

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

August 15, 2006

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc. met on August 15, 2006, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Kansas. The Right Reverend Dean E. Wolfe, Bishop and Chairman, convened the meeting with worship at 10:00 a.m.

Members of the Council of Trustees present were:

Bishop Wolfe
The Rev. Barbara K. Bloxson
The Rev. James B. Cook
The Rev. Dr. Donald F. Davidson
The Rev. James P. Haney V
Mr. Michael Morrow, President
The Very Rev. Michael G. Munro
Mr. Michael W. Murphy
Mr. Richard Norman
The Rev. Ronald R. Peak
Ms. Rogene Schille
The Rev. Nancy J. Shank
Ms. Wendy Sheedy
Mr. Robert Skaggs

Mrs. Linda Bemis was absent.

Advisors to the Council of Trustees present were:

Mr. L. Franklin Taylor, Chancellor and Clerk
Mr. Richard V. Foote, Vice Chancellor

Diocesan staff members present were The Rev. Canon Mary Siegmund, Canon to the Ordinary, Mr. C. J. Currie, Comptroller, Mrs. Melodie Woerman, Director of Communications, Mrs. Char DeWitt, Director of Stewardship and Development, and Mrs. Jenny Kuner, Administrative Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary.

Minutes of the June 27, 2006 Council of Trustees meeting were distributed for review. Mr. Skaggs moved, seconded by Mr. Norman, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

In the absence of Treasurer Douglas Anning, Mr. Currie presented the July 2006 income statement. He noted that the Diocese remains a little more than \$227,000.00 ahead of budget and that, as in prior months, this is partially attributable to a \$120,000.00 bequest and the \$74,000.00

proceeds from sale of the Fort Scott property. In response to the Bishop's inquiry, Mr. Currie noted that the income statement should balance at year end without regard to these two items of extraordinary revenue. Mr. Currie noted that he bases his confidence in the fiscal condition of the Diocese on an increase in revenue, an increase in the number of communicants and an increase in the number of people attending worship in the Diocese over the same period last year. His largest concern would be that the Diocese still relies heavily on apportionment income to support the office of the Bishop and Diocesan activities. Mr. Norman noted that as a member of the Finance Committee, he believes that the Diocese is in much healthier fiscal shape today than at any time previously during his tenure on the Council of Trustees. Mr. Skaggs, as Finance Committee chair, agreed with this assessment and noted that it would be amplified later in the meeting during a discussion of the Diocesan Mission Plan for 2007.

Bishop Wolfe discussed trustee norms, the facts and assumptions that characterize meetings and work of the Council of Trustees. He noted the collegiality of the members of the Council of Trustees in their interactions, the fact that they do a much better job than he expected of such a large committee at protecting confidential information and the consistent commitment of members. He also emphasized that in the structure of the Diocese of Kansas, it is important that governance continue to rely heavily on work done in committees. He suggested that it would be useful to take the work of the Council on the road – to move meetings around the Diocese. He expected to spend some time on larger questions for the Council by suggesting specific themes for future meetings.

Bishop Wolfe requested reports of committees:

1. **Community Life.** In the absence of Mrs. Bemis, Canon Siegmund reported that the committee has met several times to consider speakers for Convention workshops and conduct other preparation for the 147th Diocesan Convention.

2. **Children's and Youth Ministries.** The Bishop noted that Diocesan Youth Officer Chad Senuta is on vacation, but reported positive feedback on summer camps. Fr. Cook and Fr. Haney agreed that summer camps went well and that the Diocesan Youth Program continues to improve. There was a brief discussion about efforts to improve use of technology and communication within the Diocese; Mrs. Woerman continues to work on this issue.

3. **Campus Ministries.** Fr. Haney presented the minutes of the July meeting of the committee. He noted that significant activity is underway with respect to programming and peer ministry on the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan led by Deacon Monte Giddings. There is some architectural redesign underway at Canterbury House in Lawrence to improve the usefulness of that facility. Bishop Wolfe noted that four candidates remain in the interview process for the two campus missionary positions.

