

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

December 17, 2025

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met via Zoom on December 17, 2025. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, shared a litany as well as a prayer for the diocese. Bishop Bascom called the meeting to order at 10:05 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
Mr. Stephan Mann
The Rev. Margaret McGhee
Mr. Ron Olson
Ms. Teresa Ryther
The Rev. Daryl Stanford
Ms. Martha Stone
Mr. Mason Weber

Also present as advisor to the Council of Trustees:

Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer

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
The Rev. Caroline Howard, Curate for Creation Care
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

Appointment of Lay At-large member to fill vacancy

After the meeting was called to order, Mr. Mann was excused.

Bishop Bascom turned the meeting over to President Cummins, who presented Mr. Stephan Mann, the candidate to replace the late Dr. Beth Fitz Gibbon on the Council of Trustees. Dean Laurie Lewis moved Stephan Mann be appointed as the at-large lay

member of the Council of Trustees to fulfill the vacancy. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Stephan Mann returned to the meeting and introduced himself to the council.

Minutes

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

Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller's Report

Mr. Jay Currie reported the diocesan staff clergy requests for housing allowance as follows:

- The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston requested 47.89% of his compensation be declared as housing allowance.
- The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta requested 49% of her compensation be declared as housing allowance.
- The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Bascom requested 60% of her compensation be declared as housing allowance for the month of January.
- The Rev. Karen Schlabach requested 48.73% of her compensation be declared as housing allowance.

Canon Jody Carroll moved to approve the housing allowance requests in one motion. The motion was seconded, and the requests were approved unanimously.

Mr. Currie then moved to the financial report for November 30, 2025. The diocese is about \$125,000 behind budget income year-to-date. Part of that is apportionment due from St. Thomas the Apostle, Overland Park, which should come in January or February of 2026. Apportionment paid after November 30, 2025, shows over an additional \$41,000 paid.

Mr. Currie then turned to expenses. Under Bethany Place, the diocese is over budget due to 100+-year old buildings needing maintenance. Congregational Development shows the Rev. Maddy Bishop is serving as a curate and that is where her curacy is being paid from rather than in the "Seminarian and Curate Support" line item. Mission and Outreach is over because in November Mr. Currie paid both the November and December assessment to the Episcopal Church. The Office of the Bishop is over because of bishop search numbers that will carry over into the 2026 mission plan. Mr. Currie also paid out the rest of the bishop's car on the monthly payments as well as car insurance to close out the year's payment. Bishop Bascom also mentioned that the House of Bishops had greater costs this year because of spouses being invited to the Dominican Republic and the Spring HOB was at Camp McDowell which was more costly than other locations. The overage on the total expenses is reflected in the prepayment of assessment for December and Bishop Search costs. Canon Carroll asked why the Rev. Maddy Bishop was placed under Congregational Development rather than the Seminarian and Curate line item. Mr. Currie explained that there was a

change in how the curacy was to be reported. Bishop Bascom said that this was a particular situation with Mother Maddy being the curate under Father Loyd at St. Andrew's, Derby, who was called to another parish and then St. Andrew's called her to be their vicar. Mr. Currie said that another curate that is being reported in another line item is the Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano whose curacy is being reported in the Campus Ministries line item. Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer, reported that he had a text from Dean Demo that St. Thomas had 12% of their annual income come in in the last month so their apportionment will be on the way next week.

Bishop Bascom requested that the Council look at the update on her shared equity with the Diocese of Kansas. The appraised value on December 11, 2025, was \$262,500 and the diocese currently owns 23.79% or \$62,445. The bishop will close on her house on Friday, December 19, 2025. The amount the bishop pays back to the diocese will go into the Church Extension Fund.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Geary, diocesan treasurer, thanked Canon Carroll for joining the Finance Committee. The treasurer reported that there is a promising candidate to replace Mr. Jay Currie after his retirement at the end of January 2026. The hope is to have that person in place by the beginning of January to work with Mr. Currie.

Membership of Executive and Finance Committees

Bishop Bascom called on Canon Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary, to present a report on membership for the current standing committees of the Council of Trustees, their function as well as those serving on those committees. Ms. Ryther asked if the Executive Committee stays in place after the bishop retires or dissolves until the next bishop is in place. Canon Funston said that it would stay in place. President Cummins agreed. The bishop said that if President Cummins and the Council decided they needed to replace her appointments on that committee they could.

Standing Committee Business

Before President Cummins presented requests for consent to episcopal elections, he reported that the new Bishop of Los Angeles visited St. Paul's in Kansas City to offer advice and help:

The Rev. Helen Hoch moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Dr. Antonio J. Gallardo as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Los Angeles. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Very Rev. Miguelina Howell as Bishop Diocesan in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The Rev. Canon Jody Carroll moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Sarah Fisher as Bishop Diocesan in the Diocese of East Carolina. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Canon Funston presented a request for approval for ordination:

Ms. Teresa Ryther moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent and certify Deacon Diane Kruger of Trinity Church, El Dorado, for ordination to the priesthood. The motion was seconded and passed. Mr. Ron Olson and the Rev. Magaret McGhee abstained.

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent and certify Deacon Suzan Olson of St. Thomas the Apostle, Overland Park, for ordination to the priesthood. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Ron Olson and the Rev. Margaret McGhee abstained.

The Rev. Canon Jody Carroll moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent and certify Deacon Lynne Powell of St. Thomas the Apostle, Overland Park, for ordination to the priesthood. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Ron Olson and the Rev. Margaret McGhee abstained.

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent and certify Deacon Clare Stern-Burbano of St. Thomas the Apostle, Overland Park, for ordination to the priesthood. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Ron Olson and the Rev. Margaret McGhee abstained.

The Council took a short break and returned at 11:10 a.m.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Bascom gave her report to the Council of Trustees. A copy of this report can be found attached at the end of these minutes.

Reports from Trustees and Staff

Mother Schlabach gave a report on Youth Ministry. The year-end report will come at the next Council meeting. Camp costs have gone up to \$450. This is due to Camp Wood YMCA increasing their costs for the diocese to rent the camp for a week. Mother Schlabach noted that the youth delegates to diocesan convention are elected at church camp in June. This makes it difficult for the schedule of the meet and greets for the bishop candidates in May and the electing convention the week after camp. Mother Schlabach spoke with Canon Funston about how to handle that election with this schedule and they both decided to keep the current delegates for the electing convention.

Bishop Bascom noted that she forgot to ask for nominations from the Council for the Apportionment Review Committee. Dean Torey Lightcap has already agreed to be on that committee. Bishop Bascom asks that any nominations be sent to her for that committee.

Canon Patrick Funston led the council in Noonday Prayer celebrating Nino of Georgia, missionary of the 4th century.

Bishop Bascom closed the meeting with a blessing and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk

Addendum to December 17, 2025, Council of Trustees Minutes

Standing Committee Notes, December 10, 2025

President Jim Cummins brought the meeting to order with a prayer at 8:31 a.m. Stephan Mann will be voted on at the next COT meeting. He will be completing the term left vacant by the death of Beth Fitz Gibbon. If elected, he will join the COT meeting on that day.

There was a review of the Memorandum of Understanding between the resigning Bishop and the Standing Committee. The Rev. Canon Jody Carroll moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Considerable discussion was held in regard to a request from Dean Tory.

Next item for the committee related to the retirement of Comptroller and Assistant Treasurer Jay Currie. The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved to keep Jay on the payroll for 14 weeks past 1-31-26 in gratitude and thanksgiving for the services that he will provide in the transition to a new comptroller. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

President Cummins reported that the portrait of the bishop will be paid for through her discretionary fund. The Council of Trustees will be responsible for the costs for framing. He also reminded members that Anne Schmidt wanted all to participate in the Addiction and Recovery Sessions.

The committee went into executive session from 9:35-9:56. The meeting was closed immediately after coming out of executive session.

Standing Committee Notes, December 17, 2025

The standing committee met shortly after the close of the meeting of the Council of Trustees.

After discussion concerning the Memorandum of Understanding, the Rev. Canon Jody Carroll moved that the standing committee keep the suggested paragraph 3 modification and delete the modifications suggested for paragraph 4. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The committee moved into executive session at 12:38. The executive session ended at 12:54.

At this time, the Rev. Margaret McGhee moved to recommend that Rev. Caroline Howard be reinstated to full-time in 2026 and that she supervise all garden employees, interns, and volunteers. The committee will also support modifying the budget, if necessary. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Following discussion regarding the offer of property from Judy Scherff, Rev. Canon Jody Carroll moved that the proposal from Judy Scherff be deferred for 12 months; we can't accept right now but will consider it again in a year. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The next meeting may be held on January 7. President Jim will let members know.

Bishop's Report for the Council of Trustees - December 17, 2025

Congregational Vitality

- ❖ **Northeast Convocation Emmaus Farewell Walk-About**
 - Bible Study on Emmaus passage and Christmas tree lot tour at St. Michael and All Angels, Mission
 - Confirmation service (Bi-lingual) at St. Paul's, KCK
 - Nice flock of candidates from St. Paul's, KCK and Leavenworth and STMAA
 - Festive, very kind farewell celebration in parish hall with HEAT
- ❖ **St. James, Wichita**
 - Continued work with Vestry leaders
 - Memorial for Dawn+ Frankfurt with Prayers for Healing for St. James
 - Thank you dinner with Andrew+ O'Connor for steady presence there
 - Bishop & Vestry meeting Interim Priest candidate, @Jan 15 start-date
 - Include EDOK Canon IV.7 exploration as part of Interim work
- ❖ **Church of the Covenant/St. John's Endowment St. John's, Wichita - Interviewing a finalist this week**
 - Met with Wesley+ Smith
 - Discerned Two Team approach to Diocesan assistance:
 - **Financial Team** of Margaret+ McGhee and Jim+ Cummins working with parish leaders to gain clarity on giving from Endowment
 - Will help to continue to guide whether to go ahead and vote to dissolve or amend Endowment
 - **Legal/Canonical Team**
 - Discussed with Chancellor Taylor
 - Met with Vice-Chancellor John Bullock
 - Reviewing notes
 - Will help prepare with legal steps upon various possible outcomes
 - Discussed with Canon Patrick Funston
 - John+ and Patrick+ will attend January 18, 2026 Annual Meeting

