

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

This report summarizes the actions of the Synod Council from the November 2007 Synod to the Synod Council meeting of October 14, 2008 inclusive. Nine meetings were convened. Attendance averaged 81%.

Membership

- all changes in membership were in accordance with Canon 1.9 and the election of members and alternate members by Synod in November 2007

Election and Appointments

- authorized the following at signing officers: The Right Reverend Michael Bird, Diocesan Bishop; The Reverend Canon Michael Patterson, Executive Officer; The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones, Secretary of Synod; Mr. Robert McKinnell, Treasurer; 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 members of the Financial Advisory Committee for 2008 as follows: The Reverend Owen Ash, Mrs. Judy Conning, Mr. Stan Hatcher, The Reverend Darcey Lazerte, Mr. Tom Poirier, Mr. David Ricketts, Mr. Fred Roach, Mr. Peter Swire, Mr. David Watson
- elected members of the Audit Committee for 2008 as follows: Mr. Gord Archbell, Mr. Ed Crighton, Mr. Gerald Jenkins, Mr. Jim Newman, Mr. David Page, Mr. Ian Smith, Mr. Peter Swire, Mr. Seymour Wigle
- 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. Seymour Wigle (Jan. 2006 - 2009), Mrs. Joyce Frank (Jan. 2006 - 2009), Mr. Andrew Bucknall (Jan. 2006 - 2009), Mr. James Sweetlove (Jan. 2006 - 2009), Mr. Gord Archbell (Jan. 2008 - 2011), The Venerable Lynne Corfield (Jan. 2008 - 2011), Archdeacon Bob Leckey (Bishop's Appointee 2008)
- appointed KPMG auditors of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara for fiscal year 2007
- appointed a committee by the Bishop to review and update all diocesan mandates to reflect a new strategic plan and the work of that committee
- elected the following to serve as the Synod Council Coordinating Team: Patricia Davis, Dianne Distler, George Henry, Russell Kelk, John Palmer
- reappointed Mr. Bob Tilbury, All Saints, Hamilton and Canon David Pickett for a two year term to the Cathedral Place Property Management Committee
- appointed Mr. Mitch Banks and Ian Pratt for a two-year term, effective March 1, 2008, to the Cathedral Place Property Management Committee
- approved that the appointed Greening Niagara Ad-Hoc Committee report to Synod Council
- appointed Mr. Paul Clifford to the Jamesville Day Care Board for a two-year term, effective April 15, 2008
- re-appointed the Regional Archdeacon of Brock as the Diocesan Administrator of All Saints Mission, Niagara Falls for 2008

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL (continued)

Election and Appointments (continued)

- appointed the Synod Council Coordinating Team to be the Provincial Synod Nominations Committee and approved the process for Provincial Synod nominations
- approved one-year License Agreements for St Paul's, Hamilton
- approved one-year License Agreements for St. John's, Ancaster
- approved St. Christopher's, Burlington to enter into site use agreements under the terms of the Parish Licensing Agreement, with user groups for the terms specified
- approved a Long Term Licensing Agreement for St. Alban's, Beamsville

Policy Matters

- accepted the recommendations of the Financial Advisory Committee on clergy housing, as outlined in the report to Synod Council dated November 27th, 2007
 - 1) That, on a relocation requiring a change in housing, the housing allowance reflects the current fair market value for a single family house of approximately 1,700 sq. ft. consisting of three bedrooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, office area, at least one bathroom and full basement, within 15 kilometers of the church
 - 2) That the parish Wardens, in conjunction with the Bishop and the Diocesan Treasurer, assist the relocating clergy in obtaining suitable housing
- approved that the Regional Archdeacon or an Officer of Synod, along with the Corporation of a Parish, be the persons to list and sell any established property in the Diocese of Niagara
- considered changes to Canon 1.1(4) Composition of Synod and Canon 1.2(5) Credentials Committee
- adopted the Greening Niagara Committee Mandate for the Diocese of Niagara

Parish and Property Matters

- ratified the disestablishment of St. Mark's, Louth on January 13, 2008
- approved the sale of the rectory at 41 Church Street West, Elora for \$350,000 to Mary Janet Young to close on March 14, 2008
- approved the sale of St. Brendan, Port Colborne to Mark Stephenson for \$275,000, conditional upon financing by the purchaser until May 9th, to close on May 30th, 2008
- approved the sale of Grace Church, Hamilton to Christ Choice Spiritual Church for \$350,000, conditional upon the following by the purchaser; inspection of property, arranging insurance, solicitor approval until May 12th, to close on May 30th, 2008 and approved the Diocese of Niagara taking back a first mortgage for \$340,000 at an interest rate of 5% per annum plus \$500 principle payment per month for a period of 5 years, with the restriction that no major structural changes can be done to the property within this time
- authorized St. John's, Burlington to enter into a lease agreement with the Province's Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC), Halton Region for their lands adjacent east and south of the church property effective May 6, 2008 for a period of 5 years at an annual rental of \$100 per year
- approved the offer to enter into the redevelopment of All Saints, Hamilton with Options for Homes in the joint venture outlined in the presentation and the offer presented

