

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 28 February 2023 @ 6 PM
VIA HYBRID**

Present:

Bishop Michael Oulton, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, David Selzer, Pauline Eskerod, Barb Gilbert, Douglas Michael, Lynn Mitchell, Noel Henry, Jeff O'Hare, Bill Clarke, Aveleigh Kyle, Sandra Hounsell-Drover, Peter Cory, Russ Grant, James Young, Joseph Burnham, Maureen Butler, Robert Porter, Jane Kirkpatrick, Lay Secretary

Regrets:

Trish Miller, Michael Read

Opening Devotion

Noel Henry

Noel opened with a story of his first parish in Odessa. He was using Google Maps to visit a rural parishioner; the Google map made him hopelessly lost and he received the message: "your compass is not calibrated." During Lent we need to recalibrate our hearts by centering and refocusing so we are not led in the wrong direction.

Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

There being no additions, the agenda was adopted by consensus.

Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Bishop

Bishop Michael requested we hold in prayer the family of Rudi Meier, retired priest of the diocese and his wife Judy.

St. Mary Magdalene, Picton have formed a parish advisory committee and there has been one meeting to date. They were appreciative of the resources and guidance AD Wayne Varley had provided. Jeff O'Hare is providing support to the parish as interim priest-in-charge.

St. Paul's Brockville and Parish of All Saints are receiving expressions of interest for the rector vacancies.

The lease arrangement with Providence Manor for 3 Adelaide was signed today. The focus will be on developing supports for homeless and those who are coming out of homelessness. Partners are Queens and Western Universities. The Good shepherd congregation continues to worship at 3 Adelaide.

Thank you for your kind notes on the death of Sophie's father, Ted. Thank you to Noel for tonight's devotion.

Approval of the Minutes of 24 January 2023

Chair

BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of 24 January 2023, be approved as presented.

Lynn Mitchell/Peter Cory

CARRIED

Clarification – Bishop Michael is resigning from the Office of Bishop not resigning from the episcopate.

Business Arising

None

Chair

Covid 19 Pandemic Status

No recent updates.

Bishop/Chair

Synod Planning Committee

Michael Read

In Michael's absence David Selzer reported. The committee has been meeting since last summer. Synod will be held at Queen's University May 26-27 with Sunday's celebration at St. George's Cathedral. Friday is the business meeting; On Saturday Bishop Susan Bell will lead us through exercises towards becoming a missional church.

Nominating Committee Report

DEO

A preliminary report, including a timeline and nomination forms, has been circulated. Diocesan Townhall April 19 for episcopal candidates, questions to be submitted in advance. If you have a question for the nominees there is an email address on the weekly newsletter for submissions.

There will be a nominees' retreat on Friday April 28. The Electoral Synod will be Sat. April 29 at the Cathedral, beginning with Eucharist.

Property Update

DFO

Two projects are underway at St. Mark's and St. James, Kingston. St. John's Prescott has been approached by Cogeco for the use of their tower for 'air rights'. St. Lawrence, Brockville is investigating an accessibility project through the Anglican Foundation.

Christ Church, Tamworth has been disestablished but not decommissioned. Agreement with BAO and Municipality on Adolphustown moving forward. Proceeding to litigation with PEC (St. Andrew's Wellington).

Transfer of title – 3 Adelaide being finalized. Lease for 3 Adelaide St. signed with Providence Care on behalf of the "Peer to Community Model Pilot" project.

Diocesan Insurance Program

Information shared to Synod Council is available from reviewing the recording of the last Wardens/Treasurers meeting. Charts are available on the Diocesan website.

Anglican Foundation of Canada

St. Mark's Barriefield, grant application circulated prior to meeting, application requires letter from Diocesan Bishop and Synod Council (lay/clerical secretaries can generate).

St. Mark's total project comes in closer to \$400,000.

St. James Kingston not yet ready to proceed with grant application.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Synod Council approves the application of St. Mark's Barriefield for its bell tower project.

Bill Clarke/Doug Michael

CARRIED

Letters from the Bishop and Synod Council Secretaries will be forwarded to the Anglican Foundation.

Ministry and Program Update

Wayne Varley

Met with St. Mary Magdalene, Picton – with view to developing ministry plan highlighting worship/faith development, community engagement and support, and stewardship for moving forward as parish. Revising parish plan to be included in parish profile for future candidates.

Reach/Stretch Grants:

The Reach panel has approved 3 grants of up to \$5000 each.

St. Paul's, Westport – once a month lunch program in conjunction with foodbank

St. Lawrence, Brockville – replacing lost resources for the seniors program lost Stay Well – nursing, exercise, social time.

St. Luke's, Parish of Leeds Rear- calls for action in compliance with Calls for Reconciliation.

With two further intake dates in June and October, it may be necessary for Synod Council to provide further grant monies as 3 of the 6 reach grants have been approved.

Stewardship & Congregational Development Update

Trish Miller/Russ Grant

In Trish's absence, Wayne reported Trish had no stewardship updates for this meeting. Russ has met with 3 of 4 clerical groups. Parish visits have been scheduled in Hastings and Leeds Grenville. He has also surveyed other dioceses to learn what others have done. His plan is to visit all parishes prior to Synod so to share information to the diocese.

Worship Committee Update

Lynn Mitchell

Met earlier today to deal with:

*March 31 renewal of vows and oils – with focus on ministry being rooted on baptismal ministry; including petition for layreaders with one of the layreaders leading this prayer.

*Electoral Synod – met with Archbishop Anne re: worship. It is the Archbishop's plan to see the whole day as an act of worship, starting with prayer, and punctuated with prayer, with the wish that these prayers be developed by the deaneries. Prayer to be composed by the diocese for parishes to pray leading up to the electoral synod.

*Clergy Conference – April

*Diocesan Synod – May – focusing on Pentecost – have commissioned a new frontal for nave altar, pulpit and lectern from Hillary Rice.

Finance Update

DFO

2022 Audit underway, going well to this point, Audit Committee scheduled for March 21 for Synod Council March 28. Applications submitted for summer student.

As a diocese we have moved from mail to email; now we are moving from emailing to having each church with its own secured file system. Looking towards a May – Dec 2023 implementation time with a summer student working on this project.

Alex spoke to the need for intentional planning:

Annually build a 3-yr plan (financial framework), prepared after consultation on goals, objectives and investments with Synod approving the 3-yr. framework, and Synod Council approving the yearly budget.

Annual budget, line by line, within the framework approved by Synod; aligned to the goals and product of open consultations with Synod Council. To continue with quarterly reporting, mid-year financial update to diocese, and March/April – audit statement. The benefit is to drive the focus on goals and objectives.

The plan is for consultations in March with input at pre-synod meetings in early May, presented at May Synod with 2024 budget to Synod Council for their approval in Oct/Nov.

St. Paul Administrator Report

David Selzer

A brief report from the Administrator is in package for today's meeting. Bill Clarke is working on Sunday supply; during the Incumbent's leave Bishop George Bruce is currently leading worship.

Consent Agenda

There were no items.

Other Business

None

Bishop

Input for March Agenda

Bishop

The Green Group and Audit Report have been added to the agenda. Please submit agenda items for next month's agenda to the DEO.

Online Meeting Evaluation

Bishop

Please fill out the online meeting evaluation forms.

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 28 March 2023 @ 6 pm online

Devotions: The Very Rev. Doug Michael

Motion to Adjourn

Bill Clarke

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with the Grace.

Bishop Michael Oulton, Chair

Margaret Johnston-Jones, Clerical
Secretary