

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

October 25, 2025

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Overland Park on October 25, 2025. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, offered a welcome to the new members of council and each new member introduced herself. Bishop Bascom called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

Members of the Council of Trustees present were:

- Bishop Cathleen Chittenden Bascom
- The Ven. Jim Cummins, President
- The Rev. Helen Hoch, Clerk
- The Rev. Canon Jody Carroll
- The Rev. Carl Edwards
- Mr. Tim Flynn
- Ms. Melanie Laster
- The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis
- The Rev. Margaret McGhee
- Mr. Ron Olson
- Ms. Teresa Ryther
- The Rev. Daryl Stanford
- Ms. Martha Stone
- Mr. Mason Weber

Members absent:

- Dr. Elizabeth Fitz Gibbon

Also present as advisor to the Council of Trustees:

- Mr. Hurst Coffman, Vice-Chancellor
- Mr. Frank Taylor, Chancellor

Also present:

- Mr. Jay Currie, Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller
- Ms. Michael Funston, Executive Assistant to the Bishop
- The Rev. Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary

Minutes

Bishop Bascom presented minutes from the September 17, 2025, meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by the Rev. Margaret McGhee, seconded and approved unanimously.

Elections

Bishop Bascom called for the election of officers of the Council of Trustees to serve until the 167th Diocesan Convention. Officers were elected/appointed as follows:

- President – Dean Laurie Lewis nominated The Ven. Jim Cummins for President of the Council of Trustees. The Ven. Jim Cummins accepted the nomination before the meeting. Dean Lewis moved that The Ven. Jim Cummins be elected President of the Council of Trustees. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The Ven. Jim Cummins abstained.
- Clerk – Ms. Melanie Laster nominated the Rev. Helen Hoch as clerk of the Council of Trustees. Rev. Hoch accepted the nomination before the meeting. Ms. Laster moved that Rev. Helen Hoch be elected as clerk of the Council of Trustees. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Rev. Hoch abstained.
- Assistant Clerk – Deacon Carl Edwards agreed to serve as Assistant Clerk of the Council of Trustees. Dean Lewis moved that Deacon Edwards be elected Assistant Clerk of the Council of Trustees. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Deacon Edwards abstained.
- Assistant Treasurer – Dean Laurie Lewis nominated Mr. Jay Currie as Assistant Treasurer of the Council of Trustees until his retirement date. Dean Lewis moved that Mr. Currie be elected Assistant Treasurer of the Council of Trustees. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller's Report

Mr. Jay Currie, Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller, presented the quarterly financial report which includes more information than monthly reports.

He began with the Balance Sheet which shows diocesan financials on a specific date. The first section covers current or liquid assets beginning with cash and cash equivalents followed by investments. Accounts Receivable mainly contains all of the apportionment information. Also included in this category is the loan to St. Margarets, Lawrence, which should be paid off in January or February. The last list contains the long-term or hard/permanent accounts. The second section of the balance sheet shows liabilities. Most of these are current liabilities which includes monthly expenses. Following that are the funds balances. Mr. Currie gave a brief overview of restricted and unrestricted, temporary and permanent funds.

The Income Statement includes a list of all apportionment information including those which were paid after September 30. The Income Statement includes a listing of revenues and expenditures over a period of time—in this case from January 1 to September 30, 2025. Mr. Currie fully expects that every parish will pay its apportionment in 2025. As far as expenses go, the largest one for this time of year is convention. Most diocesan obligations have been paid for the year. This statement includes information on the Temporarily Restricted funds. Most of the report shows what the portfolio earnings have been for the year to this point. At the current time the bottom line shows the diocese is over \$700,000 to the good.

The financial reports were accepted and will be included with other audit information.

St. James, Wichita Update

Bishop Bascom gave an update on St. James Episcopal Church in Wichita. The bishop has called for an inquiry of the congregational health under Canon IV.7 for St. James Episcopal Church in Wichita. This is a diocesan, not national, canon. The bishop meets with the rector and lay leaders of St. James on November 1 and will report to the Council at the next meeting of the Council of Trustees.

