



DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
The Anglican Church of Canada

Your Synod Council at work

A meeting of the Synod Council of the Diocese of Ontario was held on Tuesday January 28, 2020, at Christ Church Cataraqui. Highlights of the meeting include:

- The Diocese of Ontario Refugee Support committee (DOORS) updated Council on its 2019 year-end review of goals and achievements. Significant highlights included the total sponsorship of 85 refugees, continued participation with local community partners [KEYS, ISKA, Quinte Immigration, Queen's and local MP's office] and attendance at the national Sponsorship Agreement Holder conference held in Victoria, BC. A review of the overall sponsorship process including timelines around application completion, correspondence with VISA office and IRCC, and assistance with refugees once they have arrived in Canada. DOORS also advocates for sponsored refugees in foreign countries, and continues to build relationships with community partners. Goals for 2020 and beyond include settlement of 100-120 refugees, increase the number of sponsors and integrate new volunteers to work with DOORS. DOORS continues to look for additional sponsorship groups.
- Council heard from David Robinson, former director of congregational development for the Diocese of Toronto, and Bishop Oulton on the ongoing process and developments with the InterDiocesan Learning Community Partnership (IDLC). A partnership within a number of dioceses in the Anglican Church of Canada. The Diocese of Ontario has been engaged for a few years in this program. David outlined for Council the partnership process while Bishop Micheal identified what our diocese hopes to achieve in terms of outcomes as a result of this collaboration. Next steps will see the next meeting of IDLC in May and further development of our initiatives within our diocesan strategy.
- Robin Jones updated Council on the current status of the Executive Board's work towards creating the program for the New Ministry Fund—identifying the types of funds available to parishes and how the application process and selection criteria would work. Work continues on the funding process and framework.
- Robin also presented a job description for a community engagement co-ordinator position who would facilitate the development of community partners and programs for the Cowdy Street Ministry Centre. This position is a temporary contract position which will be funded within the existing diocesan budget. It is also intended to be an exemplar for expanding into further work across the diocese. Council approved the job description. It will be advertised shortly.

- The Diocesan Financial Officer, Alex Pierson, advised that the Year End Audit is underway and the auditors will be in house next week. Audited Consolidated Financial Statements are planned to be presented at the March Synod Council meeting.
- Ven Bill Clarke gave Council a report to date on the Diocese of Ontario Foundation and the current results of their 'Fearless Generosity' appeal. While donations by year end were less than expected, the Foundation continues to meet with parishes and build support.
- The Reconciliation Ministries committee updated Council on the current Lenten initiative and identified upcoming goals for 2020.
- Council also heard a brief update from the Stewardship and Worship committees and their current initiatives in the diocese.

The February meeting of Council has been tentatively cancelled due to the conflict with Shrove Tuesday. If no matters arise which require Council's attention, the next meeting will be March 24.

The approval of the minutes of the January 28 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.