



DEANERY OF MUSKOKA *Draft Minutes* **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER DEANERY MEETING** **Friday, March 5th, 2021, 6pm via Zoom**

Meeting convened at 6pm with the World Day of Prayer Service prepared by the host country Vanuatu. Rev. Heather Manuel hosted & recorded the minutes. Diocesan Lay Reader Nancy Houghton served as Verger. Deanery Warden of Lay Readers Janet Borneman coordinated the Lay Readers to officiate the service. Meeting Convened with 33 screens/ 39 individuals.

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On the 1st Friday of March every year, through the World Day of Prayer service, the host country shares their region's concerns, hopes and prayers with Christians in 170 countries.

Offerings received through the World Day of Prayer transform our prayers into action in the form of **project grants** empowering women and children in our own country and throughout the world. Are you seeking funding for a social justice project in your community?

WICC distributes WDP grants up to \$5,000. Application deadline: March 31, 2021. Go to wicc.org for details.

Donate to the WDP Grants by mail or online, or learn more about the grants already awarded, please contact:

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada
47 Queen's Park Crescent East,
Toronto, ON M5S 2C3

Phone: (416) 929.5184

Email: wicc@wicc.org

Facebook/[WICCCanada](https://www.facebook.com/WICCCanada)

Review of the Minutes of February 22, 2020 (attached)

Moved by Susan Pincoe, seconded by Gunnar Balodis that the minutes be accepted as presented. Carried. No business arising.

Review of the Deanery Financial Statements (attached), including the Deanery General Fund, Deanery Funds Designated for Developmental Services, and Muskoka Ministry Endowment Fund.

-noted we did not collect parish 'dues' in 2020 due to the pandemic and would discuss dues and funding usage at the next meeting.

Moved by David Hardie, seconded by Robert Clubbe that the financial statements be accepted as presented. Carried.

Review of Archdeacon's Report (attached),

with addition that the Diocese is planning 3 Screening In Faith webinars with dates TBA, and that *Rev. Robert Clubbe has been honoured by his former parish St. Simon's in the naming of their 36-bed men's shelter 'The Clubbe House'.* Here is a picture.



Review of Deanery Officials Report (attached)

With invitation to follow-up discussion on several items on mission objectives, property, insurance, finances, community partnerships for building use that have arisen from their virtual visits with parishes. Noted: the completion of the transfer of the cemetery at Grassmere.

ACW Report was given verbally by the ACW Deanery President and ACW Diocesan Treasurer. Could parishes please submit the names of members deceased in 2019 or 2020 for recognition on the Honour Roll at the Annual Meeting in May. Invitation for Annual Meeting will be circulated soon. Deanery will circulate this via email and website.

Moved by Nora Goltz, seconded by David Hardie, that the Archdeacon, Deanery Officials and ACW reports be accepted as presented. Carried.

Other business: Carol Hardie nominated Margaret Kamerman for election as a Deanery Youth Delegate to Diocesan Synod. Seconded by David Hardie. Carried. Deanery will elect two remaining delegates at its spring meeting, which will convene to deal with Pre-Synod matters.

Meeting adjourned with members sharing the greeting of St. Paul.



MMEF: Muskoka Ministry Endowment Fund

A fund of the Diocese of Algoma from which parishes can apply for a ministry grant from the interest accrued. Fund applications and parameters will be distributed to parishes for 2021 applications. The MMEF currently consists of half of the proceeds from the sale of the church properties at Mactier & Falkenburg. Your local sub-committee members are Canon Betty Whetham (Chair), Rev. Lynda Mee, Susan Pincoe & Brad Burgess. *Capital approx. \$90,000.00*
Interest approx. \$5,000.00

Designated Fund for Ministry with Developmentally Atypical Adults. This is ministry of Rev. Margaret Morrison in cooperation with Community Living South Muskoka

Funds Designated by Deanery in 2018	\$500.00
Matching Donation from Windermere 2018	\$500.00
Total	\$1000.00
Expenses to Date	<u>\$464.21</u>
FUNDS REMAINING	\$535.79

**MUSKOKA DEANERY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
2019 & 2020**

2019	
Balance in bank January 1, 2019	\$1,024.73
INCOME	
From Parishes	\$210.00
Diocesan advance for Kairos Blanket Event	\$500.00
Bank Interest	<u>\$ 0.46</u>
Total Income	\$1,735.19
DISBURSEMENTS	
To Betty Whetham for youth delegate to Synod	\$384.30
To Rev.Kelly Baetz for Blanket Event expenses	\$269.37
All Saints' Huntsville for Blanket Event hallspace	\$100.00
To Diocese, unused portion of above advance	\$130.63
Bank Charges	\$2.40
Total Disbursements	<u>\$886.70</u>
Balance in Bank December 31, 2019	\$848.49
2020	
Balance in bank January 1, 2020	\$848.49
INCOME	
Bank Interest	\$0.33
Total Income	<u>\$848.82</u>
DISBURSEMENTS	
	\$0.00
Balance in Bank at December 31, 2020	\$848.82

