

DIOCESE OF ONTARIO

SYNOD COUNCIL – TUESDAY MAY 28TH 2024

PRESENT: Bishop William Cliff, DFO Alex Pierson, DEO David Selzer, Sandra Hounsell Drover, AD Wayne Varley, Dean Douglas Michael, Angela Kelman, Susan Withers, Mary Haigh, Sue Orgill, Anne Striker, Barb Gilbert, Aveleigh Kyle, Jeff O'Hare, Robert Porter, Tony Ashworth, Susan Orgill, Cathy Seymour, Noel Henry, Michael Read

REGRETS: Rebecca Michael, Elizabeth Matthews

GUESTS: Greg Best, Nancy Beale, Ian Ritchie, Dan Eustace

1. Opening Devotions

Wayne Varley

Archdeacon Wayne Varley led devotions, focusing on N.T. Wright's thought on the Trinity. He concluded with the Collect for Trinity Sunday.

2. Agenda Review and Adoption

The agenda was reviewed and adopted.

3. Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Bishop/Chair

The Bishop welcomed back Canon Michael Read who has been appointed to Synod Council. +William introduced our new Chancellor, Greg Best, who is from the parish of St. Lawrence Brockville.. The Bishop administered the oath of office to Greg. The Bishop continues his attendance at Sunday services around the Diocese where he has been warmly welcomed. He deconsecrated St John's, New Dublin. He thanked profusely the Diocesan office staff especially Wendy Pierson.

4. Approval of the Minutes of April 16, 2024

Chair

MOTION: by Dean Doug and Noel Henry to approve the minutes of April 16, 2024

CARRIED

5. **Business Arising – Sisters of St. John the Divine** The Bishop note that the 2023 Synod passed a motion to provide \$30,000 to the Sisters to refurbish their guest house, but did not indicate in the motion how the money would be raised. Noel Henry will approach a parishioner to spearhead a small campaign and bring back her answer to BAC.

6. Report from St. George's Trenton

Nancy Beale

MOTION: by Michael Read and Tony Ashworth that be it resolved that St. George's Church Trenton, having established a slate of officers as required, be removed from Diocesan Administration. (Lisa Refausse, Susan Rolf, Wardens; Al Teal, Suzanne Kingston, Deputy Wardens; Linda Gardiners, Bonnie McMillan Lay Delegates to Synod; Maryjean Hickerson, Eben James, Parish Advisory Council Members-at-Large).

CARRIED

MOTION: by Doug Michael and Noel Henry that be it resolved that the Synod Council wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to Archdeacon Nancy Beale for her service as Parish Administrator for St. George's Anglican Church Trenton, and to the people of St. George's for their work in the parish that has led to the success of Diocesan Administration

CARRIED.

7. 2025 Synod Report

Michael Read/Barb Gilbert

Location, Ban Righ Hall has been confirmed for May 8-10, 2025. The first meeting of the full committee is scheduled for May 30th. AB Chris Harper is booked as the Bishop's official observer. The keynote speaker is Bishop Rosemary Mallotte, Suffragan Bishop of Southwark Cathedral..

She is one of few suffragans in the U.K. that sits with the House of Bishops. Theme: Communities of Hope through Disruptive Grace.

Business of Synod on Friday with a dinner to follow. Program on Saturday

8. Report from the Green Committee

Ian Ritchie/Paula Walker

Ian Ritchie distributed a report (available on Share site). There was a request that some action be taken by Synod Council to encourage parish reporting of energy use, as per Synod motion. We became aware that at least 2 parishes did submit the requested data and were not recorded as doing so.

9. St. Paul's, Loughborough Parish Marmora Agreement

Dan Eustace, Bishop

Warden Dan Eustace presented information in support of a request consent to sever 4336 Sydenham Mill Street Sydenham into 2 parcels of land in order for the rectory to be sold, and the net proceeds from the sale transferred to St. Paul's for the purpose of redeveloping the church into St. Paul's Centre. There are 6 phases to the proposed project. The Bishop reminded the Council that under the Canons of the Diocese, the proceeds from any property sale go into the Ministry Fund; 10% is immediately transferred to Indigenous ministry, and an assessment is made as to how much may go to other ministry or needs. St. Paul's will need to apply with a business plan to receive the remaining proceeds for their project. Alex Pierson estimates that it will cost c.\$100,000 to get the property ready for sale. After discussion the following motion was passed:

MOTION: by Aveleigh Kyle and Cathy Seymour that be it resolved that Council proceed to sever 4336 Sydenham Mill Street, Sydenham, Ontario from the St. Paul's Church property. CARRIED

The Bishop provided background on the Memorandum of Understanding between St. Paul's Church, Marmora and Habitat for Humanity, dated December 31, 2023. There are a number of issues with the MoU given St. Paul's financial situation. No action was mandated at this time.

10. Committee Updates

10.1 Ministry and Program

Wayne Varley

Wayne reported that 5 Reach and Stretch grants have been processed. There is an October 1 deadline for further Reach grants; Stretch grant 2024 money has been fully committed.

10.2 Property Update

DFO

10.2.1 The Bishop deconsecrated St. John the Divine, New Dublin in

May 2024. MOTION: by Noel Henry and ? Be it resolved that Synod Council declare this property as disused. CARRIED.

10.2.2 A provincial working group is meeting with Ecclesiastical and AON about the high insurance rates.

10.2.3 Alex will be meeting with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario's Chair and CEO to discuss issues relating to parishes with cemeteries.

10.3 Finance Update, First Quarter

DFO

10.3.1 Alex reviewed the first quarter numbers, noting there is net surplus of \$23,000. We are awaiting the final auditor's report. There was a discussion on shared services with the Diocese of Algoma.

10.3.2 2 summer interns have been hired to work in the Archives and Finance. Tyendinaga has received \$15,000 from the New England Company (London, U.K.) to be used to integrate the

Mohawk language and culture into its worship and programs, along with community service organizationa

11. Consent Agenda

There were no items brought forward.

12. Online Meeting Evaluation

DEO

A reminder to fill out the meeting evaluation, please.

13. Adjournment at 8:45 with the Grace.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 25 2024 @ 6pm, St Mark's Barriefield. Devotions led by Aveleigh Kyle