

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

This report summarizes the actions of the Synod Council from the November 2009 Synod to the Synod Council meeting of October 20, 2010 inclusive. Nine meetings were convened. Attendance averaged 83%.

Membership

- all changes in membership were in accordance with Canon 1.9 and the election of members and alternate members by Synod in November 2009

Election and Appointments

- ratified the appointment of Judy Conning, Mitch Banks, Rick Jones and Michael Thompson to the Bishop's Financial Task Force
- re-appointed the Regional Archdeacon of Brock as the Diocesan Administrator of All Saints Mission, Niagara Falls for 2010
- approved that the Diocesan Administrators, The Reverend Susan Wells, St. George's, Lowville; The Venerable Bruce McPetrie, Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Catharines; The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones, St. Peter's, Hamilton; The Reverend Sue-Ann Ward, St. Hilda's, Oakville; pursuant to Canon 4.5, Section 7, terms be extended until December 31, 2010, subject to review by the Bishop and Executive Officer
- 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. Gord Archbell (Jan. 2008 - Dec. 2010); Mr. Andrew Bucknall (Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2011); Mrs. Judy Conning (Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2010); The Venerable Lynne Marchant (Jan. 2008 - Dec. 2010); Archdeacon Bob Leckey (Bishop's Appointee 2010); Mr. James Sweetlove (Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2011); Mr. David Watson (Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2010)
- appointed KPMG auditors of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara for fiscal year 2009
- elected members of the Financial Advisory Committee for 2010 as follows: The Reverend Owen Ash, Mrs. Judy Conning, The Venerable Lynne Marchant, Mr. Stan Hatcher, Mr. Jim Higginson, Mr. Tom Poirier, Mr. Ian Pratt, Mr. Fred Roach
- elected members of the Audit Committee for 2010 as follows: Mr. Gord Archbell, Mr. Ed Crighton, The Reverend Dianne Distler, Mr. Jim Higginson, Mr. Gerald Jenkins, Mr. Jim Newman, Mr. David Page, Mr. Ian Smith, Mr. Peter Swire, Mr. Seymour Wigle
- authorized the following as signing officers: The Right Reverend Michael Bird, Diocesan Bishop; The Venerable Michael Patterson, Executive Officer; The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones, Secretary of Synod; 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 the following to serve as the Synod Council Coordinating Team; Ian Pratt, Russell Kelk, The Very Reverend Peter Wall, Canon Susan Wells, Mr. John Palmer
- appointed The Reverend Trevor Jones as Diocesan Administrator of Holy Trinity Church, Hamilton effective January 31, 2010
- approved the addition of Tim Huxley, Mitch Banks and David Ricketts to the membership of the 2010 Financial Advisory Committee

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL (continued)

Election and Appointments (continued)

- reappointed Mr. Bob Tilbury, Canon David Pickett, Mr. Mitch Banks and Mr. Ian Pratt to the Cathedral Place Property Management Committee for a two year term effective March 1, 2010
- reappointed Mr. Paul Clifford to the Jamesville Day Care Board for a two year term effective April 15, 2010
- terminated the appointment of the Reverend Trevor Jones as the Diocesan Administrator of Holy Trinity, Hamilton effective April 13, 2010 and that the Administrator be recalled
- ratified the appointment of Ms. Joanna Beck as Diocesan Treasurer, effective September 1, 2010
- approved that Ms. Joanna Beck, Diocesan Treasurer, be added as a Diocesan-signing officer effective September 14, 2010

Policy Matters

- agreed to undertake a governance and leadership review in 2010
- that annual vestry meetings be held by February 28, 2010 under Canon 4.1.4
- received the Interim Ministry Report as presented
- directed the Secretary of Synod to review current policies on the disposition of proceeds from the sale of assets and, in consultation with the Chancellor, to present revised policies for consideration by Synod Council in October 2010
- approved that the current policy regarding the disbursement of proceeds from the sale of property be rescinded
- approved that Synod Council will decide on the future disbursement of funds coming from the sale of disestablished parish properties on a case by case basis.
- approve the policy Harassment and Workplace Violence as presented

