

May 25, 2021

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, May 25, 6:20pm
MINUTES**

Present: Bishop Oulton, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, Michael Read, Bill Clarke, Anne Patterson, Trish Miller, Robin Jones, Nancy Beale, Peter Cory, Joseph Burnham, Lynn Mitchell, Kate McLean, Viren Oogarah, Garth Allen, Heather Grimshaw (Clerical Lay Secretary)

Regrets: Valerie Kelly, Maureen Butler, James Young

Bishop Michael welcomed **Taylor Lynch** who will speak to the Agenda during New Ministry Updates. Welcome was extended to **Jane Kirkpatrick** of the Worship Committee who will provide information with Rev Lynn Mitchell of the Worship Committee.

Opening Devotions:

Trish Miller

Trish Miller led the Council meeting in devotions – provided an excerpt from Northumberland County UK, (Northumbria) commemorating Venerable Bede, a priest and anglo saxon monk in the 7th and 8th century who entered the monastery at age 7; was adept at translating languages, a superb writer, historian, and educator; died on The Eve of Ascension, saying “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen”. Trish followed with a reading from Malachi, and finished with prayer.

Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

The Consent Agenda was approved by consensus.

Chair’s Remarks and Bishop’s Update

Chair

Bishop Michael advised the following:

- Sunday May 23 Bishop Michael attended the farewell in the afternoon for The Rev AJ Cottreau, Parish of St. Lawrence, Brockville as AJ is posted with the Military out of the parish. Best wishes were extended to AJ as she proceeds to her next posting. AJ presented various gifts to the parish, a very moving and powerful tribute.
- Bishop has received the resignation of The Rev Tracy Lloyd-Smith of St. John the Evangelist, Prescott. Best wishes are extended to her as she proceeds onward.
- Bishop expressed thanks to Council members for filling in a recent survey.

Approval of Minutes for April 27, 2021 Meeting

Chair

MOTION:

MRead/JBurnham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of April 27, 2021 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes - none

Chair

COVID 19 Pandemic – Status

Bishop, DEO, AMP

The numbers today provided by the health authorities of those recently diagnosed and those under medical care in the hospitals are looking really good for Kingston and area – no new cases in KFLA today – numbers are fairly low – trend is heading down!! We remain in our current provincial stage at this

point. More information will be received about mid June. Indoor worship is still an extended period away before opening our buildings.

Pandemic Financial Update

CFO

Third Party Insurance -

Alex Pierson reviewed that third party insurance remains ongoing for “outside” folks who wish to rent space at a designated church facility (i.e. church hall) – when we are not in pandemic mode. Insurance continues to be provided through HUB Insurance. The yearly fee from the Diocese is \$1,000 (plus tax). After discussion the following motion was presented:

MOTION:

BClarke/MRead

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council directs that the Third Party Insurance Deposit with HUB Canada be replenished for the 2021 program from the Church Pandemic Support Fund in the amount of \$1,080.

CARRIED

Worship Committee

Lynn Mitchell

The Worship Committee consists of the following: Rev Lynn Mitchell, Trish Miller, Jane Kirkpatrick, Andrew Wilson, Wendy Tice, Cathy Seymour, Sandra Hounsell-Drover, Bob Wright, Wayne Varley. Bishop Michael welcomed Worship Committee guests present, and Lynn Mitchell, Chair of Diocesan Worship Committee. Lynn described the worship group and their purpose within the Diocese, and described some highlights:

- Links available to a variety of Theological resources and liturgy
- Yearly calendar of special liturgical celebration days
- Festival celebration in music, e.g. Advent
- Liturgy/prayers e.g. for use at Annual Vestry Meeting,
- Worship for Clergy Days, or annual Retreat Days
- Preparation for worship at Synod (Opening Service, Evening Prayer, Closing Service and Commissioning)

The above will be available on the Worship Committee site within the Diocesan Website.

Bishop Michael noted that in this pandemic time, communications are so critically important, and how the committee has been able to respond to the needs/requirements; also extended thanks and appreciation to committee members for the work that has gone on since January 2020, and a thank you for the work that is ongoing.

