

**SYNOD COUNCIL
MINUTES
TUESDAY, 23 September 2014
CHRIST CHURCH, CATARAQUI
6:00 P.M.**

Opening Devotions: Bishop Oulton read the passage Luke 4:16-21 with the reflection on what we want people to say about the Church... who will we be... what will the future of ministry be as we close this 2012-14 term of Synod Council. Opening devotions were closed with a prayer.

Present: Bishop Oulton, Wayne Varley, Joyce Eggleston, Steve Timpson, Audrey Doliszny, Brad Smith, Kathy Morgan, Mary Lou Workman, Marilyn Clarkin, John Secker, Ken Healy, Michael Reid, Sharon Dunlop, Roy Conacher, Peter Bunn, Heather Grimshaw, Valerie Kelly

Regrets: Haynes Hubbard, Mary Irwin-Gibson, Peter Molloy, Eleanor Rogers, Peter Case, Alex Pierson

Guests: Ministry Task Force: Christine Downey, Doug Cowley, Michelle Hauser
Camp Hyanto: Bill Clarke

**Action Required by
Synod Council**

Agenda Review and Adoption

Bishop

Motion:

MClarkin/PBunn

Be it resolved to accept the Agenda as presented.

Carried

Additional agenda items will be included under "Business Arising."

Approval of Minutes 27 May 2014

Bishop

Motion:

MRead/KMorgan

Be it resolved the Minutes be adopted as presented.

Carried

Chair's Remarks

Bishop

The Bishop officiated at the service of new ministry for Bram Pierce who is now Incumbent of St. John's Parish, Bath. Jonathon Kouri, Assistant Curate in the Parish of North Hastings, will be supervised by Archdeacon Brad Smith who has been appointed priest-in-charge.

Camp Hyanto Report (hand-out)

Bill Clarke

The final financial statement is forthcoming; this summer was a "learning experience for Board members"; appreciation was expressed for the work and commitment of Carol Fitzpatrick and Marilyn Clarkin. Family Camp is growing and needs to have some issues smoothed out. The number of campers

has increased over the last three years. The senior student staff presentation at the June Synod Council meeting was very impressive and found to be informative.

2014 Diocesan Synod

Bishop, Brad Smith

- Review of Pre-Synod meetings

- three were held across the diocese with good overall turn-out. A précis of what to expect at Synod and the budget were presented
- election of Synod Council members occurred with all positions filled
- clarification of Canon A for election of members to Synod Council: a term is two years; two terms (four years) is the maximum a member may remain on Synod Council, should a member be re-elected it would be after a term (two years) hiatus; an elected member has the option of stepping down after two years with replacement to complete the term; the goal was to establish a staggered system. A letter of clarification was submitted to the Bishop by Chancellor Roy Conacher.
- The Bishop extended his thanks to members of Synod Council for their time and service. The Council bids farewell to: Vice-Chancellor, Jean Bédard, who resigned when appointed to the Canadian International Trade & Tariff; Janet Weller, Pete Molloy, Joyce Eggleston, Michael Read, Ken Healy (completing the term for Bob Hilborn), Denise Cumming resigned, Christine Williams-Belt (relocated). Welcome and thanks to Audrey Doliszny and Sharon Dunlop who completed the two terms vacated. Thanks to those in appointed terms: Kathy Morgan (ACW rep), Steve Timpson, Mary Lou Workman, Peter Case (who continues as member of the Finance Committee).
- Discussion on re-appointments: The Canons preclude Kathy Morgan (ACW rep) from continuing another term despite the lack of a replacement for her. Until the Canons are revised the exception cannot be made. The period of four years (two terms) appears to be a stumbling block for many. However, it is imperative to have someone who is committed to accept the role, which is to take information from Synod Council back to ACW. Can this be done in an observer's status? Is there a need for the ACW rep to be a voting member of Council? Courtesies of the house could be extended, but not vote, and report back to ACW. This will be taken under advisement and will be considered in the revision of Canons.

- to approve Agenda Resolution

Brad Smith

Members were reminded that Synod workshops and the banquet are open to all. Synod information is currently available on the Diocesan website. Members of Synod Council are full voting members at Synod.

