

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO  
SYNOD COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018  
ST JOHN'S PRESCOTT**

**MINUTES**

**NOTE: Dinner is graciously being provided by our hosts at St John's at 5:30 pm**

**Present:** Nancy Beale, Wayne Varley, Charles Morris, Doug Green, Anne Patterson, Audrey Doliszny, Sharon Dunlop, Haroldine Neil-Burchert, Brenda Hobbs, Viren Oogarah, Doug Cowley, Michael Read, Robin Jones, Al Danford, Michael Rice, Don Davidson, Alex Pierson, Michael Oulton, Roy Conacher, Don Bailey, Valerie Kelly, Heather Grimshaw

**Guests:** Tracy Lloyd Smith & David Smith and parishioners of St. John's (Prescott), Dorothy Oogarah

**Opening Devotions:**

**Sharon Dunlop**

Moment of silence commemorating the tragedy of the 10 deaths in Toronto (yesterday) and then offered a prayer from the Primate. From the book *Altar in World* by Barbara Brown Taylor, Sharon read from the chapter on encountering the other. In particular, recalling those with mental health issues, lgbtq2, refugees and others for in the act of meeting and loving the other we also encounter God. Sharon closed with prayer.

**Agenda Review and Adoption**

**Chair**

**Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update**

**Chair**

The Bishop has appointed Rev. Noel Henry as Deacon-in-Charge of the Parish of St. John's (Bath) effective Sunday, April 15. The Celebration of New Ministry will be held at St. John's on Sunday, May 6 at 6pm.

On 18 April the Bishop presided at St. Paul's Mission Church (Belleville) - a mission church of St. Thomas (Belleville) – for its service of de-consecration.

The Good Shepherd Church (Kingston) held its service of de-consecration on Sunday, 8 April. The first of three phases as been complete with two families moving into the duplex. The partnership with Habitat for Humanity will shortly begin phase two - following the demolition of the Church building. Construction of the new ministry outreach centre and the second duplex

is to commence in coming weeks. The Good Shepherd Church was historically a mission of The Cathedral of St. George.

The Bishop expressed his delight recounting the wonderful time with the Primate, Fred Hiltz during Holy Week. The Bishop re-counted the busy schedule touring the Diocese and the gathering of parishes for regional services [Clergy Quiet Day and Triduum]. He sought input from Synod Council on pursuing a similar format for Holy Week in 2019.

The annual Clergy retreat begins 30 April – 1 May. The facilitator is Sister Elizabeth Rolf-Thomas, Reverend Mother of the Sisters of St. John the Divine (Toronto)

The Bishop reminded Synod Council that his sabbatical leave is May-July with holidays in August. Commissaries are Dean Don Davidson and the three archdeacons, each for a month.

#### **Approval of Minutes – February 2018 Regular Meeting**

**Chair**

#### **MOTION:**

**MRead/RJones**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of 27 February 2018 be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED**

#### **Reception of Minutes - March 2018 Meeting (No Quorum)**

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

**Chair**

#### **MOTION:**

**APatterson/MRead**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the names of Doug Green (laity) and Andrew Wilson (clergy) be ratified as scrutineers for Synod 2018.**

**CARRIED**

#### **Camp Hyanto – Update**

**Alex Pierson**

To date, 130 children have registered with 20 sponsorships pending. Advertising is on-going. The VBS program has been composed; locations are being confirmed. Camp programming is underway with a couple of positions to be filled; work bees are being planned. Wood Gundy CIBC through their “Sunshine Day” have made a \$10,000 donation.

#### **St John’s, Prescott Financial Viability Plan**

**Alex Pierson/David Smith**

The Diocese has been working through the Policy on Arrears with St. John’s and at present has a framework in place. David extended his thanks to Alex Pierson for his generosity in working with St. John’s financial situation. He then presented the church’s financial viability plan.

Tracey noted the parish growth with a focus on worship and music and an aim toward excellence noting this has shown results with a growth in the number of parishioners since her arrival in 2010. Ministries of St. John's were outlined by Sharon. On behalf of the parish, David declared they want to get out of debt. As a result, the church has been active in the diocesan stewardship program, Growing Healthy Stewards and is focusing on putting ministry and mission first. St. John's is grateful for the plan and the help they have received. The viability plan was reviewed by the diocesan Finance Committee and approved to come to Synod Council.

**MOTION:****DDavidson/DBailey****BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE viability plan be accepted as presented.****CARRIED****St. Luke's, Kingston – Vision****Valerie Kelly**

Valerie shared information with regards to St. Luke's on-going visioning. A Christian organization out of Hamilton, Indwell, builds affordable housing with supports. Following the CEO's presentation in February 2018, a number of interested community partners have met monthly to discern the possibility of Indwell expanding to Kingston. Members of the Visioning Committee have been in attendance at these meetings. At the 9 April meeting the group suggested they support St. Luke's in its visioning process and work toward discovering if Indwell would become a partner. The Parish Council of St. Luke's has approved this on-going discussion and seeks Synod Council's approval to continue.