From the Archdeacon February 23, 2021

Dear Deanery Council Members in Muskoka,

One of the probably very *few* “silver linings” of the COVID-19 storm clouds is that it has enabled our Deanery to get to know and appreciate one another in new ways. We have collaborated on-line through two Deanery-wide worship services, and been able to see and hear what is happening in each parish as many ministries branch out to include presence on social media, Zoom, and YouTube. I’ve also heard stories of congregations that have creatively increased their outreach quite apart from any on-line efforts; mailouts, phone calls and “porch drops” have also proven to be effective means of sharing the Good News. We have been forced to learn and to stretch, and while it hasn’t been easy, ministries are happening now that we might never have even dreamed of just one year ago.

Thank you all for your patience and perseverance in keeping current with, and adhering to, the COVID protocols in place. Early in the pandemic, Archbishop Anne said that this was going to be a marathon, not a sprint, and she was right. I believe our willingness to take the most cautious approach has served both to protect our people and to be a positive witness to our wider community. Hang in there – we’re not out of the woods yet, as we all know.

Often, Lent is observed as a time of giving something up (chocolate, coffee, or Facebook are popular examples), or perhaps taking something extra on (additional reading, a new service project, more Bible study). If these practices are life-giving for you then by all means go for it, but if 2021 is a year that Lent needs to be done differently – more gently – I think that’s okay too. Please be kind to yourselves and to one another as we all grapple, to varying degrees, with the frustration and exhaustion and anxiety that go along with this pandemic. Ultimately what we do in Lent is to intentionally draw near to God, and that’s what matters most.

As Archdeacon, a role which is still quite new to me (especially given the unusual nature of 2020!), I am to represent our Archbishop to this Deanery. This is a privilege, but I have to say that Archbishop Anne has been personally present to us in so many ways these last several months that I wonder sometimes if she needs me! 😊 We have been blessed to have the opportunity to gather with our Archbishop and with brothers and sisters across our whole Diocesan family through Zoom check-ins, clergy learning and fellowship times, and plentiful on-line worship services from Bishophurst, the Synod Office, and St. Luke’s Cathedral. I know we are all grateful for these opportunities.

Clericus has continued to meet monthly, using the Zoom platform, and the Deanery Officials have been carrying out parish visits electronically as well. Please remember to submit your annual statistics and reports to the Diocese no later than February 28th, including the Screening in Faith Participation Report.

The Deanery is carrying on and carrying out our ministries as best we can under the circumstances, and there have been real moments of grace and power along the way. May we continue to uphold one another in prayer and mutual encouragement.

In Christ’s Ministry we Share,
The Ven. Kelly Baetz

MUSKOKA DEANERY OFFICIALS REPORT, MARCH 2021

The Deanery Officials have invited parishes to 'virtual visits' in the fall of 2020 and post-vestry 2021 in lieu of being able to visit in person. We will continue this until we are able to conduct our visits on site and in-person.

Mission & Ministry:

- Parishes have used their ingenuity to maintain, and in some cases increase, their connectivity through email, websites social media, mail, phone and porch-drop.
- Parishes have used their ingenuity to maintain, and in some cases enhance, their worship life through email, Facebook, pre-recorded video, websites and social media.
- Some parishes are reporting an increase in funds directed to 'outreach' projects such as food banks, school lunch programs, mental health resources, tech resources such as computers, and various needs of local families. The outreach fund at Windermere of particular note, and we have asked them to share their story.

Mission Objectives: We are encouraged to hear many parishes discussing 'mission objectives' during their streamlined zoom Vestry meetings and even during this time of social distancing. Some parishes are using this period of low activity to re-evaluate their 'usual' schedule, facility usage and priorities in the hope of returning to a new normal that is more effective in mission than prior to the pandemic. We have reported this to the Executive Committee, and will look for opportunities to advance these conversations.

The Muskoka Ministry Endowment Fund: this is the fund established by the Diocesan Executive Committee in 2017 to receive half of the proceeds of the sale of church lands due to the 2016 Deanery restructuring plan. The Executive Committee manages the investment of this fund. The Executive Committee has allowed for the interest earned by this fund to be made available as grants for parishes that apply for non-property projects. The Executive Committee established a sub-Committee to receive parish applications and award the grants. There is approximately \$90,000 in this fund, generated from the sales of the church properties at Mactier and Falkenburg. This fund has generated approximately \$5000 in interest. In our 'virtual visits' we received many questions about this fund, its contents, and the parameters of the application process. We passed along these questions and trust you will be provided with the answers shortly so that you can plan your ministry projects and grant applications. Committee Chair is Canon Betty Whetham, Deanery Officials representative is your Lay Steward Susan Pincoe, your elected Members At Large are Rev. Lynda Mee and Mr. Brad Burgess.

