

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
 SYNOD COUNCIL
 Tuesday, January 28, 2020 – 6PM
 Christ Church, Cataraqui and Online
 MINUTES**

Attendance: Mark Hauser, Bishop Michael Oulton, Wayne Varley, Anne Patterson, Robin Jones, Viren Oogarah, Don Bailey, Maureen Butler, Bill Clarke, Lynn Mitchell, Shane Mackay, Joe Burnham, James Young, Kate McLean, Valerie Kelly, Heather Grimshaw

Regrets: Don Davidson, Doug Green

Guests: Mimi Merrill, Jill Burkholder, Ruth Oliver (DOORS); Dave Robinson (Diocese of Toronto)

On-line: Michael Read, Nancy Beale, Peter Cory, Ada Clifton, Pauline Eskerod, Alex Pierson

Opening Devotions:

Bill Clarke

Bill's reflection focused on our work in and for the Kingdom of God, which is bigger than any one congregation, parish, diocese or country. He noted "Kingdom moments" in his life and ministry. A prayerful reflection of Oscar Romero, murdered Archbishop of El Salvador, was read, noting that one's labour in the Lord is not in vain. Following this, Bill closed with a prayer.

Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

- Include Pandemic Preparedness Plan

Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Chair

Bishop Michael reported the following:

- With the departure of Rev. Haynes Hubbard from St. Mark's (Barriefield), Rev. Sue Beare has been appointed Interim-Priest-in-Charge
- The ordination to the priesthood of Georgiana Stewart will take place March 29th
- The dis-establishment and deconsecration of St. Paul's (Flinton) will take place March 22, 4pm; St. Paul's is part of the Parish of Land o Lakes.
- Liana Gallant, of the Parish of Lakes & Locks, is Diocesan representative for PWRDF
- Consecration and seating of The Rev. Todd Townshend took place Saturday, Jan 25, at St. Paul's Cathedral (London); Todd is a 3rd generation bishop
- Prayers continue to be asked for Colin, the husband of Archbishop Anne Germond, who continues to receive cancer treatment
- The Bishop will be taking vacation Feb 1-8

Approval of Minutes – November 26, 2019 Meeting

Chair

MOTION

RJones/DBailey

BE IT RESOVED that the Minutes of November 26, 2019 be accepted.

Note that regrets were sent from Lynn Mitchell, that Bill was on-line. While he not sent regrets, Shane Mackay indicated he had missed the meeting. Correction to the name Kuhlmann – two "n". The Bishop

noted that Rev. Tim Kuhlmann needed to step away as interim and a new interim, Rev. Ron Hunt, has been appointed interim in the Parham-Sharbot Lake charge.

The Minutes were accepted with changes.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

Chair

None

Doors Update

Mimi Merrill/Jill Burkholder

Mimi gave a presentation up-dating Synod Council on the 2019 “year in review” following the pdf hand-outs made available prior to the meeting.

Jill Burkholder presented the 3-year budget funding proposal.

Wayne noted the missional benefits of DOORS and expressed thanks for the commitment and dedication of Mimi and the entire DOORS committee.

The Bishop spoke of the community partnerships across the diocese and the significance he feels in signing the sponsorship agreement forms. On behalf of Synod Council, the Bishop thanked the committee of DOORS for their commitment.

Inter-Diocesan Learning Community

Dave Robinson/Bishop

Dave’s presentation up-date: IDLC is a process started in Britain, with a goal of moving the mission-shaped orientation forward. Part of this process is the recognition that a diocese also needs to orient itself with a mission-shaped approach. Dave was part of a contingent that went to Liverpool in 2013 to experience the IDLC process and brought it back to Canada. IDLC is a learning community, sharing information and ideas, challenges and opportunities. It looks for principles, not models, and solutions. An overall picture: discern what is working, not working. Then bring into the missional field “thinkers” to explore options to pursue over a period of time. Result: a 9-month action plan that operates out of a defined matrix. The Realities... What is... What could be... What will be... resulting in a change of diocesan culture and then, parishes with a local focus, with a goal of building a Christ-centered community. Bishop Michael thanked Dave for his presentation and energy. The Bishop welcomed sharing of ministry initiatives throughout the diocese. On Jan 30, the Bishop’s Advisory Council meets, with Dave, to further develop this at the diocesan level. Bishop Oulton had invited chairpersons of Diocesan committees to lunch in early January to share this process.

Executive Board New Ministry

Robin Jones

- New Ministry Fund Framework: Robin provided the following up-date: the ministry fund is being funded by assets of church & real estate which have been sold; the board has an *agreement in principle at present*, namely, two grant opportunities:
 1. **Reach Grants:** a one-time grant to further church ministry in a meaningful way. Specific considerations: ministries related to reconciliation to build and improve reconciliation with people, nature, community, social justice issues (poverty, human trafficking, etc.). Robin outlined the draft framework of application.

