

2020 DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

Regional Representatives

- Ms. Siobhan Bennett Brock
- The Reverend Deacon Rod McDowell Brock
- The Reverend Terry Holub (alternate) Brock
- The Reverend Naomi Kabugi Greater Wellington
- Mr. Thomas Littlewood Greater Wellington
- The Reverend Ann Turner (alternate) Greater Wellington
- The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin Hamilton-Haldimand
- Mr. Ian Pratt Hamilton-Haldimand
- Mrs. Mary Donkin (alternate) Hamilton-Haldimand
- Ms. Cathy Lynn Hanson Lincoln
- The Reverend Will Alakas Lincoln
- Mr. Byron Nicholson (alternate) Lincoln
- The Reverend Canon Rob Park Trafalgar
- Ms. Janice Whiteley Trafalgar
- Ms. Claire Christoff (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

Financial Advisory Committee

- Mr. Andrew Clinkard

Canterbury Hills

- Ms. Susan Little

Episcopal Appointees

- Canon Terry Charters
- The Reverend Leslie Gerlofs
- Mr. Adam MacNeil

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

Report of the Diocesan Synod Council

This report summarizes the actions of synod council from December 2019 through October 2020. The requirement for at least six meetings to be held, as set out in Canon 1.9 (9). was met with twelve meetings duly convened.

Election and Appointments

- Appointed the following as signing officers, effective January 1, 2020: the Right Reverend Susan Bell, diocesan bishop; the Venerable William (Bill) Mous, secretary of synod; Canon Joanna Beck, treasurer and director of finance; Canon Alison D'Atri, assistant treasurer; and the Reverend Canon Terry DeForest, director of human resources; and directed that the signature of one of the following must appear on all cheques: the treasurer or the assistant treasurer.
- Elected the following members to the audit committee, for a two-year term: Mr. Ralph Malashevsky, Mr. Jim Higginson, and Mr. Paul Bates.
- 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 2020 or until their successors are duly elected: The Right Reverend Susan Bell, Canon Joanna Beck, The Reverend Canon 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, Niagara: Mr. Andrew Bucknall, Mr. Tony Denning, Ms. Noreen Felker, Mr. Ian Smith, Mr. James Sweetlove, and Mr. Mark Volkov.
- Elected Mr. Jim Sweetlove as president of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara, for a one-year term; and Mr. Andrew Bucknall as 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 2019.
- Elected the following members to serve as its coordinating team: Ms. Janice Whiteley, The Venerable Dr. David Anderson, Mr. Andrew Clinkard, The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin, and Ms. Susan Little. The Secretary of Synod served as the chair.
- Extended the appointment of the Reverend Canon Bill Mous as the diocesan administrator for St. Peter's, Hamilton until December 31, 2020.
- Appointed the Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin and Mr. Fraser Earle for a two-year term as the diocesan representatives on the Cathedral Place Property Management Committee.
- Appointed Mr. Gerry Anthony, Ms. Jan Southall, the Venerable Dr. David Anderson and the Venerable Peter Scott to serve on the Transformational Budget Working Group.
- Appointed Ms. Susan Little, the Reverend Will Alakas, and Ms. Siobhan Bennett for a one-year term as their appointees to the Nomination Committee.
- Appointed Mr. David van der Woerd as the diocesan solicitor for the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, effective June 1, 2020 for a term of 5 years, thereafter to be renewed by mutual consent.

Policy Matters

- Approved the synod council *in camera* sessions policy, effective January 1, 2020.
- Approved the synod council electronic voting policy, effective December 10, 2019.
- Updated and approved the diocesan policy on rectories, effective January 11, 2020.
- Updated and approved the diocesan policy on rectory funds, effective January 1, 2020.

