

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

August 21, 2024

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met at Upton Hall in Topeka on August 21, 2024. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, offered prayers for creation, business, work, harvest and this meeting's work which came from *God's Great Good Earth* before calling 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
The Ven. Jim Cummins
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
Mr. John Smittle
The Rev. Daryl Stanford
Mr. Mason Weber

Members absent:

Ms. Melanie Laster

Also present as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

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

Also present:

Mr. Jay Currie, Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller
The Rev. Caroline Howard, Curate for Creation Care
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 Missioner
Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Communications Ministries
The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta, Canon for Spiritual Life & Clergy Care

Bishop Bascom presented the June 12, 2024, meeting minutes. The minutes were accepted with amendments.

Treasurer's Report

Jay Currie, Comptroller, presented a request for a change in the Rev. Canon Patrick Funston's house allowance. The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved that the council accept this change to \$53,000. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Currie then moved to the diocesan financial summary through July 31, 2024. Mr. Currie is working with St. Paul's, Kansas City, to reach their apportionment goals. There have been a few more parishes that have paid their full apportionment for the year. The diocese is on track for full apportionment payment for 2024. Mr. Currie did draw on the endowment a little early, but it is still under the budgeted amount. The major expense over the summer was the church camp bill from Camp Wood. It and the insurance bill have been paid in full. The diocese is where they need to be at this time of year on the expense side. Most of the major expenses are front loaded for the year. Convention is the biggest expense for the rest of the year.

The Treasurer's Report will be submitted for audit.

Finance Committee Report

Brian Geary, Treasurer, reported on the proposed 2025 Mission Plan for the Diocesan Convention. He continues to appreciate the work put into the budget narrative to help members of the diocese understand where the money is working. Mr. Geary drew attention first to the apportionment schedule on the last page of the mission plan. There were a few adjustments due to reporting and entry errors. Those have been adjusted. This schedule was presented to convocations at their summer meetings. Bishop Bascom noted corrections for the St. Paul's Bilingual Ministry and Multi-Cultural Consultant. They are correct in the budget but wrong in the narrative. Those numbers will be adjusted for the publication going out to the delegates next week. The Rev. Doreen Rice Daab asked questions relating to the percentage of the income from endowment and the actual draw on the endowment. The numbers will be clarified in the published budget for the packet sent to delegates next week. Mr. Geary noted some changes to the transition ministry line item. The bishop will form a team to take on the transition ministry which will include the bishop, Canon to the Ordinary, Director of Operations and a contracted transition minister who will work with parishes utilizing a search committee. The Finance Committee added a line item in Youth Ministry for the endowment for camp and youth events. Mike Morrow moved that the council accept the proposed 2025 Mission Plan for Diocesan Convention. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Priority Goals and Strategic Planning

President Beth Fitz Gibbon distributed a list of the working groups with their leaders and group members. The council looked over the groups to make sure members are listed in the correct group. President Fitz Gibbon then pointed to the work for the groups during their meeting time. Each group will look over the implementation plan from the bishop. During that time, each group should add or eliminate tactics that make sense for their goals. The working groups met for an hour. After that time, each group reported on work completed.

Working Group #1: Congregational Vitality They were not sure if they needed to meet as a task force before diocesan convention or if these would form after convention. The bishop clarified that this is the recommendation to diocesan convention. The chancellor further clarified that a Standing Commission would need the vote of diocesan convention. The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder, spokesperson of the Congregational Vitality working group, said that the tactics from the implementation plan would be for a task force and not a standing commission. The other parts on the plan seem to be in good order from the perspective of this working group. There was one tactic, financial vitality, that has disappeared, and the group would like it back. The group will meet over lunch and give that wording to Chad Senuta, Director of Communications, who is working on the Implementation Plan document for convention. There was discussion where the “Establish Four ‘New Model’ Episcopal Communities by 2030” tactic should go. Bishop Bascom provided further clarification about this tactic and why it overlaps the work of almost all of the working groups. After much discussion about where it makes more sense for it to reside, Bishop Bascom decided to hold it until after each group presented.

