

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

**April 17, 2024**

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met via Zoom on April 17, 2024. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, offered prayers for a beloved youth and young adult ministry volunteer and then said the prayer for guidance from the Book of Common Prayer after which she called the meeting to order at 10:13 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  
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  
Mr. Mason Weber

Member absent:

The Rev. Margaret McGhee

Also present as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

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

Also present:

Ms. Michael Funston, Executive Assistant to the Bishop  
The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary  
The Rev. Caroline Howard, Curate for Creation Care  
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 & Clergy Care

Bishop Bascom welcomed new member, Mason Weber, who is fulfilling the at-large lay member vacancy. Council of Trustees members introduced themselves to Mr. Weber and welcomed him to the council.

Bishop Bascom presented the March 20, 2024, meeting minutes. After editing, the minutes were accepted as corrected.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Jay Currie, Comptroller and Assistant Treasurer, presented the quarterly reports which, as he reminded, are reported on an accrual rather than cash basis. Mr. Currie then moved on to the more detailed income statement for the first quarter of 2024. All in all, he saw no problems at this time of the year. There may be an expense incurred in the coming months that will not affect the budget, but it will affect the cash flow as there are significant plumbing problems in Bethany House that need to be addressed. Mr. Geary pointed to a possible formula error on page 6 that Mr. Currie will change to show the difference instead of an addition from \$805,320.04 to \$343,908.96. Mr. Smittle asked why there were two Galena Custodial Accounts listed on page 3 of the Balance Sheet and Mr. Currie said he would change that to one. That is from the transition to the new accounting software. He noted the parishes which have fulfilled their apportionment for the full year. There are a couple of parishes that he plans to follow up with on their apportionment after this first quarter.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer, thanked Mr. Currie for preparing and presenting these quarterly statements. The Finance Committee continues to work on the new auditing process. They are gathering names of people throughout the diocese who can help with this process. There are plans for putting together a map for resources and training. A mission plan is being prepared with hopes for a June report. The diocesan audit process has begun with Marr & Company facilitating as has been the case for the for the last three years. Mr. Geary and Bishop Bascom thanked members of the Finance Committee for all their work.

### **Real Estate Updates**

Bishop Bascom moved on to the real estate updates around the diocese. She updated the council on the sale of the church building of St. Thomas, Holton. There was a secularization service on April 10, 2024. The First Christian Church, which is located across the street from the former Episcopal facility, has offered a place for Episcopal services.

**Standing Committee Business**

President Fitz Gibbon presented a request for consent to hold an election for a Bishop Suffragan for West Texas.

- Mr. Morrow moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the holding of an election for a Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of West Texas. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Fr. Andrew O'Connor, Chair of the Commission on Ministry (COM), joined the council as members looked at current candidates. Canon Patrick Funston presented information relating to Title III Canon 8 Section 6 Part 2. President Fitz Gibbon presented documents regarding Madison Bishop's preparation for ordination. Ms. Bishop is scheduled to be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on June 15, 2024, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Following review, Mr. Morrow moved to certify and recommend Madison Bishop for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate, which was seconded, and the Council approved. Ron Olson abstained.

President Fitz Gibbon presented documents regarding Jeanine Blessant's preparation for ordination. Ms. Blessant is scheduled to be ordained to the Diaconate on June 15, 2024, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Following review, Mr. Morrow moved to certify and recommend Jeanine Blessant for Ordination to the Diaconate, which was seconded, and the Council approved. Ron Olson abstained.

President Fitz Gibbon presented documents regarding Sarah Shipman's preparation for ordination. Ms. Shipman is scheduled to be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on June 15, 2024, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Following review, Mr. Morrow moved to certify and recommend Sarah Shipman for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate, which was seconded, and the Council approved. Ron Olson abstained.

The Council moved into Executive Session. Staff returned to the meeting at 1:20 pm.

President Fitz Gibbon presented documents regarding Ryan Bloyd-Wiseman's preparation for ordination. Ms. Bloyd-Wiseman is scheduled to be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on June 15, 2024, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Following discussion and review, Mr. Morrow moved to certify and recommend Ryan Bloyd-Wiseman for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate, which was seconded, and the Council approved. Ron Olson abstained.

Canon Patrick Funston officiated Noonday Prayer celebrating Kateri Tekakwitha, Lay Contemplative. The council recessed for lunch, returning at 1:15 p.m.

## **Bishop's Report**

Bishop Bascom presented her report and highlighted a few items.

Bishop Bascom asked for a motion to approve Bishop Daniel Genovesi and wife Mercedes staying at Bethany House from April 29-July 6, 2024. Dean Lewis moved that the Council of Trustees allow Bishop Daniel Genovesi and wife Mercedes to stay at Bethany House from April 29-July 6, 2024. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously among those who voted.

Bishop Bascom called on Curate Caroline Howard to speak to current plans for summer interns for Bethany House and Garden.

