

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO**  
**SYNOD COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 28th, 2021 – 6PM**  
**ONLINE ONLY**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Wayne Varley, Valerie Kelly, Bishop Michael Oulton, Trish Miller, Lynn Mitchell, Alex Pierson, Michael Read, Robin Jones, Anne Patterson, Bill Clarke, Joseph Burnham, Kate McLean, Nancy Beale, Pauline Eskerod

**Guest:** Taylor Lynch, Bob Burkholder, Noel Henry, Andrew Hobbis

**Regrets:** Heather Grimshaw, Peter Cory, James Young, Maureen Butler

**Opening Devotions:**

**Bill Clarke**

Bill opened acknowledging the Eve of St. Michael and All Angels, the Celebration of Life for his sister and the 39th anniversary of his mother's death. He emphasized the biblical role of angels: worship God, to do God's bidding and to deliver G's word to God's people. We share that same purpose in our particular place and time. Closed with the Collect for the feast day of St. Michael and All Angels.

**Agenda Review and Adoption**

**Chair**

Agreed that quorum is being met under the new Constitution and Canons. Bishop calls the meeting to order.

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

**Bishop/Chair**

- Bishop Michael is attending the House of Bishops on-line this week
- Bishop Michael announced the appointment of the Reverend Canon Nancy Beale as the Incumbent of the Parishes of Kente and Marysburgh, effective October 25, 2021. This appointment continues the shared ministry between these two parishes. Canon Nancy begins following her vacation. The Bishop extended his thanks Rev. Don Davidson as interim priest.
- Canon Blair Peever was appointed to the newly combined ministries of Lakes & Locks and Frontenac (Lanark). This combined ministry follows the approach introduced by Canon David Robinson (formerly of the Diocese of Toronto) now retired to Montreal
- Doug Green (Tyendinaga) seeks new configurations and on-going relationship building particularly in light of the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Sept 30<sup>th</sup>)
- Bishop Michael has appointed the Rev. Tracy Lloyd-Smith as interim priest at Christ Church (Cataragui)
- Formerly the Dean in the Diocese of Moosonee, the Very Rev. Sharon Murdoch, native of Kingston, Honourary Associate at St. Thomas, died of ALS at Providence Manor Aug 29/21, her funeral was held at The Cathedral of St. George on Sept 7/21

**Approval of Minutes – 22 June 2021 Meeting****Chair****MOTION:****NBeale/BClarke****BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Minutes of 22 June 2021 be approved as presented.****CARRIED****Business Arising from the Minutes****Chair**

-nothing to add

**COVID-19 Pandemic Status****Bishop, DEO, AMP**

Both Bishop Michael and Alex noted the Diocese continues to monitor the national, provincial and diocesan status of the COVID-19 pandemic, adjusting and adapting the protocols as required. The House of Bishops has had a number of discussions. Wayne noted the new Diocesan Vaccination Policy is still undergoing clarification throughout the Diocese.

**“3 Adelaide” Steering Committee****Taylor Lynch****Bob Burkholder**

Alex welcomed Taylor Lynch (Diocesan Community Engagement Coordinator) and Bob Burkholder (Steering Committee member) of “3 Adelaide” (aka, Good Shepherd Legacy Project). Taylor provided an up-date as outlined in the report emailed to Council prior to the meeting. A steering committee was formed and approved by Bishop in July. The committee was tasked with identifying the overall missionary emphasis of the space while the Diocese provides overall building management. Steering Committee decided the building should not initially be used for new programming but as a space for *existing* community groups that align with the Mission building’s identity. They discussed the name of the centre, wanting it to be invitational to all, the name “3 Adelaide” was chosen. The street address is 3 Adelaide and invokes the Holy Trinity. The Mission, Vision and Values Statements, along with new Logo, were presented. [see Executive Summary].

Bob extended his thanks for being able to address this important ministry at this time in the life of the church. He discussed the challenges of discipleship in today’s environment, how church can be a faithful witness and how to materialize this vision. Bob spoke to “next steps”: operational issues especially around sustainability and longevity of the centre: resources, staffing, outreach marketing component to community organizations; building management: booking the space, payment, etc., which requires governance decisions, oversight and clear definition of accountability, roles, functions. A need for policy and procedures. Development of measurement and evaluation mechanisms.

In receiving this report, the Bishop summarized the need for a narrowing of focus, engagement with existing communities with the hope of replicating this across the diocese. The Steering Committee will proceed. The Bishop extended his thanks to Taylor, Bob and the entire steering committee.

**Ministry Update & Direction****St John's, Bath  
(Rev. Noel Henry & warden, Andrew Hobbis)**

Rev. Noel Henry (Incumbent) made a presentation (available on-line prior to the meeting) on the ministry and work of St John's, Bath. This provided Synod Council with an excellent summary and insight into the church, its people and their ministry. St John's will return to Synod Council in October to address the outstanding financial debt owed from a number of years ago. The Bishop acknowledged with thanks the church's ability to reach out into the wider community during the pandemic and thanked Rev. Noel and Andrew for the presentation. Rev Noel expressed considerable thanks to Archdeacon Wayne Varley for his consistent support, to which Wayne responded "it was a privilege, good work."

**Synod 2021****Michael Read**

Bishop Michael began by thanking Michael Read and the planning team for their dedication and commitment this year. Synod 2020 was re-scheduled to 2021 due to the pandemic. With the Diocesan Vaccination Policy now in effect, it will help as plans continue to be re-set for Oct 28-30<sup>th</sup> Synod meetings. Bishop Michael is grateful for parishes' understanding of the regulations and their compliance with the new policy.

