

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO**  
**SYNOD COUNCIL TUESDAY JUNE 23, 2020**  
**ONLINE ONLY**  
**6:00 pm Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Bishop Michael Oulton, Alex Pierson, Kate McLean, Bill Clarke, Vireen Oogarah, Don Davidson, Trish Miller Wayne Varley, Robin Jones, Joseph Burnham, Lynn Mitchell, Heather Grimshaw, Anne Patterson, Michael Read, Maureen Butler, Charles Morris, Peter Case, Unknown caller, James Young, Garth Allen

**Guests:** Alex Thesberg, Diane Berlet (members of Friends of St. Alban's)

**Regrets:** Nancy Beale, Shane Mackay, Peter Cory

**Opening Devotions:**

**Anne Patterson**

Anne opened with a reflection of living in the pandemic and our search for discerning God's plan with reference to Scripture passages. She spoke of various ways the churches/congregations have remained in connection with one another. Closed with a prayer.

**Agenda Review and Adoption**

**Chair**

Adopted as circulated.

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

**Chair**

- St. James Church (Parham) was destroyed by fire on the weekend of June 6-7, 2020; continue to hold the community and parishioners in prayer
- Parish of Lakes and Locks, is now being served by Wayne Varley as Interim-Priest-in-Charge
- St. Mark's (Barriefield), Bishop's Advisory Council meets tomorrow to review applications for the position of Incumbent
- The Bishop reminded Synod Council that we (church) continue to be connected despite being unable to physically gather
- There is a weekly Friday call-in by the Diocese to Wardens, Treasurers & Clergy of the Diocese as we progress through the pandemic (COVID-19); as well, each Tuesday there is a meeting with the Ecclesial Province of Ontario, including Bishops, CEOs and DEOs; a phased-approach to re-opening church buildings has been established with the Red Stage beginning June 29; the Amber stage will begin in September as permitted by the KFL&A Health Unit; the Green phase will be implemented in due course. Each diocese will implement phases according to their specific situation
- Bishop Michael acknowledged and thanked clergy & lay leaders in the Diocese for their ingenuity and commitment over the course of the pandemic
- Bishop Michael also extended thanks to Diocesan staff and their contributions; the team meets daily

**Approval of Minutes – April 28, 2020 Meeting****Chair****MOTION:****BClarke/TMiller****BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of April 28, 2020 be accepted as presented.****CARRIED****Business Arising from the Minutes****Chair**

-no business arising

**Friends of St Alban's Adolphustown – MOU/Lease****DEO****Friends of St Alban's**

Alex introduced the discussion with a short background history; the vestry voted to disestablished in 2018. Since that time, Friends of St. Alban's has engaged in dialogue with the Diocese about the building's future. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being proposed between the Diocese of Ontario (Seller) and the Friends of St. Alban's (Purchaser) effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Within that year, the Purchaser intends to purchase St. Alban's Church. Details are outlined in the MOU. A lease is being considered in the interim.

Friends of St. Alban's is seeking charitable status. Both Corporate by-laws and a Board of Directors have been established. The Business Plan 2020 was circulated prior to the meeting outlining the Mission and Planned Activities for 2020. A Strategic Plan is being developed along with fund-raising ideas.

A powerpoint presentation provided a more detailed history of the congregation from 1784 with the United Empire Loyalists (UEL) landing in Adolphustown. A memorial church (St. Alban's) was built in 1884 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing. Sixty-four very specific and unique memorial tiles were created for people who had pledged funds for the building of the church. The stained-glass windows also bear significance. An annual UEL service continues. Friends of St. Alban's goals is to make the building a social hub/community centre to build on community engagement. It was noted there is considerable expressions of interest from various benefactors.

**MOTION:****DDavidson/APatterson****BE IT RESOLVED to authorize Alex Pierson to execute the MOU & the lease.****CARRIED**

The Bishop thanked members of Friends of St. Alban's for the very informative powerpoint presentation and for joining the meeting of Synod Council. Axel Thesberg thanked Alex for his contributions for his cooperation and assistance in getting to this stage. The Bishop assured Axel and Diane of on-going prayers and is looking forward to hearing more over time.

**St Paul's Flinton****Bishop**

St. Paul's (Flinton) is part of the Parish of Land O'Lakes. The congregation has voted to de-consecrate the building. A service of de-consecration has been postponed due to the pandemic. At that time, the Diocese will become responsible for the building. Bishop Michael welcomes plans to celebrate the ministry of the church when able. Several parties interested in purchasing the church building.

**MOTION:****RJones/TMiller**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT once St. Paul's has been de-consecrated the building be declared disused; at which time the building may be sold.**

**CARRIED****St. James Parham****DEO**

Alex provided an up-date on the crime scene - involving fire and shootings – in Parham in which St. James church as burned. The OPP and Fire Department were all on site along with the Bishop, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley and Bill Clarke, and the insurance adjustor, who will also investigate. Considering the tragedy prayers were requested for the parish, the community as well as for the perpetrator. The church bell was about the only item that was salvageable. The church was 133 years old. At present, the site has been demolished. There are three choices available to the congregation from the insurance company: build a new church, build other type of building (ie, community hall), accept the monetary value of the building. This is a small and older congregation. The Bishop highlighted the notable care and sensitivity of the first responders to the community. Mark Hauser is creating a video history for archival purposes. Long time parishioner Lois Webster was [interviewed](#) and shared the significance of the church to her.

