

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

This report summarizes the actions of the Synod Council from the November 2008 Synod to the Synod Council meeting of October 27, 2009 inclusive. Ten 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 2008

Election and Appointments

- authorized the following at signing officers: The Right Reverend Michael Bird, Diocesan Bishop; The Venerable Michael Patterson, Executive Officer; The Venerable 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 2009 as follows: The Reverend Owen Ash, Mrs. Judy Conning, The Venerable Lynne Corfield, Mr. Stan Hatcher, Mr. Jim Higginson, The Reverend Canon Darcey Lazerte, Mr. Tom Poirier, Mr. Ian Pratt, Mr. Fred Roach
- elected members of the Audit Committee for 2009 as follows: Mr. Gord Archbell, Mr. Ed Crighton, The Reverend Dianne Distler, Mr. Jim Higginson, 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. Gord Archbell (Jan. 2008 - Dec. 2010), Mr. Andrew Bucknall (Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2011), Mrs. Judy Conning (Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2009), The Venerable Lynne Corfield (Jan 2008 - Dec. 2010), Archdeacon Bob Leckey (Bishop's Appointee 2009), Mr. James Sweetlove (Jan. 2009 - Dec. 2011), Mr. David Watson (Jan. 2009 - December 2009)
- appointed KPMG auditors of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara for fiscal year 2008
- elected the following to serve as the Synod Council Coordinating Team: The Reverend Suzanne Craven, The Reverend Dianne Distler, The Reverend George Henry, Russell Kelk, John Palmer and The Very Reverend Peter Wall
- re-appointed the Regional Archdeacon of Brock as the Diocesan Administrator of All Saints Mission, Niagara Falls for 2009
- approved The Reverend Sue-Ann Ward replace The Reverend Martha Tatarnic, as the Diocesan Administrator at St. Hilda's Anglican Church, Oakville effective January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009; pursuant to Canon 4.5, Section 7, subject to review by the Bishop and Executive Officer
- approved that the Diocesan Administrators, The Reverend Susan Wells, St. George's, Lowville; The Venerable Bruce McPetrie, Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Catharines; The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones, St. Peter's, Hamilton; pursuant to Canon 4.5, Section 7, terms be extended until December 31, 2009, subject to review by the Bishop and Executive Officer

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL (continued)

Election and Appointments (continued)

- appointed the Synod Council Coordinating Team to be the General Synod Nominations Committee and approved the process for General Synod nominations
- approved The Reverend Susan Wilson, Greater Wellington representative replace Canon Mark tiller on Synod Council to December 31, 2010
- appointed The Venerable Lynne Corfield chair of Passion for Justice
- withdrew the appointment of Mr. Robert L. McKinnell as Diocesan Treasurer effective October 22, 2009

Policy Matters

- that annual vestry meetings be held by February 28, 2009 under Canon 4.1.4
- approved St. Christopher's, Burlington, St. Paul's, Norval, St. John's, Ancaster, Church of the Incarnation, Oakville and St. Columba, St. Catharines to enter into site use agreements under the terms of the Parish Licensing Agreement, with user groups for the terms specified
- considered changes to Canon 3.3(19) Discipline Part 5 - Principles and General Procedures to be Observed in Discipline Procedures

Parish and Property Matters

- approved the Letter of Intent to Fram Building Group and Diversicare on the St. Luke's, Palermo proposed property development project
- approved and supported the continued negotiations between the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, St. Luke's, Palermo, Fram Building Group and Diversicare on the Limited Liability Partnership property development
- authorized the Corporation of St. Paul's, Fort Erie to list the church rectory property at 30 Idylewylde Street for no more than \$224,000, and to sell the same, for no less than \$195,000
- approved an electronic poll be conducted per approval of the acceptance of any offer that the Corporation would recommend be accepted
- authorized the Bishop to endorse the application of St. Aidan's Anglican Church, Oakville to the Anglican Foundation for a grant in the amount of \$15,000
- authorized the Bishop to endorse the application of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Orangeville to the Anglican Foundation for a grant in the amount of \$15,000
- approved the request from St. James, Fergus to borrow up to \$25,000 from its Rectory Fund for existing repairs to the church roof
- approve the request from Church of the Nativity, Hamilton to borrow \$15,000 from the Rectory Fund of the former Grace Church, Hamilton to cover existing repairs to the rectory located at 42 Owen Place, Hamilton and the funds be paid back over 3 years
- approved the request from St. Paul's, Fort Erie to borrow \$8,000 from the Rectory Land Trust to pay for a survey required in order to sever property with the understanding that it be repaid when the rectory is sold

Financial Matters

- received the 2009 proposed budget
- accepted the recommendation that parishes be allowed to adopt the one year calculation method for DM&M commencing in 2009
- approved that once a parish has adopted the one year calculation method for DM&M it may not return to the three year rolling average method

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL (continued)

Financial Matters (continued)

- requested the Financial Advisory Committee to identify all of the options to increase income and reduce expenses to manage cash flow and requested that a report be received by Synod Council on June 2, 2009
- accepted the Report of the Financial Advisory Committee and commits to implementing the recommendations as quickly and effectively as possible
- supported and endorsed the Passion for Justice Campaign to raise funds until December 31, 2009
- authorized the management team to access the Diocesan Investment Funds as required for the fiscal year, to December 31, 2009, and to report back to Synod Council
- received the 2010 proposed budget
- accepted the recommendation from the Compensation Sub-Committee that the minimum stipend scale for clergy remain the same for 2010
- authorized the creation of a Task Force to review the current financial situation of the diocese and make recommendations on plans to improve the financial health of the diocese
- authorized the appointment of four (4) members by Synod Council and four (4) members by the Bishop to the Task Force
- The Task Force is to report back to Synod Council on December 1, 2009 with recommendations on how they will proceed

Other

- referred the report from the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee back to the committee and requested that recommendations and a process to acquire feedback from candidates be received by Synod Council
- supported the Fresh Expressions workshop held on Saturday, May 9th at St. James Anglican Church, Dundas
- supported the Bishops endorsement of Bill C-291 giving Refugees their right to appeal
- expressed thanks and gratitude to Bishop Michael Bird on his 1st Anniversary as Bishop of Niagara
- the Cathedral Place Task Force has met and will continue its work. The chair of the Task Force is Mr. Rob Reid
- congratulated Bishop Michael Bird on his 2nd Anniversary as Bishop of Niagara and thanked him for his leadership
- ratified the amended Minutes of Settlement and authorized the Diocesan Administrators to communicate this decision to both the defendants and Mr. Justice Yates

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