- Approved the diocesan Mission Action Plan (MAP) and requested the coordinating team to prioritize synod council agenda time each month for reports related to its implementation.
- Established the Synod Council Nominations Committee.
- Approved the revised terms of reference for the Cathedral Place Property Management Committee, effective March 10, 2020.
- Established the Transformational Budget Working Group for the 2021 budget planning cycle from March through November 2020.
- Approved the new terms of reference for the Climate Justice Niagara Committee (formerly the Greening Niagara Committee), effective April 28, 2020.
- Authorized the bishop to waive the requirement for vestry consideration, as set forth in the regulations pertaining to Canon 4.6, for all regulated building projects that are deemed necessary to proceed during the current pandemic, for as long as restrictions on in-person gatherings remain in place.
- Approved the procedure proposed by the Nominations Committee for the election of Synod Council regional representatives for elections conducted in 2020.
- Approved the procedure proposed by the Nominations Committee for the election of Provincial Synod delegates for elections conducted in 2020.

Parish Matters

- Authorized the parish of St. John's, Rockwood to hold its annual vestry meeting on March 8, 2020.
- Authorized the parish of St. David's, Welland, to hold its annual vestry meeting on March 15, 2020, and extended this authorization to October 18, 2020.
- Authorized the parish of St. John the Divine, Cayuga, to hold its annual vestry meeting not later than March 22, 2020 and extended this authorization to October 18, 2020.
- Affirmed the faithful witness to God's love expressed by the people of All Saints, Hagersville for more than 150 years in light of the parish's decision to voluntarily disestablish, acknowledging the sacrificial giving and the deep bonds of fellowship that have been hallmarks of the community of All Saints and celebrating the congregation's deep commitment to God's mission.

Property Matters

- Approved the narthex reconstruction project of Grace Church, Waterdown to be funded primarily through an ongoing appeal from its parishioners
- Approved the parish of St. Simon's, Oakville entering into an agreement for a permanent easement on its property in favour of the Region of Halton for the purposes of accommodating a sound attenuation wall.
- Approved the sale of a permanent easement at the parish of St. Luke's, Palermo to the Region of Halton, to be conveyed to Oakville Hydro, for the purposes of relocating hydro lines and related services due to the road widening.
- Authorized the sale of the property located at 28 Main Street North in Grand Valley (formerly St. Alban's Anglican Church).
- Authorized the sale of the property legally described as PT LT 11, PL 37 AS IN GV530; E LUTHER/GRAND VALLEY.
- Authorized the sale of the property located at 361 Grantham Avenue in St. Catharines (formerly Good Shepherd Anglican Church).

Financial Matters

- Approved up to \$60,000 from the internally restricted Walking on Water (WOW) fund be made available in 2020 for grants, as recommended by the diocesan treasurer.
- Approved the request of St. Paul's, Dunnville to shift to functional replacement insurance coverage.
- Approved in principle the addition of a representative of the Diocese of Brandon to the diocesan Investment Committee, in accordance with the terms of the proposed Investment Management Agreement between the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara and the Diocese of Brandon.
- Directed the 2020 net cash receipts of \$358,475 from the sale of the Speedvale Avenue property in Guelph remain in the operating account to reduce the current diocesan line of credit and requested further recommendation on the disposition of additional sale proceeds at the time those funds are received.
- Approved the submission of an Anglican Foundation grant application by Grace Anglican Church, Waterdown, in the amount of \$15,000, for consideration this spring, expressing its strong support for the parish's innovative plans to add solar-power capacity to create a resilience hub as part of their narthex renovation project and lauding the parish's efforts to create community space and model environmental stewardship.
- Approved the COVID-19 Parish Financial Support Plan and pledge property assets to support the plan and increase the diocesan line of credit as necessary.
- Approved the application and review process for the diocesan COVID-19 Parish Support Fund.
- Approved the 2019 audited consolidated financial statements of The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara.
- Commended the 2021 diocesan budget for approval by synod.
- Approved the Minimum Stipend Scale for 2021.
- Directed the human resources for ministry committee to recommend a cost of living adjustment for the compensation (stipend and housing allowance or salary) of clergy, licensed lay workers, as well as non-licensed lay workers based on the two year period (August 2019-2021) in the fall of 2021.
- 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 0.6% for year of service increases in 2021 (over 2020 figures).
- Approved a parish technology grant program.
- Approved a support process for parishes which may not be able to contribute the Diocesan Mission and Ministry in the amount approved at their annual vestry meeting
- Directed that proceeds from the sale of property in Guelph (Speedvale Ave) and Grand Valley (Main St.) be used for cash flow purposes to finance the anticipated 2021 deficit.

Respectfully submitted,

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