

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO  
SYNOD COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015  
CHRIST CHURCH, CATARAQUI 6:00 P.M.  
MINUTES**

**Present:** Bishop Michael Oulton, Alex Pierson, Christine Downey, John Secker, Charles Morris, Peter Case, Eleanor Rogers, Peter Bunn, Michael Read, Carol Fitzpatrick, Ken Healey, Brenda Hobbs, Doug Green, Wayne Varley, Michael Rice, Audrey Dolizny, Brad Smith, Sharon Dunlop, Roy Conacher, Viola David

**Regrets:** Al Danford, Haroldine Neil-Butchert, Haynes Hubbard

**Guests:** Michael Read, Carol Fitzpatrick, Bram Pierce, Donna Robinson

**Opening Devotions:**

**Christine Downey**

Christine opened this evening's meeting with a prayer for unity, hope and vision.

**Agenda Review and Adoption**

**Bishop**

The agenda was approved noting the following:

- Under New Business include the current Syrian refugee situation; the social media policy and a Motion from the Parish of Tyendinaga (Brad Smith).
- Under Business Arising: there is no report from the Canons & Governance Committee

**Chair's Remarks**

**Bishop Oulton**

St. John's (Portsmouth): Canon Chris Doering has relinquished his orders to the Bishop, the paperwork has been sent to the House of Bishops and to the National Church. Derek Waddingham has also relinquished his orders as vocational deacon; the paperwork to do so has also been processed.

Archdeacon Wayne Varley has been seconded to St. John's (Portsmouth) effective Sept 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of June 2016.

Alex Pierson, former Chair of Finance Committee, is serving on a pro-tem basis as DEO effective Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and continues to serve in an ex-officio position on Synod Council.

Archdeacon Wayne Varley has been appointed by the Bishop as a member of Synod Council until end June 2016

St. Paul's (Brockville): Rev. Barbara Robinson (resigned) is currently in the process of discernment, Rev. Robert Hales is currently serving as priest-in-charge. The Parish Advisory Committee in works

The Cathedral of St. George – the consecration of former Dean Mary Irwin-Gibson, Bishop-elect in the Diocese of Montreal, will be Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm; there is a bus going. The Parish Advisory Committee is in process. Bishop Emeritus George Bruce is serving as Priest-in-Charge.

On Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm an Evensong service of celebration was held for Anne Patterson who retired on September 10<sup>th</sup> after 14 years as Diocesan Registrar and Administrative Assistant. Anne contributed widely to the National and International Church and was instrumental in developing an on-going relationship with the Church in Brazil.

Wendy Pierson was welcomed into the position of Diocesan Registrar & Administrative Assistant to the Bishop on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

Marilyn Clarkin has resigned from her Synod Council position as a representative of Hastings Deanery.

Kathleen Smith who was appointed to Synod Council by the Bishop has moved to Ottawa.

The Venerable Brad Smith, Incumbent of Tyendinaga and Archdeacon of Ontario, has been appointed by the Area Bishop of Trent/Durham, Rev. Linda Nicholls, the new Incumbent of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist (Peterborough) effective November 15, 2015. Venerable Brad Smith's last Sunday in the Parish will be 25<sup>th</sup> October. The Bishop extended his deep appreciation to Brad's ministry and contributions to the Diocese.

Maureen Sampson (Parish of the St. Lawrence) has been appointment representative to the next Provincial Synod (Oct 14-16). One youth representative can also be sent.

### **Approval of Minutes June 23, 2015**

#### **MOTION:**

**CMorris/PBunn**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of 23 June 2015 be accepted as presented.**

**CARRIED**

Correction: the deconsecration of the Church in Ompah was on June 20<sup>th</sup> not 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Nothing

#### **Covenant Celebration Team**

**Michael Read**

The Covenant process will be celebrated on Tuesday, Oct 6<sup>th</sup> just prior to the Budget meeting rather than having regional meetings as in the past. This will be an opportunity to continue to build relationships, especially during the 6-7p.m. social time. A presentation at 7pm will highlight stories and situations resulting from the Covenant process. This will precede the Budget presentation with Bishop Oulton and others at Christ Church, Cataraqui. It was noted 30 of 44 responses were made to the covenant process. Steps to come will be to encourage parishes to continue process; establishing new goals, etc. The Bishop has been attending parish council meetings throughout the year and is scheduled for more in 2016, prior to Synod.

