

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

April 22, 2020

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met by ZOOM on April 22, 2020. The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. with opening worship commemorating Earth Day and the ministry of John Muir and Hudson Stuck, 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
The Rev. Andrew O'Connor
The Rev. Doreen Rice
Ms. Marilyn Trubey
Mr. Richard Wilson
Mrs. Myrline Winkler

Members of the Council of Trustees absent were:

Deacon Rex Matney
Mr. Mike Morrow

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 March 18, 2020. With a spelling correction the minutes were, on motion duly made and passed without dissent, approved.

Bp. Bascom called on Mr. Currie for the Treasurer's report. He reviewed the balance sheet for the first quarter of 2020 and noted that the Diocesan endowment had lost about \$1.3 million in value since the first of the year. Apportionment is being paid with a few parishes lagging and some funds being applied after March 31, 2020. He also reviewed the income statement for the month ending March 31, 2020. Some expenditure items diverge from budgeted amounts due to timing. The Diocese has applied for and qualified for a Paycheck Protection Program loan from the SBA in the amount of \$150,300.00 from Corefirst Bank & Trust. There followed a discussion about the general economic situation as it is affected by the coronavirus pandemic. In response to a question, Mr. Currie noted that St. Paul's parish, Kansas City, has made some payment toward its apportionment and noted that, based on the parish's recently filed parochial report, its apportionment should be significantly reduced for 2021.

Bishop Bascom reported to the Council that ordinations to the diaconate and to the presbyterate will occur on or around June 13, 2020, with some departures, due to the coronavirus pandemic, from prior tradition:

- Ordinations will be conducted separately for each ordinand.
- Ordinands can state a preference for ordination at Grace Cathedral or at their home parish.
- Attendance will be limited to the Bishop, two priests, a representative from the ordinand's seminary and other invitees in a number not to exceed social distancing guidelines in effect at the time of the ordination.

Fr. O'Connor, as Chair of the Commission on Ministry, concurred with the Bishop's outline. There followed a discussion about virtual participation in the June ordinations and a celebration of new ministry for newly ordained priests and deacons when social distancing guidelines are relaxed based on sound medical advice.

There followed a discussion of candidates for ordination who have not yet satisfactorily completed General Ordination Examinations. The Bishop noted that in at least two cases, candidates were directed to do some make-up work to be followed by an oral examination prior to ordination. Fr. O'Connor presented candidates for approval for ordination:

- Mthr. Lewis moved that the Council of Trustees, acting as standing committee of the Diocese, approve Mr. Jennifer Allen of St. Michael's and All Angels, Mission, and General Theological Seminary for ordination to the transitional diaconate. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.
- Mthr. Lewis moved, that the Council of Trustees, acting as standing committee of the Diocese, approve Ms. Karen Deal of Grace Church, Winfield, for ordination to the vocational diaconate. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.
- Mthr. Rohleder moved, seconded by Mr. Mann, that the Council of Trustees, acting as standing committee of the Diocese, approve Ms. Yvonne Amanor-Boadu of St. Paul's, Manhattan, for ordination to the vocational diaconate. The motion carried unanimously.
- Ms. Trubey moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to defer the approval for ordination of Ms. Mary Donovan of Trinity, Lawrence, to the transitional diaconate to the May 20, 2020, meeting, pending completion of prerequisite work. After extended discussion, during which it was noted that approval by the Council of Trustees and approval by the Bishop would be based on different parameters, the motion

failed by a vote of 2-10. Mthr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mthr. Rohleder, that the Council of Trustees, acting as standing committee of the Diocese, approve Ms. Mary Donovan of Trinity, Lawrence, for ordination to the vocational diaconate. The motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Mann moved, seconded by Mthr. Rice, that the Council of Trustees, acting as standing committee of the Diocese, approve Deacon Rex Matney of Church of the Covenant, Junction City, for ordination to the priesthood. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Geary reported for the recent Finance Committee. The SBA loan described by Mr. Currie will produce less than the amount approved for the loan because current staffing (due to a vacancy and a retirement) is less than the 2019 staffing on which the maximum loan amount was based. He anticipates that the Diocese will draw only the amount of loan proceeds that can be forgiven under the Paycheck Protection Program. On motion by Fr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Wilson, the Council of Trustees unanimously approved a corporate resolution to borrow required by Corefirst Bank and Trust to authorize the SBA Paycheck Protection Plan loan.

Mr. Geary also noted that parochial reports are due from parishes no later than May 1, 2020. Mr. Currie is unable to provide corrections to or complete omissions in parochial reports as he has in some instances in the past because of the operation of the national church's new online program.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened by ZOOM at 12:50 p.m. Bishop Bascom presented a document entitled *Church Imagined Gathering* by the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas, outlining the reopening of churches after the coronavirus pandemic in four phases:

- I – Virtual worship and gatherings.
- II – Return to offices and continued mitigation.
- III – Lifting all physical distancing with protection.
- IV – Application of learnings and preparation for the future.

She then presented her *New Way(s) of Love 2020: Connecting a Christ's Body in Next Phases of Health Gathering*, in which she discussed similar phasing:

- Phasing back into gathering.
- Following civil leaders to guide when and how people may gather.
- Creative ways to live The Way of Love with one another in more intimate groups:
 - Diaconal ordinations as delineated earlier in the meeting.
 - Priestly ordinations following the same pattern at the appropriate time.
 - Episcopal visitations with Minster Teams but not to individual churches.
 - Parish worship that would include virtual services, small group gatherings and small group Eucharistic rotation.
 - Diocesan Convention using virtual communication and social distancing.

There followed an extended discussion. It was the consensus of the Council of Trustees that the appropriate approach to these issues would rely on the guidance of health care experts, that the proposed structure is viable and that it will be useful to have targets for activity levels even though they may need to be flexible. Because the issues of return to activity remain volatile, further definition was referred to the Executive Committee with input and advice from the Council of Deans.

Bishop Bascom noted that staff reports on mission and ministry of the Diocese would be deferred due to time constraints but that a written report on Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries and the Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry Event Calendar 2020-21 had been distributed. She suggested that the Council of Trustees adjourn to the following working groups, to report at the next scheduled meeting:

Apportionment Review

Mthr. Lewis
Mthr. Rice

Insurance/Pension Parity

Mr. Allison
Mr. Hannan

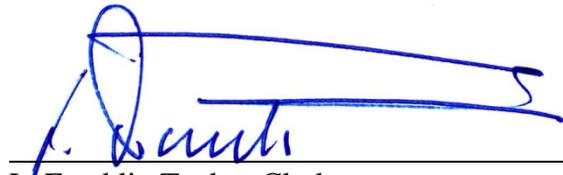
Bethany Place/Minsters

Mr. Mann
Deacon Drury
Mrs. Winkler
Fr. Jenkins
Ms. Trubey

St. John's, Wichita

Bp. Bascom
Chancellor Taylor
Mthr. Rohleder
Fr. O'Connor
Mr. Wilson

The Bethany Place/Minster working would be joined by Ms. Jennifer Allen to discuss her vision for Bethany Place in her capacity as Bishop's Curate for Mission. Bishop Bascom provided instructions for each working group. There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.



L. Franklin Taylor, Clerk