



SYNOD COUNCIL
Tuesday 20 May 2025
St. Paul's Kingston and Online

Minutes

Present:

Bishop William Cliff, Greg Best, Jane Humphreys, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, Dean Doug Michael, Angela Kelman, Bill Clarke, Sharon Dunlop, Mary Haigh, Cathy Seymour, Anne Striker, Don Aitchison, Bram Pierce, Helen Cluett, Laurie Dempsey, Sue Orgill, Susan Withers, Margaret Johnston-Jones (Honorary Clerical Secretary), Jane Kirkpatrick (Honorary Lay Secretary)

Guests: Rob Cumming, Observer (Parish Administration 101 in Licentiate)

Regrets: Tony Ashworth, Matthew Wright, Jon Lavelle, Rebecca Michael, Michael Read, Brad Beale, Elizabeth Matthews

1. Opening Devotions

Wayne Varley

AD Wayne talked about Jesus and his disciples between their time of being called and being sent out as he prepared them for ministry. Governance is as old as the scriptures. We must be open to the wise counsel of the Holy Spirit.

2. Agenda Review and Adoption

Agenda agreed as presented.

3. Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Bishop/Chair

The Bishop thanked David Selzer for his of years of service and welcomed Jane Humphreys as the new Executive Diocesan Officer. Bishop very pleased with Synod. Bishop Rosemary thoroughly enjoyed herself, was able to get some rest. Scott Gunn was terrific. Bishop would like a diocese wide program from Forward Movement. *Forwardmovement.org* Some of the FM programs have been engineered for the Canadian market. He asked Council to look through FM Catalogue and make suggestions.

4. Approval of Minutes 25 March 2025 Meeting.

Chair

MOTION: Be it resolved that the minutes of the 29 April 2025 meeting be approved as amended to add an action statement on an audit review.

Moved by: Doug Michael

Seconded by: Anne Striker

CARRIED

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

6. Orientation for New Members

Wayne Varley

A presentation on the role and functions of Synod Council was made by Wayne Varley; there are slides summarizing his remarks available at the Diocese. Council deals with business but also the seeking of the spirit. Among topics covered: Communications, legal obligations, transparency, director liability; distinction between governance and management, strategic and long vision group, Meetings in addition to the 9 regularly scheduled may be called by the Bishop or DEO, or by request of at least 6 members of Council.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the firm of Cunningham Swan be appointed legal Counsel for the Diocese;

Moved by: Greg Best

Seconded by: Bill Clarke

CARRIED

MOTION: Be it resolved that the firm of Wikinson and Company be appointed auditors for the upcoming year.

Moved by: Anne Striker

Seconded by: Mary Haigh

CARRIED

7. Vice Chair of Synod Council & Executive Board Members

Pursuant to Canon 2, the Bishop is the Chair of Synod Council and, in the absence of the Bishop, Synod Council will be chaired by a Vice Chair. Pursuant to Canon 3, the Executive Board is a Standing Committee of Synod Council; it deals with matters between Council meetings and reports back to Council.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the following slate of officers be approved:

Vice Chair of Synod Council: The Venerable Bill Clarke. ^{Executive Board members} Members: Major the Rev'd Canon Don Aitchison, The Venerable Nancy Northgrave, Dr. Laurel Dempsey, Mr. Russ Grant.

Moved by: Sue Orgill

Seconded by: Cathy Seymour

CARRIED

8. Synod 2025

Bishop Cliff and Council

On June 12 there is a Synod debrief with Planning Committee

The Bishop is striking a committee of no more than 6 to make sure that items in his charge go forward. He asked to think about people who might be suitable. Among tasks: plan a time frame for parishes, look at what parishes can cope with. It will be a hard look at how we do the

business of being church. Committee to start work on October 1.

In response to a question, Bill Clarke indicated that donations are still coming in to meet our commitment to Sisters of St. John Divine. Decision to send what we have now and keep moving forward to meet goal.

MOTION: Be it resolved that Synod Council forwards the funds (c\$16,000) collected so far to the Sisters of St. John the Divine.

Moved by: Sue Orgill

Seconded by: Mary Haigh

CARRIED.

9. Committee Updates:

a. Property Update

DFO

Cemeteries: Alex expects that we will be required to break up our master fund for care and maintenance. Requirement that every cemetery have a trust. Public trustee has offered to help set up these trusts. Trust companies aren't interested in \$2000 trusts. Small cemeteries just don't have the resources to do this. No flexibility from the regulator to accommodate small volunteer run cemeteries.

Where we are now:

- Larger Care and Maintenance funds must set up and maintain their own trust account
- Smaller cemeteries will be required to set up trust accounts with the Public Guardian and Trustee
- Push to make the diocese become the licensee for all cemeteries

b. Finance Update

DFO

June 19 is being suggested for an online Wardens and Treasurers meeting.

c. Mission & Ministry

Wayne Varley

DOORS: is celebrating 30 years of refugee settlement support. Our partnership carries on with the RC Archdiocese. Government is reducing number of refugees being referred. DOORS is now focusing more on food security. A meeting is upcoming with Bishop Cliff and Archbishop Mulhollen. More updates in coming months.

10. Consent Agenda (no items identified)

14. Other Business

Bishop

Don Aitchison: Foundation application for St. George's Trenton for a new heating system. Proposal to replace 3 boilers with 2 high efficiency and the pipes; heat pumps in the parish hall. \$150,000. \$125,000 grant from Belleville Foundation.

MOTION: Be it resolved that Synod Council supports St. George's application to the Anglican Foundation for \$15,000.

Moved by: Angela Kelman
Seconded by: Anne Striker

CARRIED

Alex recommended consulting with Michelle Hauser, who works with the Anglican Foundation; she can provide excellent insights and advice when preparing an application.

June 18 is the date of Archdeacon Jane's collation and Major the Rev'd Canon Don Aitchison to this Diocese at St. George's Cathedral.

The Bishop reminded Council he has 2 pieces of homework: recommend a Forward Movement education program that could be implemented throughout the Diocese and think of people to recommend to the Bishop's charge implementation committee.

15. Online meeting evaluation

Bishop

Please complete; it helps with planning these meetings.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm: Bram Pierce

17. Grace

Led by Bishop

**Date of Next Meeting:
Tuesday 23 September 2025 @ 6pm
St. Paul's, Kingston and online
Devotions: Doug Michael**