

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES ACTING AS STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF KANSAS, INC.**

December 6, 2016

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met as the Standing Committee of the Diocese at Bethany Place, Topeka and electronically by Zoom with members around the Diocese. The Rev. Foster Mays, President, convened the meeting at 9:55 a.m. with prayer.

Members of the Council of Trustees participating either in person or by Zoom:

Father Mays
The Reverend Sharon Billman
Mr. Jack Dutra
Mr. Tim Flynn
The Rev. A. Patrick K. Funston
The Rev. Robert Harris
Mr. Scott Howard
Mrs. Margaret LaRue
The Rev. Laurie Lewis
Mr. Steven Mann
Deacon Rex Matney

Advisor to the Council of Trustees participating was:

Mr. L. Franklin Taylor – Chancellor and Clerk.

The Rev. Canon Torey Lightcap, Canon to the Ordinary also participated.

After the opening prayer, Fr. Mays made some initial comments about the need to determine what type of episcopal leadership would be appropriate for the diocese during the transition from the 9th Bishop to the 10th Bishop of Kansas. He noted that it will be important to discuss the role of the bishop in the transition period before determining who is available. There followed a discussion of the role of a bishop as set out in materials provided by the Rt. Rev. Clay Matthews, Bishop for the Office of Pastoral Development and Managing Director of the College for Bishops. In the course of the discussion several parameters emerged:

1. The ordination process should continue to be managed as it has been during Bishop Wolfe's tenure, and it will be problematic to freeze the process or otherwise modify it during the transition period.
2. Fr. Funston noted that Diocesan staff currently reports primarily to the Canon to the Ordinary and that this could continue as it has been. There was a consensus that staffing could continue to be managed by the Canon to the Ordinary subject to oversight by the Council of Trustees as ecclesiastical authority for the Diocese.
3. There was a discussion of licensing of lay members of the Diocese for variety of roles, and it was generally agreed that this function could continue to be handled by Diocesan staff with oversight by the Council of Trustees as ecclesiastical authority.

There followed a discussion of the functions for which the Diocese would utilize a bishop provisional or an assisting bishop. Fr. Funston noted that it would be helpful to have the continued appearance of a bishop as leader of the Diocese, and that the lack of a bishop would tend to breed anxiety among both clergy and laypeople. There was a general consensus that it would be appropriate for someone to occupy the office of bishop. Mthr. Lewis noted that Bishop Edwin F. Gulick, Jr., assisted on a part-time basis in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth and that it would be interesting to know whether his relationship to that diocese was as a bishop provisional or an assisting bishop in order to better identify the needs of the Diocese of Kansas.

After extended discussion, Fr. Mays noted that he needed to clarify several issues with Bishop Matthews.

- Whether a bishop provisional can have jurisdiction limited in scope to specific episcopal functions.
- Description of the arrangement in the Diocese of Fort Worth for Bishop Gulick.
- Whether it will be possible for the Council of Trustees in its capacity as Standing Committee of the Diocese to call an assisting bishop who could be confirmed either as an assisting bishop or a bishop provisional at the 158th Convention of the Diocese currently scheduled for October 20-21, 2017.

Mthr. Louis closed the meeting with prayer. It was agreed that the Council of Trustees would convene as the Standing Committee of the Diocese by Zoom at 10:00 a.m. on December 13, 2016. It was noted that the Zoom technology records meeting where it is utilized and that the meetings could and should be archived.

Respectfully submitted:

L. Franklin Taylor, Clerk