

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

**May 20, 2020**

The Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., met by ZOOM on May 20, 2020. The Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, Bishop and Chair, convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with prayer.

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 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

Members of the Council of Trustees absent were:

The Rev. David Jenkins

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

Bishop Bascom presented a written report of her activities by call area and a report of Episcopal actions and updates. She then presented her written report of meetings she and the COT working group consisting of Mthr. Rohleder, Mthr. Lewis, Fr. O'Connor, Mr. Wilson, the Treasurer and the Chancellor had with leadership of St. John's and St Bartholomew's parishes,

Wichita, on May 11 and May 13, respectively. She concluded that the leadership of St. John's parish is receptive to her proposal for restoring congregational health pursuant to Canon IV.7; she plans to meet with St. John's Vestry tomorrow to discuss her vision for an alternative model as a Mission Hub that owns its location in the urban center of Wichita and fulfills its obligation to serve the poor. St. Bartholomew's parish leadership was less receptive to imminent change and will likely continue as they are in the immediate future, although they will continue to use St. John's facility and will have a continuing relationship on that basis. Fr. O'Connor noted that the Bishop's summary was accurate and consistent with the Wichita Minister's focus.

Bishop Bascom presented ideas regarding the 161<sup>st</sup> Diocesan Convention considering the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. She suggested a one-day format that is a combination of:

- A session that is an expression of our unity in Christ: brief Bishop's address, worship, and discussion that can happen in-person regionally, some video sharing from across the diocese.
- A session that is strictly business, more dominated by the officers and includes voting.

She noted that staff has tallied numbers of delegates in each Convocation to begin to assess viability of plan and that the big question is finding a technological path to achieving this plan. We need to now pull together a strong and nimble ad hoc **Diocesan Convention 2020 Team**, including staff, but also outside leaders from diocese with helpful expertise. Fr. O'Connor noted that it will be important to deploy technology that works.

Bishop Bascom has met with Minister Shepherds to discuss plans for reopening parishes for worship and activities. The Diocesan plan fits different parishes differently and appears to be working well.

Bishop Bascom announced that she has appointed the Rev. Gar Demo Canon for Congregational Mission. In this capacity, he will participate with the Council of Deans and will work with parishes to help implement of mission activities. He will receive additional compensation from the Diocese in the same amount as Convocation Deans.

Bishop Bascom reported on parishes in transition:

- St. Aidan's, Olathe, has called the Rev. Tom Baker as its Rector, effective July 1, 2020.
- St. Martin's in the Field, Edwardsville—the Rev. Joe Alford is retiring, and the Bishop will look to appoint someone on a part-time basis.
- St. Stephen's, Wichita, is working on its parish profile.
- St. Paul's, Manhattan, is working on its parish profile.
- St. Paul's, Kansas City, has applied for a grant for a bilingual person to assist the Rev. Dixie Junk, its Priest in Charge.

Bishop Bascom left the meeting at 10:40 a.m. to participate in an online meeting of members of the House of Bishops. Mthr. Rohleder assumed the chair.

Mthr. Rohleder presented minutes of the meetings of April 22, 2020. Mr. Hannan moved, seconded by Mr. Mann that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mthr. Rohleder called on Mr. Currie for the Treasurer's report. Mr. Currie noted that a housing allowance for the Rev. A. Patrick Funston needs to be approved before compensation is paid to him in his new position as Canon to the Ordinary, which begins August 1, 2020. Mthr. Lewis moved, seconded by Fr. O'Connor, that the housing allowance for the Rev. A. Patrick Funston be set at 62.5% of his compensation. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Currie reviewed the Budgeted Financial Statement for April 2020 and noted that parishes have been faithful in forwarding apportionment payments. He expressed one concern upon which he will follow up but stated that revenue was otherwise in very good shape. He noted a partial draw on Diocesan Endowment income in connection with closing on the Bishop's house. Some expenditure items diverge from budgeted amounts due to timing. He is maintaining proceeds of the Paycheck Protection Program loan from the SBA in the amount of \$150,300.00 in a separate account for tracking purposes. All in all, the financial statement is very good for this time. Mother Lewis inquired about reporting for the Paycheck Protection Program loan. The Chancellor noted that the application for loan forgiveness became available from the SBA on Friday of last week and that, under current guidelines, it must be filed before October 31, 2020.

Mr. Geary presented the initial draft of the 2021 Mission Plan proposed by the Finance Committee, noting that the effective apportionment rate needed to fund the plan as presented would be 16.6%, a reduction from a little over 17% for the current year. Mr. Currie reviewed significant changes including:

- Increased endowment draw (based on 5% on the endowment value);
- Increased national church asking based on a change in financial activity from year to year;
- A new line item for the St. John's Urban Ministry Hub;
- An increase in the line item for Care of Creation.

Mr. Hannan inquired about the apportionment schedule; it was the consensus of the Council of Trustees that the apportionment schedule should be deferred until the Mission Plan is more fully developed. Fr. O'Connor noted a reduction in the line item for Allowance for Uncollectable Apportionment based on Mr. Currie's expectation in this area. There followed an extended general discussion about the proposed Mission Plan. Fr. O'Connor moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson that the proposed Mission Plan for 2021 be circulated to Convocations, Minsters and parishes for feedback and that the items discussed in this meeting be retained as a part of the feedback. The motion carried unanimously. It was agreed that final action to propose a Mission Plan to the 161<sup>st</sup> Convention would need to be taken at the August meeting.

