

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO  
SYNOD COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 @ 6 PM  
VIA ONLINE**

**Present:** Bishop Michael Oulton, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, David Selzer, Robert Porter, Lynn Mitchell, Pauline Eskerod, James Young, Peter Cory, Jeff O'Hare, Joseph Burnham, Aveleigh Kyle, Barb Gilbert, Bill Clarke, Sandra Hounsell-Drover  
Valerie Kelly, Clerical Secretary, Jane Kirkpatrick, Lay Secretary

**Regrets:** Trish Miller, Noel Henry, Richard Hetke

**Guests:** Colleen Lawrie, Briar Clancy, Peter Case

**1. Opening Devotions**

**Robert Porter**

Robert Porter, assisted by Lynn Mitchell and Peter Cory, led the Council in prayer, using the BAS Compline Prayer liturgy. A Gospel reading from Matthew was read by Lynn Mitchell.

**2. Agenda Review and Adoption**

**Chair**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

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

**Bishop/Chair**

- Bishop Michael tested positive and was not able to officiate at Martha Riddell's ordination to the Diaconate on May 14 at St. Mary Magdalene, Picton. Bishop Peter Mason presided in Bishop Michael's place and did an excellent job.
- The Clergy retreat went ahead at the Glen House despite the Primate not being able to attend. Diocesan leaders led the retreat, creating a meaningful experience.
- The Stewardship Committee is taking the lead in a wellness survey which has been circulated.
- The Bishop reviewed the realignments of parishes; he is pleased with the progress to make this model successful.
- The Bishop introduced the new Lay Secretary, Jane Kirkpatrick.
- Rev. Noel Henry and his wife had a healthy baby girl, Ruah Grace Henry, on May 13th.

**4. Approval of the Minutes of March 2022**

**Chair**

**MOTION:**

**David Selzer/Robert Porter**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

**CARRIED**

## **5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Chair**

There was no business arising.

## **6. Covid 19 Pandemic Status**

**Chair, DEO, AMP**

We continue in a modified green state. Most parishes see masks and maintaining distance as a norm. Alex emphasized that these are local decisions. The Province will be removing all mandated regulations shortly, and it is anticipated we will then go to full green status.

## **7. Synod 2023 Update**

**Bishop**

Synod planning is underway, with the dates set as May 26 to 28 2023; the co chairs – Audrey Doliszny and Michael Read - remain in place.

## **8. Audit Committee Report**

**Peter Case, Colleen Lawrie**

### **Presentation of the 2021 Consolidated Financial Statements (Audited)**

Colleen Lawrie from the auditing firm Wilkinson & Company LLP reviewed the Auditor's report (distributed). After the standard statement of caveats, this is a "clean audit statement."

The Chair of the Audit Committee, Peter Case, spoke to the work of the Audit Committee. This includes review of draft statements of revenue and expenditures, projections, accounts receivable and payable; private interviews with management and the auditors; final review and sign off the statement. Peter thanked his committee members Frank Milne and Mary Hague. Bishop Michael expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Audit Committee.

## **9. Synod Council – Governance and Responsibility**

**Bishop**

Bishop Michael thanked the Council for filling out the survey on behalf of Susan Graham Walker. He emphasized the need to talk about Council's role and responsibilities as a governing body, but also a role as an engaged community partner.

Moving forward, the conversations must be in person, so there may be a delay as we wait to get out of Covid. Following his meetings post Synod 2021 with the hubs, he has been thinking hard on who we as a diocese are moving forward. He cited projects already underway in the community\*, saying we need new ways to live our faith in the community. We are not able to do the same old, same old. The scheduled half day Visioning Day on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> has been postponed.

\*New Ministry models Highlighted: St. Paul's Roslin and Christ Church Belleville under the leadership of Rev. Jeff O'Hare, Priest in Charge; St. John the Evangelist, Stirling and Parish of the Heart of Hastings, Rev. Canon Dr. Bob Wright, Priest in Charge; St. Matthew Marlbank and Trinity Parish, Rev. Dr. Ian Ritchie, Priest in Charge.

## **10. Finance Update**

**DFO**

Alex Pierson provided a summary of financial activity.

- There has been an offer made and accepted for St. Luke's Lyndhurst and Camp Hyanto. \$1m as is, where is. He noted that the cemetery does NOT belong to the Diocese.

- An offer for the former Finton Church has been accepted
- In Adolphustown, working with BAO on the cemetery situation.
- Healing Fund Tithe is on pause pending the appointment of a new National Indigenous Archbishop.
- Looked at Parish Receivables 10-year trend. Given what we've faced since 2020, we are in a fairly strong position. Alex highlighted the top receivables over \$20,000 and indicated those parishes were getting on top of the debts.

### **Proposal – St. Mary Magdalene Picton Abeyance Account**

St Mary Magdalene Abeyance Account: The account was established at a time of downturn.

#### **MOTION**

**Jim Young/Lynn Mitchell**

Be it Resolved that Synod Council approves the proposed agreement with the Parish of St Mary Magdalene, Picton to clear the Abeyance Account and to support the forward ministry and financial stability of the Parish. The Financial Officer is directed to provide matching forgiveness (dollar for dollar) for payments by St Mary Magdalene Church against this account, up to \$8500. Funds withdrawn by the church to make this payment will be considered non-assessable for the purposes of CMM.

**CARRIED.**

Alex briefly went over the process for developing the 2023 budget.

#### **INPUT – CONSULTATION – APPROVAL**

The Diocese will be holding sessions in June in the North, Centre and West. The Bishop asked for volunteers from the Council to help lead these sessions. Please email the Bishop if you can assist. The sessions will be looking at program priorities, not the dollars.

#### **Ministry and Program Update**

**AMP**

Wayne Varley: It is good to have our committees and groups report to Council on a regular basis. DOORS is receiving many applications from refugees and has had to declare a moratorium so that they can deal with applications already in process. A successful application was made to hire a student for the summer. The Diocese of Ontario had provided support and is looking for ways to assist DOORS outside of financial support.

#### **Stewardship and Congregational Development Update**

**Trish Miller**

No update tonight

#### **Worship Committee**

**Lynn Mitchell**

Bishop Michael thanked Lynn and the Committee for their efforts at the Clergy Retreat last month. The Committee has had good feedback from the retreat.

The Committee was pleased with the annual Renewal of Vows service prior to Easter, and commended Bishop George Bruce who stepped in for Bishop Michael. pleased with that.

**Other Business**

No business brought forward.

**Bishop****Input for June Agenda****Bishop****Online Meeting Evaluations****Bishop****Adjournment and Grace**

The meeting adjourned on motion of **Bill Clarke** and ended with the Grace

**Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 6 PM Online**

Noel Henry is assigned to prepare the devotion.

DRAFT

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Bishop Michael Oulton, Chair

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Jane Kirkpatrick, Lay Secretary

Date