Parish and Property Matters

- authorized the Bishop to endorse the application of the Community Justice Camp to the Anglican Foundation for a grant in the amount of \$5,000
- authorized the Bishop to endorse the application of the Community Justice Camp to The Ontario Provincial Synod for a grant in the amount of \$2,000
- approved an electronic poll be conducted to pursue the sale of All Saints, Niagara Falls
- approved the request from St. Paul's, Hamilton to borrow up to \$35,000 from its Rectory Fund for Capital expenditures
- approved the request from St. Paul's, Caledonia to borrow up to \$95,000 from its Rectory Fund for Capital expenditures
- supported the Bishop in developing a process to move ahead expeditiously in exploring new models of ministry which may include the merging of parishes or the creation of multi-point parishes
- approved the request from St. Paul's, Shelburne to borrow up to \$10,000 from its Rectory Fund to make improvements on the rectory
- approved the request from St. Alban the Martyr, Acton to borrow up to \$18,000 from its Rectory Fund to repair the roof of the narthex
- authorize the negotiation of the sale of St. Mark's, Louth
- approved an electronic poll be conducted to finalize the sale of St. Mark's, Louth
- approved the sale of the vacant property of the former Parish of St. Mark's, Louth 1689 3rd Avenue, St. Catharines for \$10,000 to Mr. Henry DeBoer
- approved the request from St. Aidan's, Oakville to borrow up to \$12,000 from its Rectory Fund to complete the installation of a new flat roof

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Parish and Property Matters (continued)

- approve the request from St. Paul's, Caledonia to borrow the current balance of the rectory fund remaining, up to \$7,000, to assist with the funding of the elevator and accessible washroom project

Financial Matters

- received the 2010 proposed budget
- requested that Gord Archbell, Interim Treasurer, continue to update Synod Council each month on the financial cash flow situation of the diocese
- adopted the recommendations from the Financial Advisory Committee
- directed the Financial Advisory Committee and Insurance Sub-Committee to review and compare our insurance policy to those of similar dioceses
- directed the Financial Advisory Committee and Insurance Sub-Committee to attempt to secure competitive quotes at least every three years
- approved that the Bishop develop a process to work intentionally with any parish that has been unable to meet its payroll commitment for a three month period that would engage the parish leadership with the Bishop, the Regional Archdeacon, the Generous Culture of Stewardship leadership team, and other diocesan resources to implement a plan of action
- in the interests of transparency and good communication, the Treasurer publish quarterly in the Niagara Anglican and elsewhere a list of receivables for both DM&M and payroll
- directed the Financial Advisory Committee and Budget Sub-Committee to begin work on a multi-year financial & human resource budget for presentation to Synod Council prior to the Fall Synod 2011
- authorized the following resolution be presented to Synod 2010: that effective January 1, 2012, payroll for all employees (clergy and lay) be by pre-authorized payment to the diocesan payroll service
- directed the Financial Advisory Committee and Treasurer to prepare proposals on charging service fees for use of the diocesan payroll service, including a definition of “outside groups”, and estimates on the costs to be recovered by charging fees for non-clergy and non-parish employees, and report back to Synod Council in October or November 2010
- approved that the Bishop and Synod Council liquidate diocesan assets to retire diocesan debt, improve cash flow, and fund ministry
- approved that the Investment Sub-Committee be asked to include provisions for Ethical Investing in the Terms of Reference and report back to Synod Council
- received the 2011 Proposed Budget as presented
- accepted the recommendation from the Compensation Sub-Committee to increase all pay grades on a minimum stipend scale established for parish clergy by 2.9% and on existing clergy housing allowances; and that a minimum 2.9% increase be recommended for all lay employees of the parish for 2011
- approve that the Diocese of Niagara, in partnership with the Anglican Appeal, and with support from the Philanthropy Department of General Synod, initiate an Annual Appeal (as yet to be named), whose revenue would be evenly divided among the parish, the diocese, and the Anglican Appeal.
- approved that the Appeal Sunday each year be the Seventh Sunday of Easter, anticipating the Feast of Pentecost

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Financial Matters (continued)

- approved that the Bishop, Executive Archdeacon and Dean be authorized to recruit a team to manage the diocesan responsibilities in the Appeal, and to receive and evaluate grant requests for support from the Diocesan share of the Appeal
- accepted the 2009 Audited Financial Statements for the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara as prepared by KPMG

Other

- approved the Secretary of Synod to conduct an electronic poll to ratify an arbitration document with the Anglican Network in Canada
- ratified the amended minutes of Settlement
- received the report of the Governance Task Force
- approved the Volunteer Ministry Job Description for the Vision Petal Chairs
- authorized the Generous Culture of Stewardship leadership team continue discussions with the General Synod to identify potential areas of partnership in stewardship and planned giving.
- requested the Generous Culture of Stewardship leadership team prepare a comprehensive plan and program for stewardship education and development that will help to create a generous culture of stewardship in all parishes
- requested that the comprehensive plan to be presented to Synod Council in September for consideration and possible presentation to Regional Meetings in the Fall and to Synod in November
- approved that developing a Generous Culture of Stewardship be a priority for the life of the Diocese for 2011 and that the Generous Culture of Stewardship leadership team provide guidance to the Bishop and Synod regarding education and development for this program
- received the Solar Energy Task Force Report as presented

Respectfully submitted,

The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones, Secretary of Synod

Mrs. Karen Nowicki, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of Synod