## **Priority Goals and Strategic Planning**

President Fitz Gibbon gave an overview on the Priority Goals and Strategic planning to date.

President Fitz Gibbon asked the Council to look over the language for each of the objectives and goals to finalize the wording for further work. After discussion, the following were approved:

### **DIOCESAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES & GOALS**

*\*Numbered for ease of reference, not indicative of priority\**

- Objective 1. **STRENGTHEN CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY AMID A CHANGING WORLD**
  - Goal 1. **Build a shared understanding of Congregational Vitality throughout the Diocese.**
  - Goal 2. **Resource robust congregations and ministries by strengthening Diocesan Minsters, Convocations, Task Forces, Staff and Clergy.**
  - Goal 3. **Establish four 'new model' Episcopal communities by 2030.**
  
- Objective 2. **DEVELOP A MISSION OF INVITATION & WELCOME IN NEIGHBORHOODS**
  - Goal 1. **Improve equitable access to services, programs and resources.**
  - Goal 2. **Build cultures of diversity and inclusion in parishes.**
  - Goal 3. **Reach out in parish neighborhoods through transformational engagements.**
  
- Objective 3. **BUILD YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT EPISCOPAL LEADERSHIP**
  - Goal 1. **Create relationship-building opportunities.**
  - Goal 2. **Engage Youth and Young Adults in leadership positions.**
  - Goal 3. **Develop Episcopal and ecumenical partners fostering growth with Youth & Young Adults.**
  - Goal 4. **Endow Youth and Camp activities and programs.**
  
- Objective 4. **NOURISH CLERGY & LAY LEADERSHIP**
  - Goal 1. **Resource the recruitment and training of clergy and lay leaders.**
  - Goal 2. **Provide caring resources for healthy, sustainable clergy and ministries.**
  - Goal 3. **Enable creativity and initiatives to enhance leadership capabilities.**

Mother Rice Daab moved to adopt the above as the nascent diocesan strategic plan. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The diocesan staff will take this and start working on it.

The bishop offered a blessing, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

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The Rev. Helen Hoch  
Clerk

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

### Congregational Vitality

First draft in process of possible ministry description for a Missioner for Congregational Vitality (to include Transitions duties)

#### Full Saturday and Sunday Visitations

- *St. Paul's, Clay Center*
  - Included visits to three ranches/farms of parishioners as part of Creation Trustees networks building (Fr. Rex accompanied me)
- *St. Peter's, Pittsburg*
  - Included dinner with Ryan Willis and wife, and full discussion with parish on EDOK strategic goals and Model One of Congregational Development

#### Holy Week Leadership

- Chrism Mass, St. John's, Parsons
- Maundy Thursday, St. Margaret's, Lawrence
- Good Friday, Epiphany, Sedan

#### Transitions and Specific Meetings

- St. John's, Parsons regarding transition
- Agape and Little Church on the Prairie Minsters, unified meeting
- Numerous meetings with Canon Patrick Funston on parish processes

### Culture of Invitation and Mission

Work with Chad Senuta, Director of Communications as he refines our approach to Spanish translation and interpretation

Exploration of multi-cultural & bilingual ministry in Kansas with Bishop Daniel Genovesi (who is finishing a five-year term as Bishop Provisional of the Anglican Diocese of Uruguay)

- Today I request Council approval of temporary housing at Bethany House for Bishop Genovesi and wife Mercedes, who desires to work in Bethany Garden while here April 29-July 6, 2024
- Curate Caroline is working with Cami Genovesi (BHG intern in 2023) who has applied for internship again in 2024

Continue support of Father Daniel Mafla, linked him with Mother Eli Montes for Chrism Mass

### Leadership Development

- Facilitated one Zoom session of *Humbler Faith, Bigger God* study
- Working with diocesan and parish leaders to form Curacy placements for our ordination candidates
- Discernment review and decision-making regarding ordinations
- Stretching my own leadership as chair of Environmental Stewardship/Creation Care legislative committee for General Convention

- Leading forums with either the vestry or whole parish on our Stat Goals on my visitations

### Youth and Young Adult Leadership

- In Conversation with Seminarian Sarah Shipman and a possible call and placement to ordained leadership with our youth (to be largely mentored by Karen)
- Met with youth farmers/ranchers. Recruited one from Clay Center to speak on young women and Agriculture at our July Grasslands Creation Trustees gathering
- Considering an element of Young Adult mission and ministry that might be a portion of a placement for Seminarian Madison Bishop through St. Andrew's, Derby, and St. Bart's.
- Two-fold request from the Presbytery in Wichita:
  - Describe our vision for mission and ministry (beyond St. Bart's)
  - Conversation now that they have fair-market estimates between \$400,000 - \$600,000.
  - Original \$50,000 offer seems to pale.
  - I would like to appoint Dean Laurie Lewis and Treasurer Brian Geary to take this project further for me and the CoT