

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016
CHRIST CHURCH, CATARAQUI 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

Present: Bishop Oulton, Alex Pierson, Charles Morris, John Secker, Peter Bunn, Audrey Doliszny, Brenda Hobbs, Ken Healy, Al Danford, Michael Rice, Don Davidson, Wayne Varley, Roy Conacher, Sharon Dunlop,

Regrets: Haynes Hubbard, Christine Downey, Eleanor Rogers

Guests: Doug Cowley (Vision & Strategy Team), Michael Read (Covenant Celebration Team)

Opening Devotions:

Brenda Hobbs

Brenda read from, "The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century" by Joan Chittister. The chapter, Celebration of the Divine Office During the Day, focussed on God as our greatest agenda; keeping our hearts and minds on God. Brenda closed with a prayer.

Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Chair

- The Bishop extended his appreciation for the work of Synod Council in his absence last month at the House of Bishops meeting in Winnipeg. It was the first meeting following General Synod in which Canon XXI received much consideration. [The Bishop shared how this diocese plans to move forward in light of Canon XXI (hand-out was given at the September meeting of Synod Council).] Every three years there is a "Bishop & spouse" gathering in which the Diocese of Rupert's Land extended wonderful hospitality. In addition to scheduled meetings the Bishop attended, he and Jeanie joined in the tour of the Museum of Human Rights. The Bishop referenced the on-going conversations with Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.
- Celebration of Dean Don Davidson's Service of Installation was held on Sunday, Oct 16, 2016 at The Cathedral of St. George; it was well attended and inclusive.
- The newly established configuration of regional ministry in Leeds-Grenville will be celebrated on Sunday, 22 October; the Bishop will present the mandate & licenses; The Venerable Nancy MacLeod will serve as priest-in-charge with The Rev. Trish Miller as Assistant Curate

- Ordinations will be held on Sunday, Nov 20, 2016 at 5pm at The Cathedral of St. George; The Rev. Patricia (Trish) Miller will be ordained to Holy Orders and John Morrison ordained to the Vocational Deaconate.
- Camp Hyanto – as part of the continuing framework of “Option C” as outlined at the 26 July 2016 meeting of Synod Council, eight individuals who expressed interest in forming a Board were invited to indicate their specific skill sets outlined on a form. As noted at the July meeting the Board needs to be in place by Synod 2016. Synod Council will then direct Camp Hyanto to begin the actions of Option C as outlined in Gates 1-6.
- Michael Read was appointed a member of Synod Council for this evening’s meeting in order to have quorum.
- The bishop has visited 29 parish councils since the 2014 Synod.

Approval of Minutes September 2016 Regular Meeting Chair

MOTION: MRice/KHealey
THAT THE MINUTES of the 27 September 2016 meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

- Archdeacon Wayne Varley and Alex Pierson were invited to leave the meeting room. The Bishop shared the background of the present Diocesan Executive Officer’s pro tem position: with the departure of the incumbent at St. John’s (Portsmouth) the summer of 2015, The Ven. Wayne Varley, honorary assistant, was seconded for the interim. Alex Pierson, Chair of the Finance Committee, and a faithful member of the Anglican Church was asked to be DEO pro tem. Peter Case assumed the Chair of the Finance Committee. This arrangement concludes Nov 1, 2016 with the appointment of the new incumbent to St. John’s. Over the course of the last number of months considerable changes have also occurred within the life of the Diocese: David Smith, Stewardship & Congregational Development Officer went from full-time to 15%; the position of Camp Manager at Camp Hyanto has ceased to exist; Ruth Caswell, Accounting Assistant, has retired. With these considerable changes, the sale of 90 Johnson St. and management of its re-location and move has increased the workload of the office of the Diocesan Executive Officer. The Bishop is proposing dividing the position into two components: “Diocesan Executive Officer” and “Archdeacon of Ministry and Program.” A job description of each position was distributed. The Bishop noted that he appoints on the advice of Synod Council. He highlighted the three imperatives that drive the Church: fiscal, gospel and mission. The diocesan focus continues to move from *maintenance to mission*. Mission elements in action will be the development of volunteer corps and volunteer support, including training; to continue to support parishes in congregational development; to form a team for Children & Youth Ministry. Discussion: Synod Council