New Ministry Updates

Program Engagement Coordinator

Taylor Lynch

Taylor presented an excellent overview of the progress report she has completed on Good Shepherd Legacy Project over the recent four weeks, covering the following topics:

- Project Background Research
- Consulting with Community Partners
- Neighbourhood Snapshot (Inner Harbour Neighbourhood “North of Princess” – a neighbourhood in transition)
- Major Challenges in the Community (Food insecurity, Affordable Housing, Mental Health & Addiction)
- Formerly Incarcerated (Vulnerable and victimized women, Indigenous People)

Taylor further summarized the above by headlining some coping methods: a) Practical Assistance, b) Community Building, c) Hub Model, and provided Preliminary Recommendations for operation of the Ministry Center as follows:

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- Daytime – operate as a Hub
- Evening – hold low cost/low barrier programs
- Focus on the Body and the Spirit – life skilled assistance program

In conclusion Taylor presented “Next Steps” from end of May to the Fall of 2021 – looking to finalize the Mission Focus and be in place in the Fall.

Taylor can be reached through the Diocesan Office and is available to discuss the above information in further detail if required.

Bishop Michael thanked Taylor for the extensive report represented and the work that has been done in a short 4 weeks and for the continued work she is doing.

Ministry Center

DEO

Alex Pierson advised that there is still a problem in being able to transfer the Ministry Center property; is working on getting a Lease in place, and take over utilities etc. and have control of the building, then decide on equipment etc. required. Further the Diocese hopes to have folks from Church of the Good Shepherd move into the building for their worship.

New Ministry Grant Program

Executive Board

Robin Jones advised a report will be provided at Synod to announce an opportunity for the Reach Grant. Bishop Michael thanked Robin and confirmed the work continues.

Synod 2021 Planning Update

Michael Read

Synod 2021 is going to happen! Michael Read advised the four teams are in place (Co-ordinating Team, Steering Team, Logistics Team, Program Development Team) and working together; next Planning meeting is June 3. Michael presented the Logo for Synod: “Walking Together, Being Light Building Hope”. The ‘Hubs’ format have been assigned; keynote speaker at Synod is Bishop Bill Cliffe; Bishop Michael will present his Charge at Synod; plenary sessions and breakout sessions are in the works. Bishop Michael noted the planning throughout the pandemic has been a lot of work and extends continued thanks to the Planning Committee.

Finance

2022 Budget Planning & Process

CFO

Alex Pierson presented the financial situation to date – finances are on track as forecast at the April Council meeting. There could be a considerable saving in August 2021 re the proportional gift “break”. Alex provided recommendations for the purpose of 2022 Budget to be presented at Synod in October. Question was raised of concern re CEWS and impact of 2020 on the 2022 Budget; plus the need for the Green Sheets to be collected from the parishes with their information for 2021. Discussion occurred prior to voting on the following motion.

MOTION:

MRead/APatterson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CEWS is to be considered as Assessable Income for the purposes of CMM Calculations in 2022 (2020 income).

CARRIED

This was directed to be reviewed for 2021 Assessable (2023 CMM). Council agreed.

St. Luke’s, Leeds Rear Arrears Communication

CFO

Alex advised of financial communication and history re St. Luke’s, Lyndhurst. The original motions relate back to January and February 2014 pertaining to the arrears. Trish Miller questioned the recording of the \$10,000 to be shown on the loan statement. Alex agreed to review the recording of the statements.

Stewardship & Congregational Development Update

Trish Miller

No report at this time.

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Program Update

AMP

Wayne Varley reported that three workshops will be scheduled very soon regarding Screening in Faith and the dates will be announced.

Consent Agenda (no items identified)

Other Business – no further business

June 2021 Meeting – Input on Agenda Items for the Regular Meeting

Online Meeting Evaluations, to be completed.

Adjournment by Trish Miller, & The Grace said by all, at 8:50pm

Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY June 22, 2021 6 pm

Anticipated to be Online

Devotions: Anne Patterson

Bishop Michael Oulton

Lay Secretary

Date