

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, September 22, 6: 00pm
MINUTES**

Present: Bishop Oulton, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, Bill Clarke, Michael Read, Joe Burnham, Viren Oogarah, Anne Patterson, Maureen Butler, Pauline , Trish Miller, Robin Jones, Nancy Beale, Kate McLean, Pauline Eskerod, Valerie Kelly, Heather Grimshaw.

Via phone:

Regrets: Garth Allen, Ada Clifton, Peter Cory, Lynn Mitchell

Opening: At 6pm Bishop Oulton opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to Synod Council who was connected as well by video or telephone. Welcome to this weird and wonderful world!

Opening Devotions: given by Trish Miller – This being the first day of Fall Trish spoke on the Season of Creation, that is emphasized in the readings, a daily call that’s part of our litany. The five Sundays in the Season of Creation includes Issues about climate and justice. The reading was taken from Philippians; and the reflection offered from Bishop Currie was shared; ending in prayer.

Agenda Review and Adoption
Adopted as circulated

Chair

Chair’s Remarks and Bishop’s Update

Chair

- Bishop attended St Paul’s, Flinton, July 20 for deconsecration; St. Paul’s had been there for 125 years
- July 22 Georgiana Stewart was ordained to the priesthood; The Rev. Bill Morrow was the preacher; due to Covid restrictions there was a maximum of five people in attendance; the service of ordination was recorded
- Bishop has appointed The Rev. Sandra Hounsell-Drover as priest at St. Mark’s Barriefield; her husband is a Chaplain at CFB Kingston and they have come from Vancouver Island BC Sandra began on Sept 21 at St. Mark’s; thanks was expressed to The Rev Sue Beare for her ministry as recent Interim Priest, and to Archdeacon Bill Clarke and the Parish Search Committee
- Bishop advised he had accepted the resignation of Dean Don Davidson from St. George’s Cathedral, and has appointed Archdeacon David Selzer from Diocese of Ottawa as Interim Dean
- Don Davidson is serving in parishes of Kente and Ameliaburg while Rev Ada Rochford is on medical leave
- Dorothy Davies-Flindall recently passed away, wife of Rev John Flindall, Belleville; Dorothy was well known for her work with the national church and in the life of her community; a gathering for a Celebration of Life will take place later when plans are made
- Bishop announced his marriage to Sophie Kiwala that took place on July 25, 2020.

Approval of Minutes – June 23, 2020

MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the meeting of June 23, 2020 be accepted as presented

MRead/BClarke

CARRIED

**Business Arising from the Minutes
Synod Council**

No business arising

Chair

Bishop advised that Synod has been postponed until Fall 2021 and asked whether members wish to stay on Council or otherwise; to please advise Bishop Oulton as soon as possible.

Robin Jones suggested we might stagger the appointments of Synod Council members. Alex Pierson suggested a motion may be needed at Synod 2021 to deal with the rotation of members. Ven Bill Clarke accepted to carry on his membership.

COVID-19 Pandemic Status**Bishop**

Bishop Oulton advised we are now in Amber stage, some churches have already opened; general impression across the Ecclesiastical Province with the House of Bishops is that most things are going well; because of the work that we have been doing and very clear about the safety and protocols we have been able to deal with the late changes; we will continue to move on with the Amber Stage; Ven Wayne Varley advised the diocesan office have reviewed the applications to re-open church buildings, attention to detail is good, sensitivity is finite; Alex Pierson said we will update the guidelines previously received and wait for any provincial changes if any as they appear. The buildings need to be ventilated and sanitized; 1 hour is required between worship services. The good news is people are being very detailed and careful; concern was made re clergy using a mask for the full service especially if clergy suffer from any medical condition; some discussion was held re the possibility of any church member contacting Covid – this would immediately involve the health unit. Joe Burnham emphasized the technologies/difficulties of on line church in his area – Mark Hauser will assist with their needs.

Question as to whether or not the church Thrift Stores can operate? Alex replied that masks must be used. We need clarity whether or not a fund raiser is considered a social activity. By law, enforcement people as well as health unit are involved.