Working Group #2: Invitation and Welcome They decided that their group should be a Standing Commission that would evolve over time into multiple task forces. President Beth Fitz Gibbon, spokesperson for Working Group #2, reported that the group did not want to subdivide too much. They would be Standing Commission on Invitation and Welcome but would need help on naming task force groups from that commission. President Fitz Gibbon would like to gather some history from previous task forces before forming those. Chancellor Taylor said that the commission can begin now but that a canonical change would need to happen for it to become permanent. Part of the work of the group is to pull from the resolutions passed at General Convention and what has been said by the Church when it comes to these social groups. Bishop Bascom noted that part of the work of the Council will be how the commissions are populated. The Bishop asked Working Group #2 if they want to keep the work of the tactic “New Model Communities” or if they see it under another working group. The group decided to meet over lunch to make a decision.

Working Group #3: Youth and Young Adults They met a week before the council meeting and decided to change their goal since the original goal was too limiting. The Rev. Kelly Demo, chair of the Task Force on Youth and Young Adult Leadership, asked

the task force to shift their mindset from what can the church do for the youth to what the youth and young adults can do for the church. Their new goal is to develop direct connections to loving communities where Youth and Young Adults can feel safe, experience God's grace, and create lifelong spiritual curiosity. The bishop said that this may be too expansive. There was discussion about when the wording needs to be finalized; does it need to be for the diocesan convention mailing in a week or by the roadshow or by convention. There was also a discussion to clarify how many words do the objectives need to be limited to for the implementation plan. It was decided to keep the objective heading with the fuller goal underneath. The Rev. Karen Schlabach, spokesperson for Working Group #3, continued with some edits that they made to the tactics. Incorporating youth and young adults into each of the working group objectives should be a tactic for all groups. The task force will continue to have the current working group membership with additional members from the youth commission and young adult ministries. There will be a subcommittee that will work on the endowment fund for youth. President Beth Fitz Gibbon clarified that these groups should not be a bureaucracy but able to seek whatever information they need. The council nodded their agreement.

Working Group #4: Clergy and Lay Leadership Capacity They distributed a summary of their work. They are going to focus on a leadership academy; compensation and benefits; and clergy leadership, wellness and support. The council decided to have the implementation plan and each working group's plan mailed out next week.

The Rev. Doreen Rice Daab offered a prayer for the food. The council recessed for lunch, returning at 1:39 p.m.

Diocesan Convention Updates

The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston presented an update on the business that will come before the diocesan convention in October. These will be included in the packet for diocesan convention that will be mailed out next week. The schedule for convention is still being finalized. The Rt. Rev. Doug Sparks will join us as the guest preacher. During Bishop Sparks', Diocese of Northern Indiana, sabbatical he walked the Trail of Death of the Potawatomi and ended his walk in Kansas where Bishop Bascom joined him. Bishop Bascom has also invited a music group from Kansas City to join for worship. These groups will help further the theme of "God's Path Together". There are plans for working group conversation time during a longer coffee break during convention to capture thoughts and contact information. There was discussion about how worship will be organized for convention. Eucharist will take place at the convention hall. There will also be an exhibit hall.

Staff Sabbatical Proposal

Bishop Bascom presented staff sabbatical proposals for Canon Patrick Funston and Ms. Michael Funston. The Ven. Jim Cummins moved that the Council of Trustees

approve the sabbatical proposals of Canon Patrick Funston and Ms. Michael Funston. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

General Convention Highlights

Bishop Bascom invited Michael Funston, Chair of the Deputation to General Convention from Kansas, to speak to General Convention. Mrs. Funston shared her highlights including worship, budget assessment remaining at fifteen percent, the denominational health plan, celebrations of the Philadelphia Eleven, forming of dioceses in Navajoland, Great Lakes, and Wisconsin. Mike Morrow shared the changes in Article X around the prayer book and authorized liturgies. The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder shared what it was like to be in the House of Deputies when they received word that that House of Bishops had elected a new presiding bishop after the first ballot. The Rev. Doreen Rice Daab shared about her experience as a first time deputy and learning about all the work that goes into each resolution and how she was struck by the empathy behind that work as well. The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis shared her feelings about how much walking was involved in the work as well as her service of time providing tech support for legislative committees ahead of the convention. Bishop Bascom shared her experience chairing the Creation Care legislative committee as well as her experience during the election of the presiding bishop. Mike Morrow commended the bishop's work as the chair of a legislative committee.

Bishop's Report

The Bishop spoke to her written report around transitions, noting all of the transitions that have taken place so far in her episcopacy. Bishop Bascom also updated the council on the work around the labyrinth for the Bethany Gardens.

