

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
SYNOD COUNCIL
TUESDAY, May 28, 2019
St. Paul's, Marmora, 6:00pm
MINUTES**

Grace: Bishop Michael Oulton led us with Grace before dinner in the hall at St. Paul's Marmora at 5:15pm

Present: Bishop Michael Oulton, Alex Pierson, Bill Clarke, Don Davidson, Michael Read, Wayne Varley, Anne Patterson, Lynn Mitchell, Nancy Beale, Robin Jones, Trish Miller, Shane Mackay, Maureen Butler, Heather Grimshaw

On the Bridge: Don Bailey, Joe Burnham, James Young, Pauline Eskerod, Peter Cory, Kate McLean
Alex advised we have a quorum.

Regrets: Valerie Kelly

Guests: Rev Bob Wright, Paul Hutt (St. Paul's Marmora)

Opening Devotions:

Anne Patterson

Anne led devotions by reading from Luke 1:34-45, and reflections on Mary. We read The Magnificat together, and Anne closed with a prayer.

Agenda Review and Adoption

Chair

* Add request from St. Paul's Kingston re a capital item

Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Chair

- Bishop Oulton thanked members of St. Paul's Marmora for hosting the meeting and providing the meal.
- Bob Wright introduced Pauline, Ruby, and Paul who assisted with the preparation and meal. Bishop advised that Paul Hutt is in the initial stages of working towards the priesthood. Congratulations were extended to Paul.
- Ordination of A.J. Cottreau, to the diaconate, will take place on Sunday June 2 at 7:00pm at St. Lawrence Brockville. A.J. Cottreau will continue her position with St. Lawrence Brockville, with Canon Michael Read.
- Bishop advised that continued prayers for the Oulton family is deeply appreciated, from everyone. The Committal for Jeannie Oulton will take place on June 15 at 11:00am in Port Elgin, New Brunswick, with reception to follow at Trinity United Church.
- In June Bishop Oulton will be in Liverpool England briefly as he attends with other members of a consultation committee.
- Sincere congratulations were extended to Anne Patterson on the announcement that she will be receiving the Anglican Order of Merit. Applause was extended by Synod Council.
- Ontario Diocesan Synod delegates attended Diocese of Algoma for their Synod in May; all was successful and went very well.
- Bishop extended thanks to council members who were responsible for the Renovare Conference.
- The upcoming conference Reimagining Places of Worship is taking place at the Spire (Sydenham Street United Church) in Kingston on Saturday June 1, with the purpose to look at how can we reimagine places of worship and become community hubs.

- Bishop advised of the Iftar Interfaith Dinner taking place at St. George's Cathedral on Thursday May 30 following the 7:00pm Ascension Service. The dinner signifies the break of the fast and the end of Ramadan.

Approval of Minutes – April 2019 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

MRead/BClarke

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES of April 23, 2019 be approved as presented

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

Chair

None

Presentation and Viability Plan (St. Paul's Marmora)

Bob Wright

DEO/CFO

As an introduction Bishop Oulton noted how Bob Wright and the congregation of St. Paul's Marmora have broadened the horizons of the parish and community, being a hub of activity and bringing in the people of the surrounding community.

Bob Wright thanked Bishop Oulton for his remarks, and gave a brief explanation of the renovations and how the parish worked through an accessible space, making a functional kitchen, better use of the hall, and better access into the building. Firstly a new kitchen was created, and through this members are now preparing meals and providing to the community, and selling outside the parish. There are a number of "spinoffs" to bring people together. Conversations have been held with the Mayor to establish what further needs are with this community. A number of suggestions have been made and St. Paul's is holding meetings to work on the group ideas. The building renovations completion has worked due to many folks putting their time and energy into the success.

Alex spoke to the financial debt for St. Paul's. If the debt was set aside, is there viability? Where there is a debt it is often hard for parishioners to focus on the ministry. Going forward it appears there is financial viability to allow focus on ministry and mission. The debt needs to be recognized, and the commitment to the debt. The debt is running very high for the parish. First part is to freeze the interest accumulation, and the second is to forgive the accumulated interest. Parish is making a payment of \$10,000 by end of 2019. In 2020 to 2023 the Diocese will forgive \$10,000 per year, if the parish remains current. The parish will make an additional payment of \$10,000 by the end of 2023. The approach laid down by the Diocese to work through the debt is very encouraging. (See chart included with Minutes)

MOTION:

DDavidson /RJones

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE viability plan be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Bob Wright expressed enormous thanks to the Diocese and Synod Council, and how St. Paul's can now go forward.

