

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

September 18, 2024

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met via Zoom on September 18, 2024. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, offered a reading from *Holy Currencies* by Eric Law. The bishop announced that this was The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder's last Council of Trustees meeting, and she thanked Casey for her six years of service. Mr. Chad Senuta sang the doxology. Bishop Bascom called 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
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
Mr. John Smittle
The Rev. Daryl Stanford
Mr. Mason Weber

Also present as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

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

Also present:

Mr. Jay Currie, Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller
Ms. Michael Funston, Executive Assistant to the Bishop
The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary
Mrs. Michele Moss, Director of Operations
Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Communications Ministries
The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta, Canon for Spiritual Life and Clergy Care
Deacon Fran Wheeler, Alleluia Grant Committee Chair

Bishop Bascom presented the August 21, 2024, meeting minutes. The minutes were accepted with amendments.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Jay Currie gave the treasurer's report. St. Paul's, Kansas City has not paid any part of their apportionment this year. They should begin making payments in September and plan to be caught up by the end of the year. Mr. Currie will also reach out to St. Thomas the Apostle in Overland Park as to why they are behind in their apportionment payments. There has been a large draw on the endowment. This is not the full draw for the year. There is a gap on the Congregational Development line item. This will continue throughout the years as this was where the St. Margaret's loan was placed. This gap will continue to get bigger and bigger as the year goes on due to changes in amortization. Expenses are up because of some retreat expenses. Mr. Currie reminded council member that the big gap on Clergy Support is because the insurance check was not received at the end of 2023 and so had to be resent in January 2024. The diocesan assessment was also not received at the end of 2023 and so that was also resent in January 2024. That shows up in the variance on Mission and Outreach line item. Overall, the diocese is on track for the year.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Brian Geary There have been two adjustments to the proposed 2025 apportionment schedule and the hopefully final version of this was sent to council members late yesterday afternoon. This new schedule reflects the fixes on Trinity, Lawrence, and Calvary, Yates Center reporting errors from 2022 and 2023 respectively. A formal process was put in place a few years ago for reporting errors and this has brought to the committee's attention the need for a deadline on those reports so that they can be fixed before the apportionment schedule is sent out with the convention mailing in August.

Mr. Geary gave an update on the Audit Policy and the team that will be helping parishes in the future. They will be creating videos and messages to share with the diocese to help parishes understand what this is.

The committee is beginning the process of looking at 2024 year end figures in preparation for the annual audit.

Dean Laurie Lewis moved to approve the proposed apportionment schedule for 2025 with fixes as sent to the Council ahead of this meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Priority Goals and Strategic Planning

President Beth Fitz Gibbon began discussion on the Priority Goals and Strategic Planning. She began with the current Working Groups configuration. There were some

corrections. Then President Fitz Gibbon shared information that went over The Path Forward & Diocesan Implementation Structures Flowing Forward from the Strategic Plan. President Fitz Gibbon noted that the working group for Invitation and Welcome will rename its group to Task Force on Justice and Inclusion to encompass their full work. Council members were reassured they would not necessarily need to stay in their current working groups. President Fitz Gibbon reiterated that the working groups on Council will not be leading the day-to-day work of these task forces or commissions but will check in with their diocesan structures on a regular basis and help as needed.

The Council paused their discussion on Strategic Plan to hear from Deacon Fran Wheeler about the Alleluia Grant Recommendations.

