

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016
CHRIST CHURCH, CATARAQUI
6:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Attendance: Bishop Michael Oulton, Alex Pierson, John Secker, Christine Downey, Charles Morris, Peter Bunn, Wayne Varley, Brenda Hobbs, Sharon Dunlop, Michael rice, Al Danford, Ken Healey, Audrey Doliszny, , Doug Green, Valerie Kelly, Heather Grimshaw, Eleanor Rogers, Roy Conacher

Regrets: Voila David, Haynes Hubbard

Guests: Peter Case (Finance Committee) & Ryan Moore (Collins Barrow); Bram Pearce, Doug Noiles, Kathy Thomas (St. John the Evangelist, Bath).

Opening Devotions:

Ken Healy

Reflection on leadership particularly as it relates to values, in relationship to faith and in connection to God and the Holy Spirit.

Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Chair

- The Shared Ministry Model between the parishes of Marysburgh and Kente have been formalized with Canon David Smith as priest-in-charge; a service of Celebration of New Ministry will be held on 19 June 2016 at St Andrew's, Wellington.
- Expressions of interests for St. John's (Portsmouth) are being sought as the Bishop has received the parish profile.
- Parish Advisory Committees for Trinity Parish (Camden East/Tamworth) has been established
- The Bishop will be providing the Tyendinaga PAC with the applicants that have been recommended after review with the BAC
- Parish Advisory Committee is being established for Newboro-Westport on May 26
- Today, the Bishop joined the parish council meeting of St. John's (Stirling), this being his 21st council meeting in conjunction with his commitment to visit all parish council meetings between the 2014 and 2016 Diocesan Synods.
- A reminder of the June 12 ordination, collation and installation service in which Trish Miller will be ordained to the transitional diaconate, Blair Peever will be installed as a Canon in the Canonry of St. Barnabas, and Charles Morris will be installed as Archdeacon of Ontario (Archdeaneries of Quinte and Hastings)

Holding in our prayers:

- Bishop George whose second heart surgery was successful; he is doing well.
- The Rev. Dr. Ian Ritchie whose wife Debra Fieguth died on May 8; her funeral was held on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at The Cathedral of St. George.

The bishop also shared that he attended and spoke at the 232nd annual re-enactment of the landing of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte at Tyendinaga. This ceremony commemorates the arrival of Loyalist Mohawk families to this area following the end of the American Revolution. A feast at the Mohawk Community Centre followed.

Approval of Minutes – April 26, 2016 Meeting

Chair

MOTION:

KHEALEY/PBUNN

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of 26 April 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

Note the point of clarification: Total investment in the Diocesan Investment Fund is \$15M of which \$100,000 is energy.

Business Arising from the Minutes

-nothing to report

Future Direction – St. John’s (Bath)

Doug Noiles

Doug was invited to become Treasurer of St. John’s as of February 2016. He presented a strategic plan based on a Mission & Resources Quadrant: static, sustainable, unsustainable and strategic. St. Bath’s is in an unsustainable position and has been for many years. Its goal is to move into the sustainable quadrant. St. John’s has an average of 40 households in the congregation. The congregation gathered to discuss its present situation. On behalf of the congregation Doug presented the following: Critical Assessment (what the parish is); Vision (who they want to be); Mission (what they want to do); Values (code of conduct); a Framework for the long term. A 100-day plan was formulated which began 20 April 2016 with specific goals and dates to meet them. The Bishop thanked Doug for the presentation. The plan is received by Synod Council who looks forward to seeing a plan unfold,

Finance Committee

Auditor’s Report –

2015 Consolidated Financial Statements

Ryan Moore

(Collins Barrow)

John Secker

Ryan thanked the Diocese for using the Collins Barrow firm now in its third year. The audit began the end of March and was presented to the Finance Committee; there is no evidence of fraud detected in the numbers of the Financial Statements. A clean audit has been made. It was noted that investments continue to grow; the accounts receivable seem to be trending downward; bank indebtedness is down. CMM revenues slightly up from 2015; expenditures, nothing major

to report; net assets did grow; statement of cash flows shows a slight improvement; no specific bad debts.

