

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

June 18, 2025

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met via Zoom on June 18, 2025. The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, reminded everyone about ordinations on Saturday, June 21. After sharing a prayer to invite the Holy Spirit, Bishop Bascom called the meeting to order at 10:04 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
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:

The Rev. Carl Edwards

Also present as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

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

Also present:

Mr. Jay Currie, Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller
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 May 21, 2025, meeting minutes which were accepted as amended.

The bishop thanked President Beth Fitz Gibbon and the rest of the Standing Committee for their work.

Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller's Report

Mr. Jay Currie gave his report on the financials for the diocese.

There are some parishes which are still lagging a bit in apportionments. St. Francis and St. Timothy's have caught up or are ahead. In the past few years, one or two parishes have paid in one lump sum. These payments will help close the gap. If those payments are still in arrears after the next month or so, Jay will follow up.

Also lagging behind is endowment income. There should be another draw soon with large bills such as camp and insurance renewals. St. Paul's, Kansas City, is also requesting some of their grant money. Other fees and income are close to where they need to be.

Expenses are approximately \$43,000 over where they should be. Much of this is due to prepayments and will shrink as the year goes by.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Geary gave his report from the Finance Committee. This committee is working on receiving feedback on the draft of the Mission Statement. They are also working on projects with Jay and which of his duties will be helpful when developing this job description as well as working with the cathedral.

Bishop Bascom spoke to the home equity document shared with council members. Jay had done calculating of the current amounts and percentages of equity. The chancellor, comptroller, and treasurer will be a part of any further questions, concerns, and dealings in this area.

Chancellor's Report

St. Paul's, Kansas City, took part in mediation on an insurance claim for roof repairs which resulted in agreed settlement. John Bullock has some wording concerns. Now there is a need to get the agreement finalized by Vice-Chancellor John Bullock, Chancellor Frank Taylor, and Archdeacon Jim Cummins. Then there will be a meeting with Bishop Bascom for her to sign.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Bascom spoke to her report found on the agenda. The bishop was pleased to report that the vestry of the parish in Junction City has called The Rev. Matt Zimmerman as interim vicar priest in charge from now through September. The arrangement will be for a service on each Sunday plus two days a week in Junction City. Rev. Zimmerman would be willing to serve for up to two years.

Active transitions: St. Matthew's, Newton, ½ or ¾ time; there are at least 2 candidates. St. Martin's in Edwardsville. There is a candidate for this parish who also has interest in youth and campus work.

The Rev. Suzan Olson has been appointed Assistant Rector for Pastoral Care at St. Thomas, Overland Park.

The Rev. Clare Stern Barbano will be working with the community at K-State Canterbury ½ time. Rev. Karen Schlabach will continue working with KU Canterbury.

With Rev. Caroline Howard moving away from her ½ time position at St. Mary's, Galena; The Rev. Lynn Powell will be working with the congregation at St. Mary's.

Deacon Pastor Charles Durland, Coffeyville, will be retiring soon, and that situation will need some time and attention.

Work is progressing for the camp campaign. Ms. Teresa Ryther believes that a co-chair has been identified.

The bishop spoke to the accounting information shared by Jay relating to the Hoover Fund and its use by the church in Junction City. Bishop Bascom led considerable discussion relating to possible use of Hoover Funds and youth work both at the diocesan level and with Free State Minster.

Jay reported that he had just received an email from Clare Stern Barbano relating to her request for housing allowance of \$32,460. He asked that the council take action on that. The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis made a motion to accept the housing allowance requested; it was seconded and passed.

Strategic Priority Updates

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis reported for the Congregational Vitality strategic priority.

Dr. Beth Fitz Gibbon gave a report on the Task Force for Justice, Welcome and Inclusion. The bishop hosted a retreat for this group. Before the retreat, task force members met via Zoom. The 18 members make up a truly diverse group. Check out the page Mr. Chad Senuta developed and added to the diocesan website.

The Rev. Karen Schlabach gave an update on the Youth & Young Adult Task Force.

The Rev Canon Lisa Senuta gave an update on Clergy and Lay Leadership.

Bishop Bascom shared events from Bishop Daniel Genovesi in Emporia relating to their work with the Spanish speaking members of that community. She also reported on what is going on at Bethany House and Garden.

There was a ten-minute break with the meeting starting again at 11:21.

The bishop turned the meeting over to President Beth Fitz Gibbon

Standing Committee Business

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

The Rev. Margaret McGhee moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Very Rev. Robert Price as Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of Dallas. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

President Beth Fitz Gibbon noted that the Standing Committee scheduled the Leadership Retreat for the Search and Transition Committees on June 28, 2025. The election date is scheduled for June 13, 2026, with Consecration of the 11th Bishop of Kansas set for October 10, 2026. Following discussion on the timeline, President Fitz Gibbon led presentation of the 2025 budget, charges for Search and Transition committee members and the importance of confidentiality.

President Fitz Gibbon turned the meeting back over to the bishop.

There was discussion relating to the 2025 budget and items relating to the search process.

Noonday Prayer

Mason Weber and Canon Lisa Senuta presented noonday prayer with information presented on Bernard Mizeki, a South African catechist and martyr from the late 19th Century.

Bishop Bascom sent the group out with a blessing.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk

Addendum to the June 18, 2025, Council of Trustees Minutes**Standing Committee notes, June 25, 2025**

The Rev. Margaret McGhee moved that the Standing Committee accept the drafted version of the Charge to the Bishop Search Committee and the Charge to the Bishop Transition Committee. The motion was seconded. There was discussion as to the number of candidates needed. The motion passed.

The Rev. Doreen Rice Daab moved that the Standing Committee accept the 2025 budget for the Bishop Search and Transition Committees as presented. The motion was seconded. There was some discussion after which the motion passed.

The Venerable Jim Cummins moved that the Standing Committee/Council of Trustees approve the settlement between St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kansas City and the Church Insurance Company for roof repair. The specific section of the agreement (Section 2.5) is the most important for the Council of Trustees' approval. The motion was seconded and passed.