

SYNOD COUNCIL, Tuesday 27 February 2024

St. Mark's Barriefield and Online

268 Main Street, Kingston

MINUTES

Present:

Bishop William Cliff, Alex Pierson, David Selzer, Wayne Varley, Noel Henry, Sandra Hounsell-Drover, Susan Orgill, Tony Ashworth, Douglas Michael, Aveleigh Kyle, Jeff O'Hare, Robert Porter, Barb Gilbert, Brad Beale, Mary Haigh, Cathy Seymour, Susan Withers, Elizabeth Matthews, Anne Striker, Margaret Johnson Jones, Jane Kirkpatrick

Regrets: Rebecca Michael, Angela Kelman

1. Opening Devotions

Alex Pierson

Today recognizes the metaphysical poet, George Herbert. Alex spoke of Herbert, his compositions, and his ministry. He went to Trinity Cambridge, was ordained in 1630, and died an early death in 1633. His poems (90) are profound and translucent, and their beauty is enhanced by the musical settings they have received.

2. Agenda Review and adoption

MOTION: by J. Kirkpatrick and A. Kyle, that the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Bishop Cliff

Next Synod Council meeting will be April 2nd at 6pm.

The Bishop is continuing his Sunday parish visits throughout the Diocese. He went to Tyindenaga and met with Archbishop Harper and turned over the money the Diocese has been holding for Indigenous ministry (see January 2024 minutes). The Archbishop expressed his thanks to Bishop William and the Diocese of Ontario.

Bishop William is preparing a weekly Lenten message for distribution.

4. Approval of Minutes of January 23 2024

Chair

MOTION: by Robert Porter and Tony Ashworth that the minutes be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Any items are covered throughout the agenda.

6. Reach and Stretch Grants

Wayne Varley

See documents distributed with the minutes. Wayne reviewed his Executive Summary, stating we are living into our strategy to share experiences. Most of the successful grants cover reconciliation and social issues, especially hunger, where the KFLA Health Unit reports 1 in 6 households are experiencing food shortage.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Applications for Stretch Grants may be up to a maximum of \$10,000, reduced from the present \$20,000.
2. Applications for Reach Grants may continue up to a maximum of \$5,000, provided the applications meet the criteria and include success measurements.
3. Applications for Stretch Grants must demonstrate that the developing ministry will be carried out in collaboration with other partners, and include details about sustainability over 3 to 5 years.
4. The New Ministry Grant Panel will be authorized to approve Reach and Stretch grant applications to expedite financial support.
5. The number of application intakes be reduced from 3 per year to 1 per year starting in 2025. One intake date of April 2024 is proposed for this year with a possible second one in October 1 2024.
6. Reach and Stretch grants cannot be used to augment general funds, placed in reserve funds or used for purposes other than new and innovative ministry in parishes and other groups

MOTION: by Barb Gilbert and Doug Michael. Be it resolved that Council accept the recommendations of the Reach and Stretch Committee as presented in the Executive Summary.

CARRIED

7. XpressChek Development

Noel Henry

Noel Has been meeting with David Selzer to work on development of an upgraded police record checks and the Screening in Faith/Safe Church program. XpressChek offers another alternative to the CPICKS issued by the police (currently \$50). Noel presented for consideration his report, Process Document for the Collection of Data and Execution of XpressChek. Those requiring a screening check can access forms on the Diocesan website or from the DEO. The parish does not hold the forms,

everything is sent to the Diocese which is responsible for retaining the data and protecting the confidentiality. It is up the Wardens of each parish to determine who in parish ministry needs a security check, and to establish a policy of reimbursement. Noel supported encouraging people to donate the fee back to the church to get a tax receipt.

8. St. George's Trenton Administrator's Report

Nancy Beale

The administrator has accomplished a lot in the past month.

9. Property Update

DFO

Outstanding property issues continue. There are no new sales underway. On the insurance side, Alex is still waiting for packages from the Ecclesiastical Company in order to send out the billing to the parishes. There is a Diocesan working group now looking at alternatives for insurance coverage. Three active legal actions underway. The proposed settlement of the PEC land dispute is in the final stages of negotiation.

10. Ministry and Program Update

Wayne Varley

The Bishop and Wayne have passed training which gives them authorization to be signatories on government contracts.

11. Finance Update

DFO

The audit is finished and the report will be going to the Audit Committee for review.

12. Consent Agenda

(no items identified)

13. Other Business

Bishop

14. Online Meeting Evaluation

DEO

AD David asked for evaluations of the meeting to be submitted; they help improve the operation.

15. Adjournment

On Motion of Aveleigh Kyle at 7:33pm

16. Grace

Led by the Bishop

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 2 April 2024 at 6:00 pm, St. Mark's Barriefield and online.

Devotions: Doug Michael