

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

**May 8, 2024**

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met at Upton Hall in Topeka on May 8, 2024. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, shared a litany from Province VI after which she called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

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 Very Rev. Laurie Lewis
- The Rev. Margaret McGhee
- Mr. Mike Morrow
- Mr. Ron Olson
- The Rev. Doreen Rice Daab
- The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder
- Ms. Teresa Ryther
- The Rev. Daryl Stanford
- Mr. Mason Weber

Members absent:

- Dr. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon, President
- Mr. John Smittle

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

Bishop Bascom presented the April 17, 2024, meeting minutes. Archdeacon Jim Cummins moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

As Jay Currie, Comptroller, was absent, the bishop called on Brian Geary, Treasurer, to give the treasurer's report. He noted that the diocese has not received anything from two parishes thus far this year. Otherwise, the rest of the apportionments are normal for the year. The diocese is a bit behind on year-to-date income, but this is okay. The draw on the endowment has not happened yet this year. Expenses are pretty status quo. The reports were received as presented.

**Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Geary reported that the finance committee is working on the draft budget for 2025. A first draft of the budget should be ready in time for the next Council meeting in June. Diocesan staff and the bishop are currently working on their budget requests. The finance committee is continuing to recruit help from around the diocese to conduct parish audits. There is a good number of people so far that the committee plans to train but they are still looking for more to help. If there are recommendations, please send those to Mr. Geary. The audit for 2023 is underway. St. Margaret's loan continues to be paid off as planned.

The Council went into Executive Session at 10:24; staff were asked to leave. The meeting reconvened at 10:27 am.

**Real Estate Updates**

There were no updates relating to real estate at this time. Dean Lewis continues to work with St. Bartholomew's on their building.

**Bishop's Report**

Bishop Bascom presented her report and highlighted a few items.

Bishop Bascom traveled to the cathedral in Charlotte, North Carolina, for a special meeting of the House of Bishops to meet with the candidates for presiding bishop. The bishop welcomed questions from members of the Council about the candidates.

Bishop Bascom then moved into talking about where the priority goals and strategic planning is at the moment. Bishop and Canon Funston worked together to come up with an implementation plan for the objectives. The bishop has worked with Mr. Currie, Comptroller, on where the strategic plan requires funding. The council will talk more about the implementation plan later in the meeting.

Bishop Bascom commented on her continuing work as the chair of the Creation Legislative Committee for General Convention

The bishop gave an update on some of the parishes in transition especially Zoom and phone meeting with the next Rector of Good Shepherd in Wichita and the Bishop of Ottawa, Anglican Church of Canada. She requested prayers for this situation.

Bishop Bascom gave an update on Father Mafla and his multi-cultural work with St. Paul's, Kansas City, and the surrounding community. There is a transportation need for Father Mafla for ministry and personal use.

Mr. Morrow moved to empower Bishop Cathleen Bascom, Archdeacon Jim Cummins, and Comptroller Jay Currie to obtain and provide a vehicle for Father Daniel Mafla to use and to authorize Bishop Bascom, Archdeacon Cummins, and Comptroller Currie to make a decision regarding the best means of financing for this vehicle whether it be escrow, the Millspaugh-Wise Fund or other arrangements. The motion was seconded, and then approved unanimously.

Bishop Bascom continued the conversation around the Council's priority objective of "Culture of Invitation and Mission." Bishop Daniel Genovesi, provisional Bishop of Uruguay, and his wife have arrived in Kansas and are staying at Bethany House for the next two months. He is the Multi-Cultural Pastoral Consultant to the Bishop while he is in Kansas. He has already begun to help Father Mafla at St. Paul's, Kansas City. Bishop Bascom has plans to have Bishop Genovesi visit other parishes throughout the diocese with multi-cultural ministries. Bishop Bascom shared the canonical process of having a bishop from the Anglican Communion serving in a diocese in the Episcopal Church.

Bishop Bascom gave kudos to the Canons for a wonderful Gathering of Clergy in Oklahoma last month. Bishop Bascom also spoke about ordinand placements helping with Youth and Young Adult Leadership.

The Council took a break and reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

Mother Helen Hoch officiated Noonday Prayer celebrating Julian of Norwich. The council recessed for lunch, returning at 1:05 p.m.

### **Priority Goals and Strategic Planning**

The bishop had the Council break up into their working groups to look over the Implementation Proposal of the Strategic Planning for 2024-2026 that she and Canon Patrick Funston along with President Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon worked to put together. Bishop Bascom asked the groups to look for any changes they would make and bring them back to the larger group.

Dean Lewis offered Prayer 61 from the Book of Common Prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

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The Rev. Helen Hoch  
Clerk

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

### Broader Efforts

- House of Bishops interviews of Presiding Bishop candidates in North Carolina
- Considerable time spent on implementation planning (see doc)
- Budget discernment and planning with Jay (numerous meetings)
- Chairing Creation Legislative Committee of General Convention high demands now

### Congregational Vitality

- Meeting with leaders of St. Andrew's, Emporia
- Meeting with leaders of St. Andrew's, Derby and St. Bartholomew's, Wichita
- **Episcopal visitations and worship leadership**
- St. Thomas, Overland Park, special seasonal Confirmation service
- Grace Cathedral, Topeka
  - \*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
- Zoom and phone time with the next Rector of Good Shepherd in Wichita and the Bishop of Ottawa, Anglican Church of Canada

### Culture of Invitation and Mission

#### Conversations with the Canons regarding Sam Wells event

#### Welcome for All People

- Two meetings with Fr. Daniel Mafla
- Phone conversation with Sr. Warden Ross Warnell, St. Paul's, KCK
- Meeting with Mthr. Dixie Junk on summer retirement from St. Paul's
- Creation of a team to assure grace-filled, solid transition: Jim Cummins central
- Picked up at airport and have spent time with Bishop Daniel Genovesi provisional Bishop of Uruguay. We continue in conversation about opportunities in EDOK.
  - He and wife Mercedes have already met with the Mafla family for support
  - They are interviewing with St. Andrew's, Emporia and are also set to visit Church of the Covenant in Junction City and St. John's and St. Bartholomew's in Wichita for possibilities

### Leadership Development

- Gathering of Clergy in Oklahoma

### Youth and Young Adult Leadership

- Placement of Sarah Shipman to Diocesan Youth, Cathedral and Labyrinth