Insurance (Information & Discussion) Property and Liability Insurance

DEO/CFO

Insurance bills will be sent to parishes in June. Prior to 1975 there was no diocesan insurance set up. The National Church then put together a program for the dioceses, with local service across Canada through AON. Ecclesiastical Insurance Office PLC, a British-owned business with branch offices in Canada, is the Anglican Church of Canada insurer. (See chart notes included with Minutes). Alex

described the details and highlights, including the new credits for Roofing, Plumbing. Alex further described the two supplemental programs for the Diocese of Ontario being Deductible Reduction, and the Payment Plan. Alex spoke to the financing of the premiums for the parishes, and an alternative approach. Liability premium is the same for every church: \$736.20.

Alex put the following questions to Council. Discussion followed.

1. Should we consider changing the allocation of the liability premiums?

Council replied Yes; consider alternative methods for liability costs.

2. Should we consider changing the financing model and charges?

Council replied Yes to consider a change to financing models.

3. Do we wish to continue with the Deductible Reduction Program?

Council suggested the Finance Committee review question 3, or look at another system.

Thank you from Bishop for presentation by Alex and thank you to Council for contributing in the questions.

Updates

DEO

Church Bookroom Update

Alex advised the inventory liquidation has begun. Alex met with the building owner (Doug Springer) and the Diocese will be able to use the space after liquidation. Likely many books will be unsold. The Bishop mentioned it was very difficult to advise the staff at the end of April, of the closure of the bookroom, however staff are working through this extremely well.

PAG

Alex advised that in June the PAG system will be rolled over to parishes. Communication will be sent to parishes in June as to whether or not they wish to stay on the current system, or go their own way.

Stewardship Update

Trish Miller

Report was given on the recent presentations at St. George's Trenton by Stewardship Committee Congregational Handbook will be completed in due course.

Grant deadline is Sept 1. Directive email re Grant deadlines will be sent to parishes, and reminder of the end dates.

Noel Henry, Stewardship Chair, will contact parish councils and visit some Councils to gather positive stewardship stories in the diocese.

Worship Committee Update

M Read

Next meeting will be in June with an emphasis on Baptism Liturgy – should/could that look different for today's context.

Worship Committee is looking at having traditional days of worship/prayer leading up to Ordination.

Bishop advised of the successful Clergy Retreat held April 28-30, and speaker Bishop Susan Bell.

Reconciliation Group Update

Michael Read

The group will be meeting the first week in June. In the Fall, Cross of Nails Sunday will be 29 September, and a number of new resources are available and useful for participation; looking at ways of sharing symbolically under the umbrella of the Cross of Nails with other parishes.

A new pamphlet is available at the Cathedral in the theme of the Cross of Nails.

Consent Agenda -

DEO

A capital expenditure over \$30,000 requires Synod Council approval.

A request has been received from St. Paul's Kingston to replace the flat roof on their Hall.

MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Synod Council approve the request from St Paul's Kingston to undergo replacing their Hall roof.

RJones/TMiller

CARRIED

Other Business

2020 Budget will be included on the June Agenda.

The Diocesan Foundation will possibly hold a campaign in the Fall.

Synod Council is looking for a host for council meeting in the Fall - Michael Read invited Council to St John the Baptist church in October. Synod Council has accepted.

Synod Council meeting in the Spring of 2020 will tentatively be held at St. George's Trenton.

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

Meeting Evaluations – distributed for members to complete

Adjournment and Grace – moved by Nancy Beale that we adjourn at 8:45pm. The Grace was said by all.

Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY, June 25, 2019 6 pm
Christ Church Cataraqui
Devotions: Trish Miller

Bishop Michael Oulton

Heather Grimshaw (Lay Secretary)

Date