

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016
CHRIST CHURCH, CATARAQUI
6:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

Attendance: Bishop Michael Oulton, John Secker, Eleanor Rogers, Sharon Dunlop, Brenda Hobbs, Ken Healy, Doug Green, Al Danford, Wayne Varley, Charles Morris, Audrey Doliszny, Michael Rice, Valerie Kelly, Heather Grimshaw, Alex Pierson, Haynes Hubbard, Roy Conacher

Guest: Debra Fieguth

Regrets: Voila David, Haroldine Neil-Burchert, Christine Downey, Peter Bunn

Opening Devotions:

Rev Sharon Dunlop

Sharon led a reflection on the poem, *When the Song of the Angel is Quiet* with reference to *Parables, etc.* by The Rev. Howard Thurman with emphasis on *To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among people, To befriend the lonely, To release the prisoner, To make music in the heart.*

Agenda Review and Adoption

Bishop

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Bishop

- Bishop George Bruce is scheduled for surgery on 28 January 2016
- Bishop Peter Mason has broken his ankle
- Bill Clarke's wife, Nancy, has fractured her hip and is recovering
- Archbishop Brendan O'Brien fractured his vertebra in a fall
- With regard to openings within the diocese: both The Cathedral of St. George and St. Paul's (Brockville) are at the interview stage
- Rev. Sue Beare has been appointed Priest-in-Charge for Lansdowne Rear with the retirement of Rev Karen Freake
- The Christian Cultural Association of South Asians (CCASA), headquartered in Kingston, has partnered with the Diocese to establish Pakistani Youth Education, a bursary program for Pakistani youth; the fund was established in the wake of the September 2013 twin suicide-bombing at All Saints Church in Peshawar, Pakistan. The attack killed 127, injured more than 250 and left 41 orphans. Sam Laldin, CCASA's chairman and chief executive officer was on hand for the interview with the Kingston Whig Standard
- Retirement of Rev. Dorothy Lancaster, whose ministry with seniors in Prince Edward County has been well recognized
- The Bishop's Wednesday mornings' office hours will be spent at All Saints, Tyendinaga, in his capacity as Bishop Ordinary of the Chapel Royal. The fifth Sunday of the month will be a service of Evening Prayer (beginning Jan 31, 2016) in an attempt to work more fully with the outcomes of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. A rental amount with the Mohawk Band Council has been arranged.

- Coventry Litany of Reconciliation – Fridays at noon –application is being made for the Cathedral to become a full partner in the Community of the Cross of Nails at Coventry Cathedral (along with 140 other partners around the world)

Approval of Minutes – November 24, 2015**Bishop****MOTION:****EROGERS/CMORRIS****BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of November 24, 2015 be accepted as presented.****CARRIED****Business Arising from the Minutes**

- Nothing

Church Bookroom Study Update**Eleanor Rogers**

Queen's Bookroom Analysis – Summary submitted

- Focus groups and Survey Monkey were used to attain information
- Bookroom *does* support the Diocesan Mission
- Customer service exceptional
- 8 Summary Points:
 - Improve financial performance, significantly
 - Deliver a superior customer service experience
 - Create community ties
 - Revamp layout to cater to changing customer preferences
 - Cater to the younger demographic
 - Develop an Implementation Timeline & Return On Investment
 - Improve managerial oversight and guidance both for the Bookroom manager and for the staff
- Action Plan forthcoming with follow-up meetings between the Church Bookroom and the Diocese
- Monthly business review with a report to Synod Council recommended

Update on Refugee Program**Debra Fieguth**

The Bishop introduced Debra gratefully acknowledging her work. Background: a partnership with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Kingston was established in September since the Diocese of Ontario is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder and in Kingston, it can serve as a SAH for the Archdiocese, and is a SAH for the Quakers. To date twenty two Syrians have settled; thirty from Eritrea, Burundi & Congo; nearly fifty people in the last couple of months; DOORS (Diocese of Ontario Refugee Support) meets regularly and has sponsored individuals/families for the past 10 years – notably, more have been sponsored in the last few months than all of the years of DOORS; The Cathedral's sponsored family arrived last week. Recently, Debra spoke at the Global Development 100 class at Queen's. Today Debra spoke with a recently arrived refugee, Pierre; the church and broader community has come together trading information, sharing in training, etc., Debra advises on settlement issues as they arise.