**MOTION:****DCowley/RJones****BE IT APPROVED THAT on-going discussion with the housing group and St. Luke's Visioning Committee continue.****CARRIED****Finance Committee****CFO**

- **Quarter I - 2018 Financial Results** – Alex presentation powerpoint information on the Church Bookroom, which is a ministry of the diocese, and Camp Hyanto however it is too early to look at revenue. Receivables - the trend from 2011 to-date is decreasing overall. Three separate committees are being established: operations, investments and audit.

- **2017 Audit Update** – is nearing completion with Collins Barrow with audited statements expected at the May Synod Council meeting.

- **2019 Budget Process – starting budget allocations**

- **Proposed Up-date to Investment Policy Statement** - the policy was created years ago; it needs up-dating.

**MOTION:**

**NBeale/MRead**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Investment Policy Statement be up-dated.**

**CARRIED**

**Canons & Governance – Constitution & Canons Review**

**Chancellor**

Roy Conacher outlined the history of the review, noting it began at Synod 2016 with a motion passed that Synod Council through the Canons Committee consult with diocese. A timeframe was established for consultation with various diocesan groups. It is anticipated by the end of May all consultations will be completed. Roy noted some comments have been received which raised substantive issues. These need to be addressed prior to submission to Synod Council for approval of the final draft going to Synod 2018. A special meeting of Synod Council has been established for June 14 – a quorum is not required – for additional time to consider points prior to the final version going in the pre-Synod package to Synod delegates. The Committee has spent considerable time over last 3 years and will be meeting again the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May. Roy noted the Draft canons are available on the Diocesan website. Pre-synod meetings have been scheduled.

**Stewardship & Congregational Development Update**

**Doug Cowley/Wayne Varley**

The Committee met today (24 April) and anticipates providing input on the constitution by early May; it also plans on attending the stewardship network meeting in early June; a draft to reform the Committee is in place and expects to present to the May meeting of Synod Council.

**Covenant Celebration Team Update**

**Doug Green**

Doug reported that four covenants have been received; two approved; one did not require funding and one for Good Shepherd Legacy Centre has been deferred until Fall when the Centre has been completed. The Committee has been working on establishing a data base tracking the covenants over the last 3.5 years and hopes to present this to Synod Council in June.

**Synod Planning Update**

**MRead/ADoliszny**

Michael noted the new title *planning group* not *agenda planning committee* of Synod 2018 – it has held a number of monthly meetings; on 15 May a budget and strategy consultation session will be held with the base from the Diocesan Office and two satellite locations with web-feeds.

Information for Synod Council and General Synod reps will be on the Diocesan website; nominations deadlines are September and October. A mailing will go out the end of June. Changes to Synod content: observers will not be on the floor of Synod but instead will be provided a separate room with live broadcast. They will register and pay separately. At present, Friday evening is open. For General Synod - live stream plenary sessions will be held in October. Synod Observer is Sr. Pauline Lally, Sisters Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston). Responses to the Bishop's Charge will be: Al Danford, Robin Jones and Andrew Wilson. Pre-synod meetings will be established for the Fall.

### **Worship Committee Update**

**Michael Read**

Monthly meetings were held to plan for worship for the Clergy Quiet Day (Tuesday of Holy Week) & Annual Clergy Retreat. A litany was prepared for Homelessness Sunday (22 April). A new baptismal liturgy has been drafted and approved for trial use across Diocese. New worship guidelines have been established for parishes when the Bishop visits in order to streamline the visit. List prepared via Diocesan Office to be sent out. Synod worship planning is in the works. At the upcoming National Anglican and Lutheran Worship Conference, which will take place from July 16-19 in Victoria, B.C.; the theme of the conference, *Responding to Disaster: Prayer, Song, Presence*, aims to provide ways for people of faith to respond to traumatic events through worship and liturgies of lament. Lastly, Michael addressed altar guild training across diocese and wondered if support is available? The Committee is open to input.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **- St. Paul's, Kingston (Memorial Window)**

**Alex Pierson**

A bequeath of a significant amount of money was left to St. Paul's Church. The congregation is wanting to memorialize donor with a memorial window.

#### **MOTION:**

**DDavidson/ADanford**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE request be approved.**

**CARRIED**

### **Other Business**

Robin Jones spoke to a Human Sex Trafficking presentation taking place on Monday, 30 April at the Brockville Conference Centre [2-4pm] as a means of raising awareness of this issue. A broad spectrum of speakers from OPP and Victim Services will be involved, five real life case studies from Leeds & Grenville will be highlighted. Next steps after awareness? The Bishop encouraged Diocesan Clergy to attend from the Annual Retreat.

**May 2018 Meeting – Input on Agenda Items**

**Meeting Evaluations**

-none

**Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 8:34pm**

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 2018 - 6 pm**

**Location: Christ Church, Cataraqui**

**Devotions: Audrey Doliszny**

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**Michael Oulton (Bishop)**

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**Valerie Kelly (Clerical Secretary)**

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**Date**