

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO  
SYNOD COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, November 26, 2019, 6:00pm  
MINUTES**

**Opening Devotions** were led by Heather Grimshaw, with readings and prayers for the Tuesday after the Last Sunday After Pentecost: the Reign of Christ, and for the week prior to the First Sunday in Advent.

**Present:** Bishop Michael Oulton, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, Anne Patterson, Don Bailey, Michael Read, Trish Miller, Robin Jones, Valerie Kelly, Heather Grimshaw, Viren Oogarah, Maurine Butler, Don Davidson, Joseph Burnham, James Young,

**On the Bridge:** Kate McLean

**Regrets:** Bill Clarke, Ada Clifton, Nancy Beale, Peter Cory

**Agenda Review and Adoption  
Adopted**

**Chair**

**Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update**

**Chair**

- Clergy Conference was held at Providence Spirituality Centre for 1 ½ days: Climate discussion, Biblical and Theological reflection, practicing items in the life of the parish, and to designate the seasons of creation beginning from Sept. The conference welcomed Chris Ballard, an active Christian and former Minister in the Ontario Government. Good discussion took place in the afternoon. Dr. Bill Morrow did bible reflections. Second day was spent working through diocesan and policy and actions.
- Rev Harold Miller, formerly of Rockport and Gananoque, passed away on Monday, Nov 25, of a sudden cardiac event in Pennsylvania. Thanks for the life and ministry of Harold.
- Bishop George, currently in hospital with pancreatitis; hopes to be home by the weekend.
- Hold Jonathan Askwith in our prayers – he is off on leave at the moment. Tim Coleman is providing coverage in the interim.
- Deacon Peter Schaub intends to retire as Vocational Deacon but continues as honorary assistant with St. James'
- Ordination to the priesthood of AJ Cottreau was celebrated at St. George's Cathedral on November 17, 2019 at 4pm. AJ will continue as Assistant at Parish of St. Lawrence, Brockville
- Resignation has been received from Rev Haynes Hubbard to relocate to Cairo in the new year, to a parish serving ex-patriots along with Somali refugees; the Bishop invited us to keep Haynes and his wife Susan and their son, Caspian, in our prayers
- Celebration of new ministry was held for Rev. Jeff O'Hare, Christ Church (Belleville) on October 6
- Bishop's Letter regarding his decision on Same Sex Marriage was sent to all parishes after the Bishop's statement following the Special Synod of October 22; in response to the policy, two applications (St. George's (Kingston) and St. Mary Magdalene (Picton) have been received, requesting permission to be authorized to perform same sex marriage.
- Georgina Stewart has been appointed Deacon in Charge at St. Paul's Sydenham

**Approval of Minutes – September 24, 2019**

**MOTION:**

**DDavidson/APatterson**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES of September 24, 2019 be approved as presented**

**CARRIED**

**Approval of Special Council Minutes – October****MOTION:****BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF October 26, 2019 be approved as presented****VOogarah/DBailey****CARRIED****Business Arising from the Minutes****Chair****None****Inter-Diocesan Learning Community****Bishop/DEO/AMP**

Alex (DEO) with Wayne were approached over a year ago by Dave Robinson from Diocese of Toronto. Dave approached them about IDLC, a global process/toolkit originating in the UK. It's a facilitated process focused on *shaping mission*, collaboratively. This is a four-session program over three years. A 'group-think collaborative learning process' which seeks the principles underlying practices. Phases of process (3): *what is, what could be, what will be* forming The Realities. The end result will be a diocese that is more mission-shaped. The process looks at: strategy, structures, authority, deployment, development & training and finance.

Wayne continued to detail the 3-year Mission Goals; with a nine-month Mission Action Plan for the Diocese of Ontario:

1. Major diocesan conference (2021)
2. Growing Reconciliation Ministry
3. Clerical and Lay Training Leadership
4. Creating a Culture of Gratitude – intentional practice of thanking people
5. Evangelism and Church Plants, e.g. Ministry Centre in Kingston

Next Gathering for the IDLC will be in Winnipeg in 2020. The third gathering will be on the East coast. The fourth gathering will be at the Diocese of Ontario in 2021.

The Bishop continued noting the three of them (Alex, Wayne & Bishop) were part of a meeting in Winnipeg – interacting with members from other dioceses - for a concentrated period of time to engage in discussion and form a plan; this is an on-going process. The Bishop wants to inculcate this process into the Diocese through Synod Council and looks forward to receiving feedback from Synod Council on the nine-month action plan. The process will continue in Winnipeg, building teams; individuals are accountable to others on the team. An Executive Board of Synod Council was formed to consider taking IDLC into reality, with the goal of a more mission-oriented and engaged diocese. Members: Robin Jones, Anne Patterson, Doug Green, Audrey Dolizsny.

**New Ministry****Bishop**

New Ministry Fund – funds are now available with the sale of church property. The Executive Board is to consider how parishes can benefit from this fund and return to Synod Council with recommendations.

