



# DIOCESE OF ONTARIO

The Anglican Church of Canada

## SYNOD COUNCIL

Tuesday, 23 September 2025  
St. Paul's Kingston & online  
137 Queen St., Kingston 6:00 PM Meeting

### Minutes

#### **Present:**

Bishop William Cliff, Jane Humphreys, Alex Pierson, Wayne Varley, Doug Michael, Bill Clarke, Helen Cluett, Laurie Dempsey, Sharon Dunlop, Mary Haigh, Angela Kelman, Jon Lavelle, Brad O'Neil, Sue Orgill, Bram Pierce, Michael Read, Cathy Seymour, Anne Striker

#### **Guests:**

John Cartwright, Linda Cricki, Russ Grant, Wardens of St. John the Evangelist, Bancroft, Valerie Smith, Mary Burbridge

#### **Regrets:**

Jane Kirkpatrick, Rebecca Michaels, Tony Ashworth, Susan Withers, Greg Best, Don Aitchison, Marilyn Bennis, Brad Beale

#### **1. Call to Order**

#### **2. Opening Devotions**

Meditation on Luke 24:13-35, 'The Road to Emmaus.'

**Doug Michael**

#### **3. Certificate Presentation**

Valerie Smith, representing the Diocesan Green Group introduced John Cartwright from the Council of Canadians. Becoming a Blue Community certificate presented to the Diocese of Ontario by John Cartwright, and received by Bishop William, Archdeacon Jane Humphreys, and Valerie Smith.

**John Cartwright**

#### **4. Agenda Review and Adoption**

Follow-up on SSJD guesthouse monies raised.

**Motion: BE IT RESOLVED** to accept the agenda as presented with addition of SSJD to Other Business.

**Moved by:** Michael Read

**Seconded by:** Doug Michael

**CARRIED**

## 5. Chair's Remarks and Bishop's Update

Busy time. Have been visiting parishes each week. 'Way Forward' group names for consideration of this group.

Please continue to keep Wendy and Alex Pierson in our prayers. Diocesan staff have been reorganized to provide coverage. Please be patient with us, we know things will be missed.

Invited to Diocesan Men's Group in Newfoundland and Labrador. Good lesson on the power of local ministry.

Tony Ashworth contacted Bishop today as he is medically unable to attend future Synod Council meetings. His resignation was accepted with regrets.

## 6. Approval of Minutes 20 May 2025 meeting

Spelling error noted in item 9.c. Mission & Ministry update from Wayne Varley. "A meeting is upcoming with Bishop Cliff and Archbishop Mulhall."

**Moved by:** Helen Cluett

**Seconded by:** Anne Striker

**CARRIED**

## 7. Business Arising from the Minutes

Suggestions from Forward Movement catalogue for diocesan study.

Bishop William has spoken with Scott Gunn, who has agreed to present at the "2026 Summer Fruits of the Soul" and also to be the keynote speaker for Synod 2027.

Two books were presented "To Love and Serve" and "The Path". It was decided that the diocesan book study would be on "To Love and Serve".

Forward Movement has offered a 50% discount. Bishop William plans on doing short videos to introduce the study. Study will be either 6, 8 or 12 weeks in duration with a suggested time of January and/or Lent. Jon Lavelle has found it very helpful. Nancy Northgrave did portions of it in Lent 2024 to successful response.

Intention to have entire diocese take part. Clergy day on this (Nov 13) and then move forward from there.

**Motion – BE IT RESOLVED** that this Synod Council support Bishop William's plan regrading diocesan study of "To Love and Serve".

**Motion by:** Laurie Dempsey

**Seconded by:** Bram Pearce

**CARRIED**

## Names for the Way Forward committee:

In the Bishop's Charge at Synod 2025, he requested names of individuals who could take stock at where we are at as a church/parish/diocese and how best to move forward. Sue Orgill has a person in mind and will speak to them before giving their name to Jane Humphreys, DEO.

