

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

**January 17, 2024**

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met via Zoom on January 17, 2024. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, shared a prayer about water and living water. The bishop then called the meeting to order at 10:06 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 Ven. Jim Cummins  
Ms. Melanie Laster  
The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis  
The Rev. Margaret McGhee  
Mr. Ron Olson  
The Rev. Doreen Rice Daab  
Ms. Teresa Ryther  
Mr. John Smittle  
The Rev. Daryl Stanford  
Ms. Diana Waddell-Gilbert

Council Members absent:

Mr. Mike Morrow  
The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder

Also present as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

Mr. Hurst Coffman, Vice-Chancellor  
Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer  
Mr. Frank Taylor, Chancellor

Also present:

Mr. Jay Currie, Comptroller  
Ms. Michael Funston, Executive Assistant to the Bishop  
The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary  
The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Campus & Digital Missioner  
Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Communications & Young Adult Ministries

Bishop Bascom presented the November 29, 2023, meeting minutes. The Ven. Cummins moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Brian Geary introduced the 2022 Audit Report from Marr and Company. He introduced Clark Hanner, CPA, from Marr and Company to present the report.

Mr. Hanner gave the presentation on the 2022 audit comparison to 2021. The audit was completed in accordance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) except the liability for post-employment retirement benefits. Mr. Hanner continued with the list of adjustments which had been included. Many of these were the result of the change in accounting software. He had met with the Financial Committee at their earlier meeting. 2023 will be audited and hopefully completed by summer.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Jay Currie reported a diocesan staff clergy request for housing allowance.

- The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta requested 58% of her compensation be declared as housing allowance.

Dean Lewis moved to approve the housing allowance request. The motion was seconded, and the request was approved unanimously.

Mr. Currie reviewed the financials for the end of the year 2023. The apportionment report had only a few outstanding by the end of the year but nothing of concern. He then moved on to the Balance Sheet (cash basis) which does not show apportionment that came in after the end of the year, so there will be an inconsistency there.

Mr. Currie then moved on to the Income Statement (accrual basis). In a comparison of actual amounts to budgeted, there were a few over and a few under. Most were not significant. He did note that Congregational Development was significantly underspent because the hiring of the St. Paul's, Kansas City, priest is not happening until 2024. On the whole, Mr. Currie feels that the diocese ended in a fairly good position. He believes that all of the 2023 apportionment will come in during the next few weeks. The bishop asked a question from page one of the Balance Sheet about the total investment numbers and whether those amounts were important to note. Mr. Geary emphasized that what the diocese can control is keeping tabs on the operating budget and being in contact with parishes that foresee problems with their apportionment. What the diocese cannot control is the market which in turn controls investments.

The audit and financial reports were received.

Mr. Geary updated the Council on the St. Margaret's loan. After a brief summary of the history of the St. Margaret's building loan, Mr. Geary informed the Council where the Finance Committee is at with the current pay down on that loan with the change in leadership at St. Margaret's. Mr. Currie shared what he learned in his meeting with the leadership at St. Margaret's after the former rector, the Rev. Marco Serrano, left. St. Margaret's would like a 30-year loan at 4.25% interest. The Finance Committee is working with St. Margaret's to finalize this new loan agreement. The bishop asked the Finance Committee to write up a proposal for the Council to vote on at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Geary called on Bishop Bascom to speak to the current building situation with St. Bartholomew's, Wichita. St. Bartholomew's has been meeting in a Presbyterian church. The Presbyterian congregation has decided to leave the building. The diocese with St. Bartholomew's made an offer that was declined. The Presbyterians are considering how their ministry may still be needed in that part of Wichita. Dean Lewis noted that St. Bartholomew's is still meeting as usual in the building.

Mr. Geary called on the bishop and Mr. Currie for updates on St. Thomas, Holton, and St. Paul's, Kansas City. St. Thomas, Holton, had a verbal offer of \$12,000. St. Thomas, Holton countered with \$20,000. The bishop reminded the leaders of St. Thomas that any true offer would have to come before the Council. The bishop said St. Thomas, Holton, wondered about putting the building up for auction. Council members asked questions about whether they might be able to get a better offer by going to auction. The bishop will take these concerns to the leadership at St. Thomas, Holton, as they make their decision. At St. Paul's, Kansas City, work on the rectory is moving quickly and the Mafla family will be moving in by February 1. There is no new information for Trinity, Arkansas City, and the sale of their education building.

