

## 2014 DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

### Regional Reps

- The Reverend Deacon Rod McDowell Brock
- Ms. Barbara Yakobowski Brock
- Mr. Bradley Cook Greater Wellington
- The Reverend Elizabeth Huether Greater Wellington
- The Reverend Pam Guyatt Lincoln
- The Reverend Pam Guyatt Lincoln
- Mr. Andrew Clinkard Mohawk
- Ms. Stephanie Furtado Mohawk
- The Reverend Canon Jean Archbell (*through June 2014*) Trafalgar
- Mr. Kirk Boyd (*September – December 2014*) Trafalgar
- Ms. Connie Price Trafalgar
- Ms. Brenda Brownlee Undermount
- Ms. Susan Little Undermount

### Archdeacons

- The Venerable Bruce McPetrie Brock & Lincoln
- The Venerable Peter Scott Greater Wellington
- The Venerable David Pickett Mohawk
- The Venerable Steve Hopkins Trafalgar
- The Venerable Dr. Rick Jones Undermount

### Vision Reps

- Ms. Judy Connor, Prophetic Social Justice Making
- The Reverend Dr. Patricia Stansfield, Life Changing Worship
- The Reverend Canon Rob Hurkmans, Continuous Culture of Innovation
- The Reverend Deanne Patchett, Generous Culture of Stewardship
- The Reverend Catherine Crawford Browning, Outstanding Leadership for Ministry

### Financial Advisory Committee

- Ms. Pat Davis

### Canterbury Hills

- Mr. Norm Read

### Episcopal Appointee

- Mr. Bob Tilbury

### Directors

- The Reverend Canon Terry DeForest, Vision Advocate and Director of Human Resources
- The Venerable Lynne Marchant, Director of Stewardship
- The Reverend Bill Mous, Director of Justice, Community and Global Ministries
- Canon Christyn Perkons, Director, Congregational Support and Development

### Officers

- The Right Reverend Michael Bird Diocesan Bishop
- The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell Secretary of Synod
- Canon Rob Welch Chancellor
- The Very Reverend Peter Wall Dean of Niagara
- Ms. Joanna Beck Treasurer & Director of Finance

## REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

This report summarizes the actions of the Synod Council from November 2013 to October 7, 2014, the date of the most recent meeting. Eight meetings were convened with an average attendance of 74%.

### Membership

Changes of membership were in accordance with Canon 1.9 for Diocesan Committees, Bishop's Appointees and Vision Groups. As an exception, regional representatives and alternates were elected by Synod Council in January 2014 as follows: Mr. Andrew Clinkard, Mohawk, and Ms. Connie Price, Trafalgar, as regional representatives to Synod Council from January 2014 to December 2015; Mr. Lloyd Hicks, Greater Wellington and Mr. Kirk Boyd, Trafalgar, as alternate regional representatives to Synod Council for 2014. And in February as follows: The Reverend Deacon Roderick McDowell (Brock) and Barbara Yakabowski (Brock) as regional representatives from February 2014 to December 2015.

### Election and Appointments

- elected Mr. Jim Sweetlove as President of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara, and Mr. Andrew Bucknall as Vice-President of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara, for a one-year term.
- elected the following members of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation:
  - Mr. Gord Archbell
  - Mr. Andrew Bucknall
  - Mr. Mike Mansfield
  - The Venerable Lynne Marchant
  - Ms. Alice Murray
  - Mr. James Sweetlove
  - Mr. David Watson
- appointed KPMG auditors of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara for the fiscal year 2013
- appointed The Reverend Bill Mous and Canon Christyn Perkons as members of the St. Peter's Day Care Board for a one year term, effective February 5, 2014.
- elected the following members as the Financial Advisory Committee for 2014: Pat Davis, Patricia Stansfield, Andrew Clinkard, David Savage, Lloyd Hicks, George Henry, Kevin Bothwell, David Rogers, Pam Guyatt, Bob Taylor, Ralph Sykes, Richard Moore and Wayne Barnes
- appointed Mrs. Alison D'Atri as Assistant Treasurer
- named the following signing officers for the Diocese: The Right Reverend Michael Bird, Diocesan Bishop; The Reverend Canon Terry DeForest, Vision Advocate and Director of Human Resources; The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod; The Very Reverend Peter Wall, Dean; Ms. Joanna Beck, Diocesan Treasurer; Mrs. Alison D'Atri, Assistant Treasurer and that the signature of one of the following must appear on all cheques; the Treasurer, or the Assistant Treasurer.
- approved the membership of the Audit committee for 2014 as listed: Mr. Gord Archbell, Mr. Jim Higginson, Mr. Mike Mansfield, Ms. Alice Murray, Mr. David Page, and Canon Marni Nancekivell (Ex Officio)
- delegated the canonical responsibility of the Executive Officer position with respect to Canon 4.6 to the Secretary of Synod until such time as an appointment is made.
- appointed the Synod Council Coordinating Team to be the Provincial Synod Nominating committee for the purpose of securing names on the ballot presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of Synod.