**September 2020 Anglican Foundation Applications****DEO**

Three applications are possible per year per diocese. Two applications were received in the Spring. Due to the pandemic, there may be insufficient funds available. After discussion of the three submissions, Synod Council approved support from St. Mary Magdalene, Picton, for a new roof. This is the third and final application our diocese can submit to the Foundation in 2020. St. John's (Wapoos) will be encouraged to apply to the Diocesan Anglican Foundation for financial support.

**MOTION:****MRead/LMitchell**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the application by St. Mary Magdalene be recommended to go forward to the Anglican Foundation.**

**CARRIED**

**Legal Update****DEO**

Alex noted the Statement of Claim - related to the criminal matter of John Galliene – which began two years ago will proceed. The estate of the person who raised the suit has died. The Diocese has engaged Linda Phillips-Smith, LLP, to begin the legal process toward mediation. Both the Diocese and the Cathedral and named in the suit.

**May 2020 Operating Financials****CFO**

Alex presented the end of May financials along with the forecast for the balance of 2020. The reduction in a number of areas of spending due to the COVID-19 pandemic are resulting in a projected surplus for the year.

**Synod 2020****Michael Read  
Chancellor**

Michael presented an overview of the need to consider the postponement of the biennial and Constitutionally-mandated Synod. He and co-chair, Audrey Doliszny, met with Diocesan leadership and consulted with the chancellor, Garth Allen, to discuss deferment of Synod considering the pandemic. Venues need to be notified as soon as possible. Considering the uncertainty of the progress of the pandemic COVID-19, it is not safe to follow through with a meeting of 200 people in an enclosed space. Garth spoke to the Constitutional requirements. Various committees, former Chancellor Roy Conacher and Provincial Chancellor Jean Bedard were consulted for what's appropriate constitutionally. Bishop Michael thanked the co-chairs for their work in planning for Synod and asked that his thanks be extended to the Agenda Planning Group.

**Whereas:**

- 1. An order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act of the Province of Ontario currently restricts the size of a gathering for the purposes of conducting religious services, rites or ceremonies and of gatherings for other purposes (such as a business or governance meeting);**
- 2. The Regular Session of Synod scheduled for October of 2020 would have more than 200 people in attendance and would, therefore, violate the law of the Province of Ontario as it now stands;**
- 3. Under Canon 2 of the Diocese of Ontario the "Diocesan Synod Council shall exercise generally the executive powers of the Synod between regular sessions of same, except those of legislative character";**

**MOTION:****MRead/MButler**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regular Session of Synod scheduled for October 2020 be postponed to such time as the Regular Session of Synod can be practicably held after Easter of 2021 and at such time as**

**the holding of the Regular Session of Synod would not violate the laws of Ontario or create a health risk for those persons attending such re-scheduled meeting of Synod in the opinion of the Chief Medical Officer of the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Health Unit. Synod Council, as currently constituted, continues, unless a member chooses to withdraw.**

**CARRIED**

**COVID-19 Pandemic – Status and Support**

**PFRT  
(Pandemic Financial Response Team)**

The Team dealing with the current financial issues are: Peter Case, Charles Morris, Michael Read, Robin Jones, Wayne Varley and Alex Pierson.

The team presented a detail analysis of the financial impacts our churches have experienced since the March closure of our buildings, together with a proposal on how to provide support tailored to the specific situation regarding a number of churches that have experienced large losses of income and with limited financial resources to fall back on. Council approved the proposal, which includes consideration of these factors along with the church's ministry & mission and future direction. Wayne spoke to the *Ministry and Mission Survey*, which is founded on the Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church. The survey is based on the "Healthy Churches Handbook" by Robert Warren. The presentation continued with a listing of common characteristics of healthy churches. An early draft version of the survey was sent to a few parishes to test its efficacy. This program will be in effect for third quarter (July, August, September), with applications being accepted in early October. It will be communicated to church leadership in the coming weeks.

**MOTION:**

**RJones/MRead**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council:**

- 1. Accepts the Report of the Pandemic Financial Response team**
- 2. Directs that the program be communicated to church leadership (Wardens, Treasurers, Clergy) for their consideration**
- 3. Directs that the program be put in place for Third Quarter (July, August, September) with applications being accepted during the first 15 days of October**
- 4. Requests the PFRT to accept, review and provide recommendations on the program for presentation and final decision at the October meeting of Synod Council**
- 5. Directs the Financial Officer to prepare a recommendation for Synod Council on the sourcing of funding to support the recommendation of the PFRT at the October meeting of Synod Council**

**CARRIED**

The Bishop extended his thanks to those involved in creating and planning this survey.

**Consent Agenda (no items currently identified)**

The roof at St. Thomas (Kingston) needs replacing, with much of the funds to do so already raised however will need approval once plans are in place. (Bill Clarke)

**Other Business**

-none

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

**Meeting Evaluations** – will be distributed

**Adjournment & The Grace** - Bill Clarke moved adjournment of the meeting, seconded by Trish Miller, at 8:25pm.

**Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

**6 pm**

**Anticipated to be Online**

**Devotions: Trish Miller**

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Bishop Michael Oulton

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Rev. Canon Valerie Kelly, Clerical Secretary

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Date