Mr. Geary called on Canon Patrick Funston to orient the Council, especially new members, on the Bishop's Home Equity Agreement. The first page is the initial amendment which has the equity share of the bishop's house ownership by the diocese. The second page is the Certificate of Equity Adjustment which is left blank and to be filled out each year and reported to the Council of Trustees. The third page is the Certificate of Equity Adjustment effective January 1, 2024, with the amounts filled out. The fourth page is the math shown on the certificate. The bishop said the value came from Realty not Zillow. This agreement was passed at the September meeting and will be updated at the beginning of each year.

**Standing Committee Business**

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

Father Stanford moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Austin Keith Rios as Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of California. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Bishop's Report** (attached to these minutes)

The bishop introduced a discussion about formalizing Bethany House and Garden Ministry which will come before the Council in February. The bishop will meet with the chancellors ahead of the February Council meeting to discuss options for this ministry. Chancellor Taylor said that as more people outside of the diocesan staff become involved with the Bethany House and Garden Ministry, the diocese needs to be sure to protect the diocese. The bishop then described how the Bethany House is being used by diocesan staff. There have been questions about how the house could be used for hospitality and residence for international visitors. The bishop hopes the Council will consider how the building and gardens can be used. As a diocesan property, it is the Council of Trustees' decision. Ms. Teresa Ryther asked if Bethany House would be used to house just interns or other residents. The bishop said that Bethany House is zoned to be used as a long-term residence whereas Upton Hall is zoned as a short-term residence.

The bishop continued her report by touching on her trip to Dubai as part of the Presiding Bishop's Delegation to COP28. She will give a more detailed report next month after the delegation meets. The bishop noted her work with the Episcopal Grasslands Network.

Bishop Bascom reminded members about the study of Sam Wells' book *Humbler Faith, Bigger God* during Lent culminating in a Tocher Event at St. Michael and All Angels, Mission, on May 15-16. There will be a weekly zoom during Lent leading up to the May event.

The bishop also pointed to her Bishop's Report and how she is reorganizing her report following the Strategic Planning Objectives. She asked that her complete report be attached to the minutes.

Michele Moss is currently on sabbatical.

Father Stanford led the council in Noonday Prayer remembering Antony of Egypt. The meeting adjourned for lunch and resumed at 12:45 p.m.

## **Priority Goals and Strategic Planning**

President Fitz Gibbon oriented the new members on what Strategic Planning work has already been done by the Council. The Council then broke into their working groups to continue their work for an hour. When the Council reconvened, the members talked about what was shared in their group discussions. President Fitz Gibbon emphasized having the groups prioritize their work and who is going to do that work. She also reminded members of the importance of sharing the Strategic Plan and what has been done as well as some future plans with local congregations. She suggested that annual meetings might be a good place and time for that.

Canon Funston gave a concluding prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

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The Rev. Helen Hoch  
Clerk

**Episcopal Diocese of Kansas/Bascom**

**CERTIFICATE OF EQUITY ADJUSTMENT**

**January 1, 2024**

This Certificate of Equity Adjustment is executed by the parties to the Shared Equity Agreement between The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc. and Cathleen Chittenden Bascom and Timothy Bascom effective January 1, 2024 (report attached):

1. The value of the Realty is **\$262,885.00**.
2. The Purchasers have contributed **\$38,405.00** to be applied to purchase of a portion of the initial 50% equity owned by the Diocese in the Realty.
3. After this contribution, the parties own the Realty in the following proportions:

The Diocese: **35.39%**

Purchasers: **64.61%**

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF KANSAS, INC.

