

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

August 20, 2025

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met at Upton Hall on August 20, 2025. The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, shared a prayer written by a youth leader before calling the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Members of the Council of Trustees present were:

Bishop Cathleen Chittenden Bascom
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
Mr. John Smittle
The Rev. Daryl Stanford
Mr. Mason Weber

Member absent:

Dr. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon, President

Also present as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

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

Also present:

Mr. Jay Currie, Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller
The Rev. 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. Lisa Senuta, Canon for Spiritual Life & Clergy Care

Minutes

Bishop Bascom presented minutes from the June 18, 2025, meeting which were accepted as amended.

Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller's Report

Mr. Jay Currie gave his report on the financials for the diocese. While apportionments are \$93,008 short, St. Thomas in Holton has paid for the year, Trinity, Atchison, has indicated that their check is in the mail and \$33,000 came in after July 31. Mr. Curry shared a handout showing 2025 shortfalls as of the end of July. Endowment draw is short \$63,000. Fee income is short \$17,000. There are also several added up front expenses.

With his retirement coming at the end of the year, Bishop Bascom asked Mr. Curry how long he has been working for the diocese. He reported that it's been 21 years.

The financial report was received.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer, gave his report from the Finance Committee beginning with the 2026 proposed Mission Plan. Also presented was budget feedback from the Northeast Convocation along with Bishop Bascom's responses to that feedback. Mr. Geary also pointed out that the rate for apportionment in 2026 will be 16.18%. That rate was 16.85%. The new rate is the lowest canonical percentage that the Finance Committee can work with. Bishop Bascom also presented information relating to the sustainability of the Endowments and Designated Funds.

Mr. Curry addressed questions relating to how apportionment amounts are determined, bishop expenses for the new bishop, endowment and designated funds as well as temporarily and permanently restricted funds.

Discussion was held concerning funding for items for the retiring bishop as well as the new incoming bishop. Ms. Teresa Ryther made the following motion: For the retiring bishop, the COT will pay for the portrait; for the new bishop the COT wants to have funds for the vestments, the ring, the pectoral cross and the crozier which are to be financed through fundraising. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Curry distributed a new copy of the proposed mission statement with changes to Bethany House & Gardens and the office of the bishop. The Rev. Margaret McGhee made a motion to accept the updated mission plan for presentation at convention. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis made a motion to approve the apportionment schedule to be presented at the convention. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding Debatable Resolution I to be presented at the convention.

Noonday Prayer

The Rev. Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary, led Noonday Prayer with information presented on Saint Bartholomew.

The Rev. Caroline Howard shared information about the development of the labyrinth as part of Bethany House & Gardens. The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta addressed the spirituality of walking the labyrinth.

A lunch break was held from 12:27 to 1:07

Bishop's Report

Bishop Bascom spoke to items included on her summer report found as an addition at the end of these minutes.

Considerable discussion was held on the future of Bethany House & Gardens, particularly the idea of whether or not this would be a good time to consider changing Bethany House & Gardens to a 501c3. Members of the council as well as others looked at the pros and cons of such a change. Council members received several handouts relating to this matter. One point raised by the Rev. Caroline Howard, Curate for Creation Care, was that no matter what the final decision is, a board is needed to help monitor and lead activities. Rev. Margaret McGhee asked about the timing for this decision. It was proposed that developing an advisory board may need to be the first step. Chancellor Frank Taylor suggested looking at the development of a diocesan institution to develop the canon to put together a board.

Canon to the Ordinary's Report

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis made a motion that the Council of Trustees call for an apportionment review committee to begin work as soon as the bishop appoints members for the committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Canon Funston shared information on the all parish special meeting held at St. Bartholomew's in Wichita on July 13. Another report concerned St. Andrew's in Derby. In relation to these reports, council members reviewed Canon IV.8 relating to the Dissolution and Merging of Parishes.

Canon Funston reported that the Alleluia Grant program has been in existence for 10 years. He suggested that this may be the time to take a look at and update the application process. Taking a year off would allow time for that.

