



DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
The Anglican Church of Canada

Your Synod Council at work

An online virtual meeting of the Synod Council of the Diocese of Ontario was held on Tuesday March 24, 2020. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Council heard a report from Jennifer Fisher (Wilkinson & Company) and from Peter Case (Chair of the Audit Committee) on the **Audited Consolidated Financial Statements for 2019**. 2019 saw the impact of closing the Church Bookroom and the settlement of a lawsuit being offset by gains in the Year End Fair Market Value of the Investment Fund to show a slight surplus for the year. The Statements were received and approved. Council thanked the Jennifer, the staff at Wilkinson's, Peter Case and the members of the Audit Committee.
- The **Spring deadline for grant & Loan applications** to the Anglican Foundation of Canada is April 1. Each diocese is permitted 3 applications per year (this does not include the special 2020 program) and no more than 2 in either the Spring or Fall. Council has received three applications for the Spring deadline. After reviewing and discussing each, Council passed a motion to support the applications from St Mark's, Barriefield, and Holy Trinity, Wolfe Island. The diocese will be able to submit one application from our churches for the September deadline and Fall grants.
- Following on the bishop's update around the pastoral and liturgical situation and guidelines around the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Executive Officer/Financial Officer, Alex Pierson, took Council through a **summary of the financial situation**, the ability to sustain the operations of the diocese, support for parishes and longer term potential impacts. The diocese will continue to process payroll each month for clergy and lay employees as it does now. At this point there is no intention of layoffs for clergy or lay employees in churches or at the diocesan level. Churches will need to continue to meet their obligations, particularly for payroll. Given the current financial market situation (the Toronto Stock Exchange is down 35% since the start of 2020), the diocese and churches are asked to keep withdrawals from the diocesan Investment Fund to the minimum required where at all possible. Wardens will be asked to provide financial forecasts (including withdrawals from the Investment Fund) so the diocese can best manage and deal with individual church situations—especially as the global and local Pandemic situation evolves and changes. The warden & treasurer online meeting last week was well attended and a weekly “drop in” online session for wardens, treasurers and clergy will be held in order to provide live updates, answer questions and engage discussion.

The next meeting of Synod Council is scheduled for Tuesday April 28. It will be an online meeting.

The approval of the minutes of the March 24 meeting are pending. For questions about Synod Council, please contact Alex Pierson, Diocesan Executive Officer, by email at apierson@ontario.anglican.ca or by phone at 613-544-4718.