Preliminary Year End results for 2015**John Secker**

Typically there is no information available however the Financial Executive Officer notes that numbers fluctuate:

- \$145,000 surplus established by holding back national church payments in November & December in addition to other diocesan areas
- Receivables down to \$400,000
- Church Bookroom approximately \$4,000 loss at year's end
- Camp Hyanto deficit position is approximately \$74,000

Alex Pierson presented two graphs: (a) Parish Receivables – past 5-year trend (b) Top Receivables

Stewardship of God's Creation and Climate Change

Alex Pierson

(Information and Awareness Item)

Diocesan Green Group spoke to Alex Pierson in late 2015 to inquire about divestments based on the Dioceses of Montreal and Ottawa & COGS' divestment of fossil fuel extraction companies. The Finance Committee will hear their presentation at its next meeting. Eleven percent of the Diocesan investments (over \$1M of investment) is in the fossil sector. More information is required to make a decision of this magnitude. It was noted the Green Group will likely make a motion to Synod Council in the future.

Canons and Governance Committee

Ken Healy

The main points were the differences between non-standing committees listed, and present non-standing committees. The issues of document management improvement, so that decisions made are tracked, motions made, and tagging or linking for searches. Mention of the Strategic plan as well. Additional information will be presented at Synod 2016.

Covenant Celebration Team Update

Doug Green

Additional parishes sharing their stories of covenant progression, which is announced in the weekly Diocesan e-newsletter. Covenant Grants application link is available on the diocesan website under Parish Resources. Reminder of the Diocesan Covenant with the Parishes continues to be in process; a Covenant liturgy for Vestry Sunday was made available. Presentation hoped to be made at the Synod in November 2016.

Diocesan Center Study Update

Alex Pierson

The Finance Committee was formed 2011, with significant focus on the Diocesan Centre. The focus was on reviewing the entire cost structure and programs of the Diocese. The last major elements are Hyanto (separate) and the Diocesan Center.

- A Diocesan Centre Review power point was presented.
- Highlights and results of the study are anticipated for the April Synod Council meeting.
- "Specifics of the building" were presented, including its historic designation, built in 1851 and was the bishop's residence until 1966. Its last major addition/renovation was in 1988.
- "Current usage" was outlined; much of the space is being under-utilized.
- "Estimate of Value" was derived through DTZ (a leading Commercial Real Estate Broker) at approximately \$1,053,000 (roughly \$185/sq ft.).
- "Assessment of the Location" highlighted both advantages and disadvantages.
- "Needs Going Forward" most notably office and meeting spaces. Three principle options: remain in building; sell and move to a leased location; redevelop and remain (partner required).
- "Costs to Operate the Diocesan Centre" were identified (approximately \$86,000 in 2015).
- "Other Factors" such as parking, archives, etc., were noted.
- "Next Steps" to explore a development partner, continue discussion with other dioceses as to their experiences, produce a detailed financial analysis, etc., and bring to Synod Council in April.

- The Synod 2010 systematic review of the Diocese continues!

Consent Agenda

-no items

Other Business

- Discussion: the most recent changes to CMM & clergy benefits (Jan 1, 2016) and its implications; Michael Rice recommended this discussion occur prior to Synod 2016.

Devotion Leaders for February to June Meetings

Bishop

- Feb – Voila
- Mar - Wayne
- Apr – Valerie
- May – Ken
- June - Alex

Input on February Agenda items

Meeting Evaluations – were available and members were encouraged to submit

Adjournment

KHealy/DGreen

Synod Council adjourned at 8:32pm

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 - 6 pm

Christ Church, Cataraqui

Devotions: Voila

Bishop

Secretary

Date