

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2018
CHRIST CHURCH (CATARQUI)
6:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Present: Bishop Michael Oulton, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, Roy Conacher (Chancellor), Valerie Kelly, Anne Patterson, Robin Jones, Sharon Dunlop, Doug Green, Michael Rice, Nancy Beale, Michael Read, Viren Oogarah, Haroldine Neil-Burchert, Audrey Doliszny, Brenda Hobbs, Al Danford, Don Davidson

Regrets: Charles Morris, Heather Grimshaw, Don Bailey

Guests: Bill Clarke, Donna Robinson, Colleen McAlister & Carol-Anne Woodcock

Opening Devotions:

Michael Read

Michael noted it was the feast day of Lancelot Andrews, Bishop of Winchester, who died in 1626. Outlining his many accomplishments, Michael then concluded with one of Bishop Lancelot's evening prayers.

Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

The agenda was adopted.

Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Chair

-Bishop Michael noted his gratefulness for the time away on his three-month sabbatical and month's holiday; he was grateful for continued prayers and extended thanks to those who served as commissaries in his absence, to the diocesan staff and members of Synod Council for their on-going contributions

- Bishop Michael announced that the Rev. Trish Miller (Leeds Anglican Ministries) Assistant Curate has been appointed Associate Priest

-On Saturday, September 29th, Bishop Michael will be attending the consecration of The Very Reverend Andrew Asbil (Coadjutor Bishop-elect; Diocese of Toronto) replacing Archbishop Colin Johnson who is retiring at the end of 2018

-As of December 1, 2018, Rev. Michael Rice will be retiring from Christ Church, Belleville and St. John's Madoc

-Jonathan Kouri (North Hastings) has accepted the appointment by Bishop Chapman as incumbent at St. Paul's (Almonte), as of October 1, 2018
-the final meeting (October) of Synod Council prior to Synod will be held at St. George's Cathedral with dinner for Synod Council members as a means of thanking those concluding their two-year term on Synod Council

Approval of Minutes – June 2018 Regular Meeting**Chair****MOTION:****MRead/HNeil-Burchert****BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES of June 26, 2018 be approved as presented.****CARRIED****Business Arising from the Minutes****Chair**

-no business arising

Camp Hyanto**Hyanto Board**

As per the established framework, this is Gate 6 – Review of this summer's operations and going forward

Carol-Anne – the Hyanto Board worked hard to reach this point however over the past months the number of Board members has shrunk; of the planned Vacation Bible School programs, one was held, two were cancelled due to low numbers, and a fourth was held but was very short on volunteers. The Board's conclusion is there is not the demand for VBS.

Some of the challenges: new wiring in kitchen; ministry of environment's inspection of the septic system; staffing, hiring, training, and volunteer issues.

The registered numbers were disappointing: there were many 'high needs' children registered which led to an inability for a 1:1 ratio with volunteers. In June there were 143 registered however only 81 showed up, some with cancellations. In the second week of August it was discovered there had been a problem with the counting method.

Budget: overall, the impact to the diocesan consolidated fund was \$14,143.

Future plan: with the reduced board size, two motions are being recommended (a) to permanently close Camp Hyanto and (b) to dissolve Hyanto Ministries – as neither the Camp nor the Ministries is financially viable.

Bishop Michael extended his immense appreciation to Carol-Anne and the other Board members for their considerable dedication and hard work, noting their "heart was in the right place", and the volunteers' commitment of "heart and soul" was to be commended. Synod

Council extended its gratitude for the Board's commitment and extensive work. Some members noted their grief at the loss yet concluded with a supportive applause to the entire Board and volunteers.

MOTION: **MRice/HNeil-Burchert**
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council receive the recommendations by the Hyanto Board to permanently close Camp Hyanto and dissolve Hyanto Ministries.

CARRIED

MOTION: **MRead/Davidson**
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Camp Hyanto property be declared "disused property."

CARRIED

Synod Planning Update

Audrey Doliszny

Members were reminded that registrations for Synod are due Oct 1; information packages will be available shortly. Planning by the Worship Committee headed by Michael Read, is well underway. Two groups, "Steel City Rovers" and "Off the Grid" will be performing at the Bishop's Evening Reception on Friday, Nov 2nd. Opening Eucharist is Thursday, Nov 1 at 7:30pm at The Cathedral; invitations will be extended to clergy and lay readers who are invited to robe. As a diocesan event, all parishioners are welcome and invited to bring banners for the opening service. Cameron Strings will be writing a theme song which will be used throughout Synod. Pre-synod deanery meetings were held Nov 18-20 with good turnouts at each deanery.

