



SYNOD COUNCIL
Tuesday 29 April 2025
St. Paul's Kingston and Online

Minutes

Present:

Bishop William Cliff, David Selzer, Alec Pierson, Wayne Varley, Dean Doug Michael, Greg Best, Sandra Hounsell-Drover, Elizabeth Matthews, Susan Orgill, Michael Read, Cathy Seymour, Anne Striker, Rebecca Michael
Susan Withers, Mary Haigh, Angela Kelman, John Lavelle, Aveleigh Kyle, Margaret Johnston-Jones (Honorary Clerical Secretary), Jane Kirkpatrick (Honorary Lay Secretary).

Guests: Auditors, Colleen Laurie, Bryer Clancy

Regrets: Tony Ashworth, Brad Beale, Barb Gilbert, Noel Henry, Jeff O'Hare, Susan Orgill

1. Opening Devotions

Alex Pierson

Alex's reflection was based on 1 Corinthians:12, living in the power of the resurrection.

2. Agenda Review and Adoption

There was agreement to adopt the agenda as amended (change in date for May).

3. Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Bishop/Chair

The Bishop has had a busy month, attending Easter services around the diocese. A thank you to Mark Hauser for helping the Bishop produce his Easter video. He is currently writing the charge for Synod. The Bishop is helping Rod Brant Francis get outfitted with vestments. (The Diocese is completely outfitting him through donations). As well, Bishop William is helping Rod prepare for his consecration in late May, at which Bishop William will be the preacher. House of Bishops meeting presented 4 candidates for the Primacy. Asked about a proposed change to CRA to remove charitable status from religious organizations, Bishop responded that there has been a robust response objecting.

4. Approval of Minutes 25 March Meeting

Chair

MOTION: Be it resolved that the minutes of March 25 2025 be accepted as presented. Moved and seconded by Aveleigh Kyle and Doug Michael. CARRIED.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

6. Synod Planning Report

Michael Read

Mail out to delegates sent April 25. Please encourage parishioners to attend the Thursday service. The Synod agenda was approved at last Synod Council. It was noted there will be No registration at the Thursday service. The Bishop thanked Michael Read and Barb Gilbert for their work in bringing the Synod together.

7. 2024 Audit Presentation

Canon Michael Read

Auditors Colleen Laurie and Bryar Clancy spoke to the report. (The full audit report is filed in the documents for this meeting). The audit was thoroughly reviewed by the Diocesan Audit Committee. The volatile market has everyone concerned. A concern was expressed about the late distribution of the report to Council.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the Auditor's Report be received. Moved and seconded by Michael Read and Mary Haigh. CARRIED, 1 abstention

Alex wished Colleen well in her retirement and thanked her for her excellent leadership and capability.

Canon Read stated that a review had been done of Wilkinson's performance and we were well pleased; 2 way street. Provide good advice to us throughout the year. Thanks to Alex, Laura and Joyce in the office. Do we need to do a full audit every year? Committee will pursue this over the coming year.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the Synod Council extends its appreciation to the Diocesan Audit Committee. Moved and seconded by Anne Striker and Susan Withers. CARRIED.

8. Property and Finance

DFO

Properties status have not changed from last month.

Cemeteries: Bereavement Authority of Ontario are regulator for the government. Alex provided a background to enforcement of regulations with smaller cemeteries. There is now very limited flexibility; BAO doesn't differentiate between a small, volunteer driven cemetery board and a corporation. We have cemeteries with no care and maintenance funds, and others with massive funds. These funds must be held by a trust company. BAO wants all the cemeteries under 1 license, which is not practical. BAO wants the

cemeteries with large funds to get their own licenses, and put the smaller ones under the Public Guardian and Trustee. Alex is reaching out to other denominations and the AMO. When cemeteries are abandoned, they revert to the municipality.

MOTION: Be it resolved that Synod Council declares the deconsecrated church, St. John the Baptist, Lyn as disused property. Moved and seconded by Michael Read and Angela Kerman. CARRIED.

Review of Income/Expense Summary, First Quarter. (Statements included in pre meeting package) Running Positive on income. Expenses are either under or on target. More and more parishes are pulling out their investments to maintain operations. Impacts CMM.

CMM accounts for c75% of Diocesan income. Assessable income at 20%. Not assessed: cemetery funds, capital funds & expenditures, PWRDF, grants and loans, reserves

Challenges: 2 year lag; spreadsheet is complex and intimidating and time consuming; drawing investment funds for operations increases operating costs, and thus assessable income; policy keeps things confidential when shouldn't be.

Recommendations: allow use of simplified tool (e.g. Excel). Parishes have until June 30 to supply vestry data; churches supplying draft calculations will be reviewed first. The Diocese will go to CRA T3210 filing to get data if not provided; review of assessable criteria.

People asked to submit any ideas on these recommendations to Alex.

8. Ministry and Mission:

Archdeacon Wayne Varley

No report this month.

9. Consent Agenda (no items identified)

10. Other Business

Chair

11. Online meeting evaluation

Chair

Please complete this form for the DEO, it informs meeting preparation. Thank you!

12. Adjournment and Grace

Led by Chair

Adjournment on motion of Rebecca Michael at 7:58 pm

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 20 May 2025, 6:00 pm

St. Paul's, Kingston and online

Devotions: AD Wayne Varley

Recording Secretary: Jane Kirkpatrick, Honorary Lay Secretary