4. **Finance.** Mr. Skaggs reported for the Finance Committee:

- The proposed 2007 Mission Plan was presented. Mr. Skaggs noted that endowment income will be budgeted for the purposes of specific endowment funds, although principal will not be utilized.

Bishop Wolfe relinquished the chair to Mr. Morrow, and the Bishop and staff left the meeting. Mr. Morrow invited discussion about salary and staff benefits. There was a discussion about standards for staff compensation increases, apportionment rate history and other potential revenue sources. Mthr. Bloxson moved, seconded by Mr. Norman, to amend the budget to permit an increase in the Bishop's salary of 6% rather than a standard cost of living increase. The motion carried by a vote of ten to one.

The Council of Trustees recessed at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 11:35 a.m. with Bishop Wolfe presiding. After a brief discussion, Mr. Skaggs moved, seconded by Fr. Peak, to distribute the 2007 Mission Plan as amended to Convention delegates for consideration in convocation meetings and at Convention. The motion carried by a vote of ten to one.

Mr. Skaggs continued the report of the Finance Committee:

- Stacy J. Smith, CPA of Mize, Houser & Company, P.A., presented the final working draft of the auditor's report to the Finance Committee for review and comment. She has been working with Mr. Currie and Mr. Anning during the audit, and there were no major points of concern. She was directed to complete the final report for submission to the Council of Trustees in September.
- The committee received and reviewed a request for a Church Extension Fund loan from St. Timothy's Church, Iola, in the amount of \$20,000.00 to augment existing and pledge funds to build an extension that would double the existing parish facility. Mr. Norman moved, seconded by Ms. Sheedy, to approve the loan with a five year term at the existing Diocesan interest rate of 2% below prime. The motion carried unanimously.
- St. Paul's Church, Maryville, requested a loan in the amount of \$2,300.00 to be consolidated with the parish's existing loan of \$1,655.00 to fund replacement of a 30-year old furnace and complete some landscaping work at the church involving safety considerations. Mr. Norman moved, seconded by Mr. Morrow, to approve consolidation of the two loans for a term of three years at the Diocesan interest rate of 2% below prime. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Skaggs noted that with the recent merger of St. Alban's and St. Stephen's parishes in Wichita, the St. Alban's loan and outstanding apportionment will be paid in full upon sale of the St. Alban's facility, and the remaining obligations of the two parishes would be assumed by the new resulting parish.
- Mr. Skaggs noted that September budget presentations (of the 2007 Mission Plan) are scheduled for the convocations:
 - Southeast, September 9, 10:00 a.m., St. John's, Parsons
 - Southwest, September 9, 3:00 p.m., St. Stephen's, Wichita
 - Northeast, September 23, 8:30 a.m., St. Margaret's, Lawrence
 - Northwest, September 23, 1:00 p.m., St. David's, Topeka
- Five parishes are significantly delinquent in payment of 2006 apportionments. These parishes will be contacted by Mr. Norman and Mr. Skaggs.

- Trinity Parish, Lawrence, has completed a capital campaign, but has not requested that funds received in the campaign be exempted from apportionment. Mr. Skaggs will contact the Rev. Jonathan Jensen again to let him know that the Council of Trustees cannot take action on this issue without a request by the parish.

5. **Stewardship and Planned Giving.** Mrs. DeWitt reported that she has met with representatives of about 75% of the parishes in the Diocese. The committee is working on its goals and on preparing materials to be distributed to parishes. She anticipates there will be newsletter articles, bulletin inserts and other aids available to parishes in the near future.

6. **Communications.** Mrs. Woerman reported that the July/August issue of the *Harvest* will be out before the end of August. This issue has been delayed to allow her to report on the merger of St. Stephen's and St. Alban's parishes in Wichita. She is also working on the Diocesan directory, which will be reformatted and published shortly.

7. **Liturgy, Arts and Music.** Mthr. Bloxsom presented the minutes of the committee's July meeting.

