

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 22, 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, Richard Hetke, Peter Cory, Maureen Butler

Regrets: Jane Kirkpatrick

Guests: Heather Grimshaw, Lay Secretary Emeritus
Kate Kristianson, Warden, St. Paul's Anglican, Sydenham Ont.

1. Opening Devotions

Miller

In celebration of Saint Jacques of Oxford UK, a lapsed atheist – Trish Miller chose a bible reading of 1 Peter 1:3-7, and spoke on the life of C.S. Lewis, author and scholar, who experienced similar difficulties that many of us experience in life today, describing the attributes yet personal suffering of Lewis. Trish read a poem titled "On Prayer" by Lewis, ending with the Collect for today, commemorating C.S. Lewis.

Bishop Michael thanked Trish Miller for Opening Devotions. The Bishop introduced visiting priest Rev Rogerio de Assiz from Brazil, who also spoke with thanks to be present at the Council meeting and wished a blessed meeting for all.

2. Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

Adoption by consensus.

3. Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Bishop/Chair

Bishop advised we are six months away from Diocesan Synod in May 2023 and there is a need to establish a Nominating Committee. All invited have agreed to be on the committee: Ven Bill Clarke, Ven Nancy McLeod, Canon Nancy Beal, Anne Patterson, Sylvia Dopking, Joan Donaldson. We will also need Delegates for Provincial Synod, 4 Clergy representatives and 4 Lay Representatives. A meeting of the Nominating Committee will be called soon.

Bishop expressed thanks to the Lay Readers of the Diocese for their recent gathering in Odessa. A thank you was mentioned to Joan Donaldson and for all the work the association is doing. Bishop advised that Ven Wayne Varley is now the Priest-in-Charge of Gananoque and Rockport parishes. Their former priest The Rev Canon Valerie Kelly has now completed her time there.

4. Approval of the Minutes of October 25, 2022

Chair

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of October 25, 2022 be accepted as presented.

Motion moved by Trish Miller and Seconded by Bill Clarke

Carried

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Chair

There was no business arising.

6. Covid 19 Pandemic Status

Bishop Michael made note of the letter of November 16 from Ven David Selzer, DEO, with regard to the current health situation (Covid 19 and variants) and recommendations from Dr. Kieran Moore, chief medical officer of health. From the Diocese it is strongly recommended to encourage parishes to wear masks as much as possible, particularly in indoor gatherings.

7. Reach and Stretch Grant – Wayne Varley advised that the Reach and Stretch Grant program has now been in place for one year. Over the past year the committee has approved four Reach Grants totalling \$16,500 to date. Request was then made to Council to approve up to six Reach Grants in 2023, and one Stretch Grant in 2023, totalling \$30,000 for Reach, \$20,000 for Stretch, a total of \$50,000. The following motion was provided to Council:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT \$50,000 be set aside and authorized for Reach and Stretch Grants in 2023 (6 Reach at up to \$5k and Stretch at up to \$20k). These funds to be provided from the income in the Ministry Allocation Fund.

Motion moved by Very Rev Doug Michael, and seconded by Peter Cory

Carried

8. Presentations

a) Rev Sandra Hounsell-Drover of St. Mark's Barriefield advised Synod Council that St. Mark's has been made aware of the structural condition issues of the tower for their 180-year-old building. St. Mark's congregation has been informed at a Special Vestry Meeting held in October 2022. The damage is approximately \$300,000 for repairs and the Tower Committee has started as of today on grant research. Scaffolding has been erected and will be in place until the tower repairs are completed. Council will be kept updated and informed. Bishop Michael gave thanks to the Tower Committee for all the work ahead and thanks as well to Rev Sandra for the report.

b) Kate Kristianson, Warden from St. Paul's Sydenham advised Synod Council that urgent repair is needed for their septic system and boiler upgrade at St. Paul's church. It was discovered that a whole new system is required and the solution is to be a new holding tank. Kate reported on the situation so far and allowed for questions from Council. St. Paul's is requesting a capital loan in the amount of \$25,388 for the boiler upgrade and new septic system. Payment of \$700 per month over 10 years was discussed. Alex Pierson advised that a Vestry meeting was held for the congregation to be informed. The following motion was provided to Council:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council approve the capital loan in the amount of \$25,388 and repayment from St. Paul's Sydenham of \$700 per month for 10 years.

Moved by Trish Miller and seconded by Barb Gilbert

Carried

Bishop Michael thanked Kate Kristianson for the presentation and the preparation and work that has been done so far.

Alex Pierson gave a brief report/update on additional parishes and is working through the various issues with those mentioned.

9. Finance Update and 2023 Budget Update

DFO

Alex Pierson presented finances for October 2022 and into November prior to presenting the proposed 2023 Budget by way of slide presentation, including background information

throughout. The initial deficit for 2023 budget was \$151,000 however through various reductions and benefits the deficit to date is \$11,000. In conclusion the following motion was provided to Council:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council approve the proposed Diocesan Budget for 2023 as presented.

Moved by Bill Clarke and seconded by Rob Porter

Carried

Question was raised on the new Ministry Support; Alex Pierson advised that this was formerly known as Curacy grants.

10.Ministry and Program Update

AMP

Wayne Varley confirmed that his new appointment for Priest-in-Charge at Gananoque and Rock Port is on a half time basis, settling into parish work on Wednesday and Sunday plus other days as required, and continuing diocesan work within the Diocese. He will continue to support the Bishop, work with stewardship committee, available for clergy, Synod Council, and further work. He will step away from a number of other committees and not routinely attend their meetings. David Selzer will work with Wayne Varley for the Safe Church Program (Screening in Faith) and ultimately take this over; Screening in Faith workshops are planned for the new year.

11.Stewardship and Congregational Development Update

Trish Miller

A meeting was held to talk about the Clergy Wellness survey; correspondence from the Bishop's office will be published soon to update. Stewardship network report is flourishing and information is being gathered. More of this around wellness and leadership will be discussed at the upcoming Clergy conference.

12.Worship Committee

Lynn Mitchell

In the absence of Lynn Mitchell Wayne Varley advised the committee met on November 22 and information will be reported later this week on Advent and Epiphany. Further talks were shared within the committee on upcoming Synod and artwork/decorations. The new Hymnal Workshop is to take place in January 2023 with Michael Capon at St. James Kingston. Another Worship Committee meeting will be held in December.

13.Consent Agenda

Chair

Nothing brought forward.

14.Other Business

Bishop

January 2023

Lynn Mitchell

February 2023

Noel Henry

March 2023

Doug Michael

April 2023

Alex Pierson

15.Input for JANUARY Agenda

Bishop

Please submit to office, encouraged by bishop

16.Online Meeting Evaluations

Bishop

Please fill out the online evaluation; comments are read and do influence the meeting content.

17.Adjournment and Grace

The meeting adjourned on motion of Bill Clarke and ended with the Grace at 7:20pm

Date of Next Meeting: January 24, 2023 at 6 pm. (on line).

Bishop Michael Oulton, Chair

Heather Grimshaw, Lay Secretary Emeritus

Date