



**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

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**SYNOD COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday 28 January 2025**  
**St. Paul's Kingston and Online**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Bishop William Cliff, David Selzer, Alec Pierson, Wayne Varley, Dean Doug Michael, Greg Best, Tony Ashworth, Brad Beale, Barb Gilbert, Noel Henry, Sandra Hounsell-Drover, Elizabeth Matthews, Susan Orgill, Michael Read, Cathy Seymour, Anne Striker, Susan Withers, Mary Haigh, Angela Kelman, Aveleigh Kyle, Jeff O'Hare, Margaret Johnston-Jones (Honorary Clerical Secretary), Jane Kirkpatrick (Honorary Lay Secretary).

**Guests:**

Valerie Smith, The Rev. Grayhame Bowcott

**Regrets:**

Rebecca Michael,

**1. Opening Devotions**

**Michael Read**

Canon Michael Read presented a reflection on Thomas Aquinas whose day we celebrate today.

**2. Agenda Review and Adoption**

There was agreement to adopt the agenda as presented.

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

**Bishop/Chair**

Bishop Cliff gave an update on his health and thanked everyone for their prayers. All is well with him.

**4. Approval of Minutes 10 December 2024 Meeting**

**Chair**

**MOTION:** it was moved and seconded by Tony Ashworth and Sue Orgill that the minutes be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

**CARRIED**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a. List for Devotions**

**DEO**

AD David asked Council members to sign up for the monthly devotions and passed around a list for sign up. The list is also online.

**b. Explanation of General Synod (from 10 December)**

The Bishop provided information on the Diocesan apportionment for the Anglican Church of Canada (\$110,000 budgeted for 2025). An examination of the ACC role and operations is part of the Primate's Commission currently underway. The ACC as a national church has a large role to play in international affairs of the Church. However, are there more efficient ways to operate? Among questions being asked is do we need a full time primate? Only Canada and the US churches have a full time primate; other communions elect a bishop who carries on Diocesan work as well as national work. The recommendations of the Primate's Commission will be discussed at General Synod in June.

**c. Resolution from 2023 Synod on Water**

**Susan Withers/DFO**

The Green Group's investment committee investigated the nature of investments in companies, specifically Coca Cola, and determined that this company is in fact very responsible in its use of water. Susan Withers said they are satisfied that Coca Cola can remain in the portfolio. A webcast is planned for delegates before Synod regarding (environment social governance) ESG scorings re: ethical investing with representative from Wood Gundy to fully discuss.

Valerie Smith is willing to write to each parish re: being a Blue Church.  
Revocation of motion from 2023 can be presented in the circular.

**6. Synod Planning Report**

**Michael Read/Barb Gilbert**

"Communities of Hope through Disruptive Grace"

Michael reported that videos are being prepared for delegates, and materials for delegates to share with their congregations prior to Synod. Workshops have been set – each workshop will be offered 4 times throughout Saturday to allow each Synod rep to attend each workshop.

Abp Chris Harper – Truth and Reconciliation

Rev Scott Gunn – Evangelism

Rev John VanStone – Human Trafficking

Bp Rosemary Mallette – Social Justice

Russ Grant and Leeds Anglican Ministries will present on community engagement.

Delegates at 23 Synod enjoyed the opportunity for networking and visiting, therefore social time has been built in to allow for community.

**\*\*Need information from Vestry as soon as possible and reports to Diocese\*\*** for pre-Synod meetings and preparation.

Parishes are invited to identify youth delegates and submit their names to the Diocese for consideration by the Bishop for appointment as a youth delegate to Synod (one from each deanery).

## **7. Financial Report**

**Bishop**

### **a. Allocation for LTh Huron College Bishop/Grayhame Bowcott**

The Rev. Canon Dr. Grayhame Bowcott, Director of Huron's Licentiate in Theology made a presentation on the program which is intended to provide training to laity and potential deacons at a convenient and reasonably affordable method. Grahame is proposing that the Diocese purchase a subscription of \$5000 which will allow all interested persons to participate in the courses offered by the Licentiate program at no cost to them. Our Diocese received \$5000 for education from Ed Dallow's family for clergy education. Bishop William suggests Synod Council support the LTh program with these monies. Slides available on SharePoint.

MOTION: it was moved and seconded by Sue Orgill and Michael Read that the Diocese purchase a subscription using the bequest, and further that a recommendation be made at Diocesan Synod for a similar commitment in future years. CARRIED

### **b. Financial Report:**

**DFO**

Alec Pierson reported that the 2025 budget is completed and that the audit is currently underway. He is currently working on a 3 year budget plan.

Investment Committee online session April – proposing a one-time payout bonus to participants.

## **8. Ministry and Mission:**

**Archdeacon Wayne Varley**

### DOORS

Recap of the last wardens/treasurers/clergy online meeting. Emphasis on working with other community groups. 2025 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Diocese being involved in refugee support. Anglican Foundation of Ontario will be forwarding their funds to DOORS as they wrap-up.

### Green Group

Active in the work of creation care. Thermal imaging of buildings available.

## **9. Consent Agenda (no items identified)**

**10. Other Business**

**Chair**

The Ven. Jane Humphreys will be joining us on 01 May as DEO. Her husband The Rev. Gordon Maitland will be involved in the life of the Diocese.  
David Selzer retiring as of end of May.

**11. Online meeting evaluation**

**Chair**

**12. Adjournment and Grace**

**Led by Chair**

**Motion to adjourn**

7:45 Tony Ashworth

**Date of Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday 25 February 2025, 6:00 pm**

St. Paul's, Kingston and online

Devotions: