

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

February 1, 2017

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc. met at Upton Hall, Bethany Place, Topeka, Kansas, on February 1, 2017 at the conclusion of its retreat. The Very Rev. Foster Mays, President, convened the meeting at 4:01 p.m. with prayer.

Members of the Council of Trustees present:

The Very Rev. Foster Mays
Mrs. Elizabeth Doll
Mr. Jack Dutra
Mr. Tim Flynn
Mr. Scott Howard
Mrs. Margaret La Rue
The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis
Mr. Stephan Mann
The Rev. Andrew O'Connor

The Rev. Canon Torey Lightcap, Canon to the Ordinary, was also present.

After the opening prayer, Fr. Mays noted that there were two items to be considered:

1. Adoption of the Theological Statement drafted by the Council of Trustees during its working retreat held January 31-February 1, 2017 at Upton Hall.
2. Approve the call of a new rector to St. David's, Topeka.

Mthr. Lewis moved that the Council of Trustees adopt the following Theological Statement to help guide the Council during the period of episcopal transition:

“We, the Council of Trustees, believe in and trust the God-given gifts that abide in the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. During this season of transition, we will not be fearful. Directed by the Spirit, together we joyfully walk with Jesus the road ahead.”

Mr. Dutra seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Fr. Lightcap reported that St. David's, Topeka has issued a call to the Rev. Vicki Lovely Smith to serve as Rector. Fr. Lightcap described the normal process by which a Letter of Agreement between a priest and parish is completed, noting that in the absence of a bishop diocesan, the Council of Trustees, acting as the Standing Committee, is the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Fr. Lightcap reported that it was the advice of the Diocesan Chancellor, Mr. L. Frank Taylor, that, for the purposes of completing the Letter of Agreement during the episcopal vacancy, references in such letters to “the Bishop” should be changed to “the Ecclesiastical Authority” and that Fr. Mays should sign the letter in his capacity as the President of the Council of Trustees.

Further conversation indicated that the Council of Trustees was comfortable with Fr. Lightcap additionally signing the Letter of Agreement in his role as Canon to the Ordinary with responsibility for overseeing the deployment of clergy.

Mrs. La Rue moved that the Council of Trustees acting as the Standing Committee and as its Ecclesiastical Authority approve the call of the Rev. Vicki Lovely Smith to serve as the Rector of St. David's, Topeka and direct the Very Rev. Foster Mays, as President of the Council of Trustees acting as the Standing Committee, and the Rev. Canon Torey Lightcap, as Canon to the Ordinary, to sign and complete the Letter of Agreement between St. David's and Mthr. Smith. Mr. Howard seconded the motion. There followed a brief discussion about procedures for handling similar situations during the term of the episcopal vacancy. The motion passed unanimously.

Fr. Mays thanked the members of the Council of Trustees present for their time, wisdom, and grace during the retreat.

The meeting was adjourned with a special dismissal prayer by Fr. Mays.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Andrew O'Connor, Acting Clerk