- defined for the purposes of Canon 1.9 that the Vision groups to be: Continuous Culture of Innovation, Prophetic Social Justice Making, Generous Culture of Stewardship, Life Changing Worship, Outstanding Leadership for Ministry, Journeys of Faith and Vision Values.

### **Policy Matters**

- endorsed the direction of Bishop Bird at Synod that the Regions of Lincoln and Brock be brought together into one unit and that provision be made by the Secretary of Synod for further discussion and feedback to the Diocese in the first half of 2014 ammended - THAT Synod Council refer the regional model to the Governance Committee for review as a priority issue and requests that the Bishop refrain from making decisions concerning any realignment of regions until the report is received.
- set as diocesan policy that employer and employee medical/dental premiums for those on Long-Term Disability be paid by the diocese for so long as the employee is deemed to be on Long-Term Disability.
- approved and adopted the revised Sabbatical Leave Policy (2014) included in the report dated August 21, 2014.
- approved the 2015 Provincial Synod Nomination process.

### **Parish and Property Matters**

- supported the proposal for the one year extension of the letter of intent regarding Corktown Hall related to the relationship between The Church of the Ascension and NOSTRA, previously endorsed by this Synod Council.
- endorsed, in principle, the negotiation of the sale of the former property of Grace Church, located at 1401 King Street East, Hamilton, for a figure not lower than \$335,000
- endorsed the "Parish Centre" building project of St. John the Evangelist, Elora consisting of: the renovation of an existing heritage building at 168 Geddes Street and an addition to the existing building.
- received the document entitled "Request for Diocesan Assistance in 2014" from the Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton; commended the clergy, lay leaders and members of the parish for their diligence and dedication to financial stewardship in the past year; and granted the Corporation of the parish permission to borrow up to \$25,000 from its Rectory Fund provided that the parish's Vestry approve the proposal for making this loan and provided that the original principal of the Rectory Fund be restored at a rate of not less than \$300.00 per month.
- approved the sale of the property at 171 Kortright Road West, Guelph, to HIP Developments for \$2,100,000. The sale agreement is to be completed no later than June 30, 2015.
- recommended to Synod a request to the Provincial Synod for the transfer of Christ Church, Whitfield, from the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Diocese of Niagara to that of the Diocese of Toronto.
- by electronic poll approved the Parish Centre building project at St. John the Evangelist, Elora
- Approved the participation of Church of the Ascension and the Diocese in Phase Two of the NOSTRA development project, and that Synod Council authorize an appointee of the Bishop to represent the Diocese jointly with a Church of the Ascension representative to make decisions on behalf of the Synod where expediency does not allow consultation with Synod Council; provided that regular reports to Synod Council be made by the diocesan representative, and that any and all contracts directly involving the Diocese and related to this project be approved by Synod Council.'
- approved the transfer of the trusteeship of the building and financial assets of St. John's, York, to the Board of Trustees of the St. John's Chapel & Cemetery upon the church's

disestablishment, provided that a covenant between the Diocese and the Board of Trustees is approved by Synod Council at its June meeting.

- approved the covenant for trusteeship between the Diocese of Niagara and the Board of Trustees of the St. John's Chapel & Cemetery as presented pending the approval of the diocesan solicitor.
- appointed the Venerable Bruce McPetrie as administrator of St. Paul's, Port Robinson for a period of two months; authorized the disestablishment of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Port Robinson and moved that the Parish Administrator and the Secretary of Synod Council seek a demolition permit for St. Paul's Anglican Church, Port Robinson.
- approved the proposed kitchen renovation project of St. Alban's Acton
- authorized the Incumbent and Wardens to sign a contract and proceed with the steeple restoration of St. George's Anglican Church in St. Catharines, having consulted with the Bishop's Advisory Council on Church Buildings and the Financial Advisory Committee
- authorized the Secretary of Synod, in consultation with the Bishop's Appointee to the St. Matthew's House Board, to negotiate any contracts and apply for any building permits as may be necessary in order to proceed with the renovation of 414 Barton Street East; and requested that the Secretary of Synod provide a progress report at each meeting.
- approved Option C from the Bagnall Lodge Utilities Report (level of utility service to remain active when the building is vacated) provided by Terry Charters, BACCB, and furthermore that Synod Council authorized Jody Beck to oversee this building closure.
- approved the offer for sale of Parts 2, 3 & 4 of the Canterbury Hills Conference Centre (commonly known as Bagnall Lodge) pending the completion of the severance (anticipated closure; Sept 27, 2014) for a price not less than \$800,000.
- approved by electronic poll the sale of Parts 2, 3 & 4 of Lot 45, Concessions 1-2 of the Diocesan property known as Canterbury Hills Conference Centre (commonly known as Bagnall Lodge) pending the completion of the severance for an amount of \$986,000 to the Dundas Valley Montessori School, after having approved the sale, in principle, at September Synod Council meeting. The sale agreement is to be completed no later than January 31, 2015. And is subject to the following conditions: Hamilton Conservation Authority approval, Ratification from the Niagara Escarpment Commission, a building inspection, the completed severance of the property, the approval of the Diocesan Solicitor.
- authorized the Secretary of Synod, with the support of the Parish of All Saints (Hamilton), to enter into negotiations with the chosen developer to create a sustainable, legally-binding agreement to redevelop the property at 15 Queen Street South, Hamilton; that final approval be granted by Synod Council subject to agreement by the Diocesan solicitor.

## **Financial Matters**

- authorized the Treasurer & Director of Finance to establish, maintain (through donations, transfers of growth or principal of unrestricted or appropriately designated investments and/or, when necessary, assessment of levies to parishes), and administer a Sabbatical Replacement Coverage Fund with a minimum of twenty-six thousand dollars (\$26,000) annually available for making grants of up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per sabbatical leave taken by an eligible employee in any given year to parishes or the Synod Office when sabbatical replacement coverage or other related costs are incurred.
- authorized an expenditure of up to \$35,000 to complete the ramp at St. Peter's, Hamilton with funds coming from the 2014 Operating Budget.
- approved the internal restriction of one million dollars from the total of the new church development portion (1/3) of the proceeds from the sale of vacant properties, approve the creation of an annual grant program, known as Walking on Water (WOW), to disburse grants annually from funds in excess of one million dollars, with the exact amount available for

disbursement by the WOW grants committee in each calendar year to be recommended to Synod Council each January by the Diocesan Treasurer; and approved the WOW grants committee to be appointed by the Bishop and comprised as follows:

- a) 6 Regional Representatives
  - b) 3 Vision Representatives from the Innovation, Leadership & Worship vision groups
  - c) Director of Congregational Support & Development
  - d) Director of Justice, Community & Global Ministries
- direct the WOW grants committee to be open and transparent in its decision making process through the publication of regular reports on the diocesan website, a report to Synod Council following each grant cycle, and an annual report to Synod.
  - in accordance with the Diocesan Treasurer's recommendation on available funds, approved up to \$50,000 be made available for 2014 WOW grants
  - authorized The Diocese of Niagara Investment Policy dated June 2013.
  - directed the investment sub-committee of the Financial Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Diocesan Treasurer and the Director of Justice, Community & Global Ministries, to undertake the following:
    - a) Research socially responsible investment approaches including, but not necessarily limited to, positive and negative screening, shareholder engagement and community impact investing, and
    - b) Review the impact of the aforementioned socially responsible investment approaches on investment return, investment risk and policy administration, and
    - c) Evaluate our current investment portfolio's adherence to the defined socially responsible investment practices,
    - d) Make a progress report no later than the June 2014 meeting of Synod Council
  - received the report of the Investment Subcommittee on Socially Responsible Investment.
  - approved an increase of 1.9% to the minimum clergy stipend scale for 2015 (over the scale from 2014), and that Synod Council recommended a 1.9% increase to clergy housing allowances (over 2014 figures) for 2015.
  - recommended to parishes a minimum 1.9% increase (in 2015 over 2014) in the salaries of lay employees in addition to any increases appropriate to recognize the experience and performance of parish lay employees

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod

Mary Anne Grant, Administrative Assistant