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THE DIOCESAN ARCHIVIST

Canon 2.6 governs the care and upkeep of the diocesan archives.

Since 1975, McMaster University has overseen the storage of non-current diocesan records dating back to 1875, parish registers, service books, minute books, and other material from more than 100 congregations. The records are on deposit only and remain the property of the diocese.

The diocesan archives kept at Cathedral Place include:

- all synod journals from 1875 to present;
- all copies of Niagara Anglican from 1975 to present;
- all clergy files of deceased or retired clergy;
- all parish files, current or closed;
- some artifacts of our ministry;
- confirmation records; and
- some blueprints or drawings of past construction or additions

Plans for the appointment of a new archivist have been put on hold by the pandemic, as diocesan staff continue to work from home. In the interim, Lorna Shaw has faithfully attended to requests for records as best we are able given pandemic considerations. All archival inquiries should be directed to Lorna at lorna.shaw@niagaraanglican.ca.

Respectfully submitted,

The Venerable Bill Mous
Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod

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CLIMATE JUSTICE NIAGARA

The Climate Justice Niagara (CJN) committee has met regularly by Zoom and accomplished many of our expectations while still leaving room for future goals to be achieved. We are continuing to work on our a 4-prong action approach pertaining to climate justice matters; namely: prayer, education, action, and advocacy.

Using the new medium of 'Zoom' CJN has been able to reach out to all corners of the diocese and engage interested Anglicans, and other Christians on two occasions.

Although parishes have not been open there has been continual dialogue with the climate justice facilitators. Emails, information and relevant articles and events have been communicated to the facilitators and other members of the diocese.

In the past year, the main highlights of our committee have been:

- Hearing that 32 parishes had passed the vestry motion on reducing plastics
- Ensuring that there was a monthly environmental article in the Niagara Anglican
- March Zoom event – “A Coffee House for Water”
- Registering with Faith and the Common Good’s “For the Love of Creation”
- 52 Facilitators are register with CJN in parishes around the diocese
- June webinar facilitated by Mike Balkwill of Wellington Water Watchers
- Lowell Bliss will be attending the COP26 event in Glasgow in November

Having submitted a motion to synod, future goals include helping parishes to reduce their carbon footprint. Advice and links to web sites will be given to help parishes achieve a walk-through green audit plan that fits their needs

This coming year we will also continue to follow up with last year’s motion on reducing plastics. There are still questions many parishes are asking as to how to make this a reality and future training will be given to assist them.

Working within the Mission Action Plan we continue to explore other avenues of environmental issues where we feel we can make a difference within the diocese.

We welcomed a youth member, Emily Pfau, to the committee this year; she has already written an article and participated in an evening zoom event. She also applied to be a youth member to COP26.

To my loyal committee thank you for keeping me on track this difficult year: Lowell Bliss, The Rev. Canon Leslie Gerlofs, Norm Newbery, James Newman, Irene Pang, Emily Pfau, Deirdre Pike, David Savage, Jane Stephen, and Anne Young.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Carson, Chair

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THE DIOCESAN REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE

As with so much of the ministry of the Diocese of Niagara, our refugee sponsorship for resettlement program has continued working away in the background. Although in reduced numbers, throughout the pandemic the diocese has continued to provide settlement needs for refugees that we sponsor to resettle to Canada through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program, of our federal government.

In the year 2021:

- We have submitted paperwork for 17 cases equaling 28 people.
- We have welcomed 1 newcomer to Canada in 2021.
- We have seen the successful completion of 6 cases in the past year.

As the department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship has continued to navigate doing their work throughout the pandemic restrictions, so have the sponsoring groups of the Diocese and all of the other Sponsorship Agreement Holder organizations.

We have continued to respond as we are able, and continue to urge as many parishes as are able to consider taking part in this work and ministry of the diocese. Like all other ministries of the church, this work happens because of the people in our parishes, and in our community. It is due to their generous and inspired compassion, their dedication, commitment, time, talent and treasure that makes this ministry possible.

As always, we remind you that this is work of both and – supporting the refugee ministry alongside our work to rebuild relationship with First Nations, racial, social and economic justice and outreach work, along with every other aspect of ministry. We are called to serve, and compelled to love, in Christ's name.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Scott McLeod
Coordinator, Diocesan Refugee Sponsorship Initiative

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THE CATHEDRAL PLACE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This committee is mandated to develop, monitor, and oversee the annual capital, maintenance, and repair budget for 252 James Street, North, Hamilton. We will also be responsible for developing policies related to user groups and for long range planning of major repairs and renovations.

The committee is comprised of 2 appointees from the Cathedral parish, 2 appointees from Synod Council, the rector of Christ's Church Cathedral, the diocesan executive officer, and a chairperson appointed by the Bishop of Niagara.

This year, the Cathedral Place Property Management Committee continued to meet by Zoom and the following priority work has been completed;

- Upgrades to security system
- Plaster repairs and painting
- Installation of video streaming equipment in the Cathedral
- Boiler repairs
- Replacement of A/C equipment damaged by vandalism (insurance claim)

In the coming year, in addition to normal maintenance and repair activity, we will continue to refine a newly developed 10-year capital budget.

