

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

January 21, 2026

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met at Upton Hall in Topeka on January 21, 2026. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, shared a prayer for the Church and its mission. 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:

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
Mr. Couri Reinholtz, New Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller
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

St. Aidan's Gratitude for funds for HVAC system

Bishop Bascom welcomed the Rev. Steve Rottgers and Don Seifert from St. Aidan's, Olathe. Mr. Seifert, Senior Warden, expressed the parish's thanks for the support for St. Aidan's HVAC system replacement. Father Rottgers also shared how helpful this gift will be to the parish and their ministry. St. Aidan's is seeing some growth and has a flourishing outreach ministry for the Olathe community. They also shared their

appreciation to the Rev. Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary, for his help throughout the clergy transition process.

Minutes

Bishop Bascom presented minutes from the December 17, 2025, meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Ms. Melanie Laster, seconded and passed unanimously.

Election of new Assistant Treasurer

Bishop Bascom introduced the new comptroller, Mr. Couri Reinholtz. He has had experience at St. Peter's, Pittsburg, Grace Cathedral, Topeka and St. Paul's, Manhattan. The bishop called for the election of a new Assistant Treasurer of the Council of Trustees to serve until the 167th Diocesan Convention. Current Assistant Treasurer, Jay Currie, stepped down as his retirement is at the end of this month. Dean Laurie Lewis nominated and moved Mr. Couri Reinholtz as Assistant Treasurer of the Council of Trustees to serve until the 167th Diocesan Convention. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller's Report

Mr. Currie pointed to the December 31, 2025, income statement. There is only one parish short on their 2025 apportionment, but it is not by much and is expected to come in soon. It is anticipated that there will be no parishes delinquent on their apportionment for 2025. Mr. Currie also included the endowment portfolio statement for 2025 from State Street. It shows the various accounts the money is distributed in. Then Mr. Currie moved on to the Balance Sheet for the year-end. The St. Margaret's loan payment has been paid off and that has not been transferred nor the bishop's payout of her house equity. Those will be transferred soon. The total investment should be the same amount as was reflected in the State Street report on the endowment portfolio. Accounts receivable match the income statement from earlier in the report. It then goes through the liabilities where nothing much has changed. Then the fund balances are at the end showing their current state and history. Bishop Bascom asked about the land and building. Is that appraised regularly? Mr. Currie said that the amount is the same as originally appraised. Mr. Currie then moved on to the income statement and went through each of the line items of note. There was a question about the collection taken at ordinations and if that amount is in fact split up and given to the ordinands or if it is used to offset costs of the ordination. Clergy ordained in Kansas on Council mentioned not ever seeing the money after their ordinations. Bishop Bascom said this is something for the Council to note in the future. Canon Carroll asked for clarification on how the numbers for realized and unrealized are calculated for each of the funds. The bishop asked about temporary and permanently restricted funds. Temporary can be used, but permanently restricted cannot. Revenue is

currently higher than expenses by \$158,154.19. Operating Expenses are a bit short due to old buildings and the search for the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas.

Bishop Bascom shared information on the Grasslands Network designated fund. This fund receives money from the Episcopal Church for the Grasslands Network for its work and annual gathering. It receives \$10,000 each year. \$5,000 is distributed to the Rev. Maddy Bishop who is the Grasslands Network Fellow to fund her work. The remaining \$5,000 is for the Grasslands Gathering in Amarillo, TX, on May 1-2, 2026. The diocese should expect another \$10,00 check in 2026 and one again in 2027 for the Grasslands Network designated fund. The Diocese of Kansas is the hub for this area of the Echo-Region Network 's Grasslands which is made up of 13 dioceses. The Grasslands Fund is basically a pass-through similar to a grant. It does not affect national apportionment.

President Jim Cummins gave a brief review of the funds for Kansans to Kenya. It is basically a pass-through account. Everyone who goes on a trip with the group pays his or her own way. Contributions help fund work done while there, as well as medicines and supplies and monies for past and current projects.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Mr. Geary, Diocesan Treasurer, there was no report.

Standing Committee Business

President Cummins presented the Rev. Grantland Clowers' request for Release and Removal from ordination to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Canon Jody Carroll moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to Father Clowers Release and Removal from ordination. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

President Cummins presented where the decision is for Judy Scherff's gift of land to the diocese. The decision is to wait for a year and return to it again when the 11th Bishop of Kansas is in place.

President Cummins brought up communication from the Council of Trustees after the bishop's retirement on January 31, 2026, to go out on Monday, February 2, 2026. There is a sub-committee of the Rev. Canon Jody Carroll and Mr. Mason Weber to work together on a statement to go out. They will work with Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Communications, to get that out on February 2nd.

President Cummins noted that the Memorandum of Understanding with Bishop Bascom is ready to sign and that will happen after today's meeting. It was shared with the Council of Trustees last week and is ready to be signed.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Bascom gave her report including updates on Church of the Covenant, Junction City. The vestry and Endowment Committee are ready to have mediation. A mediator has been selected, and a date of February 7th has been chosen. President

Cummins, Council Member the Rev. Margaret McGhee and Vice-Chancellor the Rev. John Bullock plan to attend the mediation.

Bishop Bascom noted that there is a lot of change on the horizon in Transition Ministry for Canon Funston and Theresa Klimuik. Please keep them, the parishes in transition and their work in your prayers. Bishop Bascom noted her wishes for some of the transitions coming up in the diocese.

Bishop Bascom pointed to the reinstatement of the Creation Missioner position to full-time and how that is being funded. Council members received a report on necessary funding. There will be a \$30,000 gap between the part-time position (which includes salary, pension and health insurance) and the compensation proposal. The Walsh Fund earnings are to go toward Congregation Vitality and Bethany House & Gardens. \$30,000 will be taken for Bethany House & Gardens leaving \$41,077.71 for Congregation Vitality. Canon Funston was asked by the bishop to look at this more closely and give an update at the February meeting.

Bishop Bascom pointed to her list of appointees for the Apportionment Review Subcommittee as the diocese takes up this work in 2026. The bishop asked the council for any other nominations. The bishop hopes to have the rest of the committee populated before she leaves office as well as a chair for the committee. Canon Funston asked the Council to think about if they have a charge for this subcommittee for their work. Dean Lewis said that she would like to see a report on the research done by the subcommittee ahead of the next diocesan convention to show the diocese and the new bishop to direct their work. There is a request for transparency about why the diocesan apportionment is set where it is for the Diocese of Kansas.

Reports from Trustees and Staff

Missioner Karen Schlabach spoke to her written report. Miqra, held this past weekend, had 57 youth and 22 adults, which is the most at a youth event besides camp since 2017. There was representation from the dioceses of West Missouri and Western Kansas. Ms. Melanie Laster appreciated Missioner Schlabach's thorough reports. One of the adults that helped at Miqra, a student at Wichita State University, is starting a campus ministry at St. Stephen's in Wichita.

Missioner Caroline Howard gave her thanks for the Council's support of the ministry of Bethany House and Garden ministry. Cami Genovesi, intern, has begun her work. There is a lot going on and the support is so helpful.

Mr. Mason Weber made a correction to the Canterbury at K-State ministry report. There are 3 full-time peer ministers and 1 novice peer minister.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am and the Council moved to the cathedral for a special service.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk