

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

May 20, 2026

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met in the Larry Bingham Classroom of Bishop Kemper School for Ministry in Topeka on May 20, 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 10:05 a.m.

Members of the Council of Trustees present in person or via Zoom were:

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:

Ms. Michael Funston, Executive Assistant to the Bishop
The Rev. Canon Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary
Mrs. Michele Moss, Director of Operations
Mr. Couri Reinholtz, Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller
Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Communications

Minutes

President Cummins presented minutes from the April 15, 2026, meeting. The Rev. Carl Edwards noted that Harvey Hill should be changed to Harvey Hillin. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by The Rev. Canon Jody Carroll, seconded and passed unanimously.

Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller's Report

Mr. Couri Reinholtz, Assistant Treasurer, presented the financial report. At the current time, 34.82% of apportionments for this year have been paid. Mr. Reinholtz will send letters to all parishes on June 1. Eight parishes are at least one month behind in their payments. Council members were given the proposed apportionment schedule for 2027. It shows a 0.78% increase from last year. Many parishes are seeing a larger increase than might be expected because

several parishes are leveraging the debt service, apportionment-base credit provision of diocesan Canon IV.2, Sec. 3: St. Thomas the Apostle, Overland Park: \$562,003; Grace Cathedral, Topeka: \$28,193; St. Margaret's, Lawrence: \$19,165; St. Andrew's, Derby: \$9,685

From there Mr. Reinholtz moved on to the proposed mission plan. Much of it was covered line by line with questions being asked and answered. The Council thanked Mr. Reinholtz for the accessible and understandable mission plan and apportionment.

The Rev. Margaret McGhee moved to approve the initial mission plan proposal and apportionment schedule to be distributed to voting members and convocations for any suggestions. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Business

President, The Venerable Jim Cummins, presented information relating to the Rev. Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker and consent to the April 18, 2026, election as Bishop Diocesan in the Diocese of Long Island. Ms. Teresa Ryther moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker as Bishop Diocesan in the Diocese of Long Island. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

President's Report

The Venerable Jim Cummins, President, shared that he was invited to be part of a committee made up of presidents of standing committees. This will be an ongoing commitment for him. There are several dioceses going through the same process of searching for a new bishop. President Cummins is working with a group on model letters of agreement and other communications.

The President then turned it over to Director of Communications, Mr. Chad Senuta, who addressed a couple of items relating to the next issue of the *Harvest*. Someone needs to prepare something to submit for the Bishop's column. This needs to be prepared and submitted on or before July 15. There was discussion relating to that with the suggestion that all pray and think about doing it before the next COT meeting. Other concerns relate to the announcement of the slate which should be presented by the Search committee on July 1 and by the Council on July 8. Should there be a special edition of the *Harvest* with candidate information or could it be included in the upcoming edition which is to be a print issue.

A brief break was taken from 11:08 until 11:21.

Canon's Report

After a short break, The Rev. Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary, shared information relating to transitions and deployment.

- St. James, Wichita: The Search Team is moving ahead quickly. There will be a meeting with Canon Patrick and Theresa Klimiuk, Transition Ministry Coach, on May 29. The Interim Rector, The Rev. Audrey Miskelley, has extensive experience and has been doing considerable leadership/coaching. A congregational listening session is expected soon followed by posting of the position in late July or early August with a rector called and in place around January 1, 2027.
- St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Edwardsville: Vicar MaryLynn Coulson's last day is June 14, 2026. Deacon Martha Jenkins began joining St. Martin's on May 10, 2026. Canon Patrick preached on May 17, 2026, and met with the vestry to discuss options with the

congregation. He will continue to work with Deacon Jenkins and the Vestry to put together a Ministry Covenant.

- Church of the Covenant, Junction City: Vicar Matt Zimmermann will begin serving Church of the Covenant on June 7. His Letter of Agreement allows for about 30 hours per week along with quarterly check-ins. The hope is that he will be able to serve the church in Junction City at least until the ordination of the 11th Bishop.
- St. Paul's, Marysville, and St. Mark's, Blue Rapids: The Rev. Greg Doll has announced that he will be retiring as Vicar during the summer of 2027. The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder, Canon Patrick, and the Rev. Greg Doll met to discuss future plans for these parishes.

The Very Rev Laurie Lewis noted a problem in the Canon's Report from the April minutes. They currently state that "Deborah Hill is, with the completion of her Letter of Agreement, now serving at St. John's." She was not currently serving; her service will begin on July 6. It should read "Deborah Hill, completing her Letter of Agreement, will be serving starting July 6." This is a friendly amendment without objection.

The Commission on Ministry met on May 2 to conduct postulancy interviews for two nominees for ordination to the diaconate. Two others will be interviewed on May 23.

There will be two regional confirmations in the upcoming year. On November 7, 2026, the service will be held at Grace Cathedral with Bishop Alan Scarfe presiding and preaching. On February 6, 2027, Bishop Alan Scarfe will preside over a service to be held at St. Stephen's in Wichita.

A discussion was held relating to a request from the Vicar in Parsons to do something on Pentecost for the Very Rev. Sharon Billman relating to her service to the parish. The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved that an honorary title be granted to the Very Rev. Sharon Billman. The motion was seconded and passed.

Discussions moved on to plans for the 167th Diocesan Convention. St. David's is tentatively willing to host a social gathering after the meetings on Friday. Vistacom Information Systems, Inc. has submitted a quote for the use of their mobile voting systems. Their service would be used in the voting process for the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas. Ms. Teresa Ryther made a motion to accept the Vistacom bid which was seconded and passed unanimously. Personal devices will be used and there will be help for those who have difficulties in working with their device and connections to the voting system. Canon Patrick is working on convention appointments. Finally, Canon Patrick is looking for a chair and committee members to participate in candidacy for ordination interviews. The Venerable Jim Cummins volunteered, and Ms. Melanie Laster is interested in interviewing.

Canon Patrick led the group in noonday prayer, and a lunch break was taken, returning to the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

St. Matthew's vestry members in Newton would like to look into selling their rectory. The parish has not had a rector living in it for some time. There was considerable discussion in relation to this topic. Ms. Melanie Laster moved that the Council of Trustees wait for the Chancellor's approval of the sale before moving forward with the Council approving the sale. There was a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports from Trustees and Staff

The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Young Adult & Campus Missioner, is still looking for a few more counselors to help with the upcoming Mega Camp.

Written reports were presented from the Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Young Adult & Campus Missioner and the Reverend Clare Stern-Burbano, Curate for Campus Ministry

The Rev. Daryl Stanford, Chanute, reported that there are some issues with the Church Insurance Company as the church is working to repair the roof on the church. Canon Patrick offered to try to help.

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis reported that the Wichita Minster is launching the Community of Hope International Lay Pastoral Care Training. It will begin on June 6.

Ms. Michael Funston, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, expressed thanks for the diocesan support helping her attend an annual conference of executive assistants to bishops in Alexandria, Virginia. She reported that it was a very helpful meeting with many other dioceses in episcopal transition.

The meeting concluded at 1:40 p.m. President Cummins expressed thanks to all.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on June 17.

The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk