

DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL
 TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2019
 CHRIST CHURCH, CATARAQUI - 6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Attendance: Alex Pierson, Bishop Michael Oulton, Wayne Varley, Anne Patterso, Viren Oogarah, Michael Read, Valerie Kelly, Trish Miller, Joe Burnham, Bill Clarke, Ada Clifton (Bridge), Lynn Mitchell, Katherine McLean, Maureen Butler, Don Davidson, Peter Cory, Shane MacKay, Nancy Beale

Regrets: Heather Grimshaw, Robin Jones, Garth Allan

Guests: Sylvia Dopking

Opening Devotions:

Wayne Varley

Wayne recently visited Holy Trinity, Frankford and shared with us the Collect for the Season of Creation.

Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Chair

- Condolences to Garth Allan on the death of his wife Valerie; funeral at Christ Church, Cataraqui on Saturday, Sept 21 at 11am
- Funeral for Canon Alex Wakeling was held at The Cathedral of St. George on Sept 13 at 1pm
- Mother of Haynes Hubbard recently died; her funeral will be in her home town in Nova Scotia
- Resignation of Haynes Hubbard effective December 30, 2019. Haynes has accepted a position to serve in the Diocese of Egypt as incumbent of the parish of St John's Maadi, Cairo. The Bishop extended his thanks for Haynes' ministry
- Georgiana Stewart was ordained to the diaconate on Sunday, September 22, at St. George's Cathedral, 5 pm. She has been part-time at St. Paul's, Sydenham. The Bishop thanked Anne Moore for interim ministry and on-going ministry while Georgiana is deacon-in-charge.
- Oct 6 – 5pm, celebration new ministry for Jeff O'Hare will be held at Christ Church, Belleville on Sunday, Oct 6 at 5pm. Jeff has been priest-in-charge; the Bishop thanked parishioners for their support during interim
- The Fall event the Bishop has been organizing concerning the state of public discourse has been postponed to the Spring 2020

Approval of Minutes – June 2019 Regular Meeting**Chair****MOTION****APatterson/MRead****BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Minutes of 25 June 2019 be approved as presented.****CARRIED****Business Arising from the Minutes****Chair**

-none

Special Synod – October 26**Bishop**

Bishop Michael advised Council on his decision to call a Special Synod on October 26, 2019, to consider a proposed motion recommending the Bishop of Ontario to authorize the marriage of same sex couples within the boundaries of the diocese. The Bishop explained to Council the details around holding this Special Synod. A clergy day will be held in advance of the Special Synod. Location: The Legion on Montreal St. in Kingston with registration commencing at 8:30am and the synod beginning at 9:30am. A Clergy Day will be called prior to the Synod. The Bishop considers this advice coming to him and in the following days the Bishop's decision will be made known. Synod Council members are members of Synod and invited to this live-streamed event.

Training & Development (T&D) Manual Update Project**Sylvia Dopking**

Sylvia is taking a course through Laurentian University, a Lay Leadership program. Part of the course is a project to update the Training and Development manual. She presented a set of recommendations pertaining to the process for discernment of candidates for ordination. Discussion followed. The Bishop outlined the process of following an individual with a call. He noted the newly revised T&D handbook is being used by the Committee. Discussion ensued with the focus particularly on the profile of the diocese. Sylvia was thanked for her work and contributions to this Synod Council

Worship Committee Update**Michael Read**

The Committee met today. The continue to consider guidelines for creating continuity of preparation for baptism. The had a debrief from Sunday's ordination and anticipating worship for the Fall Clergy Conference. They highlighted work that has been done regarding the Season of Creation initiative and Cross of Nails Sunday (Sept 29).

Reconciliation Group Update**Michael Read**

Sept. 29th is the feast day of St. Michael & All Angels as well as Cross of Nails Sunday with a focus on reconciliation. On Monday, Sept 30, Orange Shirt Day, the first names of children who did not return home from residential school will be read at the National Museum of History. The Community of the Cross of Nails focus is on unity around the world. Michael noted Bishop Andrew Asbil's season of creation youtube clip as an example of encouraging stewardship of creation.

