

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

**Present:** Bishop Michael Oulton, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, David Selzer, Douglas Michael, Robert Porter, Joseph Burnham, Aveleigh Kyle, Barb Gilbert, Bill Clarke, Sandra Hounsell-Drover, Trish Miller, Peter Cory, Maureen Butler, Pauline Eskerod, Jeff O'Hare, Margaret Johnston-Jones, Clerical Secretary

**Regrets:** James Young, Richard Hetke

**Guests:** Russ Grant

**Opening Devotion**

**Rev. Lynn Mitchell**

Lynn read from Job, a prescribed reading for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity followed by a reflection on God being with us when we are suffering.

**Agenda Review and Adoption**

**Chair**

The agenda adopted by consensus.

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

**Bishop**

The Bishop noted that Rev. Canon Andy Chisholm's mother died, and that he presided at the funeral. Bishop Michael also acknowledged the passing of the Very Rev. Dick Fleming, former Dean of St. George's Cathedral.

AD Charles Morris is retiring from St. Mary Magdalene Picton. We give thanks for his 7 years there. Bishop Michael will handle the archdeacon role for the time being. Rev. Georgina Stewart is recovering well; Andy Chisholm continues to look after her parish.

The Bishop spoke to his decision to resign from the episcopacy.

Synod Planning is well underway; the focus is on mission action with Bishop Susan Bell.

Metropolitan Archbishop Anne Germond will be with us on Pentecost Sunday.

The Bishop has received a request from Trinity Parish re: Christ Church, Tamworth requesting church be deconsecrated and disestablished.

**Approval of the Minutes of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022,**

**Lynn Mitchell/Pauline Eskerod**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the minutes of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, be approved as presented. CARRIED

**Business Arising**

**Doug Michael/Trish Miller**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Rev. Margaret Johnston-Jones be appointed Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod. CARRIED

**Episcopal Election**  
**Vacancy in the Office of Bishop**

**DEO**  
**Bill Clarke/Barb Gilbert**

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that a meeting of the clergy and Lay members of Synod gather on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 to elect a successor to the office of Diocesan Bishop at St. George's Cathedral, Kingston under the leadership of The Most Reverend Anne Germond, Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. CARRIED.

**2. Nominating Committee**

**Lynn Mitchell/Peter Cory**

Constitution of the Diocese of Ontario, Number 9.1

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Synod Council of the Diocese of Ontario elect a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) Clerical Members of Synod and three (3) Lay Members of Synod.

The slate of nominees shall be: The Ven. Bill Clarke, The Ven Nancy MacLeod, the Rev Canon Nancy Beale, Joan Donaldson, Sylvia Dopking (Chair), Anne Patterson.

David Selzer is staff advisor, the Chancellor is Ex Officio. CARRIED.

Can Lay Delegates submit questions to the Nominating Committee for candidates? Bishop thinks this is a good idea.

3. Tentative Timeline: Election on April 29; Nominating Committee meets next week to organize details. The Archbishop has a preliminary date of June 24 for consecration/installation.
4. The Chancellor: AD David and Bp Michael have met with Chancellor Garth Allen.

**Covid 19 Pandemic Status**

**Chair**

Discussion held at the most recent Wardens/Treasurers/Clergy meeting. The Bishop referred members to web site to see the content.

**Property Issues:**

**DFO**

1. **St. Mark's Barriefield** Not ready to come to Council yet
2. **St James Kingston** Not ready to come to Council yet
3. **Properties currently for sale** are in ongoing negotiations
4. **3 Adelaide St. facility** Providence Care will manage, taking lead on joint mission with research grant in partnership with UW and Queens. Hoping to sign lease shortly
5. **Insurance:** package not here, but Alex anticipating significant increases, especially for replacement costs (10%) plus premium increases of 5%. Liability premiums are rising as well.

**Administrator for St. Paul's Kingston**  
**Mitchell**

**Bill Clarke/Lynn**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Synod Council receive the Bishop's Commission Report for St. Paul's Anglican Church in Kingston dated January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023;  
And that consistent with this report that Synod Council place St. Paul's Anglican church under Administration, according to Canon 23, effective immediately;  
And that the Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev Michael Oulton, appoint the Venerable David Selzer as Parish Administrator for an initial period of one year, effective immediately. CARRIED

### **Ministry and Program Update**

**Wayne Varley**

The Anglican Diocese of Ontario and the Archdiocese of the Catholic Church have cooperated on a number of projects. We are now looking to enter into a covenant to further our cooperation on projects such as DOORS, Justice and Peace. Coalition. Wayne will be meeting with the people of St. Mary Magdalene in **Picton** as they begin their search for new Rector. He will facilitate conversations to tease out 2 or 3 pillars for ministry.

### **Community Engagement Coordinator**

Russ Grant has been appointed Community Engagement Coordinator for the Diocese on a one-year contract.

5 Objectives:

- Inventory of existing initiatives
- Community engagement champions
- Collaborate with other Diocesan Centres
- Collaborate with Congregational Development Initiative
- Synod 2023

Approach:

- Parish conversations
- Deanery groups, wardens and other key meetings
- Synod Planning Committee and Bishop Susan Bell
- Support individual parish initiatives

Russ can be contacted by email.

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

**Trish Miller**

Stewardship Network is meeting with Primate Linda Nichols on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. The Clergy retreat will focus on clergy wellness.

### **Worship Committee Update**

**Lynn Mitchell**

Worship Committee cohosted a singing workshop with St. James Kingston to look at the supplementary hymnal "Sing a New Creation." They would like to go out to the Diocese. The Worship Committee will be busy with Synod, Episcopal Election.

### **Finance Update**

**DFO**

The office is in the process of closing out the 2022 year. Wilkinson's has embarked on the audit. The Investment Committee AGM was held in January. The Diocese has put in for 3 summer student grants: Archives, Communications, Finance

Cathedral has asked for grant for summer tour guides, plus there are another couple of churches applying for grants for summer programmes.

Work has begun on 2024 budget planning. In a period where we are seeing significant change, we need to focus beyond one year. Alex recommended looking at 3 year financial horizon at each Synod.

#### **Consent Agenda**

There were no items.

#### **Other Business**

No other business brought forward.

**Bishop**

#### **Input for February Agenda and Meeting Evaluations**

Please submit agenda items for next month's agenda to the DEO.

Please fill out the online meeting evaluation forms.

**Bishop**

#### **Date of Next Meeting:**

Tuesday February 28 2023 @ 6 pm Online

Devotions: Rev. Neil Henry

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm with the Grace.

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Bishop Michael Oulton, Chair

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Jane Kirkpatrick, Lay Secretary