## 8. Presentation re. St. John the Evangelist, Bancroft

**Russ Grant & Linda Crick**

PowerPoint presentation giving background on Bancroft and in particular St. John's. Approx. 42% of population of Bancroft are seniors. Replace wheelchair ramp which is deteriorating and no longer meets code. Want to make St. John's hall into a true

community hall. The pre-meeting package included architectural rendering as well as letters of support from Town of Bancroft, The Grace Inn (Belleville), CARE North Hastings, North Hastings Community Integration, Joyful Ringers, and Community Lunch. Hall currently used at least 5 days/week mostly by social service organizations, who are very interested in having a more accessible hall. Some groups rent others provide donation towards use.

Anglican Foundation: B level grant \$15,000; A level grant \$5000. Have approached private and public donors. Fundraising committee has been formed.

**Motion: BE IT RESOLVED** that this Synod Council approves the request of St. John's Bancroft to apply for a category A or B grant from the Anglican Foundation in support of their accessibility and inclusion project.

**Moved by:** Bram Pearce

**Seconded by:** Michael Read

Brad O'Neil spoke in favour of the motion to assist in community building.

**CARRIED**

#### 9. Report from Executive Board

**Jane Humphreys**

Report contained in premeeting package.

**Motion: BE IT RESOLVED** that this Synod Council ratifies the approvals made the Executive Board regarding the demolition of Christ Church, Lord's Mills and the application of St. John's Stirling to the Anglican Foundation.

**Moved by:** Laurie Dempsey

**Seconded by:** Sue Orgill

**CARRIED**

#### 10. Committee Updates:

##### a. Property/Legal Update - Cemeteries

**Alex Pierson**

Focus on enforcement. For the BAO, public good means compliance of act. Two slides presented which are available on SharePoint.

##### b. Finance Update

**Alex Pierson**

Next Wardens & Treasurers meeting October 16, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

End of Q2 (Jan-June) operating fund; actuals (slides) – on SharePoint.

Governance overage due to BAO. More drawdowns are happening. Some churches have been drawing considerably, and they are soon going to run out of funds.

Question – diocesan stewardship committee? There isn't one right now.

#### 11. Mission and Ministry Update

**Wayne Varley**

Two items – one for information only and second a governance piece.

Diocesan Green Group met on Saturday with a presentation from A Rocha Canada.

Creation care matters from a church and faith focus.

Media – Federal government Bill C-2 'strong borders act' – streamline and speedup processing timelines. Currently 3-4 yrs. Aiming for 30 months. Mimi Merrill, vice-chair, in 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Online meeting tomorrow, looking for more input from government- refugee settlement and support. Where do they envision Govt process going? It is possible suggestions will be growing partnership with other interested bodies. Immigration refugee are experiencing reduced funding (43-48%).

In response to a question: Reach/Stretch grants are being re-examined.

### **12. Other Business**

Donation to the guesthouse at SSJD. Sept 14 was designated as SSJD guesthouse Sunday. Bill Clarke has been following up on donations and will continue to do so. Bishop has donated to the SSJD at the request of Catherine Askew who made a beaded badge for the bishop to wear during indigenous services. A motion to send the remainder of the Diocesan gift to SSJD this year will be considered at the October Synod Council meeting.

Question arose as to the status of the Ontario Anglican Foundation. Bill Clarke responded that it was folded at the end of August 2025. There was a report in the Dialogue which provided all details related to monies. The Ontario Anglican Foundation was a separate entity from both Synod Council and the Diocese. Funds held in trust were returned to parishes. All other funds were given to DOORS.

### **Online meeting evaluation**

Available for those who participated online to complete

### **13. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn** – Sue Orgill

**Grace said by all.**

### **Next meeting:**

28 October 2025, 6:00 pm  
St. Paul's, Kingston and online  
Devotions - Sue Orgill