

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

March 18, 2020

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met by ZOOM on March 18, 2020. The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. with opening worship commemorating the ministry of Cyril of Jerusalem, during which she requested input and prayer requests from members.

Members of the Council of Trustees present by ZOOM were:

Bishop Bascom
The Rev. Casey Rohleder, President
Mr. Todd Allison
Deacon Suzi Drury
Mr. Larry Hannan
The Rev. David Jenkins
The Very Rev. Laurie Lewis
Mr. Stephen Mann
Deacon Rex Matney
Mr. Mike Morrow
The Rev. Andrew O'Connor
The Rev. Doreen Rice
Ms. Marilyn Trubey
Mr. Richard Wilson
Mrs. Myrline Winkler

Also present by ZOOM as advisors to the Council of Trustees:

Mr. L. Franklin Taylor, Chancellor and Clerk
Mr. Brian Geary, Treasurer

Also present by ZOOM were:

Mrs. Jeanne Atha, Executive Assistant to the Bishop
Mr. C. Jay Currie, Comptroller
The Rev. George Wiley, Canon Pastor
Ms. Karen Schlabach, Youth Missioner and Interim Campus Missioner
Mrs. Melodie Woerman, Director of Communication

Bp. Bascom presented minutes of the meetings of January 22, 2020, and February 19, 2020. Mr. Currie noted a correction to the minutes of January 22, 2020. Mr. Wilson moved, seconded by Mthr. Rohleder, to approve the minutes of January 2, 2020, as corrected. The motion carried unanimously. Corrections were noted to the minutes of February 19, 2020. Mthr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mthr. Rice, to approve the minutes of February 19, 2020, as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

Bp. Bascom called on Mr. Currie for the Treasurer's report. He presented the budgeted financial statement for February 2020. He noted that apportionment payments are good for this point in the year, with St. Paul's parish, Leavenworth, having paid its full share to date and St. John's parish, Wichita, having made a significant payment. Trinity parish, Atchison, paid its apportionment in full for the year after the end of February. He reviewed expenditures, noting that some items diverge from budgeted amounts due to timing. He is not concerned about the bottom line at this point, but cautious because parishes will likely be affected by lack of attendance during the coronavirus pandemic. The value of the Diocesan endowment is down about \$400,000.00 due to market conditions. The Diocese is current through the first quarter on its national church assessment.

Mr. Currie presented a proposed equity sharing agreement prepared by the Chancellor in accordance with Bishop Bascom's letter of agreement with the Diocese in connection with her purchase of a residence in Topeka, in which the Diocese invest \$100,000.00. Bishop Bascom left the meeting at 12:05 p.m. and Mthr. Rohleder assumed the Chair. After review of the proposed agreement and brief discussion, Deacon Matney moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, that the Council of Trustees approve the proposed equity sharing agreement, subject to any technical amendment that might be required by the lender. The motion carried unanimously. Bishop Bascom returned to the meeting at 12:10 p.m. and resumed the Chair.

Mr. Geary reported on the recent Finance Committee meeting at which questions about apportionment were discussed in connection with the coronavirus pandemic. The Committee's current posture is "don't panic, don't excuse." There was a consensus that the Finance Committee make an appropriate statement about creative and proactive ways to address this issue if that should become necessary. In addition, Fr. Wiley suggested that Bishop Bascom and Mthr. Rohleder ask members of the Diocese to be faithful in their giving. There followed an extended discussion, during which it was agreed that financial issues should be addressed separately from the Holy Week and Easter message. This issue will continue to be a focus of weekly Executive Committee meetings.

Mr. Geary also reported that the Finance Committee will conduct two reviews:

- Because Mize Hauser & Co., the historical auditing firm for the Diocese is tending away from audits of not-for-profits, the Committee will issue a Request for Proposal for auditing services for 2021 and beyond.
- The Committee will review the performance of State Street Global Advisors, the manager for the Diocesan endowment.

Bp. Bascom presented a request for consent to episcopal election:

- Mthr. Lewis moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as the standing committee of the Diocese, consent to the election of the Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry as Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Alabama. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Fr. Wiley reported that, while he is not in the office on Thursdays, he continues to check in with minister shepherds and task force leaders and to make pastoral contacts by telephone. Bishop Bascom conducts staff meetings by ZOOM on Thursdays.

Ms. Schlabach reported on Youth and Campus Ministry. Diocesan representatives participated in a youth Music Weekend and the college Alternative Spring Break with the Benedictine Service Corps in Omaha at the beginning of March. She is working on scheduling for the coming year, updating a combined website for Youth and Campus Ministry and conducting meetings online. There will be no events while school is out in response to the coronavirus pandemic and there was a consensus that the Middle School Weekend scheduled in May should be cancelled. She has cancelled open houses at Canterbury Houses in Lawrence and Manhattan and Megacamp registration has slowed.

Ms. Schlabach also reported that Patrick and Michael Funston have sold their house in Manhattan and purchased a house in Topeka, so that Michael Funston will be working from Topeka. Will Chaney has been accepted in the Graduate School at the University of Kansas and will be leaving his position with the Campus Ministry program.

Mthr. Lewis reported for the Task Force on Apportionment that an inventory of parish buildings indicates that, of 44 parishes, only 19 have buildings less than 75 years old.

The Council of Trustees recessed at 1:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m. Bishop Bascom presented her most recent statement on the coronavirus pandemic, circulated to Council members this morning. It was agreed that the statement is very appropriate and that the Bishop should continue to be as definitive as possible. Council members appreciated the fact that her statement was presented in language intended to be collaborative.

There followed a discussion of parish outreach ministries and specifically feeding ministries. It was agreed that CDC Guidelines should be followed and that parishes should engage in “feeding, but not gathering.”

There followed a discussion of resources for Holy Week and Easter. After an extended discussion, Bishop Bascom appointed a committee of Fr. O’Connor, Mthr. Rohleder, Mr. Hanan and Mrs. Woerman to work on a statement about resources for celebration of these important events.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on motion by Mr. Hannan, duly seconded and passed without dissent, it was adjourned with a dismissal by Deacon Matney at 1:50 p.m.



L. Franklin Taylor, Clerk