

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

January 15, 2025

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met via Zoom on January 15, 2025. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, offered an old English service collect for the season of Epiphany. She also shared concerns for council members. 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
The Rev. Carl Edwards
Ms. Melanie Laster
The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis
The Rev. Margaret McGhee
Mr. Ron Olson
The Rev. Doreen Rice Daab
Ms. Teresa Ryther
The Rev. Daryl Stanford
Mr. Mason Weber

Member absent:

Mr. John Smittle

Also present as advisor to the Council of Trustees:

Mr. Frank Taylor, 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
The Rev. Caroline Howard, Curate for Creation Care
The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Young Adult & Campus Missioner
Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Communications

Minutes

Bishop Bascom presented the December 18, 2024, meeting minutes which were accepted as corrected.

Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller's Report

Mr. Jay Currie reported on the income statement for 2024. This is on an accrual basis which is why it is a bigger report than the monthly which is reported on a cash basis. Mr. Currie went on to address expenses of note: health insurance amounts were higher last year because the checks were lost in the mail in 2023 and paid out in 2024, diocesan convention expense was greater than expected, and the assessment to the Episcopal Church which was higher because of the lost check from 2023 being paid out in 2024. Mr. Currie noted each of the funds and their earnings for 2024.

Mr. Currie then went over the Balance Sheet for 2024. This report shows the apportionments that are still outstanding in Accounts Receivable. He anticipates all apportionments will be paid for 2024. He noted that the St. Margaret's loan has greatly decreased over the year 2024 due to their payment as well as the diocesan forgiveness on that loan. All in all, the year ended close to on target.

Mr. Currie went over the bishop's equity agreement with the diocese. He gave a report of where that stands for the beginning of 2025. This is part of the bishop's agreement to buy back the house from the diocese.

Finance Committee Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. Brian Geary, Mr. Currie gave a report on the Finance Committee. Mr. Currie commended Canon Patrick Funston for his work with the parishes in the diocese on learning how to work with the new parochial report. He is holding weekly zoom meetings in December, January and February to help anyone who needs guidance in filling out the 2024 Parochial Report.

Standing Committee Business

President Fitz Gibbon, presented a request for consent to the reunification of the Dioceses of Bethlehem and Central Pennsylvania:

Mother McGhee moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the reunion of the Dioceses of Bethlehem and Central Pennsylvania to become the Episcopal Diocese of Susquehanna which was approved at their joint conventions on October 19, 2024. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

President's Report

President Beth Fitz Gibbon gave a report from the Task Force for Reimagining The Episcopal Church. This was a 78-page document that Dr. Fitz Gibbon reduced into a

two-page summary for the Council of Trustees. She highlighted where in the report the national strategic plan lines up with the diocesan strategic objectives.

President Fitz Gibbon then shared a document entitled Metrics for Assessing Non-Profit Strategic Plan Progress. Members responded to the document stating that they felt overwhelmed when considering doing this work of measuring. Noted was the paradigm between qualitative and quantitative measures.

The meeting recessed for a short break and resumed at 11:36 a.m.

Bishop's Report

The bishop's written report can be found at the end of these minutes.

Reports from Trustees and Staff

The bishop turned to members of the Council for questions. There was a question about the work on Upton Hall and when it will be open for use again. Mr. Currie said that it took a while for the insurance company to assess and determine if they would pay for any of the work needed. The insurance is not going to pay for any of the work. The work is supposed to begin this week.

Mother Karen Schlabach, Missioner for Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry, reminded the Council that this weekend is the Miqra youth event. There are a lot of youth and adults signed up to attend. Camp registration is up and running. Mother Schlabach attended Happening, a spiritual youth event, in the Diocese of West Missouri this last weekend to continue to grow the relationship between the two dioceses as the Diocese of West Missouri continues to send campers and staff to our summer camp.

Mother Caroline Howard, curate for Creation Care, reiterated the bishop's report on the vision for Bethany House and Gardens for 2025. She is looking forward to the work ahead for this year and provided council members with a detailed plan. The growing season will soon be here.

Canon Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary, gave an update on things coming up for clergy. Three were ordained as priests; 4 are taking general ordination exams; and Gathering of Clergy will be in early April.

Canon Patrick Funston led the council in Noonday Prayer celebrating Richard Meux Benson and Charles Gore.

Bishop Bascom closed the meeting with a blessing and the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk

Short Summary Bishop's Report per Priority Areas, January 2025

1. Congregational Vitality

- a. Episcopal Parish Network (EPN) Conference in K.C. Feb. 26-28th (Pre-conference -Tuesday, Feb 25)
- b. Holy Currencies – Convocational events for Wardens and Treasurers – progress reports?
- c. New Transition Team working well (Canon Patrick, parish coach Theresa Klimiuk, Michele Moss)
- d. Special attention Junction City and KCK
- e. Reviewing, refining Shared Ministry Ministers (Bishop's report)

2. Welcome, Justice and Inclusion

- a. Revivified Task Force Launched – if you have potential parish leaders to add, email pathfox820@gmail.com
- b. New organization for 2025 at Bethany House and Garden and Grasslands Network (Bishop's report)
- c. Continuing to solidify Multi-cultural and Bi-lingual ministries

3. Youth and Young Adult

- a. Ideas for a Camp Fundraising Co-chair?
- b. Diocese seeding Fund with \$25,000 from Hoover/Junction City Fund
- c. Interest in more priestly presence at KU/K-State. Maddy+ Bishop Knoth is engaging WSU with creation care & Derby garden initiatives

4. Leadership Capacity

- a. Ordinations on Saturday
- b. Prayer for GOE's and possible placements