Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc.

June 27, 2006

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met on June 27, 2006, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Kansas. The Right Reverend Dean E. Wolfe, Bishop and Chairman, convened the meeting with worship at 10 a.m.

Members of the Council of Trustees present were:
- Bishop Wolfe
- The Rev. Barbara Bloxsom
- The Rev. James Cook
- The Rev. Donald Davidson
- The Rev. James Haney
- Mr. Michael Murphy
- The Very Rev. Michael Munro
- Mr. Richard Norman
- Mrs. Rogene Schille
- The Rev. Nancy Shank
- Mr. Robert Skaggs

Members of the Council of Trustees absent were:
- Mrs. Linda Bemis
- Mr. Michael Morrow
- The Rev. Ronald Peak
- Mrs. Wendy Sheedy

Advisor to the Council of Trustees present was:
- Mr. Richard Foote, Vice Chancellor

Also present from the diocesan staff were the Rev. Canon Mary Siegmund; Mr. C.J. Currie; comptroller; Mrs. Melodie Woerman, director of communications; and Mrs. Char DeWitt, director of stewardship and development. Mr. David Wetzler, chair of the task force on health insurance, was present for a portion of the meeting.

In the absence of the clerk, Mrs. Woerman was appointed to take minutes of the meeting.

Bishop Wolfe introduced Mrs. DeWitt as the new director of stewardship and development, and she expressed her happiness at being part of the Diocese of Kansas. She also said she is looking forward to meeting as many clergy and lay leaders as possible.

Bishop Wolfe spoke of those Trustees who could not be present and also asked the body's continued prayers for Marsha Adinolfi and Archdeacon Jim Upton. Father Davidson reported that Father Herman Page is recovering well after his car accident.

By unanimous vote the minutes of the meeting of May 16 were approved as presented.

Mr. Currie presented the income statement for May. He noted there is a net income of just over $240,000 that comes primarily form two major areas – a $120,000 gift received in January and about $74,000 from the sale of St. Andrew's, Fort Scott. He noted that apportionment receipts are in good shape with only a few parishes running a little behind. Expenses relating to General Convention will come due next month. Most expense areas are either at or below budget. One exception is the office of the canon to the ordinary, which is over because of the costs of transition. Mr. Norman pointed out that the apportionment for St. Paul's, Kansas City, is paid in full through May 2006, a situation that hasn't occurred in a number of years.

Canon Siegmund reviewed the goals of the Trustees. She noted that the hiring of Mrs. DeWitt is a key element for stewardship. The Congregational Development committee, chaired by the Rev. Darrel Proffitt, is making progress toward creating a model plan for congregational development. That group is charged with the project of planting new churches. Canon Siegmund and the bishop are looking at how they conduct parish visitations to see if there are ways to incorporate elements of congregational development needs in those meetings.

Bishop Wolfe called for a shift in the printed agenda to allow Mr. Wetzler to make his report at this time. He introduced Mr. Wetzler, a member of St. Michael and All Angels, Mission, and a professional in the field of insurance.

Mr. Wetzler said his committee's report is designed to provide an overview of health insurance offered by the diocese to parish clergy and employees. The committee found that clergy and lay employees consider health insurance a critical part of their overall compensation. He noted there are limited options provided by the Medical Trust, and the diocese needs to push them for more options. He also suggested the diocese begin to explore health savings accounts. Mr. Wetzler said the trend in insurance is to cover catastrophic events to keep people from being bankrupted. Mr. Norman suggested all Trustees study the report and keep in mind the issue of total compensation for those covered. The Trustees offered their thanks to Mr. Wetzler and his committee for their work.

A report on General Convention followed. Mother Bloxsom noted the final resolutions designed to respond to the Windsor Report marked the church coming more to the center, with 75 percent supporting the "moratorium" resolution. She reported on the election of Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori as the next Presiding Bishop and said the resolutions passed will help her in relationships within the Anglican Communion.

Bishop Wolfe quoted another bishop in attendance at General Conventions as saying her election reminded him "of the call of David, who was not the oldest or most experienced but was selected by the Lord because of his heart." He said he hopes the church continues to draw upon the diverse center, and he noted both Houses of General Convention have a responsibility to

communicate to the church what the bodies are trying to accomplish. Father Haney noted that resolution B033 puts pressure on the Council, acting as the Standing Committee, not to give consent in certain Episcopal elections. Bishop Wolfe said all members should be studying, thinking and praying about this. Canon Siegmund also pointed out significant changes made to Title III, the ministry canons, that will affect when the Council of Trustees, as the Standing Committee, interviews those in the ordination process. Mother Bloxsom also noted the adoption of the Revised Common Lectionary effective in Advent 2007, and the bishop said this will have a significant impact on parishes in the diocese.

Father Davidson asked the Council of Trustees to express its appreciation to the bishop, deputies and alternates for their service at General Convention, and the body concurred.

Bishop Wolfe requested reports from committees:

1. **Community Life Committee:** Canon Siegmund reported that Mrs. Bemis is working with the committee on planning diocesan convention, which will be in Overland Park this fall. Speakers are being lined up now.

2. **Children's and Youth Ministries**: In the absence of Chad Senuta, Father Haney remarked on his successful week at church camp and expressed appreciation for Chad's good work with that program. Bishop Wolfe encouraged all parishes to offer Vacation Bible School.

