

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO SYNOD COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017
ST JOHN'S (PORTSMOUTH) 6:00 PM**

MINUTES

Present: Bishop Michael Oulton, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, Heather Grimshaw, Sharon Dunlop, Anne Patterson, Doug Green, Haroldine Neil-Burchert, Nancy Beale, Audrey Doliszny, Doug Cowley (Bishop's appointee), Michael Rice, Michael Read (Bishop's appointee), Christine Downey, Valerie Kelly, Don Davidson, Voila David, Charles Morris

Regrets: Robin Jones, Brenda Hobbs, Al Danford, Don Bailey, Viren Oogarah, Roy Conacher, Garth Allan

Guests: members of the Camp Hyanto Board: Cheryl Green-Betts, Pauline Kuhlmann, Carol Anne Bell, Michelle Laing (VBS presenter), and Colleen McAlister

Opening Devotions:

Don Davidson

Dean Don opened with a reflection on a conversation he had with a man preparing to die. Noting that to choose life is a decision necessary to growth and within the life of the church it is this choice instead of having increasing numbers that is essential. When the seed stops growing the plant dies. Spiritual growth is an important part of the Church. The Dean concluded with a prayer.

Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

The date on the agenda should read Feb 21st

Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Bishop Oulton

- The January meeting was cancelled due to weather
- Dean Davidson was thanked for chairing the November 2016 meeting
- St. Paul's (Marmora) - Canon Bob Wright has been appointed half time interim priest-in-charge for an extended period of time
- Anglican Churches of Quinte West – Rev. Steve Timpson resigned from the Parish and the Anglican Church of Canada and was licensed in the Anglican Network in Canada; he started a church in Trenton; retired Bishop Peter Mason has been appointed to fill in at the parish of Quinte West; Rev. Ada Rochford continues as Priest Associate
- Bram Pearce has been appointed Incumbent at St. Peter's (Collins Bay) as of 27 March; Rev. Sue Beare has been appointed interim priest-in-charge of St. John's (Bath)

- A service of New Ministry was held on 5 Feb 2017 for Rev. Mike Michelin as Incumbent at St. John's (Kingston)
- Giuseppe Gagliano was appointed in the Diocese of Quebec [the parish Lynn Dillabough vacated]; Canon John Robertson is providing ministry on a supply basis at St. Paul's (Sydenham)
- Canon Dr. Barbara Robinson, interim priest-in-charge Lakes & Locks (Westport & Newboro) retired; Canon David Ward has been appointed priest-in-charge on a half time long term basis
- Rev. George Kwari (Parham Sharbot Lake – shared ministry with Ottawa) resigned
- Rev. Jonathan Askwith was appointed as Incumbent in the Parish of Parham-Sharbot Lake (Diocese of Ontario) and in shared ministry with Maberly (Diocese of Ottawa) effective January 11, 2017
- Rev. Christine Downey is recovering from surgery
- Lynn Dillabough fractured bones in her knee and is slowly recovering
- Theo Bruce had surgery on her optic nerve to remove a tumor; she will receive radiation on the remaining 20% of the tumour
- George Bruce is being treated for leukemia and is doing well relatively well
- Appointments: Rev. Nancy Beale as Warden and Lynn Dillabough as Deputy Warden for the School of Lay Readers
- The Bishop extended his thanks to those who helped with the preparation and attendance at the Open House in honouring the closing of 90 Johnson St. (Diocesan Office)
- The Bishop highly praised the Belleville Movers on their efforts in the 2-stage move; the Bishop will announce an Open House in final location (Ontario St.)
- A final note of gratitude and thanks was extended to St. John's for hosting Synod Council

Approval of Minutes - November 2016 Regular Meeting

Chair

MOTION:

DDavidson/MRice

THAT THE MINUTES of November 22, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

Correction on page five: "The Team continues to hearing back from grant..." should read, "The Team continues to hear back from grant..."

Business Arising from the Minutes - none

Camp Hyanto – Update and Gate II

Hyanto Board

Alex Pierson provided background information and up-dated Council on changes.

The recommendations of the Task Force (supported by the previous Board), approved by Synod Council (July 2016) and ratified by Synod (November 2016) laid out a Timeline, driven by “Gates:”

- Gate 1 Renewed Board Synod 2016
- Gate 2 New Vision & Strategy Jan 2017 Synod Council Meeting
- Gate 3 5 Year Business Plan March 2017 Synod Council Meeting
- Gate 4 2018 Budget April 2017 Synod Council Meeting
- Gate 5 Hyanto Re-opens for 2018 Camping Season
- Gate 6 Review of 2018 Operations Synod 2018

RECOMMENDED TIMELINE UP-DATE:

- Gate 1 Renewed Board Synod 2016 Complete
- Gate 2 New Vision & Strategy SC January 2017 SC February 2017
- Gate 3a Hyanto Ministries 2017 VBS SC March 2017
- Gate 3b 5-Year Business Plan SC March 2017 SC May 2017
- Gate 4 2018 Budget SC April 2017 SC Sept 2017
- Gate 5a Hyanto Ministries VBS Summer 2017
- Gate 5b Full Review of 2018 Operating Plan/Approval to Operate Oct 2017
- Gate 5c Hyanto Re-opens for 2018 Camping Season
- Gate 6 Review of 2018 Operations Synod 2018

Gate 2, New Vision & Strategy, was postponed a month due to January’s cancelled meeting. The name has been changed to Hyanto Ministries from Camp Hyanto.