**Camp Hyanto****-Summary and Highlights from Summer 2015****Carol Fitzpatrick**

Highlights of programming were noted in the hand-out made available prior to the meeting. Carol noted the counsellor-in-training program was resurrected to enhance their training as training is a focus for youth and campers. Carol acknowledged assistance by Rev. Blair Peever who facilitated a presentation on how to be Christian in secular world. It was thought the slight increase in registrants may be related to broader advertising outside of the traditional catchment area.

**- Board Perspective****Bram Pearce**

Board representatives have meet with a parishioner, a former employee of the Ontario Camping Association, who is anxious to contribute.

**- Strategic Task Force Update****Alex Pierson**

Velma Kelsey, Camp Cook for several decades, retired at the end of the summer. Her contribution to the Camp was enormous. A Task Force will be formed in the coming month to develop a long term strategy for the Camp. Carol's contribution to the Camp was also highlighted as noteworthy and commendable. Bishop Oulton commented on the enthusiasm brought by Carol particularly in the light of the decline of camps.

A Camp Hyanto video presentation for promotional purposes was viewed and can be found on the Facebook page of Camp Hyanto and on the Diocesan website.

**Finance Committee****Peter Case****- Update: Financial position as of end of September 2015 and Outlook for Year End 2015**

The hand-out "Difficult Choices" was referred to. Decisions need to be made that are beyond the Finance Committee's mandate and is seeking input from Synod Council. The Budget is prepared on the assumption that Camp Hyanto and the Church Bookroom will break even. However, the Church Bookroom is in deficit with inventory up and margins down, considerably. Camp Hyanto is in a loss situation, but a lower loss than the previous year. The Finance Committee noted concerns about liquidity for the Diocese as the line of credit is nearing the maximum and has surpassed on occasion. Should the fourth quarter proportional gift to National Church to be withheld?

**- 2016 Budget: Update and Direction**

The input budget was created however, with a \$278,000 loss it is not a feasible budget. Attempts to decrease the loss is outlined in the hand-out, with a resulting deficit of \$35,000.

Options for Camp Hyanto outlined on page 3 of the hand-out.

The Finance Committee continues to look at the options around the Synod Office building. Comparable rental values have been received; a recommendation is expected soon. The Church Bookroom: a consultative review is scheduled for Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. An on-line survey was sent out Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> with a good level of response at present. The survey results will be

collected for the next two weeks; not all who received the survey, approximately 1400, were Anglicans.

A discussion ensued regarding clergy benefits. In comparison to other dioceses, CMM appears high however both CMM and clergy benefits are rolled into the one amount. Direct billing to parishes – separate from CMM - will clarify the true cost of having a parish priest. This will have a zero net effect on the diocesan budget while providing transparency. Further discussion highlighted the realities of unpredictable situations arising within the diocese.

Discussion & Motions:

**MOTION:**

**CMorris/ERogers**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the proportional gift to National Church be withheld in whole or in part if required.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:**

**BSmith/ERogers**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the \$30,000 proportional gift to the National Church being carried from 2010 not be forwarded.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:**

**ERogers/KHealy**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the current clergy benefits covered under CMM's current system be billed directly to parishes effective January 2016.

**CARRIED**

**Motion:**

**CMorris/PBunn**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Camp Hyanto operate in 2016, to anticipate an \$80K operating grant, that parishes will be invited to contribute a proportional gift based on CMM formula and any shortfall be met by other budgetary adjustments.