members who spoke were supportive of the proposed job descriptions. Concern around timing of the announcement of the two positions to Synod. It was noted the Task Force has noted this support is missing and desperately needed and has been identified over the past four years. The Bishop articulated the shift in ministry to include greater lay involvement; ministry is comprised of a variety of skills and this needs to be supported. He noted at the annual Training & Development retreat (June 2016) the discussion of how to support both clergy & lay occurred. The two proposed job descriptions will be a means of offering that support with the position of Archdeacon of Ministry & Program headed by a clergy person and the DEO position headed by a lay person. Both members will be part of the Bishop's Advisory Committee along with the Dean, the Territorial archdeacons & the Bishop. The Bishop is committed to having a balanced budget, and with the more recent diocesan changes this will be a re-allocation of funds. The scope of work within the office of the DEO is unmanageable at present and this new structure provides support both for the Bishop and the parishes.

MOTION:**MRice/DDavidson**

BE IT RESOLVED that Synod Council endorse the divided position of the DEO into Archdeacon of Ministry and Program & Diocesan Executive Officer with neutral impact on the diocesan budget.

CARRIED**MOTION:****MRice/PBunn**

BE IT RESOLVED that Synod Council concur on the appointment of Alex Pierson as DEO as of Nov 1, 2016.

CARRIED

The Bishop has appointed the Venerable Wayne Varley as Archdeacon of Ministry and Program as of Nov 1, 2016.

Finance Committee**Wayne Varley****September Unaudited Financial Reports**

Wayne commented on the financial reports as presented for information.

2017 Remuneration Rates**Wayne Varley****MOTION:****WVarley/PBunn**

THAT the Clergy Stipend Grid and the Grids for Diocesan Centre Staff for 2017 be set at 2.0% over the 2016 levels.

CARRIED

MOTION: **WVarley/MRead**
That travel allowances for 2017 be set at \$0.61 per km for the first 18,000 kms and \$0.41 per km thereafter.

CARRIED

The Finance Committee was commended for leaving the rate at the current rate.

MOTION: **WVarley/PBunn**
THAT housing allowances for 2017 be increased by 2.0%. For clergy employed in the Kingston area, the guideline for 2017 will be \$24,552.

CARRIED

MOTION: **WVarley/SDunlop**
THAT the Sunday Supply rates for 2017 be set at:
\$ 74.00 for the first service without a sermon
\$ 148.00 for the first service with a sermon
\$ 37.00 for each additional service on the same day and travel allowance applicable for Sunday Supply service be \$0.41 per km.

CARRIED

Synod Update & Agenda Approval

Alex Pierson

Alex reported that the agenda is ready; last minute details being completed. Friday workshops and blanket exercise will be held in the afternoon with Evensong followed by the casual dinner and entertainment in the evening. There is no charge for delegates; non-delegates \$20 per person. Michael Thompson, Secretary of General Synod, will be the preacher for the Opening Eucharist (Thursday evening) with the theme of Reconciliation.

Motion: **ADanford/SDunlop**
To approve the agenda for inclusion in the circular for Synod.

CARRIED

Vision & Strategy Update

Vision & Strategy Team

Alex Pierson, Michael Read and Doug Cowley presented a powerpoint with the theme: *Living Boldly into the World*. To boldly live our faith and take it into the world. The Team is seeking Synod Council's recommendation on presenting the following to Synod 2016:

Using a tree image there are 5 Pillars: investing in Ministry; serving communities; mission-driven stewardship; being connected and engaged; built on gospel values (roots of the tree)!