Alleluia Grant Recommendations

Deacon Fran Wheeler joined the meeting to present the 2025 Alleluia Grant applications. She presented a report from the Alleluia Grant task force, outlining the five applications recommended for approval. There are two applications still pending approval by the review committee. She summarized the applications:

- Grace Cathedral, Topeka, requests \$2,883.30 for Increasing Nutritional Benefits for our Neighbors, by adding milk to their Sack Lunch Ministry. Following discussion, Dean Rohleder moved to accept the recommendation from the Alleluia Grant Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- St. Luke's, Shawnee, requests \$1,500 for Food for Thought & Little Lending Library to grow their current food pantry and create a free library. Following discussion, Archdeacon Cummins moved to accept the recommendation from the Alleluia Grant Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- St. Paul's, Kansas City, requests \$3,000 for Walkway & Garden which will provide a welcoming space upon entering the church. Following discussion, Dean Lewis moved to accept the recommendation from the Alleluia Grant Committee. The motion was seconded and passed. Archdeacon Cummins abstained.
- St. Thomas the Apostle, Overland Park, requests \$3,000 for Immigration Ministry Expansion which provides support for immigrants in the community. Following discussion, Mr. Morrow moved to accept the recommendation from the Alleluia Grant Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- St. Stephen's, Wichita, requests \$3,000 for Opening the Door to Christ's Love which provides an electronic automatic door opener for their office and community group entrance. Following discussion, Father Stanford moved to accept the recommendation from the Alleluia Grant Committee. The motion was seconded and passed. Dean Lewis and Mr. Morrow abstained.

The Alleluia Grant Committee has two pending applications. They have not met yet to finish these recommendations. If they are recommended, it would be an additional \$3,689. If those are recommended, there will be a vote by email.

\$13,383 will be allocated among these 5 grants with a possible \$3,689 for an additional 2 grants.

Bishop Bascom resumed discussion around the Strategic Plan. Bishop hopes that the narrative and the grid will be shared with the convention. Some thought that the grid would remain with the Council and diocesan structures named on the grid rather than sent out to the whole diocesan convention. There was discussion which indicated that the handout should be the single page overview for each of the four working groups.

The council had a short recess and resumed at 11:32 a.m.

Diocesan Convention Updates

Canon Patrick Funston gave a report on diocesan convention. Convocation meetings have all gone well and he does not anticipate any additional business from the floor. There is a reception on Thursday, October 17 put on by Breakthrough. The agenda as it was sent out in August does not look like it will change at this time. During lunch on Friday, October 18, retired clergy will be invited to a lunch to talk about benefits from CPG and communities within the diocese. Saturday morning there will be presentations from various groups around the diocese. Eucharist on Saturday morning is being coordinated by Canon Lisa Senuta with help from members of Council as well as clergy in Wichita. There are bilingual and translation offerings in Spanish for our members of Diocesan Convention who need it. The Long Agenda meeting will be Thursday, October 17, at 3 p.m. at the DoubleTree. Exhibitors will be set up outside the convention hall which is the Emerald Ballroom at the DoubleTree hotel. Mrs. Michele Moss, Director of Operations, shared a map of the hotel and indicated which rooms will be used for the plenary sessions.

There will be time during break time on Friday to talk with members of convention about the Strategic Objectives and to answer questions. Canon Funston will create a way for members to gather contact information from those interested in helping on the various diocesan structures formed by these objectives.

Bishop's Report

The bishop shared her report via a PowerPoint presentation organized by strategic objectives. Under Congregational Vitality, she highlighted her presence at Father Tom Baker's last vestry meeting with St. Aidan's, Olathe. Bishop Bascom likes to be there at this vestry meeting to help the parish feel supported at the start of their transition time. Bishop Bascom has retained a transitions coach who will work on a contract basis with parishes around the diocese who are in a search for clergy leadership. The bishop is helping a parish with a unique situation. Under Culture of Invitation and Mission she highlighted the work being done around the diocese by parishioners to secure visas for our priests from Uruguay and Canada. The bishop also highlighted the plans for a labyrinth path inside the prairie garden of Bethany Gardens.

