

**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO**

**SYNOD COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting Held on**

**Tuesday October 28,2025**

**At St. Paul's Anglican Church, Kingston**

**PRESENT:** Archdeacon Bill Clarke, Chair; Ven. Jane Humphreys, DEO; Alex Pierson, DFO; Wayne Varley, Helen Cluett, Laurie Dempsey, Sharon Dunlop, Mary Haigh, Angela Kelman, Sue Orgill, Michael Read, Cathy Seymour, Anne Striker, Susan Withers, Greg Best, Brad Beale, Don Aitchison, Brad O'Neill

**REGRETS:** Bishop William Cliff, Doug Michael, Rebecca Michael, Margaret Johnston-Jones, Bram Pierce, Jon Lavelle

**GUESTS:** Andrew Hobbis

1. **Call to Order** at 6 pm by Chair AD Bill Clarke

2. **Opening Devotions**

**Sue Orgill**

A prayer from the Iona Community

3. **Agenda Review and Adoption**

**Motion:** by Angela Kelman and Helen Cluett, Be it Resolved that the Agenda be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

4. **Chair's Remarks**

**Bill Clarke**

Bishop Cliff inducted Rogerio de Assis as incumbent at St. James Kemptville

We noted the passing of Velma Kelsey, former cook at Camp Hyanto.

5. **Approval of the Minutes of September 23 2025**

**Motion:** by Cathy Seymour and Sue Orgill, Be it Resolved that the minutes of September 23 be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Jane Humphreys**

6.1 Way Forward Committee Members. The following have been appointed to this committee: Kathy Condie (St. Mary Magdalene Picton); Rob Cumming (St. Thomas Kingston); Brad O'Neil (St. Lawrence Brockville); Archdeacon Bill

Clarke, Reagan Gale (St. George's Cathedral), DEO Archdeacon Jane Humphries

6.2 Donation for SSJD Guest House – fund raising will close end of November.

**MOTION:** by Angela Kelman and Sue Ogill, Be it Resolved that this Synod Council approves topping up the money raised to date for the SSJD guest house to \$30,000 and that any subsequent donations for SSJD guest house be used to reduce the Diocesan top off.

**CARRIED**

**7. St. John's Bath**

**Cathy Seymour/Andrew Hobbis**

**MOTION:** by Sharon Dunlop and Laurie Dempsey, BE it Resolved that this Synod Council approve the request of St. John's Bath to install a new electronic sign on the exterior wall of the Parish Hall.

**CARRIED**

**8. Committee Updates**

**7.1 Property**

**DFO**

Dealing with the BAO's new requirements is consuming a lot of time. Smaller cemeteries will have to go through the Public Trustee to set up their trust funds (OPTG) or roll the cemetery over to the municipalities. 11 cemeteries in transition, Alex negotiating on their behalf.

Insurance: Packages and invoices have been issued. Work is underway on 2026 renewal. Alex is continuing to work with the Provincial Working Group.

**7.2 Finance (next Wardens/Treasurers meeting December 18, 2-3 pm)**

**DFO**

Quarter 3 Report is located on the Share Point site. Of note: we are currently running at a surplus (higher income, lower expenses). The BAO conducted an audit on our trust funds, using an outside contractor, at a cost of \$30,000.

**8. Budget 2026 Presentation**

**DFO**

Alex Pierson presented his schematic for developing the 2026 budget. He began by outlining the factors that go into development of the budget which can be summed up as managing trade offs. This meeting is Council's opportunity to provide input; budget to be approved at next month's meeting.

Is Council supportive of: 2.4% increase to stipend/salary; 2.6% increase to housing allowance; 1.5% increase to mileage? Council does support this proposal, acknowledging that the increases will be challenging to some parishes.

Conversations must happen! Alex will make sure the draft is distributed a few days in advance of the Monthly meeting.

**10. Other Business – none brought forward**

**11. Online Meeting Evaluation:** a reminder to submit please!

**12. Adjournment on motion of Anne Striker at 7:27 pm**

**Next Meeting: November 25 2025 , 6:00 pm**

**2026 Meeting Dates**

January 27<sup>th</sup> s

February 24<sup>th</sup>

March 24<sup>th</sup>

April 28<sup>th</sup>

May 26<sup>th</sup>

June 23<sup>rd</sup>

September 22<sup>nd</sup>

October 27<sup>th</sup>

November 24<sup>th</sup>

---

Bill Clarke, Chair

---

Jane Kirkpatrick, Honorary Lay  
Secretary