Justice, Welcome and Inclusion

- ❖ **Pastoral Conversation with Mike+ Loyd regarding Payee Situation, St. Matthew's, Newton**
- ❖ **Hosted Shaneequa+ Brokenleg PB staff Officer Racial Justice & Indigenous Missioner**
 - St. Paul's, KCK service
 - Dinner to discuss Indigenous opportunities, Visit to Haskell University museum
 - Met virtually with our JWI Task Force
 - Visited St. Andrew's, Emporia for services
 - Zoom speaker for the Grasslands Gathering
- ❖ **Phone call the Rev. Thomas E. Hawkins, remuneration for 1988 Credited Service error**
 - Fr. Hawkins was received as a transitional deacon by Bishop Grein in 1988 (and later ordained priest), served as Vicar of Ascension, Kansas City, Kansas
 - Nearing retirement, he noticed his first year of service was not accounted for by CPG
 - Multi-year process with Jay and Patrick, to diagnose and discern best steps. I've cleared funds from Millspaugh-Wise to make it right.

- ❖ Met with newly appointed Ecumenical Officer Jon+ Hullinger
- ❖ Meetings with Caroline+ Howard & Canon Lisa Senuta regarding future Bethany House and Garden Leadership

Leadership Development

- ❖ Zoomed with each of our seminarians about bishop transition, processes, studies and placement ideas
 - Paul Lecker
 - Weston Curnow
 - Michael Nagle
 - Diane Kruger
 - Evan Graber
 - Elizabeth Wenger
 - Todd Miller
 - Gene Hart
- ❖ Beginning staff one-on-one interviews
 - *What do you want the 11th Bishop Of Kansas to know about you and your ministry area?* (I am collecting and will leave a portfolio on the desk)
 - Director of Operations Michele Moss
 - Director of Communications Chad Senuta
 - Creation Care Missioner Caroline Howard
 - Youth and YA Missioner (KU Priest) Karen Schlabach
 - Multi-Cultural Pastoral Consultant Daniel Genovesi

Youth and Young Adult Leadership

- ❖ Had quality hour with & confirmed about 7 youth and younger adults
- ❖ Also confirmed a 96-year-old! Retired Brigadier General (very young at heart!) during a home visit
- ❖ Took Dean Gar and Mother Kelly Demo to dinner and discussed Kelly's writing efforts

General Oversight and Wider Church Work

Recommendations for Oversight of Important Diocesan Matters 2026

**some of these will be started before my retirement but all will need continued oversight*

- ❖ Canon Patrick Funston
 - **Endowment of Church of the Covenant, Junction City:** Working closely with President Jim Cummins, Mother Margaret McGhee and Vice-Chancellor John Bullock to advise parish leaders
 - **On-Boarding new Comptroller:** Shadowing Comptroller Jay and Mentored by Treasurer Brian. Explore together software, etc.
 - **Attention to St. James, Wichita:** Interim Priest getting settled, inquiry per Canon IV.7
 - **Transitions completed,** working with Transition Team Theresa Klimiuk and Michele Moss:
 - St. John's, Wichita
 - St. Paul's, Clay Center (possible Shared Ministry Minister and Hart curacy)
 - St. John's, Parsons (possible Shared Ministry Minister and Hart curacy)
 - St. Mary's, Galena (possible Shared Ministry Minister and Hart curacy)

- **Shepherd Seminarians** academically, with COM, and toward placements
- ❖ **Canon Lisa Senuta**
 - **Bethany House and Garden:** Provide guidance and oversight of the Bethany House and Garden Team consisting of Creation Care Missioner Caroline Howard, Head Gardener Willie Madl, Youth and Communications Minister Camila Genovesi and possibly Pastor/aspirant Ivan Grueter as Community Outreach and possibly Mother Betty Glover after Easter. Mother Caroline will gather the Team and facilitate weekly meetings, and Canon Lisa will attend once a month and this time will include a look at budget and reporting by Team members on actions and vacation schedules etc. Canon Lisa will also attend the every other month Bethany House and Garden and Grasslands Committee meeting and help to continue forming this community, solidify leadership and empower actions.
 - **St. Paul's, Kansas City:** Canon Lisa will assist Dean Gar Demo as they create a multi-visit plan and work with Father Daniel Mafla, Archdeacon Jim Cummins, Sr. Warden Ann Hill, Jr. Warden Debbi Lainez and all the vestry on roles of the different orders, positive communication practices, navigating cultural differences, strategic approach to KCK neighborhood.

“All the things” getting ready to retire! (Tim too!)

- Meeting with President Jim Cummins
- Sweet farewell party Leavenworth
- Many calls with primo staff at CPG
- Social Security office
- First books surveyed for packing
- Viewing portrait