Trish advised she has a protocol that was written for their thrift shop and is willing to share the guidelines.

Nancy Beale gave information re a shorter face mask, plastic; can be obtained in Kingston, \$5 ea.

Finance -**Alex Pierson**

**August Financial Position
Church Income and CEWS Update
2021 Budget**

1 August Financial Position - On income side we are slightly down, CMM is up, Investment income is slightly off; expenses were down (end of Aug) but showing a fair sized surplus. CMM slightly up for the year; Alex expanded on the Fees, Software and Admin, Amortization, Archives, Program costs up slightly, Office expenses down, Bishop's travel, Parish support, T&D.

For the year we are showing a \$49,000 surplus at end of Aug and will grow to \$112,000 by year end. We see our expense profile being lower under current view to end of year.

2 Church Income and CEWS Update - \$375,000 parish receivables at end of Aug. Salary, CMM, and Insurance invoice to churches each month to pay. In 2019 we were approx. \$400,000 receivables in Sept; in 2020 receivables are down at this point. (Wage subsidy has resulted in a \$20,000 net decrease). Alex explained the CEWS update via charts.

3 2021 Budget: Alex presented the chart beginning with What is a Budget? Made up of Income and Expenditures. Changes we know: slight increase in CMM, inflation increase will be 1.9% for 2020; plus

other changes e.g. 2021 Synod, Lambeth 2021. Uncertainties ahead e.g. Pandemic, stock market, church programs. Proposed approach to 2021: plan to budget normally, set an allocation fund, hold the balance for further allocation.

Alex replied to questions from members and he advised on how the budget can be reflected in a different way, with more clarity, and to engage the diocesan groups with Synod Council.

Alex will endeavour to produce a first “frame up” for Council members to reply to prior to October Synod Council meeting.

Synod 2021 Planning –

Michael Read

Michael gave a brief report, advising that Audrey Doliszny continues to be co-chair, and a meeting was held recently along with Alex and Wayne. The Committee has changed thoughts of Synod taking place in the Spring 2021 to the Fall of 2021 and hope that it can happen; they are beginning conversations to set the date of Oct 28, 2021 and to keep the theme that was chosen (Being Light, Building Hope). Guest speaker will be Bishop Bill Cliffe. We hope we can go ahead and gather in person; committee will hope to work on details beginning Jan 2021.

Bishop Oulton advised that the first office staff meeting was held in the Diocesan office today, although masked, but folks are looking forward to getting on and moving forward.

Stewardship Update –

Trish Miller

Trish gave a brief report advising Stewardship started with great gusto in early 2020 but most things are in hiatus for now; have looked into on line fundraising for churches and Trish would like any feedback that could be offered.

Hoping to hold monthly workshops over Zoom – first is Tues Sept 29 at 1pm – looking at how we can still do stewardship although differently – even look at blessings and challenges rather than financial giving – second monthly workshop will be on Wills, Legacy planning, and further topics later.

Trish Miller has contacted parishes that do not have PAG set up.

St. Thomas Belleville request for New Ministry Funds –

Alex Pierson

Alex referred to the new Canon stating whatever funds are left in a church when it closes are filtered to the New Ministry Fund. Wardens of St Thomas were asked as to what types of programs they have in mind and some suggestions were submitted to Alex. Updated requests will come to a future Council meeting.

Consent Agenda - (no items currently identified)

Other Business – no further business

October 2020 Meeting – input on Agenda items for the Regular Meeting

PFRT (Pandemic Financial Response Team) Council to approve recommendation for support to churches who will meet that criteria.

Meeting Evaluations - will be distributed.

Adjournment and The Grace Michael Read moved adjournment of the meeting at 7:55pm.

The Grace was said by all members

Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY, October 27, 2020 6 pm
Anticipated to be Online
Devotions: Lynn Mitchell

Bishop Michael Oulton

Heather Grimshaw, Lay Secretary

Date