2. **Stretch Grants:** following on Reach Grants: a ministry requiring additional funding to realize that ministry; considered second stage funding. And is also a one-time only grant.

- Synod Council approved clarification of the framework and invited further up-dates
- Community Engagement Co-ordinator Position – the job description was made available – this is a 9-month pilot position, geared to developing community links and establishing ministry at the Good Shepherd Legacy Centre, 3 Adelaide St., Kingston ON K7K 1Y3 (Cowdy & Adelaide Sts). Replication of the process is expected. Start date is April 1, 2020.

MOTION:

JBurnham/VOogarah

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the position of Community Engagement Coordinator be approved and for the Diocese to move forward with advertising the position.

CARRIED

Legal Matter

DEO

MOTION:

RJones/LMitchell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the session be moved in camera.

CARRIED

MOTION:

DBailey/APatterson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the session be moved out of camera.

CARRIED

Finance Update

CFO

Alex noted (from the VIA train) that the auditors are scheduled for next week. It is expected the audited financial statements will be presented at the March meeting of Synod Council.

Appointment of Synod 2020 Planning Committee

Bishop

The Bishop shared the appointment of the 2020 Synod Planning Committee:

- Co-Chairs: Audrey Doliszny and Michael Read
- Secretaries of Synod: Heather Grimshaw and Valerie Kelly
- Scrutineers: Anne Patterson, Trish Miller and Jim Hopkins; Members of the Diocesan staff as support scrutineers

Motion:

RJones/LMitchell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the election of scrutineers be approved.

CARRIED

Diocese of Ontario Foundation

Bill Clarke

Bill indicated that the appeal has not garnered the results hoped for. Invitations have gone out to parishes if they wish a member of the Foundation to speak at a parish council or on a Sunday. The Foundation will be reaching out to community donors. Prior to Christmas the amount raised was approximately \$1,000. Bishop Michael encouraged the Foundation to go into parishes. Communications Officer, Mark Hauser, is working on a video of the Foundation's work.

Reconciliation Group Update

Michael Read

The Reconciliation group met recently. Michael noted the movie, *The Doctrine of Discovery*, and its associated Lenten program is now available on the Diocesan website and in the e-news. Reconciliation includes environmental justice with shared initiatives and advocacy for parishes. In addition, Michael reported that the on-line program by the Montreal Diocese Theological College, is being facilitated in the parish of St. Lawrence (Brockville).

Stewardship Update

Trish Miller

Stewardship information has been shared through the Diocesan e-news as well as through the Diocesan YouTube channel, i.e., draft thank you letter to accompany income tax receipts; advent reflections. Trish thanked Wayne Varley for sharing stewardship reflections throughout the year. She noted that St. James (Kingston) is not moving forward contracting with M&M, Trish did note that opportunity and funding to partner with M&M continues to exist. In regards to missional stewardship, approval for funding to subsidize the School of Lay Development (Ottawa) - with focus on worship & reflections with churches – is taking place at St. Paul's (Brockville) & in the Parish of Leeds Grenville. Upon completion, what was learned will be taken into parishes. A reminder that funding for Natural Church Development exists, the Diocese will pay half of the cost. Finally, an initial draft of funding sources will be available in the coming weeks and will be made available on the Diocesan website under Mission, and Stewardship.

Worship Committee Update

Michael Read

Michael reported the on-going development of a calendar of feast days due to increased overlap of worship days. The Worship Committee continues to plan for the ordination of Georgiana Stewart, the annual Clergy retreat and will begin preparing for the Fall Synod. The Bishop thanked Michael and the Worship Committee for their work. Clarification was sought on what this meant for daily private prayer.

Pandemic Preparedness Plan – considering the Corona Virus presently spreading around the world, it was asked if the SARS protocol would be up-dated and made available. The Bishop will look into this.

Consent Agenda – Polk Cemetery Investment – for information: the municipality in which the Polk Cemetery is located (just north of Portland) assumed ownership of the cemetery and has asked the Diocese for the \$1200 in the investment fund allocated to the cemetery. The funds will be given to the Municipality.

Other Business

Wayne Varley announced a pastoral care session to be held at St. Paul's (Westport) in April & May and indicated this was open to the community.

Robin Jones noted the National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is Feb 22.

February 2020 Meeting – Input on Agenda Items for the Regular Meeting

Meeting Evaluations – distributed, filled out and returned

Adjournment was moved by Bill Clarke and seconded by Viren Oogarah at 8:30pm

The Grace was said in unison.

The February meeting is cancelled as it lands on Shrove Tuesday.

Next meeting:

March 24, 2020 – 6PM

Christ Church, Cataraqui

Devotions:

Bishop Michael Oulton

Rev. Valerie Kelly, Clerical Secretary

Date