

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

This report summarizes the actions of the Synod Council from the November 2012 Synod to the Synod Council meeting of October 1, 2013 inclusive. Eight meetings were convened. Attendance averaged 77.01%.

Membership

- all changes in membership were in accordance with Canon 1.9 and the election of members and alternate members by Synod in November 2012

Election and Appointments

- 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. 2013); Mr. Andrew Bucknall (Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2013); Mrs. Judy Conning (Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2013); The Venerable Lynne Marchant (Jan. 2008 - Dec. 2013); Ms. Alice Murray (Dec. 2011 - Dec. 2013); Mr. James Sweetlove (Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2013); Mr. David Watson (Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2013)
- appointed KPMG auditors of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara for fiscal year 2013
- elected members of the Financial Advisory Committee for 2013 as follows: Mr. Mitch Banks, Canon Kevin Bothwell, Mr. Andrew Clinkard, Mrs. Pat Davis, The Reverend Pam Guyatt, Mr. Lloyd Hicks, Mr. Tim Huxley, Mr. David Ricketts, Mr. Ralph Sykes, Ms. Joanna Beck
- elected members of the Audit Committee for 2013 as follows: Mr. Gord Archbell, Ms. Joanna Beck, The Reverend Dianne Distler, Mr. Jim Higginson, Mr. Jerry Jenkins, Mr. Mike Mansfield, Ms. Alice Murray, Mr. David Page
- authorized the following as signing officers: The Right Reverend Michael Bird, Diocesan Bishop; The Venerable Michael Patterson, Executive Officer; The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod; The Very Reverend Peter Wall, Dean; Ms. Joanna Beck, Diocesan Treasurer, Ms. Debbie Young, Assistant Treasurer
- authorized the Right Reverend Michael Bird, Diocesan Bishop and the Reverend Bill Mous, Coordinator of Social Justice to act as signing officers for the purposes of the Refugee Sponsorship Agreement with Citizenship & Immigration Canada
- 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; Stan Bowers, Brenda Brownlee, Archdeacon Michael Patterson, Connie Price, Dean Peter Wall, The Rev. Canon Terry DeForest, Consultant, working with Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod

Policy Matters

- that Annual Vestry meetings be held by February 28, 2013 under Canon 4.1.4
- authorized the Secretary of Synod to conduct an electronic poll on time sensitive property matters following the June 4, 2013 meeting until the September 10, 2013 meeting if required
- have completed the Guidelines for Canon 4.6 referring to the erection or alteration of church buildings within the Diocese of Niagara
- approved and adopted the draft mandate/terms of reference for a Human Resources for Ministry Committee (dated May 7, 2013)

Parish and Property Matters

- approved the sale of the Rectory located at 166 Westminster Drive, Oakville for \$650,000 to Mr. Daniel Freedman and closed on November 23, 2012
- appointed Ms. Jody Beck People's Warden of St. Hilda's Parish in Oakville effective November 2, 2012.
- authorized the Church of the Ascension, Hamilton, Ontario to engage regional Architects to design and implement the renovation of the Church of the Ascension and the Chapel
- approved the signing of the Letter of Intent between the Incumbent and Church Wardens of Church of the Ascension and the Nostra Investment Corporation, consistent with the conditions in the Letter of Intent
- approved the Incumbent and Church Wardens of St. Paul's, Hamilton to enter into a Lease Agreement with McMaster University for a period of 5 years with one 5-year renewal option as approved at the Vestry Meeting held on January 20, 2013
- granted permission for the Incumbent and Church Wardens of St. Paul's, Hamilton to submit an application to the City of Hamilton for a minor variance of zoning for the current St. Paul's project
- authorized the Management Team of the Diocese of Niagara to move forward in discussions facilitated by the City of Hamilton and other interested parties regarding the future use of the building, St. Peter's Anglican Church, located at 705 Main Street East, Hamilton
- approved the sale of property located at 33 (29) Henderson Street, Elora, Lot 48 and Part Lot 49, Plan 181, New Survey, Elora, Centre Wellington, being the whole of PIN 71410-0040 (LT), at a price of \$279,900 to Shirley M. Smith to close on February 28, 2013 with conditions as listed;
1) that the two portables along James Street, the barn and the breezeway be leased by the Church at a rate of \$350.00 per month plus utilities on a month by month basis until June 30, 2013; 2) that all chattels and debris be removed on vacating the property except for the doors and other artefacts belonging to the former Baptist Church and THAT the net proceeds from the sale be held in trust with the Diocese of Niagara
- approved the Incumbent and Churchwardens of Church of the Nativity, Hamilton to enter into a site use agreement under the terms of the Parish Licensing Agreement