After contacting others who were part of the group bringing up the debatable resolution, the Very Rev. Laurie Lewis reported that the debatable resolution is being withdrawn.

Canon Funston shared information from the 81st General Convention held in Lexington, Kentucky, June 23-28, 2024. He also shared the proposed agenda for the 166th convention for the Diocese of Kansas along with information about those running for elections. The convention book will be digital this year.

The Council of Trustees went into executive session at 2:45. That session ended at 3:04 and the meeting was adjourned at that time.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk

Bishop's Report for the Council of Trustees - Summer 2025

Some consistent diocesan efforts for this period: Receiving and reflecting upon items sent from NE Convocation meeting on Mission Plan. Working with Jay and Chad around concerns raised, changes to staff and funding, prep for document to address/explain some items raised. President Beth and I have been meeting in Lawrence regularly. Canon Lisa and I met regularly. Affirmed Convention theme.

Leadership Development

- Ordination retreat and Ordination of Suzan Olson, Lynne Powell, Clare Stern-Burbano
- Finalized ministry placement for each of the above
- Collaborative ministry with Mason Weber as he assumed office and worship internship
- Special confirmation, member of cathedral in military duty
- Care of Rex Matney (and daughter) while in hospital and over ministry transition
- Mutual Ministry review with Bishop Daniel Genovesi and St. Andrew's
- Pastoral visit Father Kelley Lackey and wife Lyn
- Briefings with Canon Lisa on clergy care, spiritual growth, and parish projects
 - Call with Deacon Charles Durland relating to health issues Mutual Ministry review with Bishop Daniel Genovesi and St. Andrew's
- Confirmations of Grace, Ottawa and St. Margaret's, Lawrence candidates
- Ministry meeting with Deacon Mary Becker
- Ministry meeting with Father Daryl Stanford
- Connecting with Deacon Diane Kruger-Boley regarding process of academics & priesthood
- Meetings with Father Matt Zimmerman regarding Covenant-St. John's
- Correspondance with Father Daniel Maffa and Archdeacon Jim Cummins on St. Paul's matter. Encouraged connection with Canon Lisa.
- Meeting with BKSM's new Dean Lynne Bahr
- Phone conversations and prayers Mather Sharon Billman
- Engaged with Mason about bishop portrait possibilities

Youth and Young Adult Leadership

- Researching possible Fundraising Consultants for Camp and Youth Capital Campaign
- Zoom meeting with Teresa Ryther and Mother Kelly Demo regarding steps on the above

Congregational Vitality

- **Regional and parish Episcopal visitations and other leadership (Emmaus Walk-Abouts)**
 - Storandt prairie, Trinity, El Dorado and St. Andrew's, Emporia
 - Grace, Ottawa (with blessing of elevator)
 - St. Timothy's, Iola
 - Presided at 3 Covenant-St. John's, Junction City vestry meetings

- Jenn+ Allen and Tom Baker, possible Free State Minster Youth group
- **Transitions**
 - Numerous meetings & calls with Transition Coach Theresa Klimink and Michele Moss
 - Call of Maddy Bishop-Knoth at St. Andrew's, Derby
 - Call of Mary Lynn Coulson at St. Martin's, Edwardsville & Free State Minster
 - Call of Wesley Smith to Covenant-St. John's, Junction City

Culture of Invitation and Mission

- Meeting regularly with the Bethany House & Garden Team, Grasslands-Network Fellow and St. Simon's Chaplain
- Supporting Chaplain Betty Glover's organization of twice weekly worship in the outdoor chapel (Tuesday Eucharist (12:15) and Thursday Order for Evening (5:30) focused on praying and centering ourselves in God amidst the week's news
- Helping to launch twice a week yoga offering in garden/Upton Hall
- Attending to increased camping by house-insecure folks at the cathedral
- Begin formally (in small way) ministry with Presiding Bishop on Eco-Regions
- Presided at first Grasslands Network Zoom Get Together
- Work with Deacon Steve Segebrecht and Bishop Daniel Genovesi on plans for visit of the Bishop of Nakuru, Kenya and his wife Lucy