

DIOCESE OF ONTARIO

SYNOD COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting Held on

Tuesday April 28, 2026

At Christ Church Cataraqui

PRESENT: Bishop William Cliff, Chair; Ven. Jane Humphreys, DEO; Very Rev Douglas Michael, Dean; Bill Clarke, Helen Cluett, Laurie Dempsey, Sharon Dunlop, Sue Orgill, Bram Pearce, Michael Read, Cathy Seymour, Anne Striker, Susan Withers, Brad Beale, Don Aitchison, Michael Read, Joyce Williams, Greg Best, Jon Lavelle, Brad O'Neill, Mary Hague

Mark Hauser, Communication

Jane Kirkpatrick, Honorary Lay Secretary

GUESTS: Martin Gravelle, Auditor

REGRETS: Rebecca Michael, Margaret Johnston Jones, Matthew Wright

1. **Call to Order** by Bishop Cliff at 6:00 pm

2. Opening Devotions

Angela Kelman

Since last week was Earth Week, Angela spoke of the community garden operated in Lyndhurst by her parish; the garden is part of efforts to address food insecurity in the community. She concluded with a prayerful reflection on gardens and gardener

3. Agenda Review and Adoption

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

4. Chair's Remarks

Bishop Cliff

The Bishop spent an intense week at the House of Bishops where the Bishops worked on the Pathways development. He will be visiting parishes over the next 2 months, and participating in confirmations. He expressed gratitude to the many parishes who have taken up the study of To Love and Serve.

5. Approval of the Minutes of February 24 2026

Motion: by Bill Clarke and Sue Withers be it Resolved that the minutes of February 24 , 2026 be received as presented.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Jane Humphreys

None

**7. Auditors' Report (available on Sharepoint in June)
Gravelle**

Martin

Auditor Martin Gravelle reported that the Diocese is financially stable and has received a "clean" audit. He provided detailed review of the audit statements, and concluded by thanking the staff for their co-operation.

MOTION: by Mary Hague and Anne Striker to accept the auditor's report as presented. **CARRIED.**

8. Financial Report

Joyce Williams

Joyce provided background of how the Diocese has dealt with Alex Pierson's sudden illness. Now that the audit is complete, the Finance team will be working through insurance, BAO requirements, property issues, accounts receivable, policy and procedures improvements. To aid in this work, the Diocese is re-establishing the Finance Advisory Committee; Joyce asked the Council for suggestion for possible candidates. She also noted that insurance packages will be out shortly, that the Q1 budget numbers will be available next meeting, that an accounting assistant will be hired to help with day to day operations. Joyce thanked Council for their support.

8.2 Property Report

Archdeacon Humphreys reported that there are no updates to previously reported property issues

9. New Business

Jane Humphreys

MOTION: by Bram Pierce and Susan Withers BE IT RESOLVED that this Synod Council approves the request from St. John's Anglican Church, Sunbury to replace the fire damaged furnace with a heat pump that will provide heat and air conditioning at an estimated cost of \$10,000 to be covered insurance and fundraising. **CARRIED**

10. Diocesan Ministries

Jane Humphreys

10.1 DOORS

DOORS was allotted only 19 spots this year from IRCC, making the selection process especially challenging. Rana Sara has been hired until the end of 2026 to serve as the Lead Specialist for Refugee Ministry, and Mimi Merrill is now Program Manager Refugee Ministry/DOORS. In honour of World Refugee Day, DOORS will be holding a Sponsor Appreciation Event on Wednesday June 17th from 4 to 6 pm. Location TBA

10.2 Green Group:

The Green Group held their meeting on April 23. The annual Conference is set for Saturday Sept 19 with Citizens for Public Justice leading the proceedings. The Group commends the chapter “Rejoicing in Your Whole Creation/God the Father and Creation Care” from the study book “To Love and Serve”. New members for this group are needed, please consider this ministry.

11. Other Business:

There was a question on the status of the One Drive initiative. The IT manager currently on vacation and will be back in June. Bishop addressed the staff shortages currently in the office. Please be patient.

Final planning stages for Summer Fruit, the Lay Readers conference scheduled at the end of July. Keynote speaker is Scott Gunn. The conference is open to anyone interested.

A reminder of the upcoming ordination to the diaconate on May 12.

12. Online Meeting Evaluation

Please take a minute to complete the form; it does help with planning these meetings.

13. Adjournment on motion of Laurie Dempsey @ 6:57 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 26 @ 6 pm

William Cliff, Chair

Jane Kirkpatrick, Lay Secretary