QII Financial Results and 2019 Forecast**CFO**

2019 actuals: Alex reviewed the financial results for the first half of 2019 and indicated there would be a slight surplus for the balance of the year. He is considering re-structuring the budget and expects to have a draft proposal at next month's Synod Council meeting. He discussed budget request applications which were more specific this year giving Synod Council an overview of the various Committees activities and how funds are used. The information was compiled in a 97-page document and presented to Synod Council for information. The 2020 budget will be presented at the October Synod Council meeting. Bill Clarke sought more information with regards to The Cathedral's budget application. The Bishop will take the comments and questions to the meeting he has with the Cathedral wardens at an up-coming meeting. Alex acknowledged the need to support Committees as individual membership declines. The Bishop extended thanks to Synod Council members and Alex for their input and contributions.

Updates**DEO**

PAG – pre-authorized giving. Alex noted that improvements to system were required; changes and updates were made. Each parish was asked to designate a PAG Coordinator who will liaison with the Diocese on behalf of parishioners. 1,200 parishioners are enrolled in PAG. Information is available on the Diocesan website.

Church Bookroom – Alex outlined the “Actions to Date” following the decision to close the Bookroom. The Diocese is currently finalizing Accounts Receivable & Accounts Payable. There is a remaining inventory of \$97,000. Completion is expected for Nov 2019. Fixtures & equipment to be made available after stock is gone. An overall loss of \$200,000 is expected at the close of 2019.

Archives – Alex reminded Council that Archival materials continue to be in an interim facility and volunteers managing archives have become limited. Previously, the options had been considered, Option #3 was to move Archives into the space next door to the Diocesan Office on Ontario St. (same landlord). Expenses related to renovation of space, moving the archives, and contingency costs total \$70,000 taken from Investment Capital. With expenses considered the net facility increased cost (sourced from operating budget) is \$5k. Alex spoke to other considerations such as monitoring and managing the Archives and improved meeting space capability. The move would consolidate the Archives into the Diocesan Office. Direction from Synod Council is to move ahead with this plan.

MOTION**VOogarah/MRead**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT steps be taken to ensure more permanent storage of the Archives as outlined.

CARRIED

Insurance – on-going work continues

Alex Pierson**Resource Centre Working Group Feedback****Michael Read**

The working group met last Wednesday and noted the loss of the Church Bookroom leaves a void: how to resource items such as palms and candles. What is the potential for facilitating a central source of ministry and program resources and, sharing of best practices for parishes in the diocese? Three

considerations were discussed however there was no option for supplying parishes with liturgical and ministry supplies or books. Rather, links to online church retailers will be provided to assist parishes in meeting their liturgical needs. Council directed the working group to continue further study and draft a more detailed proposal.

Sale of Emmanuel Portland**DEO**

Two years ago, a committee made a presentation to Synod Council which involved partnering with the local community to make use of the deconsecrated church building. The cemetery is no longer active. The building will be sold to the group for \$40,000 with understanding they will continue their commitments.

MOTION:**MRead/BClarke**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Church Building of Emmanuel be sold for \$40,000 to the working group in Portland.

CARRIED**Update on the Diocese of Ontario Foundation****Bill Clarke**

The official launching of the Diocesan Foundation is set for October. Bill was grateful for diocesan support and invited parishes to distribute forms.

Stewardship Update**Trish Miller**

The Stewardship group met with the Foundation last week to find ways of mutual support and processing funding requests. M&M is budgeting for up to 3 parish groups for consulting agreements. Stewardship Communications through stewardship reflections prepared by Wayne, as well as Noel Henry doing is sharing short videos related to Stewardship.

Consent Agenda – No Items Identified**Other Business****Devotions Leaders –**

Nov – Valerie Kelly
January – Bill Clarke
Feb – Michael Read
March – Lynn Mitchell
April – Anne Patterson
May – Trish Miller
June – Lynn Mitchell

October 2019 Meeting – Input on Agenda Items for the Regular Meeting

Meeting Evaluations were distributed, filled out and returned

Adjournment & The Grace – Bill Clarke moved adjournment of the meeting at 9:05pm

**Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2019 - 6 pm / 5pm for dinner RSVP
St John the Baptist, Lyn**

Devotions: Heather Grimshaw

Bishop Michael Oulton

Rev. Valerie Kelly (Clerical Secretary)

Date