

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO  
SYNOD COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 19 September 2023 @ 5:15 PM  
St. Mark's, Barriefield  
In person and HYBRID**

**Present:**

Bishop Michael Oulton, Bishop-Elect William Cliff, Alex Pierson, David Selzer, Douglas Michael, Brad Beale, Noel Henry, Sandra Hounsell-Drover, Richard Hetke, Aveleigh Kyle, Robert Porter, Mary Haigh, Ann Striker, Susan Withers, Tony Ashworth, Susan Orgil, Angela Kelman

**Regrets:** Wayne Varley, Jeff O'Hare, Cathy Seymour, Rebecca Michael, Jane Kirkpatrick, Lay Secretary

**Absent:** Elizabeth Matthews

**Guests:** Susan Everett, Peter Case, Allen Steven, Eric Friesen

**Light Dinner and Conversation**

**Opening Devotion**

**Noel Henry**

Who am I? to whom do I belong? Identity. What is our Christian identity? Our Anglican identity. Christian formation is the deepening of our God-given identity.

**Agenda Review and Adoption**

**Chair**

Approved as presented.

**Brief Orientation**

**Bishop, DEO, DFO**

Synod Council shall exercise generally the executive powers of the Synod between session of the same, except those of a legislative character.

Council members hold a position of trust, referred to as a fiduciary relationship.

Enact and amend regulations and policies.

Solicit and receive reports and recommendations on policy, programs and finance from the various boards and committees and decide on appropriate action.

Consult regularly with parishes on such matters as deemed advisable and encourage parishes to communicate matters to Council.

Responsible to other bodies such as the Province of Ontario, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Synod Council members should be prayerful and seek to model and espouse Christlikeness and servanthood, with a commitment to support the Church.

Synod Council members have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their charitable and other church duties while they take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the Synod and the wider Church.

SC members should be open transparent and accountable for all the decisions.

Episcopally led and synodically governed.

ONCA – The Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) was proclaimed on October 19, 2021. This legislation, over ten years in the process is the enabling corporate legal framework for most nonprofits incorporated under provincial law. Nonprofits will have three years after proclamation to transition to the new rules. In the meantime, the rules in articles and bylaws will continue to be valid provided they were valid under the previous legislation (Ontario Corporations Act).

Synod Council Operation – agenda & material, technology, quorum (1/2), voting, confidentiality, meeting norms and courtesy, regular meetings (usually 4th Tuesday at 6:00pm, except July, August, and December) and special meetings.

Begin Synod Council with devotions, DEO will circulate sign-up list for Nov 2023 - November 2024.

### **Synod Council – Governance and Operation**

#### **Vice-Chair – Election**

Brad Beale nominated Douglas Michael, seconded by Tony Ashworth. **CARRIED**

#### **Executive Board – Election and Appointment**

Two members of Synod Council  
Two members appointed by the Bishop  
DEO and AMP (ex-officio)  
Bishop (chair)

Dr. Tony Ashworth nominated by Douglas Michael

Rev. Noel Henry nominated by Richard Hetke

**Motion** – nominations cease **Douglas Michael/Richard Hetke**  
**CARRIED**

Bishop Appointments will be made in the future following Bishop-Elect William's installation

#### **Appointment of Diocesan Solicitor**

**Motion:** **Tony Ashworth/Sandra Hounsell-Drover**  
**BE IT RESOLVED** that Synod Council appoints Cunningham Swan as diocesan Solicitor. **CARRIED**

#### **Appointment of Diocesan Audit Firm**

**Motion:** **Noel Henry/Sue Orgil**  
**BE IT RESOLVED** that Synod Council appoints Wilkinson & Co. as diocesan Audit Firm. **CARRIED**

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

**Bishop/Chair**

Many thanks to our delegates to General Synod – Nancy McLeod, Bram Pearce, Philip Bury, Bishop Michael suggests having a delegation from General Synod attend Synod Council

Electoral Synod – held April 29 with the nominating committee naming two candidates, Rev. Brad Smith and Rt. Rev. William Cliff. Bishop William Cliff elected on first ballot.

Diocesan Synod – new venue, keynote speaker. Thanks to delegates and to staff for all their assistance.