- **Update on Plans** – Michael reminded Synod Council of this year's Synod theme: **Being Light Building Hope**. Information is being shared on-line and will be presented at the pre-synod meeting, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, at the various diocesan hubs and on-line
- **Agenda Approval** – As required by the Constitution, Synod Council approves the Synod agenda which begins **Thursday**, Oct 28 late afternoon with the Bishop's Hour: process, expectation and the outline of Synod; opening worship is at 6:30 live stream from the Cathedral of St. George with those attending in the hubs being able to participate locally with clergy concelebrating. Michael extended his thanks to the Worship Committee for its great work! **Friday**: Plenary Speaker Bishop William Cliff, breakout groups and summary (morning session). Followed by a Ministry Presentation; Coventry Litany of Reconciliation at each hub (11:50am) LUNCH – no food available at hubs, bring lunch? Go out? Synod resumes at 1pm with another Ministry Presentation. 1:30-2pm Bishop's Charge, 2pm discussion groups; 2:30 break; 2:45 response; 3:30-4pm Evening Prayer at the Cathedral; 4pm Groups and Ministry Showcase on-line. **Saturday**: Synod Convenes at 8am with registration, 8:30am Opening Prayer (Bishop); 9am Business of Synod including electing General Synod delegates, Lay Secretary; Synod Council members installed; Reflection by Synod Observer; Closing Reflection by Bishop Cliff at 11:30am followed by closing worship, commissioning from Central Hub (Diocesan Office) 1pm and home!

**MOTION:****MRead/LMitchell****BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Synod Agenda for 2021 be accepted as presented.****CARRIED**

Following discussion: the list of area hubs has been identified; a technical run-through has taken place and worked well. A suggestion on how to pronounce the Mohawk words on the banner was made; perhaps Doug Green could assist with this.

- **Approval of Motions** – four Motions were received prior to the deadline. They are: Basic Income Guarantee with the Bishop’s recommendation that once passed at Synod the various levels of government be notified; Property Sales & Indigenous Community (Leeds Anglican Ministry), Climate Crisis (Green Group), Canon & Constitution Changes. Any Motions received at Synod require 66% support to make it to the floor.

**MOTION****MRead/BClarke**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the four Motions be approved, included in the Synod package and go to the floor of Synod.**

**CARRIED**

Alex outlined the nominations for Synod Council as well as welcomed additional General Synod Delegate nominations. Youth delegate yet to be appointed by the Bishop. Bishop Michael thanked those who put their names forward and was particularly grateful for the accommodations with regards to the Vaccine policy being implemented so close to the pre-synod meeting.

- **Pre-Synod Meeting** – will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm at the various hubs throughout the diocese and at the central (diocesan) hub. An overview of Synod and elections will take place at that time.

**2022 Budget Proposal****CFO**

Alex presented the current financial status and outlook for 2021, which included Actual results from January to August, and Forecasts for September through December) and the proposed budget for 2022. As this is a Synod year, the 2022 Budget will come to Synod in October for final approval.

**Motion:****APatterson/MRead**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council concurs with the Proposed Budget and managing the 2022 deficit from the 2021 surplus/reserve. It further directs that it should be presented to Synod for full approval.**

**CARRIED****Stewardship & Congregational Development Update****Trish Miller**

-Nothing to report

**Worship Committee****Lynn Mitchell**

Lynn initiated a discussion on changing the language in the Litany of Reconciliation from “Father Forgive” to more inclusive language. The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation will be included in the Synod package.

### **St Paul’s Westport, Capital Project Approval**

**DEO**

Under the Canons, any building project undertaken by a church which requires a building permit must come to Synod Council for approval. St Paul’s (Westport) received approval for a project to address accessibility and safety to their building. Robin noted the funds came from the Federal Accessibility Grant in her outline and presentation of the ramp to be built.

#### **MOTION**

**LMitchell/NBeale**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the capital project be approved.**

**CARRIED**

### **Property Update & Cemetery Transfers**

**DEO**

Alex described three properties within the Diocese currently for sale: the former Camp Hyanto and St. Luke’s; the Rectory in Marmora and the former St. Paul’s (Flinton). Alex noted the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) is tightening regulations, especially with former churches and respective cemeteries. There are some historic cemeteries in diocese, one is in Selby: the church building has been sold and there has been no burial since the 1800s; there is no church and consequently no money. In Napanee, the original St. Mary Magdalene church was torn down, the site has a cemetery. The BAO will assume the former Selby and St. Mary Magdalene cemeteries. The deed is in the Diocesan Archives and requires a property transfer. Once the cemetery at Adolphustown has been severed, it will no longer be under Diocesan purview.

#### **MOTION**

**BClarke/TMiller**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council authorize the transfer of two historic, non-active cemeteries to the Municipality of Greater Napanee with the approval of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario.**

**CARRIED**

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

#### **Other Business**

-none

### **October 2021 Meeting – Input on Agenda Items for the Regular Meeting**

### **Meeting Evaluations available on-line**

**Adjournment was moved by Joe Burnham and closed with The Grace at 8:33 p.m.**

**Date of Next Meeting:**

**TUESDAY October 26, 2021- 6PM**

**Devotions: Lynn Mitchell**

**Online Only**

---

**The Rt. Rev. Michael Oulton  
Bishop**

---

**Rev. Canon Valerie Kelly  
Clerical Secretary**

---

**Date**