Cheryl Green-Betts made the following Vision & Strategy presentation on behalf of the Hyanto Ministries Board – the aim is for increased attendance. Vision Statement: *“Building lasting relationships that foster self confidence in a safe, caring, Christian environment.”* Significant areas of focus are: Children’s Camp, Vacation Bible School (VBS), Property Rentals, Parish Development (support, training) and Promotion. Cheryl emphasized the Board’s commitment to fiscal stewardship and to not be poor stewards. Cheryl noted there are five other Board members including ex-officio Diocesan members.

- Children’s Camp: more volunteers fewer employees. Change programs regular basis.
- VBS: Michele Laing creates VBS from “scratch” at St. Paul’s – looking to increase VBS’s focus on God along with having fun. To run four one-week VBS in different parishes in predominantly rural areas with staff members running the program in summer 2017
- Property Rentals: during “shoulder seasons” to rent to community partners, local groups; with an emphasis on increased exposure
- Parish Development: suggestions: working with parish to offer new or renewed programs, assist with training, assist with running programs, offer “PA” Day events, etc.
- Promotion: social media that is more up-dated in addition to traditional advertising

The Bishop invited comments, noting that he found the presentation exciting as it engages the past; incorporates new ministries. Other input highlighted the building of the brand of children & youth ministries and moving away from the camp only scenario. Funding will be sought from the Anglican Foundation, and private benefactors; re-instating volunteers from parishes is very important and brings with it a sense of ownership. Questions arose about the property itself, its upkeep, potential damage, etc. when not in use. A property assessment was done and the buildings “winterized” to avoid decay to property. Further discussion focussed on details, and adaptation to local needs within the Diocese.

Key Strategies were also noted.

The next gate will be the board’s five-year Business Plan to be presented at the May Synod Council meeting.

MOTION:

MRead/SDunlop

BE IT RESOLVED to approve Gate 2: Vision and Strategy for Hyanto Ministries.

CARRIED

MOTION:

DCowley/DGreen

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the concept of Vacation Bible School returning to Synod Council in March with finer detail.

CARRIED

Update – Diocesan Center

Alex Pierson

Synod Council was updated on the sale and transaction of the Diocesan Centre (90 Johnson St.) including the financials, design, floor plan and status of construction on the new office location at 165 Ontario St. The powerpoint presentation outlining details of the sale are available on-line.

Update on the first Clergy Day

Bishop/Alex Pierson/Wayne Varley

The first Quarterly Clergy Day was held on Thursday, 12 Jan 2017 at the Ramada Hotel. It was an opportunity for the Diocese to share information regarding: the development of Regional Councils, the Volunteer Corps, Stewardship & Congregational Development, the Diocesan move, Camp Hyanto, the Marriage Canon. The second quarter will be the Clergy Retreat held at Glen House, April 30 – May 2.

Finance Committee**Alex Pierson**

- Alex presented a report from John Secker who is away on vacation. Council reviewed the unaudited 2016 financial statements, which indicated a surplus was generated on the operating side against the budget. This was more than offset by a large deficit produced by Camp Hyanto and the restructuring of the Church Bookroom.

MOTION:**MRead/DDavidson**

BE IT RESOLVED to pay one of the months gifts (\$35,000) to the National Church that had been withheld.

CARRIED

The following discussion noted that the National Church does not carry this as a receivable but rather these monies are considered a 'gift.' It was also queried whether Synod Council would consider in the future to make a similar gift as the Diocese is behind in its offering.

A POINT OF ACTION is to table this discussion at future Synod Council meetings.

Asset Allocation in Investment Fund**Finance Committee**

Synod Council approved the Finance Committee's recommendation on adjusting the asset allocation in the Diocesan Consolidated Investment Fund. This change increases the guidelines for foreign allocation in the diocesan portfolio.

MOTION:**MRead/NBeale**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Diocese of Ontario Investment Policy Statement be amended to reflect the recommended Asset Mix (Canadian Equity Asset Mix of 20-45%, Foreign Equity Asset Mix of 0-15%) and that the Diocesan Investment Advisor/Broker be informed of the Policy Statement change.

CARRIED

The Bishop extended many thanks to the Finance Committee, in particular to Canon Peter Case, for its work and commitment to the financial health of the Diocese. The Finance Committee is looking for new members.

2016 Preliminary Unaudited Statements**Alex Pierson**

As noted above.

Update on Regional Assemblies**Michael Read**

Council was updated on plans for the upcoming Regional Assemblies fostering connection and engagement across the diocese. Each deanery to have its own vision.

Covenant Celebration Team Update**Doug Green**

At present, there are no new covenants. The Stewardship & Congregational Development Committee has agreed to covenant and submit to the Celebration Team.

Consent Agenda (no items identified)**Other Business****March Meeting – Input on Agenda Items**

Hyanto Ministries' Vacation Bible School detailed plan will be submitted for approval.

Meeting Evaluations

Copies were handed out for completion and returned.

Adjournment - Michael Read moved adjournment at 8:05pm.

Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY MARCH 28th 2017 6 pm
Location: Christ Church Cataraqui

Devotions: Sharon Dunlop

Bishop Michael Oulton

Date

Rev. Valerie Kelly
Clerical Secretary