The committee would like to thank Derek Smith and his team for their continued care and diligence in maintaining the Cathedral Place property.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Terry Charters
Chair

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THE ANTI-RACISM WORKING GROUP

The Team: Ann Thuraka Kannangra, Bishop Susan Bell, Canon Christyn Perkons(Staff Support), Deirdre Pike, Dumkele Aligwekwe, the Rev. Garfield Wu, the Rev. Jon Forbes, Mary Gordon, the Rev. Naomi Kabugi (Chair), Nicola Zhang, the Rev. Nirmal Mendis, the Ven Peter Scott, the Rev. Randy Williams, Roger Beach, the Ven. Val Kerr (Chaplain), the Rev. Antonio Illas, and Sarah Bird.

At the invitation of Bishop Susan Bell, the Niagara Anti-Racism Working Group (ARWG) is charged with making recommendations that would make the diocese address racism; in our churches and diocesan cultures. That is to say, policies, behaviors, and beliefs perpetuate racist ideas and actions in our places of worship, and the running of the Church in general.

What are some of the things we've learned about racism and how can we, the faithful of this diocese, address them collaboratively?

- That racism, and its variants, e.g. skin color, language (fill in your blanks...) is a falsehood created by early European Christian settlers in North America, designed to categorize some groups as superior beings which has now become a system of life.
- Racialized trauma is what we all experience as we live in a racialized society, passed on from one generation to the other through our traumatized racialized bodies.
- A Made in Niagara Anti Racism Work will take a form of A Journey towards Healing and wholeness.

The following is the ARWG step toward moving forward towards a Journey of Healing and wholeness:

- Develop HR policies for clergy, parishes in transition, and clergy moving into the diocese as well as new ordinands around required AR training
- Develop a "made in Niagara" training/education program for parishes and individuals (clergy and lay) to be ready for Synod 2022...perhaps have run one pilot session pre-Synod
- Develop a "Train the Facilitators" program so training program facilitators are well equipped to facilitate regional and parish training
- Ensure that our Christian values and roots are woven into diocesan anti-racism resources as above and also including the healing of trauma, acts of reconciliation, and liturgies of reconciliation
- Provide parishes with stats around diversity in parish neighborhoods set against their faith community diversity and develop tools/tips/resources to support the broadening of their demographic.
- All ARWG members graduate from the Diocese of New Jersey anti-racism training by Synod 2022

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Naomi Kabugi
Chair

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REVIVE REPORT

The role of the Diocesan Revive Coordinator is to support parishes and clergy in deepening the faith and engagement of congregants through the use of Revive resources so that parishes have an abundance of active lay leaders who are able to clearly articulate their faith, share their stories of transformation, and lean boldly into Gospel living in their families, work, churches and neighbourhoods.

Considerable strides have been made in the last year, yet, there is still much to learn and grow into because, as we know, spiritual formation is a life-long process.

A few highlights of Revive coordination in the past year include:

- Guiding and supporting leaders to implement Revive through an on-line platform that offered a welcoming space of trust for relationships to deepen.
- Organization of a weekly support group for new leaders to become familiar with the content of the modules and to encourage the practice of spiritual formation activities that they then led throughout the program.
- Promotion of Revive through seasonal Niagara Anglican articles, direct email and phone contact with clergy, diocesan e-blast, clericus, Facebook. The Revive experience was promoted through two guest appearances with Dawn Davis on Pew & Beyond (a national church discussion on evangelism and discipleship) using the Facebook platform
- Ongoing Revive collaboration through regular connection with Dawn Davis (Assistant Professor of Contextual Theology/Director of Leadership for Ministry Programs, Huron College) and Neil Mancor (congregational development for the Diocese of Montreal) which resulted in: the adaptation of Revive to a Lenten program for use in the Diocese along with implementation, support, and training for leaders
- Participation in the group, 'Spiritual Formation for Discipleship: A Network for Canadian Anglicans' for promotion of spiritual formation, collaboration, and shared learning.
- Due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic on clergy, a weekly on-line support group was offered called 'A Place to Dwell' (a safe space for clergy to check-in, dwell in God's presence, and pray together)

The pandemic has had significant impact on many parishes offering Revive because of the difficulty for some in shifting to an on-line platform, not only for leaders, but also for participants. This resulted in many Revive programs being placed 'on-hold'. As small in-person gatherings continue to become a reality going forward, encouragement and support is being offered to parishes to pick up Revive where they left off and for others to move forward with plans to implement Revive in order to equip lay leaders to become confident spiritual leaders as part of their overall Mission Action Plan.

As an integral part of the Mission Action Plan, Revive will continue to be offered as a deeply relevant program for the spiritual formation and discipleship of participants. Moving forward, the creation of a diocesan working group to explore next steps for Revive is being formed.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Leslie Gerlofs
Diocesan Revive Coordinator