



**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 April 28, 2020. Highlights of the meeting include:

- The Financial Officer (Alex Pierson) presented the First Quarter (January to March) 2020 Financial Results (unaudited). The Operating Fund saw a surplus of just over \$30,000 for the quarter. The April View Forecast (Jan-Mar actuals with current forecasts for Apr to Dec) shows a surplus for the year of almost \$58,000. The impact of the Pandemic cannot be fully factored into financial planning at this point, other than areas that are experiencing reductions in spending (e.g. travel, meetings, conferences, etc). The financial situation is under continual review and is being adapted moving forward. Council was provided an update on the Central Investment Fund, as well as an overview of how diocesan funds are allocated and designated.
- Council heard from the bishop and executive officer regarding an overview of the COVID-19 situation and how the diocese is responding. The Ministry, Pastoral Care and Worship Guidelines continue to be updated as the situation needs and restrictions evolve. Wardens, treasurers and clergy are meeting online with diocesan leadership each week. The diocese remains connected and in concert with the national and provincial churches through regular online meetings of the House of Bishops as well as weekly online meetings of the executive officers/archdeacons and finance officers/treasurers. Bishop Michael highlighted the creative and faithful response of many of our churches and clergy in taking worship on-line and adapting pastoral care within the pandemic. The diocese is applying for support under the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy program on behalf of our churches. These funds will be credited back to each church/parish's account with the diocese, offsetting the payroll costs which are also charged there. A Pandemic Financial Response Team has been put in place to help review and plan next steps in how we move forward as a diocese.
- Canon Michael Read updated Council on the work done by the Synod Planning Committee, including the theme, keynote speaker and logistics. As with many other parts of our diocesan life, there is uncertainty as to whether we will be able to come together for the scheduled Synod meetings at the end of October 2020. Various options exist. A final decision must be made by the June meeting of Synod Council.
- The bishop highlighted that plans are coming together for an online worship across all the dioceses in the Ecclesiastical Province, with each diocese contributing recorded parts (as we did in this diocese for Easter). This is now planned for Pentecost (May 31). Our own Communications Officer, Mark Hauser, will be handling the production and

editing work for this pre-recorded online service. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

The next meeting of Synod Council is scheduled for Tuesday May 26. It will be an online meeting.

The approval of the minutes of the April 28 meeting are pending. For questions about Synod Council, please contact Alex Pierson, Diocesan Executive Officer, by email at [apierson@ontario.anglican.ca](mailto:apierson@ontario.anglican.ca) or by phone at 613-544-4718.