Motion:

BSmith/MRead

Be it resolved that Synod Council approve Draft Agenda No. 3 of the Synod Agenda Task Force for presentation at the 140th session of the diocesan Synod scheduled to occur October 16-18, 2014 in Kingston.

Carried

- Diocese of Ontario Foundation / Parish Capital Campaign

Bishop

The Foundation approached the Bishop expressing its belief it is time for a capital campaign. The Foundation will be making a presentation at Synod. The funds will be split 50/50 between the parish and the Foundation. The Foundation helps support infrastructure and parish-based projects. Advice

was sought from Campaign Manager, Monica Patten, Diocese of Ottawa, on its Gift Campaign. The National church has offered to provide funding up to \$10,000 for a feasibility study.

Ministry Task Force

Michael Read

PREAMBLE:

“The church is in crisis” was the motivational statement for the Task Force. Over the past 24-25 years the number of congregations has decreased from 125 to 64. This Report is the result of four years of work, beginning with the Resourcing Ministries Task Force, which then folded into the MTF with the goal of generating ideas of how to move forward. MTF survey was made available both on-line and in paper form then gathered over the summer 2014. There was a 20% participation rate of this “uplifting” document.

Things that encourage: (1) the passion of respondents for the life and ministry of the diocese. How to engage the world more broadly... How to live out church...

(2) practical and helpful ideas of how to engage in the life and ministry of the Church (3) this document invites us back into the “Diocesan family” for discussion and sharing of stories (4) and presents a new vision for the Diocese noting “the kingdom of God is beyond the walls” of the church.

DISCUSSION:

- The current structure is part of the problem; development of lay leaders will bring forth additional gifts to the church
- This is “a great and engaging document!”
- “It was a privilege to be part of this process”; expressions of thanks were extended to the members of the MTF; the church is in crisis and change needs to occur. There is a sense that the church overall is willing to change. Key: to bring youth into/back into the church.
- Discussion at MTF meetings was significant; the future is in need of change and focus; this is an “everybody” issue of engagement if the church is going to achieve success in the future. Optimism exists in the diocese.

- Resolutions

Motion:

MRead/JEggleston

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council receive the Report of the Ministry Task Force and recommends that the Report be presented to Synod 2014 for discussion with the recommendation that the Report be adopted and implemented.

Carried

Discussion – the comment was made that more clarification of recommendations is required. It was noted the objective is to have the Committee members help parishes construct specific recommendations therefore some recommendations are left intentionally vague however specific recommendations are also made, i.e., for the Bishop. Discussion and flexibility is the onus of the individual parish. The urgency to act was noted in the surveys.

Motion:

MRead/KMorgan

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council recommends to Synod that the Report of the Ministry Task Force be implemented in accordance with the following MTF Plan:

1. A Committee of Synod Council (the “MTF Committee”) be established as soon as possible to monitor and assist with the implementation of the recommendations in the MTF Report;
2. Each Parish in the Diocese enter into a written Covenant to implement the recommendations in the MTF Report and shall report to the MTF Committee in writing on the steps taken within the Parish to implement the recommendations, such report to be made twice yearly by June 30 and November 30 each year commencing June 30, 2015;
3. The Regional Deans together with the Synod Council members from each Deanery shall monitor and assist each Parish within their respective Deaneries to implement the recommendations of MTF Report and shall assist in the filling of the Parish reports to the MTF Committee.

Carried

Discussion: concern over lack of compliance as it pertains to specificity. It is hoped that a covenant vs. a contract will engage parishes in which they will also establish their own specific direction noting that engagement within the diocese already exists in some parishes. There is also a passion for “no change.” This resolution sends a strong signal that this body, (MTF), is a significant body reaching beyond Synod Council to Synod 2014. Thanks was extended to members of the MTF for their attendance this evening.

Finance Committee

Michael Read

- Unaudited Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Surplus to 31 August 2014

- Parish Receivables

Received for information

Consent Agenda

Wayne Varley

- Archives Committee

- Synod Council Advisory Task Force and Sale of Marysburgh Rectory

Meeting Evaluation –the e-mailed evaluation form to be filled out and submitted.

Adjournment

MRead/STimpson

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:38pm then followed by the Grace.

Confirmed:

Bishop

Secretary

Date