



Episcopal Diocese of Kansas Council of Trustees Information and Expectations

What is Council of Trustees?

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas is elected by the Convocation Boards and Annual Convention to be the governing body of the Diocese in the period between Diocesan Conventions. In the Diocese of Kansas, the Trustees are also the “Standing Committee,” a body required by Article IV of the *Constitution of The Episcopal Church*. As the Standing Committee, it serves as a council of advice to the Bishop and performs other duties on behalf of the diocese and the wider Church. When the Diocese is without a bishop diocesan, the Council of Trustees as Standing Committee, is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the diocese.

The Council of Trustees is comprised of fifteen voting members:

- The Bishop is an *ex officio* member of the Council of Trustees and serves as its Chair. “*ex officio*” is a Latin term meaning “from the office,” referring to someone who holds a position or role automatically because they hold another official position.
- Four clergy persons and four laypersons elected by the Convocation Boards (one of each order from each Convocation) and confirmed by the Annual Convention.
- Three clergy persons and three laypersons elected at-large by the Annual Convention (one of each order at each Convention).

Members are elected to a three-year term and may be re-elected once. The fourteen non-bishop members are the Standing Committee, which chooses its own President.

The Council of Trustees is advised and supported by the diocesan staff along with the Treasurer, Chancellor and Vice-chancellors of the Diocese.

Currently, the Council meets monthly for several hours on a Wednesday, with about half the meetings by Zoom and the other half in Topeka.

Commitments of the Members of the Council of Trustees

1. Regular prayer for the Church and its mission and ministry, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit for all decisions one is called upon to make.
2. Active role in the life and ministry of a parish of the diocese.
3. Presence for all meetings of the Council of Trustees and the committees on which one serves, including at least one overnight (weekday) retreat.
4. Attendance at meetings of their Convocation Boards, including communicating the needs, concerns, and hopes of the Convocation Board to the Council of Trustees.
5. Serve as communicators for the Council of Trustees in their Convocations and Congregations.
6. Maintaining up-to-date background checks, Safe Church training and training in Racial Reconciliation and Healing per diocesan policy.

Tentative Schedule of COT Meetings, 2026-2027

October 24, 2026, *on-site following adjournment of the 167th Convention*

November 17-18, 2026, *overnight retreat*

December 16, 2026

January 20, 2027

February 17, 2027

March 17, 2027

April 21, 2027

May 19, 2027

June 16, 2027

No July Meeting

August 18, 2027

September 15, 2027