



Muskoka Deanery Council

February 20th, 2023

7pm via Zoom



Agenda

1. Opening reflection
2. Review and Adoption of Minutes of Sept 2022 Meeting
3. Review and Adoption of Financial Report
4. Election of Youth Delegates to Synod (May 10-13)
5. Guest Speaker: Anne Wilson, Anglican Foundation
6. 'Courageous Conversations' review and next steps
7. Usage of 'Courageous Conversations' funding (\$3000)
8. Looking ahead to Lent, Diocesan Executive Committee meeting (March 15-16) and other events.
9. Other business
10. Adjournment

Minutes of the September 2022 Deanery Council Meeting

Meeting was brought to order AT 7:09 PM with 35 in attendance.

-Heather opened with prayer and showed a video of Father Michael Lapsley of the Institute of Healing for Memories. Fr. Lapsley will be at St. John's, North Bay on Thursday and at Epiphany in Sudbury on Sunday.

-Kelly introduced Canon Phelan Scanlon – incumbent of St. Thomas' and Lake of Bays Parish as of September 1, 2022.

-**Agenda:** Moved by Corbett Smith, seconded by Kelly Baetz that the agenda be adopted as amended. Carried.

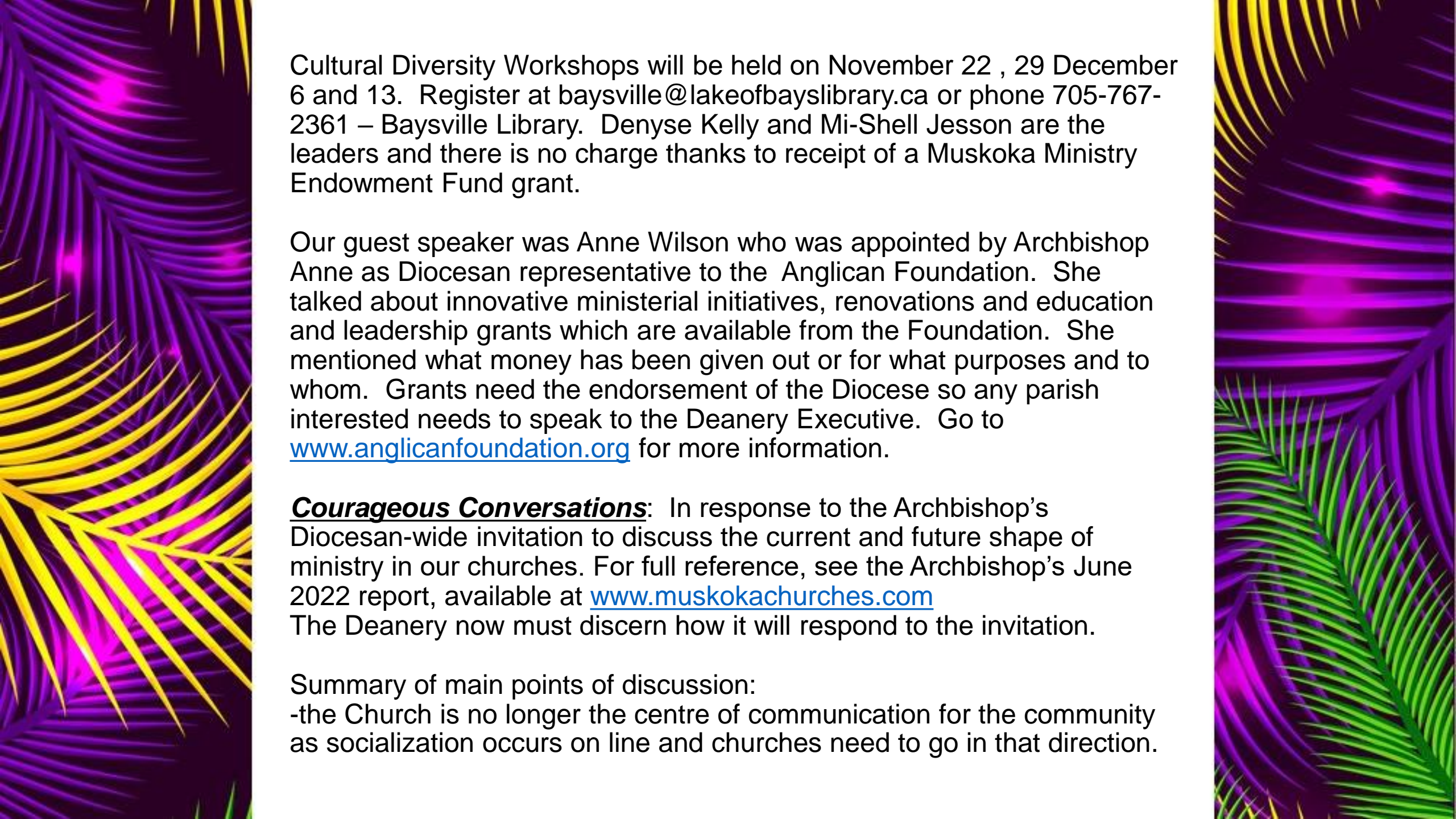
-**Minutes:** Moved by Margaret Morrison, seconded by Colin Edwards that the Minutes of the previous meeting be adopted as circulated. Carried.