The Rev. Gar Demo joined the meeting to report on Nourish Kansas City from his perspective as its Board Chair. He reported that the agency's CEO was dismissed at the end of 2018 due to mismanagement and staff was reduced. A subsequent audit determined that the mismanagement did not amount to fraud. The agency has repaid improperly used grants and satisfied other obligations. Fundraising and grants during 2019 and 2020 have stabilized the agency, which now has approximately \$290,000 in the bank, is pursuing its mission suitably and working on strategic development. He noted that a \$29,000 contribution from the Diocese in 2019 was critical in reaching this point and that the agency still operates as an Episcopal institution with 75% of its governing board affiliated with Episcopal parishes.

The Council of Trustees recessed at 11:20 a.m. and reconvened at 11:55 a.m. The Chancellor reported on requirements for the 161<sup>st</sup> Diocesan Convention:

- Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution requires that there be an annual meeting of Diocesan Convention in each calendar year. The Constitution neither authorizes nor prohibits a virtual convention, although it will be critical that the Convention is available to all clergy and lay delegates.
- Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution requires a celebration of Holy Communion at each meeting of Diocesan Convention.
- The required business of Convention consists of:
  - Nominations and Elections (Canons II.5.2/II.7).
  - Amendments to Constitution and Canons (Canon II.5.3).
  - Debatable Resolutions (Canon II.5.3).
  - Budget (Mission Plan).
  - Apportionment schedule (Constitution, Article III, Section 4).

The other activities at Convention are a part of the “community reunion” and are not subject to the same parliamentary formality.

Mr. Morrow inquired whether a decision has been made to have a virtual Convention. It was agreed that, while no decision has been made, planning needs to occur in case that option is needed. Mr. Morrow moved, seconded by Fr. O’Connor, to authorize planning for a virtual convention so that the Diocese is prepared if that option becomes advisable. The motion carried unanimously. It was agreed that a task force should be formed for this purpose and that it include the Chancellor, Mr. Morrow (as Parliamentarian of Convention), and Mrs. Woerman. It was suggested that the Rev. A. Patrick Funston (who will be Canon to the Ordinary before the Convention) should be involved. Mthr. Lewis and Mr. Wilson volunteered to serve as well.

Ms. Schlabach reported on youth and campus activities:

- Camp is canceled – the Camp Wood YMCA board made the decision last week. Registered participants have been notified via e-mail. The \$22,560 deposit will apply to 2021. Fees of \$11,822 will need to be refunded or applied to a future camp.
- The Diocese may offer a 3-4-day winter camp over Christmas break.
- She is working on how to elect youth delegates to Diocesan Convention.
- Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) is postponed to Summer 2021. She has a \$700 gift card from Southwest for airfare that should be available to use for the 2021 event. A \$350 deposit paid to the Episcopal Church for registrations should be refunded.
- Summer interns (Will Chaney, Anastasia Cunningham, Clarke Mortensen, Carson Avery, and Jonah Brandley) started May 18. They are working on virtual programming for June and some in-person day outdoor programs for July (with masks and social distancing). They will also be doing some formation around anti-racism in July.

Mr. Hannan provided a written report for the Insurance and Pension Parity Working Group’s meeting after the last Council of Trustees meeting. The Working Group recommended consideration by the Bishop and Executive Committee of language from the Sabbatical Policy of The Diocese of West Missouri, as this policy document is succinct and complete.

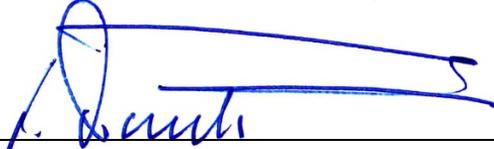
Mr. Mann reported for the Bethany Place Working Group, which also met after the last Council of Trustees meeting. The Working Group included Ms. Jennifer Allen, who discussed her vision for Bethany Place, including coordination with the Agatha Amani House in Kenya with

respect to demonstration gardens. When she begins work in July, she will continue to investigate and evaluate needs and interest of the community.

Mr. Mann also reported on the Alleluia Grant process for 2020. Deacon Fran Wheeler and the Rev. Mike Lloyd co-chair the Mission and Outreach Committee. The Committee has conducted no fund-raising in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic but has funds for some grants and will accept applications from Pentecost through August 1, 2020. The Committee will meet in August to evaluate applications and make grant recommendations.

Fr. Wiley provided his Canon Pastor's report. He continues to check in with minister shepherds and task force facilitators. He has provided support at Trinity, Lawrence, Trinity, El Dorado, St. Andrew's, Derby, St. Timothy's, Iola, St. Peter's, Pittsburg, and St. John's and St. Bartholomew's, Wichita. He is working with Ms. Schlabach and someone in the youth program on a boundary issue. he participated in a ZOOM meeting arranged by the Rev, Kelly Demo on spiritual communion. He noted that there is a lot of activity and accompanying stress around when and how to resume gathered worship in the Diocese. Some churches are considering resume dated in June or July and many plan to continue online worship after resuming gathered worship.

Mthr. Rohleder concluded the Council of Trustees meeting by leading An Order for Service at Noonday. After the liturgy, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.



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L. Franklin Taylor, Clerk