DEC meeting of January 23, 2025.

Present: the **Rev. Deacon Peter Clarke, Gail Shewchuk, the Rev. Don Thompson**, **the Rev. Rose Howell**, **Brian Vance, Cheryl Anderson, Bishop David Greenwood, Tammy McKeachnie**, **the Rev. Fr. Leon Cadsap, Jamie McIlvenna, Candace Mahaffey, the Rev. Dr. Maryann Amor, Stan Berry**

Regrets: None

Absent: None

Meeting opened with prayer at 7 pm by Bishop David

Adoption of the Agenda: approved by consensus

Minutes from previous meeting

> MOTION: Brian / Cheryl : approve DEC minutes from December 19 2024 as amended.
> NOTE: Stan was in attendance at Dec. 19; minutes to be corrected
> Carried unanimously.

7:05 pm – entered breakout rooms

7:30 pm – returned from breakout rooms

DECISIONS:

1. Financial Donations to Specific Parishes

   MOTION: Cheryl / Don "Donate $2000 to St. Andrew's Lac La Biche from the Parish Financial Assistance Fund to be used to bring the municipal utilities to current status". Carried

   Note: Brian will investigate if Ecclesiastical did provide funding for utiltiies incurred when the worship centre was being rebuilt.

UPDATES

2. Anglican Foundation grant applications for All Saint's Athabasca (Solar Power investment) and St. Thomas' Fort McMurray (flood mitigation) have both been submitted.

3. Updating of Regulations
   - Updated Regulation # 5 (Clergy moving fund) still needs to be posted to the website
   - Management Committee is considering further updates to regulations

- Reviewed regulations # 1 to # 5 and is suggesting some changes. Plan to set aside to focus on Investment Portfolio (will have a dedicated meeting to discuss). Next meeting will submit proposed regulation changes (to #'s 1 to 5).

4. 2025 Insurance Update
   - An updated Insurance Statement of Values has been shared with Lloyd Sadd
   - $ values wait upon a meeting with Lloyd-Sadd and Ecclesiastical, who have shelved our 3% increase and are sticking with the 10% overall increase at present.
     - Management Committee wants to thank the parishes for providing the information which was captured, and kudos to the Management Committee! A lot of hard work has gone into this and it is greatly appreciated.
       - Thanks will be shared through the weekly newsletter – Leon and Cheryl will compose.

5. St. Andrew's Lac La Biche
   - Fire Proof of Loss document has been signed
   - The Synod Office donated a desk to the parish of Living Waters for St. Andrew's, Lac La Biche
   - The parish of Athabasca is considering donating pews for St. Andrew's
   - There is a deficiency list being addressed
   - Waiting to receive final invoice from the contractor
   - There is some outstanding maintenance work to be done (*back ramp, side step, leak in basement, Rectory balcony, and going through all the boxes in the basement).*

6. Fort Chipewyan
   - The Rev. Fr Leon will be taking the Security Assessment information up to share with the parish of St. Paul's this weekend.
   - There is a possibility the Roman Catholic church may use the parish worship centre twice a year.

7. Diocesan ~~Advertising~~ Marketing
   The Bishop is hoping to have something published in February.
   - Rose: is this parish-to-parish communication? Answer: no
   - Don: leverage with Ecclesiastical Province's Social Media people (Hannah?). Have young media-savvy people who could be involved.
   - Leon: Using young people in this? Answer: suggest names?

8. Legacy Giving
   The WHY (Ministry) Committee is creating an informational brochure for review.

9. Centralized Parish Financial Support
   - The Diocese has taken on Lac La Biche for Centralized Parish Financial Administration.

10. Conferences
    - Location and timing of Clergy Conference to be announced (will be post-Easter)
    - Bishop is looking for input regarding Lay Readers' Conference
    - Bishop is planning a one-day Diaconal Retreat March 1st, 10 am to 2 pm

11. Diocesan Investments Policy
    - Management Committee are looking into facilitators for this exercise.
    - The Bishop and Mgmt Committee Chair put $100,000 from operations and $100,000 into sale of St. Paul's plus reinvesting Dec. matured GIC's (approx. $20,000) into a new open GIC (can withdraw funds at any time without penalty) with an interest rate of 3%.
    - Question: can we use investments policies from other dioceses? Requested that bishop follow up with Edmonton and Calgary to see what they have.

12. Lay Reader Formation
    - Materials being reviewed (Diocesan Training Manual, Calgary School of Discipleship, https://www.calgary.anglican.ca/the-calgary-school-of-discipleship, Henry Budd College courses).
        - Parish of Northern Lights is also using, will provide suggestions and comments to bishop.

13. Diocesan Education Officer
    - Terms of Reference in progress.

INTRODUCE TO DEC

14. Anglican Foundation Grant for Wabasca (Roof for Rectory and Worship Centre)
    - $28,296.51 for 25-year shingles. Quote for metal roof has been requested.
    - Brian is looking into possible alternatives

15. Camp Artaban Diocesan Family Camp
    - Initial planning committee meeting was held Thursday, January 16.
        - Attendees: the Rev. Lesley Hand, Rose Gish, Candace Mahaffey, Ted Mahaffey, Tammy McKeachnie, and Blessing Shambare.
        - Stan Berry has agreed to teach canoeing and be Safety Officer for the camp again.
        - Camp is planned for July 31 to August 3rd (Thursday to Sunday)

16. 2026 Diocesan Synod
    - The Diocesan Secretary and the Diocesan Administrative Assistant will have an initial meeting February 5th to discuss what needs to be put in place.

17. In-person DEC meeting
    - Scheduled for April 25 and 26, in Peace River.

Focus Area: Future Sustainable Ministry in the Diocese – some thoughts and questions (to be led by the bishop).

- Bishop shared his opening thoughts with DEC (will be distributed with the minutes)
- Gail recommended Stephen Cottrell speech (shared in weekly email of Jan 16)
- Discussion ensued
    - People need to know what they stand for and why they do what they do
    - A presence showing Christ through experiences in the community
        - Gather with others
        - Share the love of Christ with them
        - Find out how Christ can love them
            - This will draw others in
        - A gentle process
    - People to to church separate from the rest of their life. When we transition to being a community 24/7 instead of just on Sunday, this question will be realized. Church cannot be our hobby, but part of our every-day fibre, in the grocery store, wherever.
        - Is it a hobby, or part of your life?
    - We can challenge ourselves with little tests to grow in our faith
    - Worshiping and praying together with other churches to show the community that we are all together for Christ?
    - A lot of people won't go to church because it is too threatening, but they know the prayers.
    - Be our Christian selves in the community – playing golf or interacting with them in different ways to participate in their lives and then invite them into ours.
        - Jesus' model of starting a group: Go out to where the fishermen are, be part of their lives, and then invite them to be with Him.
        - Be intentional in spreading seeds, share the love, the compassion of Christ, and then inviting.
    - Support other Christian bodies and helping groups in the community, working with them on common events, gatherings, bible studies, etc.
        - Helps each other
        - Non-church attendees know that they can call if need to
    - Interdenominational activities which are also open to non-faith people, providing non-threatening environments
        - Meeting in public (outside of the building) for others to see and ask questions

Next meeting: Feb 27 @ 7 pm ?

9:00 pm – Meeting closed with prayer