Mr. Mike Morrow moved that the Council approve \$3,000.00 for the Labyrinth Final Design Proposal from BBN Architects. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

The bishop moved on to talk about highlights under the Leadership Capacity heading. She met with the senior seminarians that will be coming out of seminary in 2025. Bishop Bascom hosted Bishop Sonia Roulston and Reverend Angela Peverell from Newcastle Anglican in Australia to talk about the minster model. Bishop Bascom called on Canon Funston and Canon Senuta to speak to the upcoming Gathering of Clergy to be held in Manhattan at Prairiewood Retreat on April 3-5, 2025. The focus will be on the book *Holy Currencies* by Eric Law. Under Youth and Young Adults, the bishop highlighted meeting with the Task Force for Youth & Young Adults for their first meeting. Bishop Bascom is meeting with youth and young adults at her visitations. Last night she visited Canterbury at KU and talked with them. Kirsten Lee will shadow Carolyn Sturgeon, Dispatch of Business, during diocesan convention to learn more about this work.

Bishop Bascom asked if there were reports from other staff members. Canon Lisa Senuta shared more about her work including a course which will be offered to priests via Zoom on Tuesdays in February. Mr. Chad Senuta reminded the Council that he is putting together introduction videos for convention and that he would like those sent to him. He is happy to help with those.

The Rev. Doreen Rice Daab and Mr. Mason Weber led the council in Noonday Prayer including comments about Edward Bouverie Pusey.

Bishop Bascom offered a blessing, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk

Bishop's Report for the Council of Trustees - August 22 - September 17, 2024

Congregational Vitality

Weekend Visitations, have included Forums on our Strategic Priorities with either the whole congregation or the vestry

- St. Francis, Overland Park
- St. Paul's, Marysville
- St. Martin's, Edwardsville

Transitions

- St. John's, Parsons regarding Transition
- St. Aidan's, Olathe met with Warden, Fr. Tom Baker, and Vestry
- Extensive conversations with Dean-emeritus Steve Lipscomb and Executive advisors surrounding leadership dynamics at Church of the Covenant, Junction City
- Have hired Theresa Klimuik as our Transitions Coach (contract basis) and had our first meeting as Transition Team: Patrick+, Michele, and I with Theresa. New approach to Transitions. Will meet monthly.

Culture of Invitation and Mission

A fair amount of focus on our multi-cultural & bilingual ministry:

- Working alongside Jr. Warden Sarah Harbaugh at St. Andrew's, Emporia to chase down a requested up-to-date tax-exempt status determination letter from IRS and TEC Treasurer as we revise R-1 Religious Visa application for +Daniel Genovesi
- Have acquired the services of Gerry Chapman firm as Immigration Attorney moving forward. He was referred to us by the attorney who successfully guided us for Fr. Daniel Mafla's process. Curate Caroline and I are working with them on Cami Genovesi's application for her to return and serve as St. Simon's Justice Fellow at Bethany House and Garden and to assist with the ministry to students and young adults at Emporia State.
- Continued to converse with Fr. Daniel, Sr. Warden Ross Warnell, Archdeacon Jim Cummins, Treasurer Jenny Steineger and Joe Steineger about leadership roles and finances at St. Paul's.

Working with Architect Scott Bingham, Grace Cathedral Leaders, and Bethany Team for adding a Labyrinth to Bethany Garden

Leadership Development

- Met with our four senior seminarians to begin to consider ministry placements
- Diocesan Roadshows! Casting vision, engaging questions and worked extensively with Comptroller Jay and Canon Patrick to prepare and lead the Convocation Road Shows.
- Hosted Bishop Sonia Roulston and the Rev. Angela Peverell from the Diocese of Newcastle in Australia where they too are exploring The Minster as a model of church structure.
 - We met with eight of our twelve Minster Shepherds to share our different angles and experiences with our emerging Minsters. Great cross-pollination of ideas!
- Working with the Canons and Deans to chart a course for how we will use the book *Holy Currencies*
- Plans for Gathering of Clergy in spring
 - Developed a schedule for diocesan full-staff to read and discuss *Holy Currencies*
 - Have begun to tell vestry leaders and parishes about *Holy Currencies*

Youth and Young Adult Leadership

- Met with the Youth & Young Adult Task Force
- Visited Canterbury at KU
- Tapping young adults to help with Dispatch of Business at Diocesan Convention