3. **Campus Ministries Committee**: Father Haney reported. The committee is working on creating a web site, overseeing renovations at the two Canterbury Houses and making arrangements for people to move into the houses this fall. Bishop Wolfe said he hopes to have two campus missioners hired before diocesan convention. Mr. Murphy noted the fine job Father Art Rathbun, a priest of the Diocese of Western Kansas, is doing at K-State. Bishop Wolfe noted that Young Adult Ministries now is a committee separate from Campus Ministries.

5. **Committee on Aging:** Mrs. Schille offered a written report from the chair, Mother Ruth McAleer. They are concerned about getting resources on the diocesan web site.

6. **Ecclesiastical Relations Committee:** Bishop Wolfe spoke for the committee, in Mr. Morrow's absence, of the issue of offering consents on Episcopal elections. Father Davidson spoke of the need for background information on bishops-elect.

7. **Finance Committee**: Mr. Skaggs reported that the proposed 2007 budget will be finalized on June 30 for consideration by the Council of Trustees at the August meeting. He also noted the proposed budget will be presented to convocations this fall as in recent years. Mr. Skaggs reported the expected apportionment rate will remain the same for 2007. Mr. Currie noted that diocesan income was up last year because of growth in parish income while the apportionment rate stayed the same.

8. **Architecture, Property and Allied Arts Committee**: Bishop Wolfe reported that the committee has been working with Grace Cathedral on the parish's parking needs and the prospect of a master physical plan with a future diocesan center connected to the cathedral.

9. **Stewardship and Planned Giving Committee**: Mrs. DeWitt reported that the scope of her work will be finalized in the coming months. She said she wants to help parishes with their stewardship annual giving as well as planned giving and will be assisting the bishop in fund raising for diocesan efforts.

10. **Communications Committee:** Mrs. Woerman reported for the committee, describing the work done around communications at General Convention. The diocesan web site was updated daily from Columbus, with reports from deputies and links to news stories and other resources.

11. **Liturgy, Arts and Music Committee:** Mother Bloxsom reported they have a meeting set for July 7 to work on liturgies for diocesan convention. Once developed, they will go to the bishop for final approval and then to Mrs. Woerman for production.

12. **Outreach and Ecumenical Ministries Committee:** Mother Shank reported that she has sent an e-mail to all parishes asking for names for potential members.

13. **Congregational Development Committee**: Father Cook said the committee recently met to discuss ways they can continue to help parishes seeking their help. He said future meetings likely will take place in the church involved so members can hear their case study and ask questions.

14. **Commission on Ministry:** Canon Siegmund reported for the commission, noting a meeting near the end of July. She said they are looking at how to organize, given the new ministry canons and the departure of the Rev. Rob Lord as COM chair. She said she also wants to add some COM forms to the diocesan web site.

15. **Canon's Report:** Canon Siegmund noted she is close to making a decision on hiring a person to become her administrative assistant. She said the diocese currently has six clergy vacancies, and she is working with the search committees.

- **Trinity, Atchison** – Father Hartjen's last day is the end of July, and they have supply priests set up until an interim is hired. She has met with their vestry and gave them information on the search process.
- **St. Michael and all Angels, Mission** – She is meeting this evening with the vestry and will work on supply priest and interim pastor issues.
- **St. John's, Wichita** – The parish is well into their profile, and she will do a retreat in mid-July for the vestry and search committee. Once they finish the profile they will send it to the bishop for approval and can move into the application phase. The Rev. Nicolette Papanek has begun as interim pastor there.
- **Grace, Winfield and Trinity, Arkansas City** – She met with them last night and outlined the search process. It will be a little different for them since it is a yoked ministry. They have eight weeks of supply priests lined up, and they will begin discussing interims. The Rev. Craig Sweeney has accepted a call to a parish in the Diocese of Bethlehem (Pennsylvania).
- **Grace, Ottawa** – The Rev. Jo Ann Ford will become priest-in-charge of the parish in Ouray, Colo. in August, and the Rev. Denis Ford will be retiring.

- **St. Martin's, Edwardsville** – Father Lassiter's last Sunday will be July 17.
- **St. Margaret's, Lawrence** – They have hired a new assistant, the Rev. Ashley Masoni, a pastor with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She will be starting in August.

Bishop Wolfe said the vestries of St. Stephen's and St. Alban's in Wichita each met and have decided to merge. A liturgy celebrating this will take place in the fall. This merger will need the consent of the Standing Committee to become final. The St. Alban's building will be sold, and any proceeds remaining after the mortgage is paid will be held for future ministry growth and expansion. Bishop Wolfe noted the importance of the commitment of the two priests involved – the Rev. Steven Mues and the Rev. James Mitchell – to making this process work. Bishop Wolfe noted that he was giving consent for the proceeds from St. Alban's to stay with the new parish rather than revert to the diocese.

It was moved by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Norman, that the Standing Committee give its consent to the merger of St. Stephen's and St. Alban's in Wichita. The **motion passed** without objection.

Bishop Wolfe read notes from Bishop Barry Howe and his wife Mary, from Bishop William Smalley and from Bishop Richard Grein, thanking the diocese for their participation in the visit of Presiding Bishop Griswold to the diocese in May.

Bishop Wolfe presented a list of his episcopal actions.

Bishop Wolfe asked all members to bring with them to the August meeting the health insurance task force report and urged members to read that report as well as the proposed budget, once it is produced and distributed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was closed with prayer by Canon Siegmund at 1:10 p.m.

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Melodie Woerman, clerk *pro tempore*