

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

This report summarizes the actions of the Synod Council from the November 2006 Synod to the Synod Council meeting of October 2, 2007 inclusive. Eight meetings were convened. Attendance averaged 85%.

Membership

- all changes in membership were in accordance with Canon 1.9 and the election of members and alternate members by Synod in November 2006

Election and Appointments

- authorized the following at signing officers: The Right Reverend Ralph Spence, Diocesan Bishop; The Venerable Marion Vincett, Executive Officer; The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones, Secretary of Synod; Mr. Robert McKinnell, Treasurer; The Reverend David Long, Director of Ministry Support; The Very Reverend Peter Wall, Dean; Ms. Debbie Young, Assistant Treasurer
- required that the signature of one of the following must appear on cheques: the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, or the Executive Officer
- elected members of the Financial Advisory Committee for 2007 as follows: The Reverend Owen Ash, Mr. Kirk Boyd, The Reverend Darcey Lazerte, Mr. Tom Poirier, Mr. Gordon Reed, Mr. Ian Smith, Mr. David Ricketts, Mr. Peter Swire, Mr. David Watson
- elected members of the Audit Committee for 2007 as follows: Gord Archbell, Ed Crighton, Gerald Jenkins, Jim Newman, David Page, Ian Smith, Peter Swire, Jonathan Marler
- elected Mr. Jim Sweetlove as President of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara, for a one-year term
- elected Mr. Andrew Bucknall as Vice-President of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara, for a one-year term
- elected members of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation as follows: Mr. Seymour Wigle (Jan. 2006 - 2009), Mrs. Joyce Frank (Jan. 2006 - 2009), Mr. Andrew Bucknall (Jan. 2006 - 2009), Mr. James Sweetlove (Jan. 2006 - 2009), Mr. Gord Archbell (Jan. 2004 - 2007), Archdeacon Bob Leckey (Bishop's Appointee 2007)
- appointed KPMG auditors of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara for fiscal year 2006
- elected the following to serve as the Synod Council Coordinating Team: Lynne Corfield, Pat Davis, Beth Kerley, John Palmer, Bob Tilbury, Mark Tiller, Peter Wall
- appointed Archdeacon Lynne Corfield Diocesan Administrator of All Saints Mission, Niagara Falls
- appointed the following names to the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee: Mr. Rob Welch, The Venerable Marion Vincett, Mr. Chris Grabiec, the Reverend Dorothy Hewlett, The Reverend Rob Park, Mr. Bob Morrow, Mr. Nick Head-Petersen
- appointed Canon Mark Tiller as Interim Secretary of Synod for June 2, 2007

Policy Matters

- approved to amend the policy 'A Motion to Empower Corporations To Enter Into Site Use Agreements of Less Than Three Years' to read 'that the agreement may be terminated by *Name of Church* upon sixty days' notice'.

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Parish Matters

- requested that the Bishop suspend weekly worship at the All Saints Mission effective March 4, 2007
- authorized the Bishop to endorse the application of St. James Anglican Church, Guelph to the Anglican Foundation for a grant in the amount of \$15,000
- authorized St. John's, Burlington the opportunity to move forward and review a draft licensing agreement between the Province's Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC), Halton Region and St. John's, Burlington to enable entry on to the lands to clean them up
- approved that St. John's, York move forward on preparing an encroachment agreement with the assistance of the Diocesan Solicitor, Gerry Aggus, subject to a special vestry meeting held by the parish and that the parish refer to Canon 4.7
- Synod Council gave its support and approval, in principle, to a Cathedral Place Capital Campaign, 'Preserve to Server', in the amount of \$4 million, to be raised throughout the diocese for the ongoing ministry and maintenance of Cathedral Place
- approved that the parish of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Orangeville to enter into a re-organization arrangement between the Church, Hiwhois and Credit River, concerning the re-organization of Credit River to allow the Church to exercise control over Credit Rivers' operation, as described in the Executive Summary provided by St. Mark's
- supported the shared ministry of All Saints, Ridgeway; St. John's, Ridgemount and St. Luke's Lutheran of Ridgeway
- approved Long Term Licensing Agreements for St. Columba, St. Catharines
- approved a one-year License Agreement for St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls
- approved the Incumbent and Churchwardens of St. John, Ancaster to renew the lease agreement with Bell Mobility Cellular Inc. for a term of five (5) years commencing January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2012
- approved Long Term Licensing Agreements for St. George's, Homer
- gave assent to the amalgamation of Our Saviour, Stoney Creek and Church of the Redeemer, Stoney Creek as in accordance with Canon 4.5

Property Matters

- approved the disestablishment of St. James, Dundalk
- approved the disestablishment of Christ Church, Nanticoke
- approved the sale of Our Saviour, Stoney Creek to Shirley Thomas Weir in Trust for a company to be incorporated for \$765,000 to close on July 31, 2007
- authorized the corporation of St. John's Anglican Church to sell the church property at the South West corner of Wellington County Roads 7 and 21 in Elora to Wolfe, Smith & Forster, Barristers and Solicitors; signatory H. Deryk Smith for \$305,000 cash to close on March 15, 2007 and that the Purchaser assumes all risk, responsibility and cost associated with the closing of the cemetery
- ratified the disestablishment of St. Philip's, Burlington on April 29, 2007
- approved the sale of the rectory at 4138 Mountain Street, Beamsville for \$260,000 to Edward Dykstra and Wendy Putnickovitch, to close on August 17, 2007
- approved the purchase of the property at 4337 Ontario Street, Beamsville for \$280,000 from John and Berendina Wikkerink, to close on August 31, 2007