Bishop Bascom invited members of the diocesan staff to share any updates. The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta shared her upcoming Silent Retreat happening in September. She also asked for prayers for those attending the discernment retreat this coming weekend. The Ven. Jim Cummins reported on leadership changes for BKSM. At the current time, the Ven. Monte Giddings is serving as Interim Dean and the Very Rev. Casey Rohleder is serving as the Interim Dean for Formation. The Ven. Jim Cummins also reported on his work with St. Paul's in Kansas City. The Bishop asked for an update from The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder. She updated the council on BKSM for this year and asked for prayers for the academic year and for the search committee for the next dean. Other members of the council shared good news from around the diocese.

Bishop Bascom offered a blessing, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk

Bishop's Report for the Council of Trustees - June 12 -August 21, 2024

General Oversight, Church and World

- Deep reflection and composition of Implementation Plan, taking CoT work further
- Working with Chad and Patrick and Bishop Daniel on Convention theme and Logo
- Chaired Creation Care Committee of General Convention, passed numerous resolutions (* see -- Particularly relevant B002)
- Meet with BHG Team and continue to finalize plans for Grasslands Network Gathering (*See - Grasslands Gathering Save the Date)
- Very rejuvenating vacation in Kansas and Iowa
- Executive and Finance Committee Meetings

Congregational Vitality

- Celebrate St. John's, Wichita 155th Anniversary worship
- Met over lunch with priest candidate for St. Margaret's
- Linked Chancellor Taylor and Vice-Chancellor Bullock to St. Paul's roof litigation
- Meet with Search Chair, St. M's. Discuss possible diocesan role in Transitions
- Final work with Sr. Warden and Fr. Tom Baker to secure St. Margaret's call
- Visitation with Confirmations, Trinity, Atchison
- Met with new formation of Architecture and Allied Arts on Building Projects
- Met with Kristi Baker-Lampe about rejuvenating and chairing Liturgy, Music Task Force
- Named Jennifer+ Allen Co- Minster Shepherd of Free State Minster
- Encouraging and fully represented Free State Minster meeting
- Celebrate St. John's, Parson's 150th with Confirmations
- Visitation with Confirmation, St. Francis, Overland Park
- Recruit Kevin+ Schmidt and Tom Holden to be Co-Minster Shepherds of All Saints Minster

Culture of Invitation and Mission

- Zoom meeting with the Anglican Primate of South America regarding Bishop Genovesi
- Assign Archdeacon Jim Cummins to St. Paul's, KCK for now, offer stability & insight
- Two meetings with St. Paul's, KCK Bishop's Transition Committee Fr. Daniel Mafla
- Phone conversations with Sr. Warden Ross Warnell, St. Paul's, KCK
- Meet with Landscape Architect Scott Bingham regarding Labyrinth
- Re-focusing on needs to strengthen Bethany House and Garden work
- Numerous sessions with Intern/Fellow Camila Genovesi
- Met with Kansas2Kenya Advisory Board, refining priorities
- Engage with St. Andrew's, Emporia Leadership about Religious Visa application
- Help to make a link with new recommended Immigration attorney

Leadership Development

- Met with aspirant Evan Graber (Good Shepherd)
- Met with aspirant Rex Gaumer (St. Margaret's, Lawrence)
- Met with Archdeacon Emeritus, Monte Giddings regarding BKSM deanship
- Zoom meeting with Dawn+ Frankfurt (St. James, Wichita)
- Zoom meeting with Deacon Diane Kruger (Epiphany, Sedan)
- Dinner and check in with Jennifer+ Allen (Trinity, Lawrence)
- Met with aspirant Joyce Harrison (St. Margaret's)
- Met with seminarian Clare Stern-Burbano
- Met with seminarian Suzan Olson
- Met with seminarian Lynn Powell
- Met with Canon Pastor George Wiley
- Lunch with Mary+ Donovan (Grace, Ottawa)
- Call to Archdeacon Emeritus, Charles Pearce after surgery
- Groundskeeper Willie Madl and wife Katelynn to dinner to hear about K2k experience
- Discuss complex parish matter with Dean Torey Lightcap (Grace Cathedral)

Youth and Young Adult Leadership

- Met with Missioner Karen about incidents at Camp, new TF, Campus vision and Labyrinth
- Meet with Teresa Ryther about Camp Endowment Fundraising and Youth Task Force
- Named Kelly+ Demo Chair and launched new Youth Task Force
- Checked in with new Deacon Maddy Bishop about first days of ministry