

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

**April 15, 2026**

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met via Zoom on April 15, 2026. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Venerable Jim Cummins, President and Chair, began the meeting with prayer. President Cummins called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Members of the Council of Trustees present were:

- The Ven. Jim Cummins, President
- 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

Member absent:

- The Rev. Helen Hoch

Also present as advisor to the Council of Trustees:

- Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer

Also present:

- Ms. Michael Funston, Executive Assistant to the Bishop
- The Rev. Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary
- Mr. Clark Hanner, CPA, Marr and Company, P.C.
- The Rev. Caroline Howard, Curate for Creation Care
- Mrs. Michele Moss, Director of Operations
- Mr. Couri Reinholtz, 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

**Minutes**

President Cummins presented minutes from the March 18, 2026, meeting. After considerable discussion about issues with the minutes and attached addendums from Standing Committee meetings, a motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by The Rev. Margaret McGhee, seconded and passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer, introduced Mr. Clark Harren, CPA, from Marr and Company, P.C., who was attending the COT meeting to present information from State Street Global Advisors Trust Company relating to the audit from 2024. This information was shared with the Finance Committee at their meeting on April 7. It was discovered that the accrued liability for post-retirement benefits had been excluded. Mr. Hanner, Mr. Geary and Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller Mr. Couri Reinholtz will be looking into that issue.

In the area of investments, there was a reduction in total value. There was a significant amount of net withdrawals of some investment in FY24 compared to FY25 which is reducing the loan to St. Margaret's. There were both cash payments and a match of forgiveness from the diocese. There was a reduction in overall liability.

Revenue was down approximately 14% or about \$400,000. Looking at total expenses, that amount went up about 28% or \$670,000. Investments were used to help take care of some of those obligations. Much came from \$489,000 bad debts expenses due to the forgiveness on the loan to match the cash on principal. If that amount was excluded, it would decrease the overage in expenses to 7.5% or approximately \$180,000. The only outstanding debt is a loan against a life insurance policy. Mr. Hanner went over other notes attached to the report. There was discussion between The Rev. Canon Jody Carroll and Mr. Hanner relating to that life insurance loan.

The Rev. Margaret McGhee moved to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve this audit. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Couri Reinholtz stated that the first draft of the budget for next year will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Apportionment is healthy. There is still nothing from Junction City and he needs to reach out to them. Ms. Melanie Laster, council member from Junction City, reported that the payment from Junction City is on its way.

Mr. Reinholtz reminded members that the accrual basis is being used for these reports. Expenses are in line with where they should be. Things look good.

**Standing Committee Business**

President, The Venerable Jim Cummins, began this part of the meeting by addressing the situation at St. James, Wichita. They have been operating under a Canon IV.7 situation. They've become healthy and when asked for a letter, they

responded. The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved that any restrictions for Canon IV.7 with St. James in Wichita be lifted. The motion was seconded. During discussion, The Rev. Lewis reported that as Dean of that convocation, she has spoken with the priest serving St. James. The Rev. Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary, stated that he felt Canon IV.7 does not apply to St. James at this time. Mr. Stephan Mann called the question and the motion passed unanimously. Canon Patrick will communicate this information to St. James.

After reporting on a couple of issues President Cummins and Ms. Michael Funston, Administrative Assistant, have dealt with in relation to ecclesiastical authority in the absence of a bishop, President Cummins will check with Rev. Mary Donovan about the tornado in Ottawa and how it may have affected the church there.

### **Canon's Report**

After a short break, The Rev. Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary, shared information relating to transitions. Deborah Hill is, with the completion of her Letter of Agreement, will be serving at St. John's beginning July 6, 2026. St. Paul's in Clay Center is moving along and have a draft of their profile to start their search for someone to fill a part-time position. Theresa Klimiuk, Transition Ministry Coach, is also working on this process.

Canon Patrick plans to attend the burial office for The Rev. Rex Matney and check in with the vestry.

The search process for Church of the Covenant has been paused and work on priestly coverage will continue. Canon Patrick asked if it might be a good idea to combine Clay Center and Junction City together as a full-time position. He has not spoken with either vestry. Rev. McGhee reported that geographically the two places are 30-40 minutes apart, which would be doable, but it will take just the right person. Canon Funston said that Clay Center is on a search track while Junction City is more on a maintenance track. St. James in Wichita is already forming a search committee. Canon Funston suggested slowing that process.

In May there will be a training co-hosted with Nebraska on a training hub, matching clergy and openings.

There was discussion relating to decisions needed for staff members. Timeline dates on the website for the bishop search page are problematic. President Cummins will visit with the Co-chairs for the Search Committee, The Very Rev. Torey Lightcap and Mr. Scott Howard, to talk about the time frame.

Next came issues relating to the Diocesan Convention. Three questions relate to the agenda; the banquet; and issues around nominations, voting, and apportionment.

The theme for the convention will be "The Lord is with you wherever you go" from the first chapter of Joshua. Of the three offerings, this one was a strong favorite with 58% of the vote.

There will be an early start on Friday with registration at 8, a possible continental breakfast, and meetings beginning at 10. There would also be lunch but no banquet.

Costs for a banquet usually ran around \$50 a plate with 225-250 attendees. Discussions related to the importance of social time and where that could be fit in. The Very Rev. Lewis asked if there might be a casual event at St. David's for people to get together. It might be something like what used to be held on Thursday evening. Rev. McGhee suggested reaching out to St. David's to see about hosting a reception—not a meal. Canon Patrick suggested that the staff talk with people at St. David's. Canon Patrick will also confer with the chancellor and the treasurer concerning nominations and elections.

Points of consideration were discussed relating to the worksheet about Ecclesiastical Authority.

Standing Committee meetings are scheduled to be on the first and third Wednesdays, as needed.

There was discussion as to who will be in charge of negotiating the letter for agreement with the next bishop.

Canon Patrick was asked to keep on reading and responding to Ember Day letters.

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved to approve the updated changes of the Ecclesiastical Authority worksheet. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Reports from Trustees and Staff**

The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Young Adult & Campus Missioner, referred to her written report. To date they have 100 campers registered. Still needed are 5 or so female and 7 or so male counselors. Camp Eucharist will be held on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The budget for 2026 has a new line item for youth ministry due to the Youth and Young Adult task force approving a process for grants.

The Rev. Caroline Howard, Creation Care Missioner, referred to her written report. Work is still continuing to find funding for the position for Cami Genovesi. There is full funding for a full summer intern and a bio-diversity intern for the summer.

Canon Lisa Senuta, Canon for Spiritual Life and Clergy Care, gave a short report on the clergy retreat. There are 53 registered for the retreat which is about normal. She also gave a preview of the retreat.

Harvey Hillin's wife, Mary, passed away.

Canon Patrick will be the presider for Rev. Rex Matney's funeral.

Beth Fitz Gibbon will be interred in the St. Paul's columbarium.

Rev. Doreen Rice-Daab is recovering from knee surgery.

Canon Patrick Funston led the Council in Noonday Prayer celebrating Sts. Damien and Marianne Cope of Molokai.

The meeting concluded at 12:40 p.m. President Cummins expressed thanks to all.

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The Rev. Helen Hoch  
Clerk