

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL
TUESDAY, January 22, 2019
Christ Church Cataraqui, 6:00pm
MINUTES**

Present: Bishop Michael Oulton, Garth Allen, Don Davidson, Michael Read, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, Robin Jones, Don Bailey, Trish Miller, Shane MacKay, Bill Clarke, Peter Cory, Ada Clifton, Anne Patterson, Brenda Hobbs, Joe Burnham, James Young, Maureen Butler, Shane McKay, Valerie Kelly, Heather Grimshaw

Via internet: Nancy Beale, Katharine McLean

Regrets: Viren Oogarah, Lynn Mitchell – prayers were asked for both members who were unwell.

Opening Devotions:

Robin Jones

Robin Jones spoke on the spiritual writings of St. Paul, and included the following questions:

1. What three words pop into your mind when you hear the words of St. Paul?
2. When I think of St. Paul, I ??
3. Do you have a favourite lesson or teaching of St. Paul?

In summary, Paul's letters reveal a remarkable human being, and above all possessing a compassionate relationship with God.

Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

The Agenda was adopted.

Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Chair

1. Rev Mike Rice from Christ Church Belleville has retired. He will continue as Priest in Charge with St. Johns Madoc. Rev Jeff O'Hare is now Priest in Charge for Christ Church; was formerly honorary associate in Quinte W.
2. St. Paul's Sydenham, Canon Anne Moore is currently Priest in Charge.
3. Rev Nancy Beale has been appointed Priest in Charge for parish of Land of Lakes.
4. Hold in prayers the family of the late Doris Scanlon. Funeral was held at St. Johns Church in Portsmouth.
5. On Wednesday the funeral service will be held for the late Canon Ken Cowan; Bishop will attend. Funeral will be at Christ Church Bells Corners. Also prayers for the Cowan family of Westport are requested due to a fire at the Cove Inn, Westport.

Approval of Minutes – October 23 2018 Regular Meeting

Chair

MOTION:

A Patterson/M Read

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of October 23, 2018 be approved as presented

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

Chair

No further business

Installation of Chancellor of Diocese of Ontario

Bishop

Using the Order of Commissioning for Lay Ministries, the installation service was conducted by Bishop Oulton with Garth Allen. The certificate/Oath was executed by Bishop Oulton, and Garth Allen; Bishop Oulton then read from The Book of Micah: Chapter 6. Responses/oaths were said by Council members, and Garth Allen. Congratulations with a round of applause.

Governance and Synod Council

Chair/DEO/AMP

Bishop Oulton advised on the work of Synod Council, and the meaning of the word SYNOD, reflecting on words said in his Charge at Synod. Advised on the work we do in Synod, our work with Jesus Christ, and going forward: connected and engaged, into the parishes and the community.

Meetings happen at Christ Church Catarauqui mainly, however sometimes we meet at other parishes to accommodate a presentation or other work. As well, parishes will come to us with a presentation for Synod Council, as they require Council's approval for their request.

Focus of Synod Council is to govern, manage and plan. We are authorized to implement the plans but cannot override the constitution of the Canons; to implement the vision and mission as set forth by the Bishop at Synod.

The April meeting will be held (tentatively) at St. Paul's Marmora. We generally have 9 meetings per year, and canonically there must be 6. Quorum requires that there is a majority of the group.

Technology now allows us to screen share with a member; attending remotely can be an advantage in some circumstances. Most meetings are approx 2 hrs. Agenda is usually published one week prior to the meeting. The value of these meetings is in what we as Synod Council members put into them. At the end of each meeting there is a short evaluation form for feedback.

As we begin our deliberations this January 2019 we are using/working through a totally new set of Canons and Constitution.

Synod Council - Vice Chair, Executive Board, Trusts & Property (Canon 3)

Bishop

- Vice-Chair - nominated were Dean Don Davidson and Peter Cory

MOTION:

MRead/WClarke

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the nominations for the Vice-Chair be closed.

