

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, April 27, 6:00pm
MINUTES**

Present: Bishop Oulton, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, Michael Read, Valerie Kelly, Heather Grimshaw, Anne Patterson, Trish Miller, Robin Jones, Nancy Beale, Peter Corry, Joseph Burnham, Maureen Butler, Lynn Mitchell, Kate McLean, Viren Oogarah, Don Bailey, Pauline Eskerod

Regrets: Bill Clarke, James Young

Guest: Taylor Lynch, Diocesan Community Engagement Coordinator

Bishop Michael welcomed Taylor Lynch and mentioned Taylor will speak to Synod Council under Ministry Center and Program Engagement Coordinator.

Opening Devotions:

Robin Jones

Robin Jones led the Council meeting in devotions through reflections on Peace and a blessing from Don O'Donohue, providing definitions of peace, and reminding that scripturally an inner peace comes through Christ; peace is our responsibility as community leaders - to share peace acting out of compassion and not fear. Robin closed with the Prayer of St. Francis for peace.

Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

Alex Pierson advised of one additional legal item to come under Other Business. Trish Miller asked about a letter regarding property in Lyndhurst. Alex advised he is waiting for reply from the Chancellor before bringing the information to Synod Council.

Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Chair

Bishop advised:

- April 27 Clergy Day with Primate Lynda Nicholls was a good day, successful, and with good conversation.
- He recently led a study on Bonhoeffer with lay readers of Diocese of Montreal
- He is continuing morning prayer services
- The new parish in Sharbot Lake (Lakes n Locks) will be led by Canon Blair Peever who will start there on August 1st. Thanks was extended to Blair for 15 years at Christ Church Cataraqui.
- The Bishop noted the Diocese of Toronto has been instrumental in helping the Diocese of Ontario structuring regional configurations. The Retired clergy whose ministry this was will once again assist with this restructuring. Thanks to leadership in both parishes for successfully arriving at this point.

Approval of Minutes for March 23, 2021 Meeting

Chair

MOTION:

MRead/APatterson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of March 23, 2021 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes - none

Chair

COVID 19 Pandemic – Status

Bishop, DEO, AMP

The Diocese was forced into lockdown as of April 1 - then stay at home order and declaration of emergency – we currently remain in the red stage, and the hope is that lockdown will end by May 20. It is so difficult as we all would like to have our churches open.

Ministry Center and Program Engagement Co-ordinator

Executive Board

Bishop introduced Taylor Lynch and advised on her impressive background – Taylor reported on what she has been covering over the past two weeks – focusing attention currently on community partners, what programs are happening, and researching for what may be built together/partnerships once there is more freedom without pandemic. Taylor attends weekly staff meetings at the Diocese. Funding for this position was derived through reserve fund from Lakes n Locks.

Taylor thanked Council for having her at the meeting; contact information is on Diocesan website.

New Ministry Grant Program

Robin Jones

Robin Jones presented policy and application for the New Ministry Grant Program. This program is intended to take our ministry to places we have not tried. There will be three intakes annually for Reach and Stretch Grants with application deadlines on June 1 October 1, and February 1. The program is based on Diocese of Toronto model.

Two grants available: 1) Reach Grant up to \$5,000 - Application plus two page Proposal when applying – Applicant and Incumbent are encouraged to make a short “pitch” to the New Ministry Grant panel (3 people on the panel), and final decision is made by the panel. 2) For Stretch Grant up to \$20,000 (available beginning 2022), same procedure for Application and two page Proposal. The Grant is a one time opportunity.

MOTION:

RJones/APatterson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council approves the New Ministry Program – Reach and Stretch Grants for implementation. In Year One only Reach Grants will be provided. The Executive Board is empowered to approve funding based on the criteria in the policy.

Council further approves \$25,000 for the first year from the New Ministry Funds Grants.

The Executive Board will report regularly to Council on progress and status.

Carried

Bishop expressed thanks and appreciation to the group working to put the New Ministry Grant Program together.