-**Financial Report:** Last meeting we had \$1,069.45. We received \$30 for dues and there were no expenses leaving a balance of \$1,099.45. Moved by Robert Clubbe, seconded by Barry Pearson that the Financial Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

-The fall and winter schedule of Thorneloe was presented.

-Information we shared regarding Fr. Lapsley's time in the Diocese and mention was made of a Truth and Reconciliation zoom event September 30 at 6:30.

-The Lay Readers' Conference will begin October 1 by Zoom – register by Sept 16 -There will be various service for Queen Elizabeth II.



Cultural Diversity Workshops will be held on November 22 , 29 December 6 and 13. Register at baysville@lakeofbayslibrary.ca or phone 705-767-2361 – Baysville Library. Denyse Kelly and Mi-Shell Jesson are the leaders and there is no charge thanks to receipt of a Muskoka Ministry Endowment Fund grant.

Our guest speaker was Anne Wilson who was appointed by Archbishop Anne as Diocesan representative to the Anglican Foundation. She talked about innovative ministerial initiatives, renovations and education and leadership grants which are available from the Foundation. She mentioned what money has been given out or for what purposes and to whom. Grants need the endorsement of the Diocese so any parish interested needs to speak to the Deanery Executive. Go to www.anglicanfoundation.org for more information.

Courageous Conversations: In response to the Archbishop's Diocesan-wide invitation to discuss the current and future shape of ministry in our churches. For full reference, see the Archbishop's June 2022 report, available at www.muskokachurches.com
The Deanery now must discern how it will respond to the invitation.

Summary of main points of discussion:

-the Church is no longer the centre of communication for the community as socialization occurs on line and churches need to go in that direction.



-The Church is people not just buildings but the buildings facilitate gatherings and therefore buildings need to continue to exist as symbols.

-We need to teach people how to spread the gospel to families, friends, etc.

-The Church seems to take a scattered approach. We need to get our own house in order before we worry about everyone else.

- Our churches have people who are connected to each other and their communities. If we look after the faithful and make them stronger you can then move forward.

