

2021 DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

Regional Representatives

- Mr. Gary Pollard Brock
- The Reverend Deacon Rod McDowell Brock
- Ms. Siobhan Bennett (alternate) Brock
- Mr. Bryan Elliston Greater Wellington
- Mr. Thomas Littlewood Greater Wellington
- The Reverend Naomi Kabugi (alternate) Greater Wellington
- The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin Hamilton-Haldimand
- Mr. David Eccles Hamilton-Haldimand
- Mr. Ian Pratt (alternate) Hamilton-Haldimand
- Mr. Byron Nicolson Lincoln
- The Reverend Will Alakas Lincoln
- Ms. Sue Thibodeau (alternate) Lincoln
- The Reverend Canon Rob Park Trafalgar
- Ms. Janice Whiteley Trafalgar
- Mr. Rob Pawson (alternate) Trafalgar

Regional Archdeacons

- The Venerable Dr. John Course Brock
- The Venerable Peter Scott Greater Wellington
- The Venerable Dr. David Anderson Hamilton-Haldimand
- The Venerable Max Woolaver Lincoln
- The Venerable Michael Patterson Trafalgar (*through January 28, 2021*)
- The Venerable Jeff Ward Trafalgar (*effective February 1, 2021*)

Financial Advisory Committee

- Mr. Andrew Clinkard

Canterbury Hills

- Ms. Susan Little

Episcopal Appointees

- Canon Terry Charters
- Ms. Amy Collard
- Ms. Anna Tavakoli

Directors

- The Reverend Canon Terry DeForest, Director of Human Resources
- Canon Christyn Perkons, Director of Congregational Support and Development
- Ms. Gillian Doucet Campbell, Director of Stewardship and Development

Officers

- The Right Reverend Susan Bell, Diocesan Bishop
- Mr. Greg Tweney, Chancellor
- Canon Joanna Beck, Treasurer & Director of Finance
- The Venerable Bill Mous, Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod
- The Very Reverend Dr. Tim Dobbin, Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral & Dean of Niagara

Report of the Diocesan Synod Council

This report summarizes the actions of synod council from November 2020 through October 2021. The requirement for at least six meetings to be held, as set out in Canon 1.9 (9). was met with ten meetings duly convened during this period.

Election and Appointments

- Appointed the following as signing officers, effective January 1, 2021: the Right Reverend Susan Bell, diocesan bishop; the Venerable William (Bill) Mous, executive officer and secretary of synod; Canon Joanna Beck, treasurer and director of finance; and Canon Alison D'Atri, assistant treasurer.
- Elected the following members to the audit committee, for a two-year term: Kelly Roloson, Brenda Lane, Tony Denning, Greg Cook, and Leslie Gerlofs.
- Approved the election of the following directors to serve on the board of 2498317 Ontario Inc, the corporation established to oversee diocesan development projects for the calendar year 2021 or until their successors are duly elected: The Right Reverend Susan Bell, Canon Joanna Beck, The Venerable William (Bill) Mous and Canon Terry Charters; and authorized the bishop and secretary of synod to sign the authorizing resolution on behalf of the synod.
- Appointed the following as directors of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation for a three-year term: Ms. Elizabeth Wensley and Ms. Jodey Porter.
- Elected Mr. Andrew Bucknall as president of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara, for a one-year term; and Mr. Tony Denning vice-president of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara, for a one-year term.
- Appointed KPMG as the auditors of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara, for the fiscal year 2020.
- Elected the following members to serve as its coordinating team: Ms. Susan Little, The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin, The Reverend Deacon Rod McDowell, Ms. Amy Collard and Ms. Janice Whiteley. The Secretary of Synod served as the chair.
- Elected the following members to the financial advisory committee, for a two-year term: Mr. Gerry Anthony, Mr. Howard Davis, The Reverend Pamela Guyatt, Mr. Mark Young, Sister Heather Broadwell, The Reverend Eleanor Clitheroe, Mr. Marshall Horner and Mr. Jeff Ostic.
- Elected the following members to the missional budget planning committee, for a two-year term: Mr. Gerry Anthony, The Venerable Peter Scott, The Reverend Eleanor Clitheroe, and Ms. Janice Whiteley.
- Elected Mr. Tim Tiernay to the Human Resources for Ministry Committee, for a two-year term.
- Elected the following members to the synod council nominations committee for a one-year term: Ms. Susan Little, Mr. Gary Pollard, and The Venerable Jeff Ward.

Policy Matters

- Approved the regulations for holding virtual vestry meetings in 2021.
- Approved approve the terms of reference for the Missional Budget Planning Committee, effective February 16, 2021.
- Approved the terms of reference for the nominations committee, effective March 9, 2021.
- Approved the Canon 2.10 regulations, as circulated, to establish the prescribed formula and base amounts for the annual contributions of the Cathedral congregation to the diocese, for the three-year period commencing January 1, 2021.