Hoover Fund and Covenant/St. John's Church, Junction City Update

The bishop directed the Council's attention to a letter sent to the vicar, the Rev. Wesley Smith, and vestry of Covenant/St. John's Church in Junction City entitled "Up-Date on Covenant/St. John's Junction City, Allocations from Hoover Fund". The church is facing a major expense as the building needs to replace its HVAC system. The diocese continues to work closely with Covenant/St. John's Church in Junction City.

Ms. Ryther noted that the January 21, 2026, Council of Trustees meeting will be in person at Upton Hall in Topeka and not on Zoom as previously scheduled. There will be a farewell luncheon for the bishop provided by the Council and Diocesan Staff.

President and Archdeacon, the Ven. Jim Cummins, gave the dismissal, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk

Addendum to the October 25, 2025, Council of Trustees Minutes

Standing Committee notes, August 20, 2025

Ms. Teresa Ryther has been working with the Transition Committee on items for the 10th and 11th bishops of the Diocese of Kansas. There was discussion on the portrait for the 10th bishop, the repair of the crozier, and for the 11th bishop vestments, ring, and pectoral cross. The portrait cost for the 10th Bishop will come out of Bishop Bascom's discretionary fund.

Teresa moved that the Council of Trustees will ask for donations from the diocese for vestments, ring, and the pectoral cross for the 11th bishop. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Standing Committee notes, September 17, 2025

The budget should be ready to review next week. There were updates from the Transition and Search Committees. The presentation of the Holy Cow survey will be on September 23rd. The Standing Committee will start meeting every two weeks. The next meeting will be on October 1 at 8:30 a.m.

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis and Mr. Ron Olson volunteered to help with the contract for the 11th Bishop of Kansas.

Standing Committee notes, October 1, 2025

The most important thing at this time is to start understanding what we will be responsible for as Ecclesiastical Authority. Look back at the list that was given to us in April. Also important is scheduling the June ordinations.

Standing Committee notes, October 15, 2025

The Ven. Jim Cummins led the meeting. The Search Committee has completed the diocesan profile and will send it out shortly. Archdeacon Jim will send out copies for each one of us to review and get back to him by the end of day on Sunday. We're not to edit but just review the document. The next step will be with Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Communications for the diocese, who will prepare the final copy which is supposed to be ready for distribution on November 3. Special thanks was given for Kirsten Lee's leadership.

Consultant Anne Schmidt recently attended a gathering of bishop search consultants. Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe was also there and pointed out that the role of a bishop has changed over the past few years. He shared what he would like to see in future

bishops. Anne feels that we are on track and things are looking good. She also shared that the profile shapes the process. There should be four Meet & Greets (1 for each convocation) along with other meetings.

Concerns were shared as to what exactly will be expected of the Standing Committee as far as Ecclesiastical Authority. The Rev. Margaret McGhee suggested that perhaps a meeting could be planned with Dr. Sarah Stonesifer Boylan.

Standing Committee Notes, October 29, 2025

The Rev. Margaret McGhee opened the meeting with prayer. New council members introduced themselves to Anne Schmidt, Bishop Search Consultant, who was joining the group this morning.

Anne reported that the diocesan profile will be ready for publication on November 3. Members were encouraged to invite appropriate people to apply. She also asked if the committee had started any discussion about benefits and salary for the new bishop. Those too are decisions that need to be made ASAP.

When asked about what was of the most concern to office staff, Canon Patrick shared concern about calendaring. A committee was defined and will include Deacon Carl, Canon Jody, Mother Helen and Dean Laurie along with President Archdeacon Jim. They will be meeting soon. There was discussion about the possibility of being able to take time during the retreat to have Canon Patrick lead a mini-workshop on that worksheet given by Anne earlier in the process. This would help council members understand what will be required of them as they become the Ecclesiastical Authority after the bishop's departure. Plans will also need to be made concerning Chrism Mass, ordination, and confirmation. Those dates need to be put on the calendar as soon as possible. Canon Patrick was also asked about the possibility of Bishop Genovesi being able to do any of the things that will require a bishop's presence. Bishop Milliken will be available at times for those activities.