

DEC meeting of November 5, 2024.

Present: the Rev. Deacon Peter Clarke, Gail Shewchuk, Stan Berry, 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

Regrets from the Rev. Dr. Maryann Amor

Absent:

Meeting opened with prayer at 7 pm by Bishop David

Adoption of the Agenda: Cheryl / Stan

Motion: Stan / Jamie: approve DEC minutes from September 26 2024 as circulated.
Carried unanimously.

DECISIONS:

1. Financial Donations to Specific Parishes

Management Committee did not recommend a motion for donation from the Parish Financial Assistance Fund. Recommended reminding wardens and treasurers of the process at the Deanery budget update meetings. DEC did not recommend disbursing funds from the account this month.

2. Worship Centre for Boyle (St. Paul's)

Motion: Brian / Peter, the Diocese of Athabasca accept the offer from Boyle Pizza House 1999 for the purchase of the St. Paul's Worship Centre, for the amount of \$122,000.00, with the date to be finalized – 8 in favour, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions. Carried.

The bishop thanked the Property Committee for their work in moving this forward.

3. Solar Power for Parishes

All Saint's Athabasca has received a solar power installation quote from Polaron Solar. The Synod Office then forwarded to Polaron Solar power costs for all parish worship centres except St. Luke's, Fort Vermilion. They indicated 4500-5000 kwh per year minimum usage is required to make it cost effective. St. John's McLennan, St. Paul's Fort Chipewyan, St. Andrew's-Zion Colinton, Christ Church Berwyn, St. Anne's Valleyview, St. John's Manning, St. Bartholomew's Grimshaw, and St. Luke's Beaverlodge do not meet the usage requirement from their analysis.

All Saints' Athabasca, All Saints' Fort McMurray, St. Thomas' Fort McMurray, Christ Church Grande Prairie, St. James' Peace River, and St. Peter's Slave Lake (6 parishes) meet the minimum usage requirement.

Polaron are willing to meet with DEC (online) to answer any questions.

DEC decided to table this issue until November 28th meeting while more investigation happens.

UPDATES:

4. Instant Risk Coverage Insurance. Management Committee is recommending sending form for parishes to use with renters / contractors to ensure insurance coverage in place as appropriate.

DEC asked for modifications to the form. Management Committee committed to bringing back the form for the January 2025 meeting.

5. Centralized Parish Finances – process tweaked by Synod Office. DEC ready for vote on this next meeting?

To be brought in next meeting as a decision item.

6. St. Andrew's, Lac La Biche. Completion of rebuild anticipated for mid-November with final inspection on Monday, November 18th. Stored items (damaged during the fire) will need to be triaged to decide what gets kept versus being discarded. Bishop planning to be in Lac La Biche for open house on Saturday, Nov 30th, and re-dedication / 150th celebration on Sunday Dec 1st. Brian thanked the Diocesan Administrative Assistant for her assistance.

7. St. Thomas', Fort McMurray, sent a thank-you letter for gift from Parish Financial Assistance Fund. Also sent in a quote for backflow prevention valve installation. Will be seeking funding assistance for the valve installation (Anglican Foundation? Internal to diocese? Other?). Questions: what is the plan and how to we make sure we're not going to endlessly spend money on this? How can we be good stewards here? Where are the building plans for how the plumbing is routed that could help plan this out? Note: the parish should have location(s) for tie-ins from the camera work that was done in the plumbing previously. How to support the parish while not denying other parishes? Property Committee will do more investigating and bring back to DEC. The backflow prevention valve protects the diocese as well as the parish – mitigating future insurance claims.

8. 2025 Diocesan Camp. We need to get planning and organization started for the 2025 Diocesan Family Camp.

INTRODUCED:

9. Parish Charter. CRA has pointed out that according to our constitution, Parishes should each have a charter from the bishop. Comment: please emphasize "Parish Charter" on the document.
10. After having St. Paul's Fort Chip broken into several times this past year, the bishop engaged the RCMP to do a security evaluation.

11. The Cathedral Parish of St. James' is requesting that they can retain the proceeds from their Deanery Rental to assist in building up funds towards a new Cathedral Incumbent – this is a goal they are working towards.

Note: part of the rental from St. Luke's Beaverlodge is going towards a "continuing ministry fund" as per agreement with a previous bishop.

- MOTION: Stan / Jamie DEC approve the Cathedral Parish of St. James' retain up to but not exceeding 50% of the deanery rental towards building up funds for a new incumbent. 5 in favour. 5 opposed. 1 abstention. Chair voted against – subject tabled until next meeting.
12. The bishop is recommending the diocese broaden its investment portfolio by engaging Russel Investments via the Diocese of Huron for certain items. Tabled until next meeting.
 13. The bishop has accepted the resignation from DEC of Mr. Willi Whiston.
 14. The bishop provided a report of his recent trip to the National House of Bishops and the Council of the North. He is extremely grateful the Council voted to re-instate the full requested amount of funding for the diocese (\$75,000).
 15. Diocesan Education Officer. The bishop is planning on appointing a Diocesan Education Officer to help coordinate education across the diocese. Terms of reference are being created.

Focus Area:

2025 Preliminary Budget and process.

Motion: Stan / Jamie, the Diocesan Executive Council approve the preliminary budget provided by the treasurer as presented, for presentation via Deanery Chapter Meetings (for financial walkthrough) so the Parishes can provide their input and further amending, to be finalized at our next scheduled DEC meeting. Carried unanimously.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 28, 7 pm.

9:23 pm – Meeting closed with prayer