Gospel: the roots; we are disciples of Jesus Christ and called into the life and witness of Christ

Connected & Engaged: the trunk; to re-connect parishes; re-connect deaneries; re-engage laity; re-engage clergy; to build focus and intentionality; build commitment; build, enable & use skills.

Empowering Ministry: support & nurture laity; support & nurture clergy; empowering leadership; fulfill our Baptismal Covenant *“Who is God calling us to be?”*

Serving Communities: understanding the need; partnering for mission; building the kingdom of God in our neighbourhoods

Mission-driven Stewardship: time; talent; treasure; faith-led *“How do we respond to God’s call in this place? Driven by the mission imperative! Stewardship is about our relationship with God!”*

Building our Future (moving forward):

- the ground is prepared: financial diligence & restructuring, covenant process; stewardship pilots; consultation and dialog
- sow the Word
- nurture the roots

Shifting from *Maintenance to Mission!*

Having paid attention to Ministry, Stewardship and Communities built on the Gospel, the mission is to emphasize being Connected & Engaged particularly in the following areas: regional councils; parish leadership talk to the Plan, the Parish role and target outcomes; volunteer corps; communications; enabling people and engagement with technology; diocesan events; clergy days.

Action: now getting engaged! *“What will you do to engage and connect across our diocese?”*

It was agreed that this be presented at Synod 2016.

Canons and Governance Committee – Revised Canons

Roy Conacher

As reported in previous Synod Council meetings, the re-writing of Diocesan Canons is necessary in response to the Province of Ontario’s new legislation pertaining to Not-for-Profit Corporations with regard to use of charitable funds. A three-year transition period will be in place to implement the new legislation. In 1862 the Diocese of Ontario was incorporated; the re-written canons are to deal with compliance to the new legislation. Objectives: full implementation by 2018. The Chancellor recommends having a Constitution, which is

composed of Canon A1 in order to be more transparent and accountable. The Church structure continues to be the same. The re-write is an attempt to cover gaps in the new legislation.

MOTION: **RConacher/KHealey**

THAT Synod Council recommends to Synod that the draft Canons be approved, in principle, and, subject to undertaking consultations with parish leadership, congregations and clergy across the Diocese regarding potential amendments, that a final draft of the Canons be presented at the next session of Synod in 2018 for formal adoption.

CARRIED

MOTION: **RConacher/CMorris**

THAT Synod Council recommends to Synod that the terms of the draft Canons be implemented as a policy of the Diocese pending final adoption of the revised Canons in 2018 subject to the proviso that whenever a provision in the draft Canons conflicts with a provision in the existing Canons, the latter shall prevail.

CARRIED

Covenant Celebration Team Update

Doug Green/Christine Downey

Michael Read noted that the Team met today and continues to receive covenant grant applications. Three grants applications were considered.

Consent Agenda (no items identified)

Other Business

- Bishop notes with gratitude the faithful commitment of members of Synod Council who, having served two terms, are canonically completing their terms: Ken Healey, Peter Bunn, Haynes Hubbard and Eleanor Rogers. In addition, the Bishop also thanked remaining members of Synod Council for their dedication and he looks forward to the next session, which commences 22 Nov 2016. Ken Healey read a reflection of his time on Synod Council. The Bishop acknowledged this with thanks.
- Individuals will be nominated and voted on at Synod 2016 for Provincial Synod; names are still required to meet the 8 delegate (4 lay/4 clergy) quota.
- Conversation re: diocesan archives is on-going. Due to age, William (Bill) Patterson has submitted his resignation as Chair of the Diocesan Archives Committee.

Meeting Evaluations – were distributed and collected

Adjournment - at 9:33pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday November 22, 2016 6 pm

Location Christ Church, Cataraqui

Devotions: Al Danford

Jan – Audrey Doliszny

Feb – Dean Davidson

Mar – Sharon Dunlop

Bishop, Michael Oulton

Clerical Secretary, Rev. Valerie Kelly

Date