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL (continued)

- approved St. Luke's, Palermo to continue the conversation and explore options with Versa Care

Financial Matters

- accepted the recommendation of the Compensation Sub-Committee to increase the Interim and Supply pay scales by 2.2% effective January 1, 2008
- approved that the Diocese of Niagara WSIB (Workers Safety Insurance Board) Coverage be adopted by all parishes by January 1, 2008
- accepted the recommendation by the Financial Advisory Committee to ensure that the value of rectory funds grow at least at the inflationary rate. This policy is found in the Rectory Fund Policy document dated November 27, 2007
- approved that the Continuing Education Plan employee amount remain at \$600 to be paid by the salary source
- approved that Synod Council make a strong recommendation to the Continuing Education Plan for the employee to be reimbursed 100%
- approved the request from St. Mark's, Orangeville to borrow \$150,000 from its Rectory Fund for Capital projects
- approved the request from St. James & St. Brendan's, Port Colborne to borrow \$160,000 from its Rectory Fund for Capital projects
- approved the request from Holy Trinity, Niagara Falls to borrow up to \$50,000 from its Rectory Fund for Capital projects
- approved St. John's Church of the Dunn Parish, Dunnville reducing their insurance coverage to demolition value
- authorizes the Treasurer to borrow funds up to \$250,000 from unrestricted investments to cover short term operating cash flow for the period including up to October 14, 2008
- referred the report from the Diocesan Treasurer & CFO to Senior Management and the Financial Advisory Committee and that a report be received by Synod Council on October 14, 2008
- approved that no further DM&M be charged to the remaining parishes after the date that the break away congregations left
- accepted the recommendations from the Financial Advisory Committee as of January 1, 2008, for a period of one year with regard the Christ's Church Cathedral Financial Report. These recommendations cover \$135,500 of the required \$175,000 projected deficit. The remaining \$40,000 would need to be covered by the Cathedral
- included unrecognized rectory funds as available diocesan funds but maintain their distinct classification as proceeds from the sale of rectories
- approved the transfer \$425,000 from this fund into the General Operating Fund
- recommended to Synod to require mandatory participation in the payroll PAP plan from all parishes and to authorize Archdeacons to intervene and assist those parishes that are unable to participate in this plan commencing January 1, 2009
- acknowledged that All Saint's, Niagara Falls mortgage maturity proceeds are being deposited in the Diocesan bank operating account
- approved an electronic poll to be conducted if Diocesan Investment Funds held in participation Units are required to assist with cash flow needs
- received the 2009 Proposed Budget

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL (continued)

- accepted the recommendation from the Compensation Sub-Committee to increase all pay grades on a minimum stipend scale established for parish clergy by 3.5% and on existing clergy housing allowances
- accepted the recommendation from the Compensation Sub-Committee of a minimum 3.5% increase for all lay employees

Other

- ratified the legal actions of the Bishop and diocesan leaders with respect to St. George's, Lowville, St. Hilda's, Oakville, and the Good Shepherd, St. Catharines
- authorized the Bishop and Secretary of Synod to take the legal actions required to confirm our ownership of those properties
- Authorized that the following motion, carried unanimously at the January 22, 2008 meeting of Synod Council, be recorded in the April 1, 2008 minutes of Synod Council;

 THAT this Synod Council, having determined that there is a situation requiring this, authorizes the appointment of an administrator for any Parish of this Diocese that shows an intention of joining the Anglican Network in Canada (Southern Cone), subject to an electronic poll of members of Synod Council being conducted specifically approving such an appointment for any specific Parish, all pursuant to section 7 of Canon 4.5
- approved that the Diocesan Administrators, the Reverend Canon Dr. Brian Ruttan, St. Hilda's, Oakville; the Reverend Susan Wells, St. George's, Lowville; the Venerable Bruce McPetrie, Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Catharines; pursuant to Canon 4.5, Section 7, terms be extended until December 31, 2008, subject to review by the Bishop and Executive Officer
- approved the Reverend Martha Tatarnic replace the Reverend Canon Dr. Brian Ruttan, as the Diocesan Administrator at St. Hilda's Anglican Church, Oakville effective September 15, 2008 until December 31, 2008; pursuant to Canon 4.5, Section 7, subject to review by the Bishop and Executive Officer

Respectfully submitted,
The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones,
Secretary of Synod
Mrs. Karen Nowicki,
Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of Synod