- Approved the policy on disestablished rectory funds; and directed the treasurer to apply the policy retroactively to the disestablished rectory funds currently held by the diocese, effective March 9, 2021.
- Approved the procedure proposed by the nominations committee for the election of General Synod delegates for elections conducted in 2021.
- Approved the procedure proposed by the nominations committee for the election of Synod Council regional representatives for all such elections, effective April 20, 2021.
- Updated and approved the Diocese of Niagara Safe Church Policy, effective October 1, 2021.

Parish Matters

- Affirmed the many decades of faithful witness expressed by the people of the Church of St. Peter, Hamilton since 1890, including the founding of St. Peter's Hospital in Hamilton, while also lamenting the congregation's decision in 2008 to leave the Anglican Church of Canada; and approved the disestablishment of the Church of St. Peter, Hamilton, effective December 31, 2020.
- Authorized the parish of St. Aidan's Oakville to hold its annual vestry meeting not later than March 28, 2021.
- Authorized the parish of St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton to hold their annual vestry meetings not later than March 31, 2021.
- Authorized the parish of St. John the Divine, Cayuga, to hold its annual vestry meeting not later than May 30, 2021.

Property Matters

- Authorized the sale of a portion of its property legally designated as Part of PIN # 38148(LT), Part of Warner Nelles Tract.
- Authorized the sale of the property located at 3 Nelles Street in the county of Haldimand (formerly St. John's Anglican Church).
- Authorized the Bishop and the Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod to enter into a time-limited Letter of Intent on behalf of the diocese, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the diocesan solicitor, for the purposes of negotiating a partnership agreement for the redevelopment of 238 Geneva Street, St. Catharines.
- Authorized the sale of the property located at 58 Main Street North, Hagersville, formerly All Saints Anglican Church.

Financial Matters

- Directed the net proceeds from the sale of a permanent easement over at St. Luke's, Palermo (3114 Dundas Street West in Oakville) to the Regional Municipality of Halton be applied to the parish's long-term receivables and any remaining funds be applied to its outstanding Diocesan Mission and Ministry contributions from prior years
- Received the 2019 audited financial statements of The Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara.
- Approved up to \$60,000 from the internally restricted Walking on Water (WOW) fund be made available in 2021 for grants, as recommended by the diocesan treasurer.
- Directed the net proceeds of \$570,000 from the sale of the Grantham Avenue property in St. Catharines to establish a Church Planting Reserve Fund in the amount of \$100,000; to establish a Property Renewal Reserve Fund in the amount of \$100,000; and to hold the remaining funds as contingency to support unanticipated pandemic needs, subject to review by Synod Council.

- Approved an interest-free loan to Canterbury Hills Conference Centre in the amount of \$88,000 on the condition that repayments are made over a three-year term and begin in 2022; and authorized the Bishop to enter into an agreement to this effect, on behalf of the diocese.
- On the advice of the Investment Committee and as recommended by the Financial Advisory Committee, approve a change to the diocesan investment policy such that the target asset allocation for the diocesan portfolio is changed to 75% return seeking funds and 25% fixed income funds.
- Approved the board of St. Matthew House's request to combine the St. Matthew's House Trust Fund and the Mabel Rae Fund into a new fund called The St. Matthew's House Strategic Fund, restricting the original capital value of \$119,125 from encroachment, and limiting annual draws to no more than 10% of the fund's market value, unless exceptional permission is granted by Synod Council .
- Approved the 2020 audited consolidated financial statements of The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara.
- Approved the 2020 audited financial statements of The Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara.
- Approved the proposed Mission Action Plan pre-campaign study to be conducted by Steier Group and authorized an investment of as much as \$85,000 for this purpose.
- Authorized the renewal of the agreement between the Diocese of Niagara and Service Canada to maintain the registration of our Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) Plan for illness, training, and temporary stoppage of work.
- Commended the 2022 diocesan budget for approval by synod.
- Approved the Minimum Stipend Scale for 2022.
- Recommended a cost of living adjustment for all housing allowances of not less than 1.3% in 2022 (over 2021 figures).
- Recommended that salaries of all non-licensed lay employees and stipends for those clergy and licensed lay workers receiving above the minimum stipend be increased by not less than 1.9% (comprised of a cost of living adjustment of 1.3% and a year of service increase of 0.6% in 2022) in 2022 (over 2021 figures).

Respectfully submitted,

The Venerable Bill Mous, Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod
 Ms. Mary Anne Grant O.N., Administrative Assistant