Peter Case noted the Finance Committee met with Diocesan management and the auditors as is protocol and then met with the auditors alone. The Finance Committee concludes there is reasonable assurance that the finances presented, fairly represent the Financial Statements and recommends their acceptance. Ryan Moore expressed gratitude to Ruth Caswell for her great attention to detail.

MOTION: **PBUNN/MRICE**
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Financial Statements be accepted.
CARRIED

April 2016 Unaudited Financial Reports **Peter Case**

The interim report indicates revenues are below budget as proportional gifts to Camp Hyanto are lower than expected and interest rates are low. However, receivables to the end of April are up, which is normal.

Recommendation and Motion on Change to **Peter Case**
the Diocesan Investment Policy

A memorandum dated 17 May 2016 was presented to Synod Council, prepared by the Green Group to the Diocesan Finance Committee. The following motions were made:

MOTION: **EROGERS/DGREEN**
BE IT RESOLVED TO amend the Diocesan investment policy so as to require divestiture of all investments, both equity and fixed income, in fossil fuel extraction companies. In order to mitigate the harmful financial impact on the Diocese, the Diocese should give itself two years to complete the process.

CARRIED

Note: the policy will be re-drafted and brought back to Synod Council.

MOTION: **SDUNLOP/WVARLEY**
BE IT RESOLVED to encourage the Green Group to focus on ways that we as individuals and as a Church can reduce our use of fossil fuels.

CARRIED

2017 Budget – Guidance from SC **Alex Pierson**

Diocesan Consultation sessions will be held on June 14 & 16 focusing on strategy, vision and the 2017 budget. Results will be then reviewed and compiled over the summer by the Finance Committee with a target to approve the 2017 budget the end of September as budget information needs to be presented in October. The Finance Committee would like hear thoughts on the vision of the Diocese from across parishes.

Update from 2016 Synod Agenda Planning Committee

The Bishop noted the Committee has been meeting, its co-chairs are Canon Andrew Chisholm and Michelle Hauser. The Committee is using a draft template of previous Synods and once again will be held at the Four Points Sheraton, Nov 3-5, 2016. The theme is *Rejoicing in God's Promise*. In place of the annual Bishop's Dinner the Bishop will integrate it into the Synod Banquet whose speaker will be the Ambassador to Cuba. A relationship has built following a youth mission trip from Maitland to Cuba and speaking in Brockville. General Secretary Michael Thompson is also being invited. Synod delegates and those who attend typically attend the Bishop's Dinner (with tax receipts) will be invited into this expanded Synod Banquet. The Nominating Committee consists of Cathy Seymore, Anne Patterson and Michael Reed. Each deanery elects three delegates (one clergy, one lay and one clergy or lay).

Canons and Governance Committee

Roy Conacher

Roy noted the change in title (from the Canons Committee). The Canons and Governance Committee's function is to review canons and make changes as required to meet the needs of parish & diocese. The Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act will provide a modern, legal framework for not-for-profit corporations, including charitable corporations. It sets out how not-for-profit corporations in Ontario are created, governed and dissolved. Within the Diocesan Canons are some ambiguities and deficiencies that need to be addressed. The Committee has been meeting and will provide a rough draft of re-written Canons to the June Synod Council meeting. Fruitful discussions are required in the coming months to prepare for Synod. Roy reminded Synod Council that approval is required at two Synods to pass Canons on discipline.

Covenant Celebration Team Update

Doug Green/Christine Downey

The Team met last week and approved four grant applications for four different parishes. A presentation will be made at Synod.

Consent Agenda (no items identified)

Other Business

An up-date on the Habitat for Humanity program was requested. Alex noted the neighbor parking and church parking lot is being resolved. A September de-consecration date has been established. The congregation has made arrangements to hold weekly services at a parishioner's seniors building; Rev. Douglas Fox will continue to provide Sunday coverage. Valerie noted that with greater clarity on the timeline of the buildings programming and funding can move ahead.

Input on June Agenda items

- Feedback on the Consultation sessions
- Up-dates on Diocesan Center and Church Bookroom

Devotions for Sept and October

-Christine Downey (September)
-Brenda Hobbs (October)

Meeting Evaluations

-copies were made available to Synod Council members

Adjournment

Sharon Dunlop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46pm.

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday June 28, 2016 6 PM

Location TBA

Devotions: Alex Pierson

DRAFT