- approved the Incumbent and Churchwardens of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton to enter into a leasing agreement with Artaban Non-Profit Homes as authorized at the parish's Vestry meeting held on February 24, 2013, effective from January 1, 2013 to and including December 31, 2033.
- authorized the Incumbent and Churchwardens of St. Stephen's, Hornby to sign a space use agreement with Canada Post Corporation as described in the long contract with Canada Post permitting the installation of a Community Mailbox on an approximately 6 by 6 foot area on St. Stephen's
- approved the lease agreement between the Incumbent and Wardens of St. Christopher's Anglican Church, 662 Guelph Line, Burlington and Partnership West Family Support Network, 1254 Plains Road East, Unit 1A, Burlington, to partnership to enable the establishment of a satellite food bank in a modular building on the St. Christopher's property
- approved in principle the proposal from the Greening Niagara committee to provide funding for three years, beginning in 2014, to support parishes in undertaking energy audits and sustainability improvements to church buildings and commended this proposal to the Budget Sub-committee for consideration in the 2014 diocesan budget
- authorized the Incumbent and Wardens of Grace Church Milton permission to sign a contract to enter into a legal agreement with Natural Power of Brantford to install a MICROfit Solar Panel project on their roof with the project proceeds
- authorized the Incumbent and Wardens St. Cuthbert's, Oakville permission to sign a contract pertaining to the relocation and installation of a new organ at St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church in Oakville, providing that not only sufficient funds be raised for the installation of the organ, but also for the purchase of the organ.
- Approved a Lease Agreement for 20 years between the Incumbent and Churchwardens of St. John's, Stewarttown with Rogers Telecommunications for the installation of a telecommunications tower on the property at 12918 Sideroad 15 (owned by the Diocese of Niagara in the name of St. John's, Stewarttown) as set out in sequential 5 year lease extensions.
- approved the purchase agreement between St. Stephen's, Hornby and the Region of Halton, granting a permanent easement over the lands described as Part Lot 15, Concession 9, New Survey (Trafalgar) designated as Parts 2 and 3 on Plan 20R - 19400 to permit reconstruction, improvement and widening of Steeles Avenue
- endorsed the building project at Grace Church, Waterdown consisting of three phases:
 1. exterior accessibility including a railed ramp and door openers;
 2. washroom, hallway, and doorway accessibility, and;
 3. Noble Hall Renovations
 and affirm the benefits of the project to the mission of the church; subject to the following conditions (as per the Guidelines for Canon 4.6):
 - that the project expenditures will not exceed by an amount of more than 15% the amount of \$183,000 approved by the Parish Vestry
 - that if the costs are anticipated to exceed that threshold, another Special Vestry will be held, and that the results of that Vestry will be communicated to the Bishop's Office and to Synod Council.
- The Anglican Diocese of Niagara sold the former St. Hilda's Church property to the Region of Halton on August 14, 2013 for \$1,900,000

- Approved by electronic poll authorization for the Corporation of the Church of the Incarnation, Oakville to undertake repairs to the HVAC system which serves the worship space, as outlined in the background information sheet dated September 10, 2013, provided that the cost not exceed \$22,500.00 and that the cost be covered with funds on hand
- Authorized by electronic poll the Incumbent and Wardens of Holy Trinity, Welland to purchase two mid-efficiency boilers at a quoted cost of \$50,000
- Approved the addition of three columbaria for the Public Cemetery at St. John's Jordan.
- endorsed, in principle, the negotiation of the sale of the former property of St. Matthias, Guelph, for a figure not lower than \$2,400,000.00

Financial Matters

- authorized an expenditure of up to \$30,000 to complete the ramp at St. Peter's, Hamilton with funds coming from the 2013 Operating Budget
- approved the Audited Financial Statements December 2012 as presented
- accepted the recommendation from the Compensation Sub-Committee of an increase to the minimum clergy stipend scale for 2014 which reflects a 1.0% increase over the scale for 2013
- accepted the recommendation from the Compensation Sub-Committee of a 1.0% increase to clergy housing allowances for 2014
- accepted the recommendation from the Compensation Sub-Committee of a minimum 1.0% increase in the compensation of lay employees in addition to increases appropriate to recognize the experience and performance of parish lay employees
- urged parishes to seriously consider at least a 1.0% Cost of Living increase for all employees

Other

- extended sincere thanks on behalf of the Diocese, to Bishop Michael Bird for his generosity, deep commitment, grace under pressure, wisdom, integrity and faithfulness as our Bishop
- a special celebration meal was held at the June meeting to honour and thank Michael Patterson for six years of leadership serving as the Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod

Mrs. Nancy Clause, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of Synod