

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES
OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF KANSAS, INC.**

February 17, 2004

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc. met at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Kansas, on February 17, 2004. The Rt. Rev. Dean E. Wolfe, Bishop and Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Barbara K. Bloxsom led the opening worship.

Trustees present were:

Bishop Wolfe
Mrs. Jean Crutchfield, President
The Rev. Jerry D. Adinolfi, Jr.
Mrs. Linda Bemis
The Rev. Barbara K. Bloxsom
The Rev. Matthew M. Cobb
Mr. Frank Connizzo
Mr. Harry Denman
The Rev. Denis B. Ford
The Very Rev. R. Steve Lipscomb
Mr. Mike Morrow
Mr. Dick Norman
The Rev. Darrel D. Proffitt
Mr. Robert Skaggs
The Rev. William J. Wood

Advisors to the Council of Trustees present were:

Mr. L. Franklin Taylor, Chancellor and Clerk
Mr. Richard V. Foote, Vice Chancellor
Mr. Douglas K. Anning, Treasurer
The Rev. Canon Jo Ann T. Smith, Canon to the Ordinary
Mrs. Dorothy Emory, Diocesan Administrator

Also present were The Rev. Joe Alford, Chaplain at Canterbury House, Lawrence, and Mr. Chad Senuta, Diocesan Youth Officer.

The Council of Trustees heard a brief presentation by Channing H. Cox, Ph.D. and Robert Telthorst, a member of St. David's Parish, Topeka, about the Nativity School Project. They requested that the Diocese sponsor an application to the Cassin Educational Initiative Foundation to fund a feasibility study for a Nativity Network School in Topeka. After the

presentation, there was an extended discussion by the Council of Trustees. Fr. Cobb moved, seconded by Fr. Proffitt, that the Diocese sponsor the application for a grant for a feasibility study by the Cassin Educational Initiative Foundation for a Nativity Network School. It was noted that the motion did not include authorization to sponsor a school based on results of the feasibility study. The motion carried on a split vote.

Mr. Skaggs reported for the Finance, Loan and Apportionment Committee that Mr. James Stankiewicz, accountant for the Diocese, has been ill and unable to complete financial reports. The committee did, however, report several matters:

1. Mr. Anning noted that the report of fund managers for the Diocesan Endowment was positive, reflecting an increase of approximately 29% in value of the Diocesan Endowment Fund. The money managers outperformed 82% of money managers administering similar funds.

2. Mr. Anning noted that the Diocese will reflect a year end revenue shortfall of approximately \$100,000.00, attributable primarily to unpaid apportionments. A substantial portion of this amount will be made up from savings on the expense side of the budget and endowment performance.

3. Mr. Anning suggested that the Council of Trustees authorize a change in the endowment investment ratio from 60% equity to 40% fixed income to a 70-30 ratio. He noted that the increased risk would be expected to increase return over the long term. Bishop Wolfe referred the matter to the committee for a specific recommendation.

4. Mr. Skaggs noted that the Northeast Convocation unanimously recommended the approval of the request of St. Margaret's Parish, Lawrence for exemption from apportionment of up to \$4,000,000.00 in capital funds to be raised for the parish's building project. Fr. Proffitt made a presentation about the parish's growth and future plans and requested both the prayers of the Council of Trustees and approval of the exemption from apportionment. Mr. Connizzo moved, seconded by Fr. Cobb, to exempt from apportionment up to \$4,000,000.00 in capital campaign funds to be raised for the pending building project. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Ms. Crutchfield inquired about the reports being made by the Committee on Financing the Ministry of the Diocese to parish vestries and inquired whether a similar report should be made to the Council of Trustees. Mr. Skaggs noted that the reports to vestries were being made to obtain feedback. Bishop Wolfe indicated that a report to the trustees could be included on a future agenda.

6. Canon Smith noted that at a recent Northeast Convocation Board meeting, the Rev. Ron Reed challenged delegates to contribute \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per household from their parishes to reduce the Diocesan budget deficit. The sum of \$864.00 was raised at the Convocation meeting. Dean Lipscomb suggested that a program similar to the Builders for Christ program in the Diocese of South Carolina, which designated funds for congregational development, might be a more appropriate Diocesan fundraising activity. Bishop Wolfe referred the matter to the Finance Committee for consideration and recommendation.

The Council of Trustees recessed at noon for lunch in the undercroft of the Cathedral. Bishop Wolfe requested that members discuss and consider the Council's committee structure for the ensuing year. The Council of Trustees reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

The minutes of January 20, 2004, were reviewed. Bishop Wolfe noted that with her change in duties, Dorothy Emory has been designated as Diocesan Administrator. He explained that Canon Smith has been retained as Canon to the Ordinary with primary responsibilities in the area of deployment, congregational development and commission on ministry. Jeanne Atha has been hired as executive assistant to the Bishop. Mr. James Stankiewicz will continue to perform accounting functions for the Diocese during 2004.

Mr. Senuta reported to the Council of Trustees on his activities as Diocesan Youth Officer. One of his functions is event and program planning and coordination. He also helps develop youth ministry in parishes around the Diocese. In conjunction with his duties, he conducts sexuality misconduct training.

Bishop Wolfe reported that Mr. Larry Bingham is conducting an investigation of the allegations of financial improprieties at Turner House, Kansas City. When he completes his report, the Bishop expects that the Diocese will recommit to ministries in Kansas City, Kansas.

Bishop Wolfe presented a letter from the Rev. Ron McCrary, Rector of Christ Church, Overland Park, concerning the parish Vestry's decision to allow parish members to designate use of their pledged funds beyond Christ Church. A copy of the letter is attached to and made a part of the original minutes of this meeting. Bishop Wolfe noted that the letter and the meeting he has arranged with Fr. McCrary constitute a "hopeful step" in reconciliation between Christ Church and the Diocese.

Mr. Senuta made a video presentation on the recent Miqra event at Grace Cathedral which was well received by the members of the Council of Trustees.

Bishop Wolfe announced that Canon Smith, Fr. Adinolfi (acting as Dean of the Southeast Convocation) and the Rev. Wayne Pontius (in his capacity as locum tenens for St. Andrews Church, Fort Scott) met with six members of the parish (constituting a majority of the parish) on December 29, 2003. They determined that the parish is no longer self-sustaining within the meaning of the Canons of the Diocese and that its services and operation should be suspended until a strategy for ministry in Fort Scott is developed. The Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Council of Trustees acting as the standing committee of the Diocese, revoked the parish's authority to function as a self governing parish and assumed the duties of Rector of the parish in accordance with General Canons. It was agreed that the articles of incorporation of St. Andrew's Church, Fort Scott, should be amended and restated to provide, among other things, that the Vestry may be reduced in size during any period of suspension of parish operations. The Bishop appointed Canon Smith to act as the sole director of the corporation.

Fr. Alford reported on Jubilee Café activities in Lawrence and noted that over the last two years over 790 volunteers have participated.

Mrs. Jeanne Atha was introduced to the Council of Trustees.

The Council of Trustees completed its review of the minutes of January 20, 2004. Ms. Crutchfield noted that the suggestion in the minutes about congregational development plans for struggling parishes should be modified; Bishop Wolfe stated that all congregations would develop congregational development plans. The minutes were approved by consensus with corrections noted in the original minutes of the meeting.

Bishop Wolfe presented a proposed committee structure for the Council of Trustees. After discussion, it was agreed that the following committees would be appointed to be accountable to the Council of Trustees with council members assigned as indicated:

1. Diocesan Life Committee -- Mrs. Bemis.
2. Ecclesiastical Relations Committee -- Ms. Crutchfield, Mr. Morrow, Canon Smith (staff).
3. Adult Formation -- Mr. Anning
4. Congregational Development -- Dean Lipscomb, Mr. Denman, Fr. Proffitt, Fr. Adinolfi.
5. Personnel Committee -- Chair of the Finance Committee, President of the Council of Trustees, Bishop.
6. Outreach Ministry -- Fr. Wood, Fr. Ford.
7. Children's Ministries -- Chad Senuta (staff).
8. Youth and Young Adult -- Fr. Cobb (staff), Fr. Alford (staff).
9. Liturgy, Worship and Music -- Mthr. Bloxsom.
10. Finance -- Mr. Anning, Mr. Skaggs, Mr. Norman.
11. Stewardship and Development -- Mr. Connizzo (staff).
12. Properties -- To be determined.
13. Communications -- Mrs. Melodie Woerman, Fr. Cobb (staff).

Dean Lipscomb suggested the addition of a committee on aging.

Fr. Wood reported that the Diocesan Ministry Fair would be conducted on June 5, 2004, at Emporia State University with a theme "Different Seeds, Plenteous Harvests." Bishop Wolfe will be the keynote speaker.

Canon Smith reported that Mrs. Nancy Nellis will be recuperating for about two months from back surgery and that the Rev. Larry Valentine is undergoing intensive chemotherapy.

Ms. Crutchfield reported for the Ecclesiastical Relations Committee:

1. The committee recommends that the Council of Trustees acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese consent to the election of a Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Rio Grande. Mr. Denman seconded the recommendation, which carried unanimously.

2. The committee recommends that the Council of Trustees acting as the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Kansas consent to the election of a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of Olympia. Mr. Morrow seconded the recommendation, which carried unanimously.

Bishop Wolfe reported on official acts as Bishop, which included consent to various ecclesiastical changes in other dioceses. He noted that he is still in conversation with the Rev. Dr. John Flora and the Vestry of St. Stephen's Parish, Wichita, concerning Fr. Flora's renunciation of ministry.

Mrs. Bemis noted that Episcopal Social Services, Kansas City, will be conducting a ministry workshop on March 16, 2004.

Canon Smith noted that she and Bishop Wolfe have scheduled a meeting with clergy of the Diocese ordained under former Canon 9 of the General Canons to discuss their future and the Bishop's proposal for their continued ministry.

Bishop Wolfe announced that the Rev. Michael Munro has been appointed as Dean of the Northeast Convocation and the Rev. Dale Plummer has been appointed as Dean of the Northwest Convocation. He expects Convocation Deans to act with some autonomy on behalf of the Bishop in their Convocations.

Mr. Anning noted that the Diocese of Kansas is party to a contract for deed for the sale of the Church of the Ascension, Kansas City, on which there is a current balance owed of about \$6,800.00. The Diocese is paying about \$7,200.00 annually to insure the property, of which it is the legal owner. On motion by Mr. Morrow, seconded by Mr. Skaggs, the Bishop, in consultation with the Finance Committee, was authorized to arrange to dispose of the former Church of the Ascension property on appropriate terms. The motion carried unanimously.

Bishop Wolfe announced that the Council of Trustees would meet on March 16, 2004, and that the meeting is tentatively scheduled at St. Aidan's Church, Olathe. Fr. Proffitt will prepare the agenda.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned with prayer by Bishop Wolfe at 2:10 p.m.

L. Franklin Taylor, Clerk