The Bishop noted a new version of a clerical appointment in the Parish of Lakes & Locks. Following an unsuccessful attempt to fill the appointment, the Bishop has invited Wayne Varley to provide half time ministry on a temporary basis. This opportunity frees up diocesan money as a result and provides an opportunity to bring a person on a contractual basis to assist with the facilitation of the IDLC process. Wayne's position as Archdeacon of Program and Ministries continues on a part-time basis. Developing a contract position now needed; the Executive Board to consider this.

**MOTION: To agree to develop a plan around the budgeted funds to be directed to the Contract position related to the IDLC Plan.**

**RJones/APatterson  
CARRIED**

**Reconciliation Group Update**

**Michael Read**

Next week meeting is the group's meeting but at present they are pursuing a Lenten program developed out of Doctrine of Discovery (national website) with study guide for parish. Reconciliation-focused. Michael had talked to Ian Ritchie about global heating, climate emergency and the Reconciliation group wants to pick-up on those issues and involve Chris Ballard.

**Diocese of Ontario Foundation**

**Bill Clarke**

Bill advised that the Foundation board is meeting in the next two weeks and will provide a full report at the January meeting of Synod.

**Stewardship Update**

**Trish Miller**

Jane Kirkpatrick attended a networking meeting in Toronto – the main speaker spoke on generosity assessment – the Lutherans brought a workshop on Generous Giving – a statistical report was presented from the House of Bishop noting areas of growth. Doug Cowley is retiring from the Stewardship Committee in December as he devotes more time to St. Paul's Centre in Delta. – Stewardship one-minute videos will be available during Advent through the e-news "what is stewardship to you" as the theme. Trish suggested a thank you be included in the annual tax receipt/letter. Trish also suggested sharing good news stories supported by the new ministry funding in *Dialogue* have a write up on 'Stewardship in our Diocese'. In relation to the M&M contract, St. James has expressed interest.

**Worship Committee Update**

**M Read**

Worship Committee is trying to develop a way of assessing special dates to commemorate throughout the calendar year as the liturgical year gets congested. Suggestion was made that a 'calendar' of dates be put on the website. The committee is currently preparing worship for the Clergy Retreat in the Spring. Michael and the Worship Committee were thanked for all the worship planning in the recent liturgical events. Suggestion that worship committee include social justice of women as well.

**Approval of Sale of St. James Tweed**

**DEO**

Building is now up for sale, after the legal separation of the church and cemetery. Having worked through a number of situations, there is a current offer on the church *as is* for 82,500; net proceeds would flow into the New Ministry Fund.

**MOTION:**

**JYoung/DDavidson**

**That Synod Council approve the sale of the church property at Tweed**

**CARRIED**

**2020 Diocesan Insurance Program**

**DEO**

Alex gave the powerpoint presentation of the work completed over the past year. Insurance is provided to churches via Ecclesiastical Insurance; covers liability and crime coverage. AON is broker. At present the challenge is how liability insurance is distributed. The costs are not transparent. High value

properties are subsidizing the lower value properties. There is also a lack of good stewardship of properties. An assessed in May was to change the allocation of liability premiums. Proposed policy: every church pay AON Premium as Base. Subsidization as such occur within the Insurance Program (not the Diocesan Budget). All properties not actively and regularly used for worship or ministry should bear the full cost of insurance. Implement for the 2020 fiscal year. Communication should be made now for 2020 budget planning in parishes. It was recommended this be reviewed in the Fall of 2020 for 2021.

**MOTION: To put the current proposed policy in place and offer the insurance program to the churches.**

**JBurnham/DBailey  
CARRIED**

**Budget (Received for information)**

End of Sept running a significant surplus, and will continue to the end of the year. However the Church Bookroom loss will figure in this surplus. (See Operating Fund page for analysis)

**Church in North Hastings**

Alex noted the history of North Hastings, with receivables over \$250,000. The church/people made some significant changes including selling the rectory. It started 2019 owing \$26,000, payments have been kept up to date, reduced balance now owing.

**MOTION: BE it resolved that Synod Council accepts the proposed plan to eliminate the amounts owing from the Parish of North Hastings. Specifically, the Diocese will forgive the current year interest (appx \$700) and match every \$3 paid by the Parish with forgiveness of \$1. This should see the outstanding amount of approximately \$14,000 settled by year-end and the parish beginning 2020 with a clean slate.**

**MRead/DBailey  
CARRIED**

Synod Council congratulates and thanks the churches for their hard work and perseverance over many years in recovering a difficult situation.

**Consent Agenda - no items identified**

**Other Business**

Set a date for Executive Board possibly Dec 6 in the afternoon.

**January 2020 Meeting – Input on Agenda Items for the Regular Meeting**

Having Doors Committee at January meeting (Mimi)

**Meeting Evaluations** – distributed for members to complete

**Final Announcements:**

Bishop expressed blessings and best wishes to all for the Christmas season.

Diocesan Open House will be Dec 19 from 1-5pm at the Diocesan Centre.

Bishop's Levee on Jan 1 will be at St. Paul's church Brockville 2pm Evensong service, with refreshments to follow

**Adjournment and Grace** – Viren Oogarah moved that the meeting adjourned, followed by the Grace said by all.

**Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY, January 28, 2020 6 pm**  
**Christ Church Cataraqui**  
**Devotions: Bill Clarke**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Bishop Michael Oulton**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Heather Grimshaw (Lay Secretary)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**