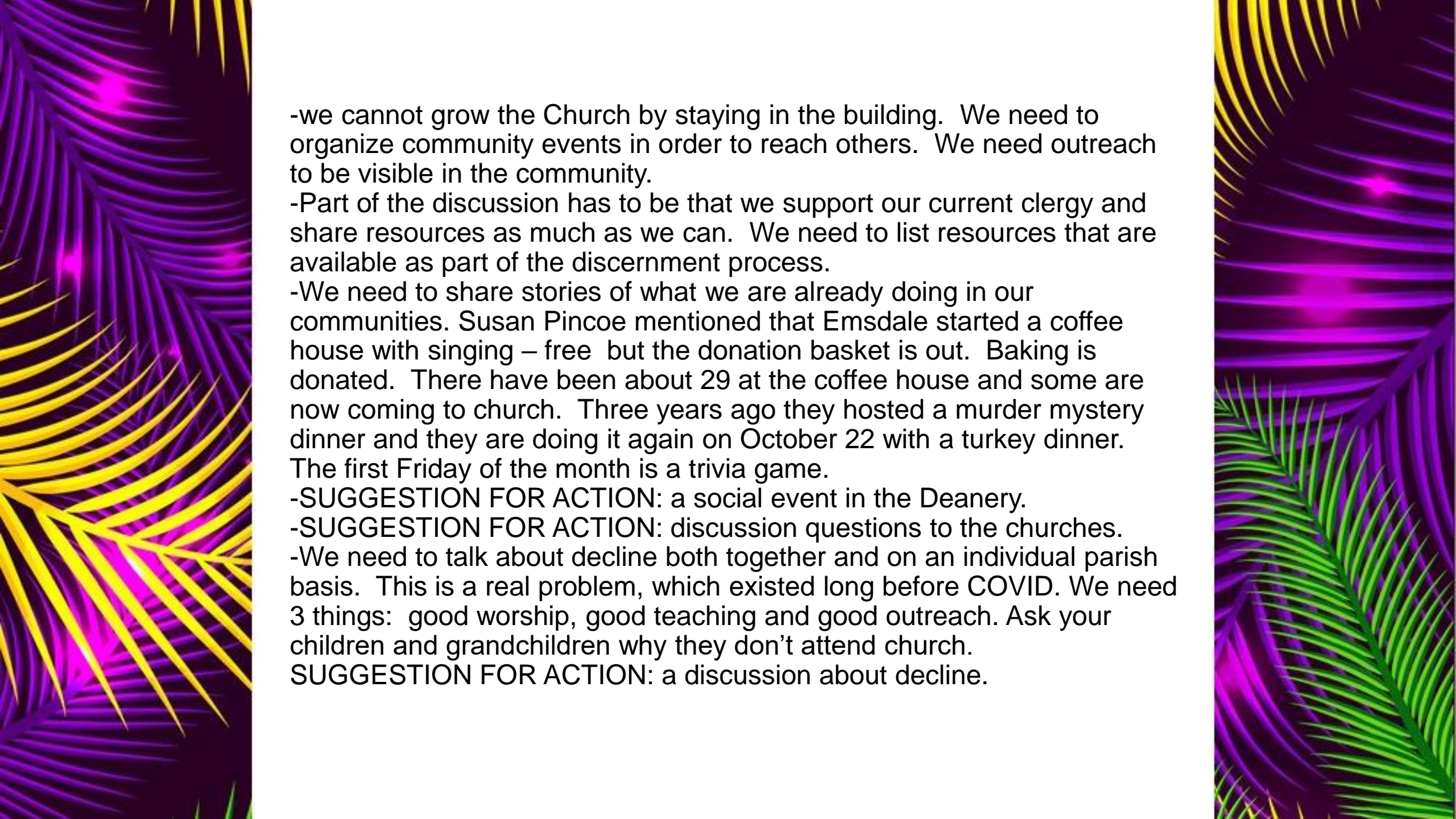
-Knowledge of other churches in the Deanery was grossly lacking and therefore we need to begin by educating ourselves about the current shape of our ministry.

SUGGESTION FOR ACTION: the Deanery officials run a session to teach about the Deanery (distance, rectories, incumbencies, etc).

-We should join in on several meet and greet sessions with groups and use the \$3,000 to develop criteria regarding reasonable conditions and workloads for fulltime clergy.

-Do we need the Archbishop to clarify or provide more direction? What are her insights in respect of the of the role of the Church today and the relationship with the Church in the past.

-How much latitude does an incumbent have to use new forms of liturgy and would this unleash creativity to affect change?

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- we cannot grow the Church by staying in the building. We need to organize community events in order to reach others. We need outreach to be visible in the community.
 - Part of the discussion has to be that we support our current clergy and share resources as much as we can. We need to list resources that are available as part of the discernment process.
 - We need to share stories of what we are already doing in our communities. Susan Pincoe mentioned that Emsdale started a coffee house with singing – free but the donation basket is out. Baking is donated. There have been about 29 at the coffee house and some are now coming to church. Three years ago they hosted a murder mystery dinner and they are doing it again on October 22 with a turkey dinner. The first Friday of the month is a trivia game.
 - SUGGESTION FOR ACTION: a social event in the Deanery.
 - SUGGESTION FOR ACTION: discussion questions to the churches.
 - We need to talk about decline both together and on an individual parish basis. This is a real problem, which existed long before COVID. We need 3 things: good worship, good teaching and good outreach. Ask your children and grandchildren why they don't attend church.
 - SUGGESTION FOR ACTION: a discussion about decline.

We need to respond to the Archbishop as much as possible and suggested sending in thoughts about next steps to Kelly and Heather. Peter mentioned that Kelly did a book study (John Bowen's *The Unfolding Gospel*) and suggested we read Chapter 8.

SUGGESTION FOR ACTION: A zoom study of the book recommended by the Archbishop "The Baby and the Bathwater."

Phelan suggested the following questions for the churches, as per the previous suggestion for action: What ministry does your parish do well? What hinders it? What were we up against in the local community (i.e. what is the prevailing attitude about church)?

Archdeacon and Deanery Officials will follow-up on the Suggestions for Action, and Council will revisit the progress at its next meeting.

