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

June 17, 2026

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met via Zoom on June 17, 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 10:02 a.m.

Members of the Council of Trustees present 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
The Rev. Daryl Stanford
Ms. Martha Stone
Mr. Mason Weber

Member Absent:

Ms. Teresa Ryther

Also present as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer
Mr. Frank Taylor, Chancelor

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
The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Young Adult & Campus Missioner
Mr. Chad Senuta, Director of Communications
Mr. Frank Taylor, Chancellor

Minutes

President Cummins presented minutes from the May 20, 2026, meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as amended by Canon Patrick and corrected by President Jim

Cummins was made by The Rev. Margaret McGhee, seconded and passed unanimously.

Assistant Treasurer and Comptroller's Report

Mr. Couri Reinholtz, Assistant Treasurer, presented the financial report. He has sent letters to all parishes to let them know where they stand with apportionment payments. Apportionment income is a little below where it should be but is looking good. Blue Rapids has paid 50% of what that parish owed. He will follow up with Iola and Holton in relation to their current standing. Investments are coming back from the dip a couple months ago. Expenses are under budget.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer, informed the COT that the finance committee had met on June 16. The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis reported that the extension of the search for a new bishop has led to problems scheduling an apportionment review committee meeting. The charge to the committee was to report to the convention. The finance committee is anticipating feedback from convocation meetings relating to the 2027 Mission Plan and Apportionment. The committee will be having a meeting later in July after the convocation meetings.

Standing Committee Business

President, The Venerable Jim Cummins, presented information relating to the Rev. Keith Chen-Cheng Lee and consent to the May 9, 2026, election as Bishop Diocesan in the Diocese of Taiwan. 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. Keith Chen-Cheng Lee as Bishop Diocesan in the Diocese of Taiwan. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

President, The Venerable Jim Cummins, presented information relating to the Rev. Elizabeth "Libby" Berman and consent to the May 16, 2026, election as Bishop Diocesan in the Diocese of Hawai'i. The Rev. Margaret McGhee moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Elizabeth "Libby" Berman as Bishop Diocesan in the Diocese of Hawai'i. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Reporting on Spring Postulancy Admissions to the diaconate informed the COT that Michael Box from St. Michael and All Angels, Rex Gaumer from St. Margaret's, and Dana Moodie from Ascension were named postulants.

There was continued discussion relating to the *Harvest* article which is due by July 15 for the August print issue. The Rev. Canon Jody Carroll and Melanie Laster agreed to help with editing or whatever else is needed. Several topic ideas were put forth.

President's Report

The Venerable Jim Cummins, President, reminded members that the slate of candidates for the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas will be shared by the co-chairs of the Search Committee on Zoom at 8:30 a.m. on July 1. This information will be provided to the public on July 9.

Consultant Anne Schmidt will be getting an additional 25% due to the extra work that has been involved in this process.

St. David's in Topeka will help with a reception on Friday evening of the Diocesan Convention. Ms. Melanie Laster would like to work with the Rev. Doreen Rice-Daab and anyone from St. David's on this event. Discussion was held regarding funding and possible drinks for the reception. Someone will need to check with Ms. Teresa Ryther as to how the funding was handled during the process for the 10th Bishop.

A brief break was taken from 10:40 to 10:50.

Canon's Report

After the break, The Rev. Patrick Funston, Canon to the Ordinary, reminded council members of the importance of checking the report or listing from the diocesan staff regarding actions taken on behalf of the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Canon Patrick reported on the accident which occurred at Mega Camp on the last day of camp. Mega Camp is made up of three separate camps within the larger "mega" group. Each of the three individual camps has its own director and executive staff. Karen did not hear about the accident until the next morning.

There was considerable discussion leading to the possibility of making changes to the current handbook. Ms. Melanie Laster thanked Canon Patrick and the Rev. Karen Schlabach for their handling of this situation. There will be a letter prepared and sent to the family.