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Property Matters

- approved the sale of All Saints, Hagersville rectory to Susan and Robert Horning for \$176,500 to close on June 18, 2007
- approved the sale of the rectory at 229 Albion Avenue, Oakville for \$705,000 to Kekobad Behram Aga, to close on the date being the next business day following 30 days after the date upon the severance of the lands
- authorized the Corporation of St. John's Anglican Church, Thorold to move forward with the severance of the property and to list the rectory property for sale, under the conditions as set out and approved by the special vestry meeting held on May 31, 2007
- approved the sale of St. John's, Thorold rectory at 38 Clairmont Street for \$224,000 to Phillip and Marisa Rocco to close on March 3, 2008, offer conditional on the sale of the Buyers home by November 3, 2007
- a moratorium on the selling and/or disposal of rectories and rectory property be in effect as of June 5, 2007 until November 17, 2007, at the latest, so that a plan for rectory and rectory property sales be brought forward and adopted by Synod Council and/or Synod
- approved the sale of St. Philip, Burlington to The Hamilton Christadelphian Church for \$850,000 to close on September 14th, 2007 and approved the Diocese of Niagara taking back a first mortgage for \$175,000 at an interest rate of 5% per annum, yielding \$1,017.81 per month, to be paid out by December 31, 2007 or upon the completion of the sale of the existing lands owned by the buyer at 20 West Avenue North, Hamilton, Ontario, whichever date occurs first
- authorized the Corporation of St. Paul's Anglican Church to list the church property in question located on South Street in Port Robinson for \$175,000 or any figure that is greater and to sell the same in consultation with Synod council for no less than \$170,000
- approved the sale of Grace Church, Hamilton to Senburg Management Ltd. In trust for \$320,000 to close on December 31, 2007
- supported the disestablishment of St. Mark's, Louth should the congregation be unable to meet it's budgetary goals by November 1, 2007
- authorized the corporation of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Palermo to list a portion of the rectory land on the west side of Valley Ridge Drive, Oakville and that it be offered to Mattamy Limited, prior to offering the land for sale to any other party, for the sum of \$600,000
- authorized the Diocese of Niagara to list approximately 1.6 acres of land adjacent to the St. Luke's, Palermo property for no less than \$1.9 million

Financial Matters

- amended the Synod Delegate fee for 2006 to \$100 per delegate from \$75
- accepted the recommendation of the Financial Advisory Committee and approved using the current Diocesan Mission & Ministry formula for the purpose of calculating 2007 parish Diocesan Mission & Ministry amounts
- approved that the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara loan, interest free, \$84,500 to St. James and St. Brendan Anglican Church, Port Colborne to assist with renovations to and refurbishing of the former St. James Church and that this amount will be repaid from the sale of the St. Brendan's property
- approved the Bishop and the Diocesan Treasurer be empowered to transfer up to \$200,000, as needed, from the balance in the 'Parish Sale Proceeds' fund account to assist with the excess costs of Personnel Transition and Severance during 2006

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Financial Matters

- approved the request from St. Michael's, Hamilton to borrow \$28,000 from its Rectory Fund for Capital Projects
- authorized All Saints, Hagersville to borrow \$49,000 for their Rectory Fund for Capital Improvements
- received the Financial Statements of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara as of December 31, 2006
- approved an increase of 25%, effective September 1, 2007, to the Interim Pay Scale
- accepted the recommendation of the Compensation Sub-Committee to increase all pay grades on the minimum stipend scale established for parish clergy by 2.2% and on existing clergy housing allowances; and that a minimum 2.2% increase be recommended for all lay employees in 2008
- referred to the 2nd Session of the 133rd Synod of the Diocese of Niagara what should be done with the excess funds collected by the Diocese of Niagara for the Residential Schools Fund
- that the Bishop strike a committee comprised of members from Christ's Church Cathedral Corporation, the Financial Advisory Committee, and the Cathedral Place Property Committee, under the leadership of the Bishop to provide recommendations to Synod Council relating to the request for immediate financial assistance from Christ's Church Cathedral, plus any new models for ministry and governance at the Cathedral Place, with the committee reporting back to Synod Council by December 4, 2007

Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee

Council members received an information package with regard to nomination balloting. Included in the package was a roster list of the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee (ESNPC), Canon 2.1, Provincial Canon III, ballot casting information page, and a list of eligible clergy – Diocese of Niagara.

OTHER

- endorsed the Manifesto on Family Reunification, which calls on our Government to make speedy family reunification a priority, as presented by the Canadian Council for Refugees
- approved the distribution of reference pamphlets to each member of Synod and encourage parishes to consider doing all they can to reduce the effect of seasonal flu in our churches
- approved the request from the Compensation Committee to begin a process to consult with parishes to have the Employee Assistant Program become a part of the benefit package for all employees
- approved the Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance (AD&D) coverage as part of the benefit package effective January 1, 2008
- approved that the Diocese of Niagara Emergency and Pandemic Plan, September 2007, be distributed at the September 2007 Clergy Day and be posted on the diocesan website
- referred the request to change the way we act on elections to Provincial Synod and General Synod from Youth Synod to a Canons Committee

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones
Secretary of Synod