New Business: Deanery officials need to officially visit each parish. Contact Heather to book your visit. Corbett applauded the Deanery officials for the standardized form but wondered if it could be resent as a fillable form. Heather will ask the Diocese to release it in that format.

Moved by Robert Clubbe that we adjourn at 9:04 pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank Balance Aug. 31, 2022	\$1,099.4
INCOME	
Dues from Parishes	\$65.00
Interest	\$0.27
 Total Income	 \$1,164.72
DISBURSEMENTS	
 Total Disbursements	 none
 Balance in bank January 31, 2023	 \$0.00
	\$1,164.72



Youth Delegates to Diocesan Synod

3 Youth Delegates per Deanery

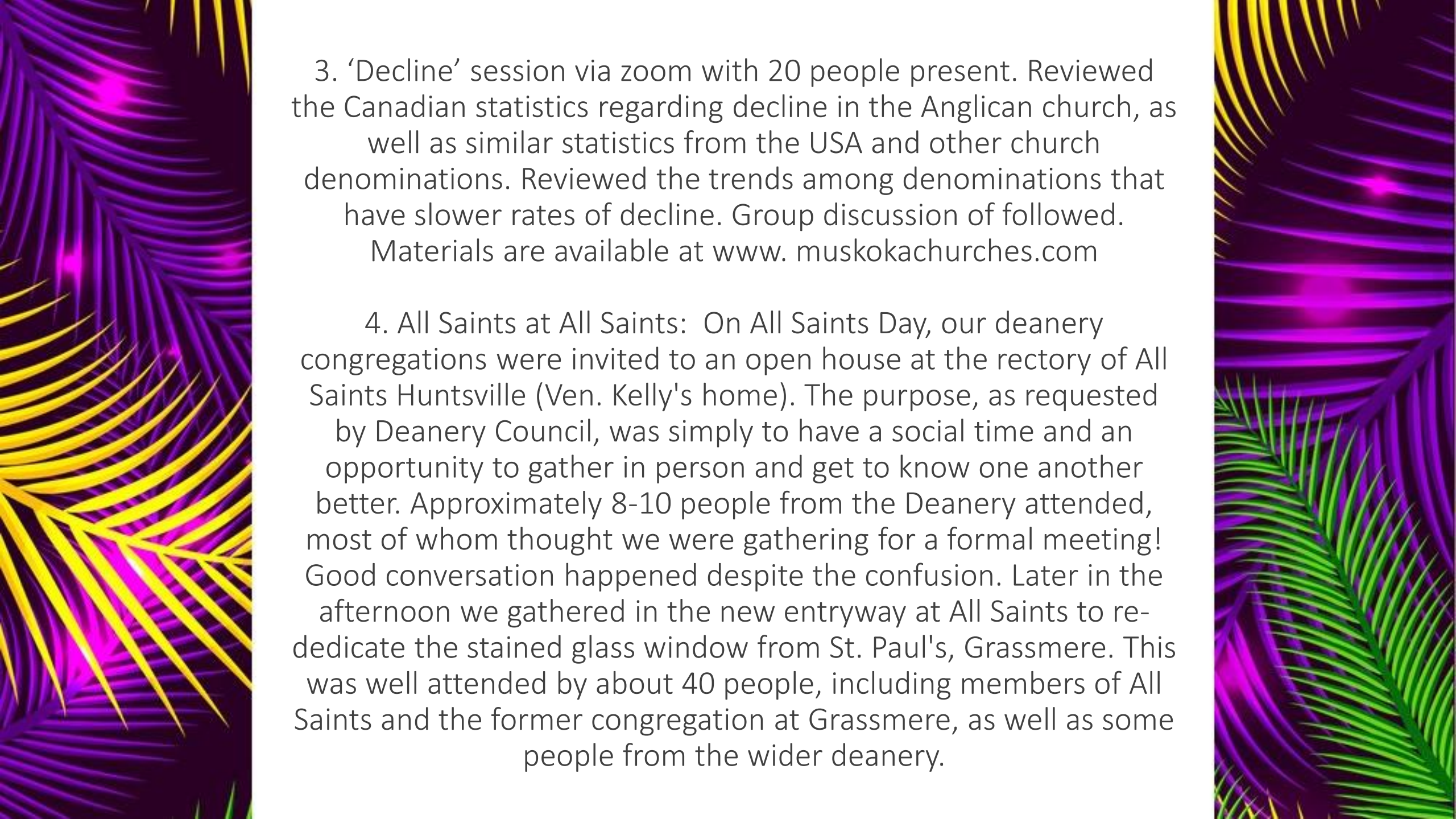
Ages 16-24

Elected by Deanery Council prior to Synod

Synod is May 10-13th in Sault Ste. Marie

Courageous Conversations recap...