By Elizabeth P. Fitz Gibbon  
Elizabeth P. Fitz Gibbon (Jan 11, 2024 09:33 CST)

Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon, President,  
Council of Trustees

ATTEST:

L. Franklin Taylor  
L. Franklin Taylor (Jan 10, 2024 12:13 CST)

L. Franklin Taylor, Secretary,  
Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

Cathleen Bascom

Cathleen Chittenden Bascom

Tim Bascom  
Tim Bascom (Jan 9, 2024 21:09 CST)

Timothy Bascom

DATED: January 1, 2024

## Bishop's House - Shared Equity Agreement

### Totals and Initial Agreement Terms

2020 Purchase price	\$ 200,000.00
Initial Agreement (3/18/20) Equity Split	50%
Appraised Value 12/31/23	\$ 262,885.00

		<b>Bascom</b>		<b>Diocese</b>
		<b>Of Total Equity</b>		<b>Of Total Equity</b>
Value of Initial Agreement as of 12/31/2023	\$ 131,443.00	50%	\$ 131,442.00	50%
2020 & 2021				
Property Tax & Insurance*	\$ 8,580.00			
2022				
Property Tax & Insurance*	\$ 5,301.00			
Payroll Withholding	\$ 9,600.00			
2023				
Property Tax & Insurance*	\$ 5,324.00			
Payroll Withholding	\$ 9,600.00			
Total Paid in as of 12/31/2023	\$ 38,405.00			

		<b>Bascom</b>		<b>Diocese</b>
		<b>Of Total Equity</b>		<b>Of Total Equity</b>
<b>Equity as of 12/31/2023</b>	\$ 169,848.00	<b>64.61%</b>	\$ 93,037.00	<b>35.39%</b>

\*Property Tax & Insurance Diocesan Portion to be reimbursed to Bascoms; Bascoms deferred to equity

## Bishop's Report for the Council of Trustees - January 2024

### Congregational Vitality

#### Foundational Earth Vitality

- A pastoral perspective on Creation Care ministry and report on COP28 (attached)
- Grasslands Network grant application (attached)

#### Episcopal visitations and worship leadership

- St. David's, Topeka, visitation
- Grace Cathedral, Christmas Eve services
- St. Bartholomew's, visitation that included conversation on building and possible purchase
- Visitations include taking clergy for a meal, celebration of Eucharist, preaching, parish forums, meeting with vestry to discuss diocesan strategic objectives and mission plan.

**Transitions** - Bishop Bascom provided an update on transitions in the diocese.

I have weekly texts and calls with Transition Missioner Debbie Kremers on openings and in-person discussion with Canon Patrick on these matters as well.

### Culture of Invitation and Mission

#### Talking-the Walk

- Preaching about Joseph, Lydia, Zaccheus and our call into Third Places on visitations
- Christmas gift *Humbler Faith Bigger God*, plan for all-diocesan read and Zooms (attached)

#### Bethany House and Garden and Creation Care

- Have hired new Fellow for BHG Marley Hays. An added gift is that Marley is fluent in Spanish and part of her fellowship will be to serve as interpreter for Fr. Daniel Mafla and to translate EDOK & BHG print & on-line material. Marley has housing in Lawrence.
- Screening of film "Hot Times in the Heartland" Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m. cathedral (attached)

#### Welcome for All People

- Met with Fr. Daniel Mafla, Dixie+ Junk, and parish leader Debbi Lainez of KCK. He begins there this month.
- Fruitful conversation with St. Bart's parishioners and clergy there (including Eli+ Montes and Brother Guadalupe) and Archdeacon Jeff Roper about strong possibilities for bi-lingual, multi-cultural ministries in South Wichita (esp if purchase of Presby. Church )
- Conversation with Bishop Hector Monterosa, Dio. Texas, about possible collaboration for supporting new bi-lingual and multi-cultural ministries.
- Bishop Daniel Genovesi, is concluding his 5 year call as Interim Bishop of Uruguay. He and his wife Mercedes (parents of recent intern Camila) hope to come and spend May and part of June in Kansas (part of June in Texas.) Open to further conversations about needs both in parishes and in the diocese. +Daniel is very articulate both in English and Spanish.
- With CoT support, Curate Caroline and I would like to offer them hospitality at BHG.

### Leadership Development

- I have met with seminarians Sarah Shipman, Ryan Bloyd-Wiseman, and Tom Seddon.
- I visited Deacon Martha Lamoy, Deacon Charles Durland, and Sr. Warden of Ascension, Neodesha Karen Bertels to learn how the Shared Ministry Minister is going.
- I met with ordinands Jody Carroll, Caroline Howard, Susan Byler, and Martha LaMoy
- Participated in the Bishop Consecration of +John Harmon in the Diocese of Arkansas

### Youth and Young Adult Leadership

- Supporting Curate Caroline as she takes over from Missioner Jennifer Allen.
- Two meetings with Marley Hays about Fellowship
- There were many young leaders at COP28!