Canon Patrick shared information on transition and deployment. Two parishes are in the pre-search process: St. Paul's, Clay Center, and St. James, Wichita. Not quite to this point is St. Mary's in Galena. Canon Patrick will soon meet with the Dean of the SE Convocation, the Rev. Ryan Willis, to consider options for Sunday coverage. Two other parishes early in the process are St. Martin-in-the-Fields in Edwardsville and Church of the Covenant in Junction City. In Edwardsville with Vicar Mary Lynn Coulson's last Sunday, June 14, Deacon Martha Jenkins is in place, and Canon Patrick will be working on a Ministry Covenant between the Deacon and the parish. Vicar Matt Zimmermann is currently working with Church of the Covenant; any further decisions will probably wait until the diocese has a new bishop.

There are just a few open spaces on the list of Convention Appointments. Canon Patrick is working on those.

Curacy placements are being looked at for the upcoming ordinands. Teresa Klimiuk has resigned her position as transition coach. St. Michaels would like to have an associate for pastoral care.

Finance Committee updates to the Mission Plan will come out in August after the committee has had time to look at questions coming from convocations. Canon Patrick had meetings with Cytek Media Systems relating to the projector needed for the Cathedral Nave and with VistaCom (VPOLL) for election administration. The diocese is under contract with VistaCom (VPOLL).

President Jim Cummins and Mr. Ron Olson volunteered to help with nominations for positions within the Standing Committee.

Deacon Fran Wheeler will be meeting with the committee in charge of Alleluia Grants. They are looking into changing the application process.

Reports from Trustees and Staff

The Rev. Karen Schlabach, Youth, Young Adult & Campus Missioner, presented a written report. There were 193 campers this year. This was 40 more than last year. Staff was smaller in number than last year. Ms. Michael Funston offered special thanks to Ms. Martha Stone for her work on the staff and to Mr. Tim Flynn and the Very Rev. Laurie Lewis for attending the mega-eucharist. This year's graduating seniors spoke about how influential the camp experiences have been in their lives. Mrs Michele Moss and St. Andrews church in Emporia provided some pre-camp meals. Surveys have been sent out. Staff training has been re-designed and worked well. June 5-12, 2027, will be the dates for the next Mega Camp.

The Reverend Clare Stern-Burbano, Curate for Campus Ministry, sent an update for K-State Canterbury.

Noonday Prayer

Canon Patrick led the group in noonday prayer honoring Marina the Monk, a monastic from the fifth century.

President Jim Cummins thanked Canon Patrick and Executive Assistant to the Bishop Ms. Michael Funston for all that they are doing to help "keep the ship afloat" during this interim period.

There was a short break from 11:50-11:59 at which time the standing committee went into executive session. The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved to come out of executive session. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

At 1:10 the meeting of the standing committee was once again in session. The Rev. Margaret McGhee moved to go forward with a petition process modeled on the 2018 process. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting concluded at 1:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on August 19.

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The Rev. Helen Hoch
Clerk

Addendum to the June 17, 2026, Council of Trustees Minutes

Standing Committee July 1, 2026

Members of the Standing Committee and the Search Committee met on July 1, beginning at 8:35. The Rev. David Jenkins opened the meeting with prayer and some words from Thomas Merton. The Very Rev. Torey Lightcap and Mr. Scott Howard, co-chairs for the Search Committee, presented a PowerPoint presentation sharing the names and information about the four candidates that their committee is presenting for the slate. This information is to be presented to the public on July 9. The candidates are:

The Rev. Grant Ambrose—Rector of St. Andrew's in York, Pennsylvania

The Rev. David Gortner—Rector of St. Luke's in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

The Rev. Whitney Rice—Canon of Evangelism and Discipleship Development for the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

The Rev. Lisa Senuta—Canon for Spiritual Life and Clergy Care for the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

Standing Committee President Jim Cummins reported that there would also be a petition process beginning on July 9. It is to follow the same process as with the search for the 10th Bishop of Kansas.

The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis asked if these candidates knew that they were being presented here. The answer was "Yes".

President Cummins dismissed the Search Committee at 8:59. Discussion was opened. After this, the Very Rev. Laurie Lewis moved to accept the slate as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

There was discussion about the process from this point.

President Cummins thanked the Standing Committee, noted that he will contact the Search Committee to let them know of the acceptance of the slate, and adjourned the meeting at 9:09.