Finance

Quarter 1 2021 Unaudited Financial Reports

CFO

Alex presented the First Quarter with full comparisons, prior to the forecast for the remainder of the year. Income is on track; expenses are down slightly. For the Investment Fund a return of 4.72% was realized at the end of March 2021.

2022 Budget Planning and Process: A similar process to previous years, and Budget to be presented at Synod 2021. Considerations, presuming pandemic is over in 2022, increases could take place in travel, programs, Synod 2022, possibly Lambeth costs, a 2.3% inflation rate, and rent increase at the Diocesan Office from April 2022 covering the next 5 yrs.

Church Capital Project – St. George’s Trenton

DEO

Alex Pierson reviewed the document provided by the People’s Warden (Gerry Quick) of St. George’s Trenton describing the renovation required to the Parish Hall, to be completed by Quinte Roofing and Siding. Suggested siding is a steel siding in a Stone Grey colour. The cost of approximately \$120,000 is

being undertaken by a parishioner of St. George's Trenton. Approval of the renovation is requested from the Diocese.

MOTION:

MButler/PCorry

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council approves the request to carry out renovations of St. George's Trenton Parish Hall; the cost being covered by a member of St. George's Trenton.

Carried

Stewardship Update

Trish Miller

Trish Miller advised that last week was Volunteer Appreciation Week and was acknowledged on the Facebook page of the Diocese. Trish recommended that recognition of volunteers could be made known at each parish level (parish Facebook page).

A PodCast, Beyond the Pew, provides interesting discussions on various topics including Stewardship, e.g. Surprise by the Spirit, and small group discussions. (Today, April 27, 2021, Archbishop and Primate Linda Nicholls announced "Surprise by the Spirit", a new initiative to connect Anglicans across the country in conversation, prayer and discovery.)

Synod 2021 Planning Update

Michael Read

Michael Read advised the Synod Planning Committee is finally feeling it's coming together. The Committee has decided to hold a hybrid model at this point for Synod 2021 – this will involve regional "hubs" for folks to gather – or could be done by individuals from home if health requirements dictate. Synod Opening Service will be live streamed from the Cathedral on the Thursday evening; Friday and Saturday Synod sessions provided by logging in, and some limited to delegates only. Voting and scrutineers will take place from each "hub" location.

Alex Pierson provided further details and comments on the framework for planning for Synod under the Planning Organization for Synod 2021, and to consist of the following teams: Steering Committee Team, Logistics Team, Coordinating Team, and Program Development Team.

Bishop Michael advised that Bishop Bill Cliffe is still on the agenda as guest speaker at Synod 2021.

Bishop Michael thanked Michael and Alex for the explanations.

The Coordinating Team are scheduled to meet on Thursday May 6.

Worship Committee Update

Lynn Mitchell

Bishop Michael mentioned thanks to the Worship Committee for the music and worship provided for the Clergy Day.

Lynn Mitchell advised she had met with Bishop Cliff and Bishop Michael to start work on the Synod 2021 worship. Lynn on behalf of the Worship Committee will be making a presentation to Synod Council in May.

Program Update

AMP

Screening in Faith and Safe Church – Wayne Varley emphasized this will take place over the rest of this year, from his office, with parishes to have on line workshops. Further details will be coming very soon.

Consent Agenda – No items identified

Other Business –

Alex advised that a Statement of Claim has been served on the Diocese regarding a historic matter in the Diocese, in the amount of 5M. He is currently receiving advise from insurance company and investigator and will be looking to settle with mediation, plus costs.

May 2021 Meeting – Input on Agenda items for the Regular Meeting

Online Meeting Evaluations - available at this [link](#).

Bishop Michael offered prayer as each verse ended with “Jesus now lead on”, followed by The Grace.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Varley at 7:52pm.

Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY May 25, 2021 6 pm
Anticipated to be Online
Devotions: Trish Miller

Bishop Michael Oulton

Clergy/Lay Secretary

Date