

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

April 9, 2025

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met in the Larry Bingham Classroom at Bishop Kemper School for Ministry in Topeka, Kansas, on April 9, 2025. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, had the Council of Trustees, advisors and staff introduce themselves and read through the Holy Currencies. Then the council read a special prayer for pilgrims. Bishop Bascom called the meeting to order at 10:16 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
Mr. Tim Flynn
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 advisors to the Council of Trustees:

Mr. Hurst Coffman, Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Sarah Stonesifer Boylan, Leadership Development Consultant from the
Presiding Bishop's Office
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
Mrs. Michele Moss, Director of Operations
The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Young Adult & Campus Missioner
Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Communications
The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta, Canon for Spiritual Life & Clergy Care

Minutes

Bishop Bascom presented the March 12, 2025, meeting minutes which were accepted as amended.

Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller's Report

Mr. Jay Currie gave the report on the financials for the diocese. He reminded the council that this report was on an accrual basis. He began with the cash basis apportionment report. Mr. Currie talked through parishes that pay ahead and those who pay in big chunks throughout the year. He commented that overall, the apportionment payments are in good shape. Even though, on the Income Statement shown on the accrual basis, it looks like everyone has paid their apportionment, that is not the case. That is how the diocese has to report it to the Episcopal Church. Mr. Currie reported that some items are top heavy due to the way payments for accounts such as prepaid insurance are made. Mr. Currie also presented Balance Sheet information.

Reporting on Finance Committee work, Mr. Currie stated that work is continuing on guidelines for auditing methods.

Mr. Currie informed Council of Trustees members that he is retiring on the 31st of January. That is also the date Bishop Bascom has scheduled for her retirement. The Bishop reported that Kent Wingerson is retiring from his work with Cathedral finances; he will stay on with his worship activities.

Standing Committee Business

President Fitz Gibbon, presented a request for consent to an episcopal election:

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Angel Roberto Rivera Rodriguez as Bishop Diocesan in the Episcopal Church in Cuba. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Mr. Ron Olson excused himself from the meeting during the Standing Committee votes on certification and recommendation for ordination. The Rev. Margaret McGhee also abstained from these votes.

Canon Patrick Funston presented documents regarding Suzan Olson's preparation for ordination. Ms. Olson is scheduled to be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on

June 21, 2025, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Following review, the Venerable Jim Cummins moved to certify and recommend Suzan Olson for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate, which was seconded, and approved. Mr. Ron Olson and the Rev. Margaret McGhee abstained.

Canon Patrick Funston presented documents regarding Lynne Powell's preparation for ordination. Dr. Powell is scheduled to be ordained to the Diaconate on June 21, 2025, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Following review, Ms. Teresa Ryther moved to certify and recommend Lynne Powell for Ordination to the Diaconate, which was seconded, and approved. Mr. Ron Olson and the Rev. Margaret McGhee abstained.

Canon Patrick Funston presented documents regarding Clare Stern-Burbano's preparation for ordination. Ms. Stern-Burbano is scheduled to be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on June 21, 2025, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Following review, the Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved to certify and recommend Clare Stern-Burbano for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate, which was seconded, and approved. Mr. Ron Olson and the Rev. Margaret McGhee abstained.

Mr. Olson returned to the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

The meeting recessed for a short break and resumed at 11:08 a.m.

Canon's Report

The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston walked through the upcoming elections at the next diocesan convention including the election of the deputies to the General Convention in July 2027. According to the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, each diocese is responsible for how they elect their deputies to General Convention. Canon Funston reviewed how the diocese has elected deputies in the past by majority vote. This was done through block voting, and it took a long time for the election to be completed. At the last two diocesan conventions, the convention voted to amend the diocesan constitution for the Council of Trustees to decide the method of voting for the election of General Convention deputies from the Diocese of Kansas. Canon Funston proposes a Scottish STV (Single Transferrable Vote) method. This method is for proportional representation in multi-seat elections. Electors fill out a single ranked-order ballot. Winners are determined by an algorithmic function. Clear rules are easily explained. Canon Funston shared a video about the Scottish STV method. He then shared a mock ballot of what this would look like for the election of deputies at the next diocesan convention. Canon Funston said another reason he likes this method is the availability for a report after the election that shows exactly what happened with the votes. Canon Funston also mentioned that this voting could be done with other elections but could not be done for the election of a bishop. The next step for the Council of Trustees is to adopt a manner of election for deputies and then communicate it to the diocese. Canon Funston asked for questions. President Fitz Gibbon asked how this would be communicated throughout the diocese. Canon Funston would use videos

and show how other dioceses use this methodology. There would also be a test ballot ahead of convention. The Rev. Margaret McGhee said that all the resources for how it works could be shared as a footnote to help avoid confusion.

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved that the Council of Trustees adopt the Scottish Single Transferable Vote method for the election of deputies to the 82nd General Convention and at-large Council of Trustees members for the 161st diocesan convention. After discussion, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Bishop's Report

The bishop began her report by talking about the extra expenses in the 2025 budget not anticipated but now necessary because of the bishop's announced retirement, comptroller Jay Currie's retirement and overlap with his replacement as well as having some additional staff while the Funstons are on sabbatical. Bishop Bascom and Mr. Currie will bring those changes to the council next month.

The bishop called on Vice-Chancellor Hurst Coffman to speak to the current situation with the parish in Junction City in relation to the changing of the deed from the Church of the Covenant to the Diocese of Kansas. Other considerations relate to the endowment and a possible candidate to work with the bishop to serve the parish.

A lunch break began at 11:57 a.m.

The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston led Noonday Prayer celebrating Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pastor and Theologian. The council resumed at 12:50 p.m.

Call for the Election of the 11th Bishop of Kansas

The meeting continued with the bishop's introduction of Dr. Sarah Stonesifer Boylan, Leadership Development Consultant from the Presiding Bishop's staff. She was here by invitation to share information with the Council of Trustees (Standing Committee) as to what will be expected during this time from bishop to bishop. During that time the Standing Committee will be acting as Ecclesiastical Authority.

The Rev. Doreen Rice moved that the council go into executive session at 1:04 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed.

The council came out of executive session at 2:35 p.m.

The council discussed next steps for their work in this transition time between bishops. Members of the current council who were participants on committees involved with the election of the 10th Bishop of Kansas shared from their experiences.

The Rev. Margaret McGhee will develop a Google calendar that all necessary parties will have access to.

The Rev. Margaret McGhee closed the meeting with a blessing and the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk