

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

**November 8, 2023**

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met via Zoom on November 8, 2023. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, offered a prayer for the Human Family and the work of the Church. The bishop then called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Members of the Council of Trustees present were:

- Bishop Cathleen Chittenden Bascom
- The Rev. Helen Hoch, Clerk
- The Ven. Jim Cummins
- Ms. Melanie Laster
- The Rev. Margaret McGhee
- Mr. Mike Morrow
- Mr. Ron Olson
- The Rev. Doreen Rice Daab
- The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder
- Ms. Teresa Ryther
- Mr. John Smittle
- The Rev. Daryl Stanford
- Ms. Diana Waddell-Gilbert

Members of the Council of Trustees absent:

- Dr. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon, President
- The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis

Also present as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

- Mr. Hurst Coffman, Vice-Chancellor

Also present:

- 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
- The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Campus & Digital Missioner
- Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Communications & Young Adult Ministries
- The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta, Canon for Spiritual Life and Clergy Care

Bishop Bascom presented the October 21, 2023, meeting minutes. Seeing there were no corrections, the minutes were accepted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Currie reminded the council that the entire endowment draw has already been taken. Income and expenses should be about even by the end of the year.

All apportionments should be collected by the end of the year.

October was not a good month for investments. Financial documentation for the month indicates a \$177,000 loss.

Mr. Currie shared the quarterly investment report, the information on apportionment and the income and expense report. There was discussion about the fees for investments.

Financial reports were received for audit.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Brian Geary was not present due to a meeting conflict. Canon Patrick Funston reported that the committee is looking toward the next year when they will continue to work with the new audit policy as presented at convention.

### **Standing Committee Business**

Due to President Beth Fitz Gibbon's absence, Canon Patrick Funston presented an amendment to the Northeast Convocation Bylaws for approval by the Council of Trustees. Following review, Mr. Morrow moved to approve the amendment to the bylaws of the Northeast Convocation Board. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Canon Patrick Funston presented the Southeast Convocation Apportionment Deferral for Loan from St. John's, Parsons, for approval by the Council of Trustees. This was presented per Canon IV.2 and upon the affirmative recommendation of the Southeast Convocation Board. Discussion of situations like this included the fact that they do not need to be presented to the council for a vote. This information should be included in the parish report. Mr. Currie added more explanation on what he understood to be the original intent of this canon. Mr. Morrow moved that the Council of Trustees approve the request of St. John's, Parsons, to reduce its future apportionment bases by the actual amount of debt service paid on its 2023/2024 metal roof project up to a total of \$12,000. The motion was seconded and, after some discussion, was approved unanimously.

### **Bishop's Report**

The bishop presented her written report and highlighted a few points from it and from the agenda. St. Bartholomew's, Wichita, is considering a building purchase from the Southwest Presbyterian church they have been sharing since 2021. St. Paul's, KCK, is looking to welcome Father Daniel Mafla from Columbia by repairing the rectory

utilizing up to \$75,000 from the Milspaugh-Wise fund to have it ready for him in mid-December.

The bishop is hoping to establish a Bethany House and Garden Board of Directors as that ministry continues to grow and need more organization. Since this ministry is not a parish, the bishop feels she needs to keep the Council of Trustees apprised of their work. The details of this diocesan ministry are too much for the Council to work through. Council Members asked questions about what this kind of board would be and its relationship to the Council. The bishop reiterated this is just the beginning of this conversation and asked to hold questions regarding this until the Chancellor was present at a Council meeting. The bishop does think that it would report to the Council of Trustees and that it may have members from Council on its body.

The last item on the bishop's report was about the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty. The Rev. Shawn Streepy brought a group to the bishop's office to ask the diocese if they would be an abolition endorsing group on ending the death penalty in Kansas. The coalition is in the process of reaching out to those who have endorsed this before, which includes the Diocese of Kansas. The bishop opened the floor for questions about the diocese adding their name to this endorsement again and there was discussion. Ms. Ryther moved that the Diocese of Kansas will continue to be listed as an Abolition Endorsing Group for the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

### **Reports from Trustees and Staff**

Bishop Bascom called on Mthr. Doreen Rice Daab to give an overview of the Strategic Planning work for the Council.

Dean Rohleder led the council in Noonday Prayer remembering Ammonius the (earless) hermit. The meeting adjourned for lunch and resumed at 12:07 p.m.

Bishop Bascom talked about her visitations and meeting with vestries to talk about what the Council of Trustees is, and its work with the Strategic Plans and Objectives. So, this work of the Council is important as she helps to get it in front of vestries around the diocese.

Each of the recorders from the group workshop sessions held on Saturday during the convention reported on observations and comments. Information collected will be shared and used as the groups continue to work on the strategic plan throughout the next year.

The bishop called on the Rev. Karen Schlabach to share information about her sabbatical. Mthr. Schlabach referenced her report sent to the council. She feels like her main goals of rest and spending time with family were met. She is eager to include

some of what she learned in upcoming youth events and summer camp, especially from *3 Big Questions That Change Every Teenager*.

The bishop then called on Canon Lisa Senuta to talk about Rev. Samuel Wells coming to the diocese in May for a Tocher Formation Event. This event will be held on May 15-16 at St. Michael and All Angels, Mission. The topic will be “Living God’s Future Now”.

The bishop hopes to have a diocesan-wide book study of Rev. Wells’ book *Humbler Faith, Bigger God* during Lent and Eastertide in 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 pm.

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The Rev. Helen Hoch  
Clerk