Appointments – Margaret Johnston-Jones as Priest-in-Charge in St. Paul's, Kingston as of Sept 10; Bram Pearce and congregation of St. Mary Magdalene, Picton celebration of new ministry on Oct 1; John Lavelle Priest-in-Charge in All Saints South Grenville as of Oct 1. Lynn Mitchell, Incumbent in St. Paul's Brockville as of Sept. 1; Rev. Rogerio de Assis from the Diocese of São Paulo as Priest Associate, Parishes of St. Lawrence, Brockville and St. John the Evangelist, Lyn as of May 1 with service of new ministry July 16.

Bishop will be working with the Parish of Quinte West in preparing their profile.

Rt. Rev. Francisco da Silva (Brazil) was here for his sabbatical.

On June 25, Ryan Deyo ordained as Deacon and appointed Assistant Curate at St. Peter's Collins Bay as of July 1.

It has been a delight and privilege to work with Synod Council members over the past 12 years. Thanks to those who are coming on, who have previously served.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

**Chair**

### **- April Synod Council Minutes**

**MOTION:**

**Douglas Michael/Aveleigh Kyle**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the minutes of 25 April 2023, be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **- Electoral Synod (29 April)**

**MOTION:**

**Angela Kelman/Tony Ashworth**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Electoral Synod held on 29 April 2023, be received as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **- Diocesan Synod (26-27 May)**

**MOTION:**

**Angela Kelman/Tony Ashworth**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Diocesan Synod held 26 – 27 May 2023, be received as presented.

**CARRIED**

Executive Board – approval for capital loan fund for Glen Miller, St. James, Kingston loan for foundation.

## **Synod 2023 (26-28 May 2023) Conversations**

## **General Synod Report**

## **Bishop-Elect William Cliff**

**Installation** – Saturday 21 October, 5:00 pm St. George's Cathedral

## **St. George's Cathedral – Property Development Susan Everett/Jann VanVugt**

Committee: Co-chair Jann VanVugt, Eric Friesen, Allan Steven, Peter Case, Dean Doug Michael. Presentation made regarding plans to facility to allow for revitalization of our mission.

## **Investment Policy**

**Peter Case**

### **Motion**

**Brad Beale/Tony Ashworth**

**BE IT RESOLVED** to adopting the changes to the investment policy as presented by the Investment Committee.

**CARRIED**

## **Business Arising**

**Chair**

## **Episcopal Stipend and Housing (in camera)**

**DFO/DEO**

### **Motion:**

For Synod Council to move to in camera

**Tony Ashworth/Richard Hetke**

**CARRIED**

### **MOTION:**

**Sue Orgil/Tony Ashworth**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Synod Council approves the 2023 stipend of the Bishop to be \$78,522 and the 2023 Housing Allowance to be \$34,219.

**CARRIED**

### **MOTION:**

**Brad Beale/Noel Henry**

**Be it resolved** that Synod Council approves:

1. Acquisition of a house (up to a max of \$800k) that meets the Bishop Elect's needs.
2. A Joint tenancy in Common
3. A mortgage of \$250k to the Bishop Elect
4. Funding from Diocesan Investment fund.

**CARRIED**

Sisters of St. John the Divine fundraising  
Tabled to next meeting.

## **COVID 19 Pandemic Status**

**Bishop/Chair**

We are monitoring the situation, concern re: new variant.

## **Property Update**

**DFO**

There are many properties which are no longer of use to congregations throughout the Diocese.

## **Financial Updates**

**DFO**

See premeeting package.

**Budget 2024 update****DFO**

Focussing on ongoing sustainability and viability with the realization parish incomes, inflation, increased need/demand for programs, and the increased need/demand for support of churches and properties.

**Ministry and Program Update****Wayne Varley**

Reach and Stretch Grants

Tabled to next meeting

**Stewardship & Congregational Development Update**

Tabled to next meeting.

**Worship Committee Update**

Tabled to next meeting.

**St. Paul Administrator Report****David Selzer**

Report included with premeeting package.

Tabled to next meeting.

**Consent Agenda** (no items identified)**Other Business****Bishop****Input for November Agenda****Bishop**

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 November 2023 @ 6 pm

St. Mark's Barriefield

Devotions: Sharon Hounsell-Drover

Motion to Adjourn

Robert Porter

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm with the Grace.

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Bishop Michael Oulton, Chair

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Margaret Johnston-Jones,  
Clerical Secretary