**CARRIED**

**Habitat For Humanity/North Kingston Initiative**

**Valerie Kelly**

Rev. Valerie up-dated Synod Council on her work over the summer to familiarize herself with local resources, making contacts and continuing to discern needs in the Cowdy St. area.

**-Update and Memo of Understanding**

**Alex Pierson**

Alex noted this project could serve as a template for other locations/deconsecrated churches, effectively serving to continue ministry. Alex explained that an MOU is an arrangement with goals, responsibilities, phasing, with a termination and at each phase a new agreement would be put in place.

**Motion:****WVarley/MRice**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Synod Council approves the Memo of Understanding with HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GREATER KINGSTON & FRONTENAC to transform the current site of the Church of the Good Shepherd, 46 Cowdy Street, into affordable housing and a Diocesan hall and further directs the Diocesan Executive Officer to execute the Memo of Understanding.

**CARRIED****Request from St Alban's, Odessa**

A request from the wardens at St. Alban's (Odessa) was made to move St. Alban's from the Quinte deanery to the Frontenac deanery for geographical reasons. Both Regional Deans & Archdeacons of said deaneries concur.

**MOTION:****BSmith/KHealy**

**BE IT RESOLVED TO** recommend to the Bishop that St. Alban's, Odessa be transferred from the Qunite deanery to the Frontenac deanery.

**CARRIED****Canons and Governance Committee****Ken Healy**

- Deleted from the agenda as there is no report to be made.

**Consent Agenda**

Nothing

**Other Business**

- Syrian Refugee situation – a number of parishes is wanting to sponsor a family; the Diocese is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder and through the Diocese of Ontario Refugee Support (DOORS) program a number of families have been sponsored. The joint Commission of Justice & Peace (Anglican & Roman Catholic) invited Debra Fieguth to speak at its meeting September 8<sup>th</sup>. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese has been invited to financially contribute through the Commission as they are not a SAH. In order to facilitate this ministry two actions are occurring: an application for funding in the amount of \$5,000 to the Diocese of Ontario Foundation (directed to Social Justice), Debra will be paid for one day's work per week.

**MOTION:****ERogers/BSmith**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** in order to support and encourage Parish level fund-raising to support relief for refugees, that all amounts identified by parishes as specifically raised and used for this purpose, will be excluded from assessable income for purposes of CMM, effective Sept. 1, 2015.

**CARRIED**

**Social Media****Alex Pierson**

The two draft hand-outs were circulated prior to the meeting for review; discussion and voting will take place at the October meeting.

The following information was shared from the Parish of Tyendinaga:

Whereas the Mohawk have been loyal allies of the Crown since the seventeenth century and have been faithful Anglicans since 1710, with this commitment recognized by the establishment of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal of the Mohawk in Brantford and Tyendinaga; and,

Whereas the Roman Catholic Church recognized the piety and faith of the Mohawk woman Kateri Tekakwitha when Pope Benedict XVI canonized her on 21 October 2012;

We resolve to petition the General Synod of the Anglican Church in Canada at its triennial meeting in 2016 to add St Kateri Tekakwitha to the Calendar of the Anglican Church of Canada on one of the following dates: 17 April\* (anniversary of her death in 1680), 14 July (the date she is commemorated in the Roman Catholic Church in the United States), or 21 October (anniversary of her canonization in 2012). [Carried 8 July 2015]

\*Note: 17 April is the day after another Mohawk woman, Molly Brant, is commemorated in the Canadian Calendar.

**MOTION:****BSmith/DGreen**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the name of St. Kateri Tekakwitha be forward it to the General Secretary for consideration at the 2016 meeting of the General Synod with the intention that her name be included in the Anglican Church of Canada's calendar.

**CARRIED****Meeting Evaluation and Next Meeting Focus**

- The Bishop invited Council to fill out an evaluation form and give/send to the DEO.

**Devotions for:**           October – Wayne Varley  
                                   November – Doug Green

**Adjournment** – the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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 Bishop Michael Oulton

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 Secretary

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 Date