1. Discussion questions for parishes were distributed 3 times to the Deanery Council email list. Three parishes reported feedback from the discussion questions.
2. 'Mapping Muskoka' session via zoom with 21 people present. Reviewed the current ministry locations, parish configurations and financial share of ministry. Discussion of how our parishes were doing post-pandemic and how Muskoka is doing compared to other Deaneries. Session materials are available on www.muskokachurches.com. At this session, a recommendation was made to have a session about the 2 models of ministry mentioned by the Archbishop in her invitation: the Ottawa Valley Parish and the Diocese of the Yukon's Ministry of Presence.




3. 'Decline' session via zoom with 20 people present. Reviewed the Canadian statistics regarding decline in the Anglican church, as well as similar statistics from the USA and other church denominations. Reviewed the trends among denominations that have slower rates of decline. Group discussion of followed. Materials are available at [www. muskokachurches.com](http://www.muskokachurches.com)

4. All Saints at All Saints: On All Saints Day, our deanery congregations were invited to an open house at the rectory of All Saints Huntsville (Ven. Kelly's home). The purpose, as requested by Deanery Council, was simply to have a social time and an opportunity to gather in person and get to know one another better. Approximately 8-10 people from the Deanery attended, most of whom thought we were gathering for a formal meeting! Good conversation happened despite the confusion. Later in the afternoon we gathered in the new entryway at All Saints to re-dedicate the stained glass window from St. Paul's, Grassmere. This was well attended by about 40 people, including members of All Saints and the former congregation at Grassmere, as well as some people from the wider deanery.

5. 'The Baby and the Bathwater' Book Study

Two Zoom sessions were held in November 2022 for any wishing to discuss the themes raised in the book *The Baby and the Bathwater: Aspirations and Reality in the Life of the Church* by Robert J. Suderman. This book was recommended to us by Archbishop Anne in her initial invitation to participate in the "Courageous Conversations" process. Six people attended the first session, and five the second. Though the group was small we had very good discussions on, as the book title makes plain, what is the "baby" in the life of the church and what is the "bathwater", that is, what cannot and should not change, and what is negotiable. The parable of the wheat and the weeds informed much of our first session, as we heard again that the church co-exists with the rest of the world and is not called to judge the world but to simply be who we are - unapologetically and humbly - followers of Jesus. Our second session centred on the many images the New Testament uses to describe the purpose and vocation of the church (Suderman counts 96 of them!). We saw that our Muskoka churches have much in common but also have ministries that are distinctive and reflect various images described in the book. One of the reasons it is good to work co-operatively as a wider church is because we all have different gifts that, taken together, more completely embody our common mission (and give more glory to God!). Of course there was more to the book but we gleaned much in a few sessions. If you wish to read it, it is available on Amazon (last price check \$11.99)



BONUS: Ministry Models session with a slide show about the Diocese of Yukon's Ministry of Presence Model, and a presentation and discussion with Revs. Matthew and Gillian from the Ottawa Valley Anglican Parish

Ministry of Presence: parish provides housing, travel (and sometimes a small honourarium) in exchange for a lay person educated and equipped by the Diocese to the local community.

[www. https://anglican.yukon.net/ministry.html](https://anglican.yukon.net/ministry.html)

Valley Anglican Parish: a 13-point parish formed by 5 parishes coming together through a series of discussions that led to a recommendation to their Bishop to create the new parish; team now has 2 full-time clergy, a curate and several retired assistants and Lay Readers.

www.valleyanglicans.ca

NOW WHAT?

Round table sharing

Use of grant money (\$3000)

LOOKING AHEAD....

Lent: share links to online parish, deanery, diocesan studies

End of February: please get annual reports into the Diocese, as well as 'In Memoriam' names

Diocesan Executive Committee Meeting: March 15th & 16th

Pre-Synod Deanery Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 18th

Diocesan Synod: May 10-13th

Anglican Church Women (ACW) Annual Gathering: Our annual will be held in person in North Bay May 30th to June 1st. Opening service will be led by the Archbishop and the guest speaker will be from Covenant House – an inclusive facility for Youth. Covenant House is also the recipient of our Thank offering for 2022-2023. Registration and detailed Information will be arriving shortly.