CARRIED

Dean Don Davidson has been elected as Vice-Chair to Synod Council

- **Executive Board:**

- o the Bishop's two appointments: Doug Green (Tyendinaga) and Audrey Doliszny (St. John's, Portsmouth)

- o nominations for two elected: Robin Jones, Anne Patterson

MOTION:

DDavidson/DBailey

BE IT RESOLVED THAT nominations be closed.

CARRIED

- **Trusts & Property** – the following Council members volunteered: Joe Burnham, Maureen Butler, Don Bailey, Trish Miller, Peter Cory, James Young

Appointment of Diocesan Solicitor**DEO****MOTION:****MRead/RJones**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Cunningham Swan Carty Little & Bonham be re-appointment as Diocesan Solicitor.

CARRIED**Appointment of Auditors****DEO**

Alex Pierson advised on the history of previous Auditors; the Audit Committee suggests the appointment of Wilkinson and Company – a strong community based, good service approach, plus consideration of cost . The recommendation is to appoint Wilkinson & Company as auditors on a five year term.

MOTION:**MRead/DDavidson**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Wilkinson & Company Chartered Accountants & Tax Specialists be appointed Auditors.

CARRIED**Review of (unapproved draft of) 2018 Synod Minutes****Chair****MOTION:****DBailey/JYoung**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the draft Minutes of Synod 2018 be approved.

CARRIED

Michael Read, Chair of Synod Planning Committee, offered thanks to those who participated on the Committee – a good team. In general responses have been good for both content and smoothness of Synod; tremendous amount of good will and openness; spirit of Synod was very good.

M Read would be pleased to hear of further comments/feed back from Synod participants. The question was asked as to the costs for technology. Alex Pierson advised that expenses were minimal, particularly in light of its availability for parishes in the Diocese.

Finance**CFO**

Financial statements are provided for Synod Council on a quarterly basis. Dec 31 is year end, and the books are “open” till the 10th of January. The 2018 financial statements will be available at the March meeting of Council.

A review of the financial system was taken in the Fall of 2018. Sage 300 is the accounting software. The Diocese has a better system now for their software backup (shifted to the cloud).

Second step undertaken recently is Payroll. The company now is ADP, and connected with Sage. The system is now more efficient both for the Diocese as a whole and for the financial staff. Electronic pay will continue; paystubs are now sent electronically. Pay days can now be made twice per month (instead of once per month) if desired.

Further changes will be made for the Bookroom, and Investment Portfolio. Throughout all these changes, standardization is the goal.

Accounting services/bookkeeping services will be eventually offered to Parishes, through a centralized basis. This will save time and money, in a parish. Consultation and discussion will be set up for Wardens and Treasurers; advance notice will be provided from Diocesan Office.

Stewardship Update**AMP/Wayne**

Wayne Varley provided an update on the faith based company M&M and will have a report soon from the parish of St. Lawrence (M Read) on their experience in the Fall of 2018. Two further parishes will be undertaken hopefully this year around stewardship. The process takes approx 4-6 months. Total cost to parish based on 2018 numbers is \$8,000 (split with Diocese).

Covenant Celebration Team Update

Bishop

Since institution of covenant celebration team over 70 covenants have come in. New Ministry fund was provided in the Budget. Covenant team has done a lot of work around strategies and consultations.

Worship Committee Update

M Read

Michael Read advised that the committee will have a working meeting on Thurs Jan 24. How do we look at some of the major tragedies that have been happening around us? Liturgies for Lamentation is highly recommended. Positive responses were received regarding the Synod evening worship. An Ordination will be held in the summer of 2019. The Worship Committee will provide music for the Clergy Retreat in April. M Read has met with the newly formed Diocesan Ministry Group and discussed the material that is available for them.

Consent Agenda

- No items currently identified

Devotion Leaders

- February – Michael Read
- March – Ada Clifton
- April – Anne Patterson
- May – Trish Miller
- June – Heather Grimshaw

Other Business

- Reconciliation Group will be included on Feb Agenda

February 2019 Meeting

- Input on Agenda Items

Meeting Evaluations

- Distributed at end of meeting

Adjournment – 8:00pm, Moved by Don Davidson. The Grace was said by all.

Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 6 pm

Christ Church, Cataraqui

Devotions: Michael Read

Bishop

Secretary

Date