



DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
The Anglican Church of Canada

Your Synod Council at work

An online virtual meeting of the Synod Council of the Diocese of Ontario was held on Tuesday June 23, 2020. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Council heard a presentation from “The Friends of St. Alban’s Adolphustown” in support of a Memorandum of Understanding(MOU) for a sale of the church building and property to the group. The group is focused on preserving the history and heritage of the building and transforming it into a community center for the wider area. The MOU and a Lease for the group to use the building prior to the intended sale were approved. The intention is that this will lead to a sale of the property to the group. The cemetery continues under the existing Board. The diocese plans to sever the rectory and sell it separately. The vestry of St Alban’s voted to disestablish in 2018.
- Bishop updated Council on the intention to de-consecrate St. Paul’s, Flinton, and the tragic events at St James, Parham.
- Council approved support for an application to the Anglican Foundation of Canada from St. Mary Magdalene, Picton, for a new roof. This is the third and final application our diocese can submit to the Foundation in 2020.
- The Financial Officer updated Council on the end of May financial results and the forecast for the balance of 2020. The reduction in a number of areas of spending due to the COVID-19 pandemic are resulting in a projected surplus for the year.
- After considering the summary from the Synod Planning team and the advice of the Chancellor and the Canons & Governance Committee, Council approved a motion to postpone our regular Diocesan Synod until the Spring of 2020 (if conditions allow). This decision was based on the current state of emergency in the province, the closure of our buildings, the legal uncertainty, challenge and risk of gathering a group of 200, the timing of events required to ramp up to Synod and the need to deal with cost commitments associated with Synod (hotel, catering, etc).
- The existing Synod Council will continue to sit as the governance body (acting as the “Synod between Synods”). The Bishop thanked the Synod Planning Committee for all its work and looks forward to putting together a great Synod when conditions permit.
- The Pandemic Financial Response Team (PFRT) was created to develop a response to support churches through this time. The team presented a detail analysis of the financial impacts our churches have experienced since the March closure of our buildings, together with a proposal on how to provide support tailored to the specific situation regarding a number of churches that have experienced large losses of income and with limited financial resources to fall back on. Council approved the proposal, which

includes consideration of these factors along with the church's ministry & mission and future direction. This program will be in effect for third quarter (July, August, September), with applications being accepted in early October. It will be communicated to church leadership in the coming weeks.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Synod Council will be Tuesday September 22 at 6pm. It is expected this meeting will be online only.

The approval of the minutes of the June 23 meeting are pending. For questions about Synod Council, please contact Alex Pierson, Diocesan Executive Officer, by email at apierson@ontario.anglican.ca or by phone at 613-544-4718.