MOTION:
BE IT RESOLVED TO approve the Synod agenda.

ADoliszny/MRead

CARRIED

Canons & Governance

Chancellor

Roy Conacher extended thanks to those on the Canons Committee: Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, Garth Allen, Ken Healy, Robin Jones and Bill Clarke for their time, commitment, dedication, expertise and input. He reminded Synod Council the impetus for canonical change was a result of the Province of Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. Wide consultation with all stake holders (clergy, laity, governance, various diocesan groups, etc.) received considerable input and recommendations.

Noting that canons are "the bones of governance models", Roy then addressed canons with more significant changes. Canon 1 contains Definitions and Motions Procedures at Synod. Roy highlighted that changes to Canons requires Synod approval whereas policy changes may be achieved through Synod Council.

A new Executive board will be created which will operate between Synod Council meetings pertaining to settlement of differences (Canon 7). There is a Cemeteries Canon now, which brings the Diocese up-to-date with provincial legislation (Canon 22). There is no longer an Archivist but an Archives Committee instead (Canon 37). Charles Morris' recommendations were considered by the Canons Committee and addressed. Considerable discussion was held pertaining to the number of Vocational Deacons eligible to vote at Synod. Discussion helped clarify why the number was being held at four. The bishop articulated the very substantive role of deacons going "out into the world" and serving to call those in the church to a broader vision. He also noted that the College of Deacons may put forward a Motion at Synod to increase the number of deacons eligible to vote.

The Chancellor drew Synod Council members attention to a change in Canon 2, Section 3 (b) to read: *A quorum for all meetings shall be a majority of members entitled to vote who are present, excluding ex officio members.*

MOTION:**RConacher/APatterson**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE draft Canons be approved for presentation and to refer the Canons to Synod.

CARRIED

Bishop Michael extended considerable thanks to the Chancellor and the Canons Committee for their attention and tenacity in bringing the Canons to this stage.

Finance**Alex Pierson**Budget 2019 - attachment

Alex's powerpoint presentation on the draft balanced budget: outlined the working vision and strategies; gave a Revenue summary: CMM rate same, yet percentage of revenue from CMM is slightly down and, a 2% increase in revenue. Alex itemized the Expenditures, reminding Synod Council of the reduction in the Gift to the National Church which will be lowered to 20% in 2019. Various new programs and approaches to supporting parishes, expanded covenant grants, expansion of ministries, new financing program, new ministry support was described. Quarterly reporting will begin in 2019. Itemized details are found in the Budget itself.

The draft budget reflects the Diocesan's mission shifting from maintenance to ministry. The detailed line budget will be provided in the Synod circular

MOTION:**NBeale/RJones**

BE IT RESOLVED to accept the draft budget and refer it to Synod.

CARRIED

The Finance Committee and Alex were given thanks by Bishop Michael for this budget.

- CMM Structure Update**Michael Rice**

Michael reminded Synod Council of the background, a result of a challenge from 2014 Synod to examine other options on how to collect CMM. Four other dioceses were considered examining three methods : assessment based on straight percentage; assessment applied to majority of income but graduated to increase as income increases; diocesan budget allocated based on % of total Diocesan revenue.

At present: a variety of scales and models according to individual parishes was examined. The savings to the smallest parishes won't make a considerable difference however at the highest income parish, the assessable cost will be substantial and potentially damaging.

Synod 2018 recommendation: changing the percentage won't rectify the matter.

Michael Read thanked Michael Rice for his presentation and his presentation particularly in the deanery. Gratitude was echoed by Bishop Michael who also extended thanks to Michael Betts at the Diocesan Office, and to Nancy Beale and Eleanor Rogers.

Audit RFP**CFO**

Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued as Collins Barrow's 4-year arrangement has concluded. Four Kingston companies have been invited to reply with presentations at the October Synod Council meeting.

Stewardship Pilot Update**Wayne Varley**

M&M is partnering with 3 parishes: St. Lawrence (Brockville) with a focus on missional transformation; St. George's (Trenton), will start in January focusing on financial development. The Stewardship Committee is considering a third rural parish. The Committee met Friday, Sept 21 and is looking to identify more parishes.

Consent Agenda

- Sale of: St Peter's (Newboyne), St Thomas (Frankville), St Paul's (Belleville)

Properties in trust, dealt with

Other Business

-none

October 2018 Meeting – Input on Agenda Items for the Regular Meeting

Meeting Evaluations – were distributed and returned.

