Littrell led the council in Noonday Prayer remembering Thurgood Marshall, Public Servant, 1993. The meeting adjourned for lunch and resumed at 1:37 pm

Bishop Bascom called on Canon Patrick Funston to present on the Episcopal Church's work around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). He began with the Prayer for Unity in the Church from the Book of Common Prayer. Canon Funston began his presentation by giving a broad overview on the levels of authority and the voice of the church for when someone says "this is where the Episcopal Church stands on an issue." Because of the polity of the Episcopal Church there is no individual voice who speaks for "the Church." Canon Patrick presented a document created by Mother Allen, former delegate to the United Nations for the Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of the Episcopal Church, with a list of resolutions from General Convention around DEI. He then pointed to resolutions from the 2018 General Convention "Reaffirm and Report on Anti-Racism Training" and "Direct Interim Bodies to Undergo Anti-Racism Training" as well as a 2022 General Convention resolution "Develop Resources and Training for Welcoming and

Supporting Transgender and Non-Binary Persons and Families” and pointed out some of the language within these resolutions. The difficult work of being an Episcopalian is that there is no discerning one voice on any certain issue. Canon Funston concluded his presentation and time was allowed for questions and discussion.

Reports from Council of Trustees and Staff

Mother Schlabach gave her report on youth ministry and reported current numbers for camp registration. This year there will be two psychologists on staff to help with the increase in mental health care needs.

Canon Lisa Senuta reminded the Council about upcoming retreats on vocational discernment and encouraged members to come or invite people they know to attend. She is also providing retreats for parish groups like vestries, altar guilds, etc.

Canon Funston gave an update on Diocesan Convention. Communication about deadlines for resolutions and nominations has gone out in the mail and will be in the Diolog next week. The banquet will be held at the Topeka Performing Arts Center.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Bascom reported that there are a couple of real estate happenings that may come before the Council in the month ahead. Then the Bishop reported on possible use of the Jim Walsh Fund to help establish a Congregational Vitality Grant much like the Alleluia Fund grants. Deacon Cummins moved that the funds from the Jim Walsh Fund at the discretion of the Council of Trustees be split evenly between an establishment of a Congregational Vitality Grant and to support the ministries at Bethany House and Garden. It was seconded and approved unanimously. This funding meets three of the objectives from the Council of Trustees Priority Goals in Congregational Vitality, Culture of Invitation and Youth & Young Adult Leadership.

Bishop Bascom then presented a design for a labyrinth to be placed at Bethany House and Gardens. This labyrinth is a donation from a member at Grace Cathedral. The cost was more than the donor expected and additional funding will be needed. The design will be ADA accessible.

The Bishop concluded her report with a few updates on transitions. Ordinations will be held at Grace Cathedral on June 24.

Other written reports included in the packet:

- Report from the Diocesan Missioner
- Report from the Director of Young Adult and Communication Ministries

The meeting was adjourned with a blessing from Bishop Bascom at 3:12 pm.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk