# Diocese of Rupert’s Land Diocesan Council October 28, 2020

# **Diocesan Council Minutes (via ZOOM)**

# **Wednesday, October 28, 2020 - 7:00 pm**

Present = P Regrets = R Absent = A ex-officio = (\*) appointed = (a)

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| P | Akinwale, Mr. Wilson | P | Ripley, Mr. Jim – Chancellor \* |
| P | Bates, Barbara | P | Robinson The Rev. Theo |
| P | Blaikie, The Ven. Simon – Executive Archdeacon \* |  | Roe-Finlay, Ms Susan |
| P | Cummings, Lucy | P | Russell, Canon Gary |
| P | Dolloff, The Rev. John | P | Solomon, The Rev. Vince - Urban Indigenous Ministry Dev. |
| P | Ford, The Rev. Brian | P | Thagard, Ms Claudine |
| P | Graham, Rebecca | P | Trott, Dr. Christopher - Warden St. John’s College \* |
| P | Green, Gail | P | Vezina, Marcella |
| P | Henderson, Ted | P | Webster, Ms Tannis |
| P | Holbrook, The Rev. Helen | P | Wedlake, Mr. Robert \* - Secretary of Synod |
| P | Johnson, The Very Rev. Paul \* | P | Woodcroft, The Rt. Rev. Geoffrey \* |
| P | Kennedy, The Ven. Helen \* |  |  |
| P | Lampman, The Rev. Paul |  |  |
| P | Larson, Ms Barbara |  | *Staff* |
| P | MacDonald, The Rev. Deacon Lynn |  |  |
| P | Mawejje, The Ven. Godfrey \* | P | Valencerina, Ms Joy - Director of Finance |
| P | Mawejje, June Rachel | P | McCance, The Rev. Dr. Heather - Diocesan Ministry Dev. |
| P | Manzongo, The Ven. Naboth | R | Doyle, The Hon. Justice Robert - Vice Chancellor |
|  | McIntosh, The Rev. Wayne | P | Routley, Sharon – Diocesan Treasurer |
| P | Pilbeam, Richard |  |  |
| P | Rampton, The Rev. Andrew |  |  |
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Preamble

The Chair, Tannis Webster, welcomed everyone to Council and opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of the land:

*We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1, 2 and 3 Land, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Dakota, Sioux and Oji-Cree people and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and serve God the Creator here.*

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOTION: Be it resolved that the Agenda be approved as presented:

R. Doyle/R. Pilbeam **Carried**

1. **Gospel Based Discipleship**

L. Cummings read aloud Ephesians 2:13-22 which was followed by R. Pilbeam reading the same passage. G. Woodcroft asked the Council to silently pray upon what they had heard. G. Woodcroft subsequently offered prayers and asked God to be with us in this meeting.

1. **Regrets**

S. Blaikie advised that R. Doyle had regretted and would continue to do so unless the Chancellor, J. Ripley, was unable to attend a meeting.

1. **Role and Function of Diocesan Council**

G. Woodcroft noted that the Council serves as the Synod between Synods. It has responsibility for oversight and for hearing all the voices, and making decision on policies for the Diocese. The Executive Committee consists of three lay persons and three clergy persons elected from the Diocesan Council membership; the Archdeacons and Dean, Chancellor and Treasurer are ex-officio of the Executive Committee. All persons here represent different constituencies, cultures, age groups, genders and we will work toward a sense of the coming together as one body.

S. Blaikie noted the following norms have been the way in which previous Councils have functioned.

* During Zoom meetings members are requested to ‘mute’ unless they are speaking which will greatly reduce the amount of background noise.
* Cell phones placed on mute; members may answer calls if necessary, but should leave the room to do so.
* Travel is reimbursed at casual mileage rate. Please submit expenses after each meeting. Members may wish to donate travel back to the diocese and a charitable receipt will be issued. This is not an expectation.
* Hotels for those driving significant distances are reimbursed with receipts, as are meals with receipts.
* Members traveling from the same area are encouraged to car pool.
* Regrets should be called or emailed in when missing a meeting
* We assume good will
* We avoid side conversations during meetings, and courtesy be exercised by all
* Everyone is encouraged to participate in discussion.
* Questions should be directed through the chair, and to ask if you don’t understand what is going on.

1. **Minutes of Diocesan Council – September 26, 2020**

Members of Diocesan Council who were not present at the September 26th meeting were asked to abstain themselves from voting on this motion. It was noted by H. Kennedy that Item 10. Postulant Initiative needed to reflect “Trust Fund for Ministry Development”.

MOTION: Be it resolved that the minutes of September 26, 2020 be adopted with item 10 reading “Trust Fund for Ministry Development” vice “New Ministry Development Fund”

P. Johnson/M. Gervais **Carried**

1. **Recommendation on St. Phillip, Norwood**

Motion: Be it resolved that St. Phillip, Norwood be involuntarily disestablished as a parish, as per Canon 19.4.ii.

Discussion: It is the recommendation of the ad hoc committee, established by Bishop Geoff, that the building not be sold, and the present committee continue with the work of developing a plan to seek the future of Diocesan ministry in the area of St. Phillip, Norwood / St. Boniface. The team will submit a formal report and recommendations for consideration by December 31, 2020

H. Kennedy / P. Lampman **Carried**

**7. Conversation About Deficit**

Council was advised to expect a deficit of approximatlly $65,000.00 by the end of December 2020. Some parishes have been unable to meet their common ministry commitment. S. Routley continues to keep up with the requirements, some of which have changed, for the wage subsidy from the Federal Government. Some parishes have not provided the information required to apply for the wage subsidy on behalf of that parish.

Bishop Geoff will send a letter to those parishes to remind them that they are two months or more in arrears.

1. **Election of Executive**

Three lay members and three ordained members of Diocesan Council are eligible to serve on the Executive Committee. There were three lay nominations which were accepted and subsequently acclaimed:

Marcella Vezina

Richard Pilbeam

Gary Russell

There were 5 ordained members nominated which were accepted:

Helen Holbrook\*

Brian Ford\*

Andrew Rampton\*

Theo Robinson

Paul Lampman

As a result of a subsequent e-vote three ordained members were elected and are indicated here with a “ \* “.

1. **Next Diocesan Council Meetings:**

It was decided that Diocesan Council will meet (zoom at the moment) from 9:30am to noon on the following Saturdays:

December 5, 2020

February 6, 2021

March 27, 2021

June 5, 2021

1. **Bishop’s Reflections**

As leaders we need to focus on the giftedness of all disciples. Ministry is so much more than attending. We are now in Code Orange for Winnipeg – 10 people allowed for gatherings (meetings, teachings etc.), although parishes will continue to be allowed 30% for worship. If any community feels 30% is not safe for them, they are not expected to meet. He regularly consults with health professionals, especially Dr. Pierre Plourde. Geoff encouraged leaders to share with their congregations what will be allowed, but that every parish should make their own decisions whether to meet in person or not.

Because the Diocese is in two provinces there are different resrictions.

The Bishop offered his thanks to the Body of Christ as it encourages and offers love, and health during the Covid-19 pandemic

1. **Adjournment**

Motion: Be it resolved that this session of the Diocesan Council be adjourned (9:35pm).