8. **Outreach and Ecumenical Ministries.** Bishop Wolfe noted that Mthr. Shank has resigned as chair of this committee to permit her to pursue other areas of ministry better suited to her gifts. He is actively seeking a new chair.

9. **Commission on Ministry.** Canon Siegmund reported that the Diocesan web page now has a link to the Commission on Ministry that provides application forms and a 7-step description of the application process. She also presented minutes from the July 29, 2006, meeting of the commission.

10. **Architecture, Property and Allied Arts.** Fr. Peak noted that the committee has scheduled a meeting for next month.

The Council of Trustees recessed for lunch after prayer led by Canon Siegmund at 12:07 p.m. The Council reconvened at 12:40 p.m. with prayer for Mrs. Schille's granddaughter, Lindsay Hartley, undergoing surgery at the time.

Canon Siegmund introduced Jenny Kuner, administrative assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary.

Canon Siegmund reported on deployment:

1. The Rev. Gar Demo was installed as Rector of St. Thomas the Apostle, Overland Park, on Sunday evening, August 13.
2. Trinity Church, Atchison, is forming a search committee.

3. A search committee at St. John's Church, Wichita, is working and is about 90% finished with its self-study.
4. A search committee for Grace Church, Winfield, and Trinity Church, Arkansas City, has been formed and trained.
5. Grace Church, Ottawa, is looking at options for ordained ministry.
6. St. Michael and All Angels, Mission, is interviewing candidates suggested by the Bishop for interim ministry and forming a search committee for a Rector.

Canon Siegmund reported that Fresh Start, a support group for clergy who have accepted a call to the Diocese, is beginning next month with new core topics related to the mission of the diocese. She noted that the School for Ministry has suspended its operations for one year, and that during that period, the school's board, diocesan staff and volunteers will take a new look at the vision of the Diocese.

Bishop Wolfe reported that he has appointed as the new Archdeacon for the northern part of the Diocese, the venerable Monte Giddings. He also noted the death of Deacon Chrystle Whitaker, who worked to support the venerable Jim Upton during his illness and noted that she always exhibited a hope and confidence in God's ability to work in the life of the Diocese and its members.

The Bishop referred to Episcopal actions on his published list of Episcopal actions taken since June 26, 2006.

Bishop Wolfe requested a designation for the offerings received at the 147th Convention. Mrs. Schille moved, seconded by Mthr. Bloxsom, to recommend to Convention that offerings be divided equally for use locally for a homeless shelter in Wichita, nationally for the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund for ongoing needs from hurricanes Katrina and Rita and internationally in response to the appeal of the Bishop of Jerusalem for resources during a period of war. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council of Trustees reviewed the insurance proposal prepared on behalf of the health insurance task force by David Wetzler of SRA Benefits. The Bishop noted that he intends to send the report to Church Pension Fund to consider updating coverage offered by the Health Insurance Trust. Mr. Morrow moved, seconded by Mthr. Bloxsom, to support this action by the Bishop. The motion carried unanimously. There followed a discussion in which it was noted that the available health insurance plan through the Health Insurance Trust is a quality plan and not a mediocre health insurance plan upon which improvement needs to be made. It is, however, an expensive plan and one that might be improved by offering other options. Bishop Wolfe referred the report of the task force to the Administration and Personnel Committee for further consideration.

Fr. Munroe moved, seconded by Mthr. Bloxsom, to submit a proposed canonical amendment to the 147th Convention that would require all parishes and Diocesan institutions to

offer the Diocesan approved health insurance plan. The motion carried unanimously. Bishop Wolfe referred the drafting of a canonical amendment to the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

Bishop Wolfe noted that the wind, the tide and the elements continue to change in the Anglican communion. He continues to listen and pray and is deeply committed to the diverse center of the Episcopal Church.

Bishop Wolfe noted that the next meeting of the Council of Trustees will be September 19, 2006, at Grace Cathedral.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned with prayer at 1:45 p.m.

L. Franklin Taylor, Clerk