Caring for our Properties:

Parishes have done a wonderful job of checking in on their buildings while not in use and following pandemic protocols while in use. The Diocese continues to consult with medical experts and update protocols and share them with the parishes via the Diocesan website, www.dioceseofalgoma.com, Facebook page and email. Several parishes used this period of low activity in our buildings to accomplish some maintenance or capital projects. Applications for capital projects were received and approved from Bala, Bracebridge, Ilfracombe, Parry Sound and Rosseau. Several parishes undertook light renovation to improve accessibility, layout or air circulation in order to comply with pandemic protocols. Emsdale reports a need to address the flooring of their basement. This project seems to be a good candidate for an application to the Anglican Foundation, and we hope to secure a spot for their application this year.

How to Apply for a Capital Project: If you have a property project on the horizon, please use the application forms found at www.muskokachurches.com. If your project is greater than \$40,000, requires loan/grant funding, or changes the character of the worship space, we must bring it to the Executive Committee for approval. This will require your parish to use the 'long' application form. Otherwise, the 'short' form will suffice, and your Deanery Officials can approve your application locally.

Alternative Usage of Buildings: This is an issue of increasing interest in our Deanery. There are parishes in our Diocese and beyond who have partnered with community stakeholders to use their property for housing, office, daycare, etc. that are consistent with our mission and generate income toward the parish. This also has the potential to strengthen community relationships, increase use of facilities, and provide deeply-needed community services. We have shared this with the Executive Committee and will ensure opportunity to advance the conversation. If you would like to be part of the conversation, let us know.

Insurance: Parry Sound has spent years trying to establish their actual replacement build would be a fraction of the full-replacement value in an attempt to lower their monthly premium. Our insurance company requires rebuild plans, quotes, and an authorizing motion as evidence to reconsider the assessed replacement value. They have discussed this with the Diocese thoroughly, provided these items to the insurance company, and are waiting to hear back. We have shared this update with the Executive Committee. Perhaps this is a helpful discussion for your parish, or for the Deanery. We'd appreciate your feedback.

Stewardship of Vacant and Unused Property

The Diocese has engaged the services of property lawyer Ken Lawson to steward the sale, disposal or transfer of properties once they leave the stewardship of their parish. Ken is compensated from the funds generated from the sale of properties (absent the Muskoka Ministry Endowment Fund). From time to time, Ken asks the Deanery Officials to assist with this work. In Muskoka, the Deanery Officials are aware of active files on the following properties:

- Cemeteries being tended by their township but awaiting finalization of transfer paperwork: Lewisham, Lancelot, Novar
- Cemeteries with Church deconsecrated buildings in which the Diocese is negotiating trust variance, severance of the cemetery portion for transfer to its Township and sale, removal or transfer of the building to another party: Aspdin, Port Sandfield, Mortimer's Point, Beatrice, Newholm
- Properties with deconsecrated buildings still in the care of their parent parish that are awaiting trust variance in order to proceed with sale: Fox Point, Dorset

Caring for our Cemeteries

The Diocese asked the Deanery Officials across the Diocese to connect with parishes to get an up-to-date listing of cemeteries, number of burials, and number of graves remaining. We have a list that includes Aspdin, Baysville, Beatrice, Bracebridge, Eagle Lake (township maintained), Gregory, Huntsville, Lancelot, Lewisham (township maintained), Milford Bay, Mortimer's Point, Newholm, Novar, Parry Sound, Port Cunnington, Port Sandfield, Port Sydney, Ravenscliffe, Ullswater, Rosseau/Seguin, Vankoughnet (township maintained). If you do not see your cemetery on this list, please let us know so that we can add it!

Finances (Parish):

- In November 2020 your Deanery Officials brought 2 financial recovery items to the Diocesan Executive. Both items were implemented, resulting in a small measure of financial relief for parishes.
 1. The 'additional apportionment' not be charged to parishes in 2021.
 2. All parishes with outstanding Diocesan capital loans be allowed to make interest-only payments for 2021. All parishes report a reduction in income due to the pandemic.
- Parishes ended 2020 with deficit covered by reserves or appeals to generous donors.
- For 2021, so parishes passed a budget with estimates reflective of 2020 actual, projecting either a need to transfer from reserves or a financial appeal to address the deficit. Other parishes passed a 'usual' budget with acknowledgement that 2021 would not be a 'usual' year, and they would likely have to address a deficit in the course of the year.
- Parishes continue to utilize programs such as e-transfer and canadahelps, and creative methods of fundraising. These measures do not compensate for the donation and fundraising methods rendered inaccessible by the pandemic. Emsdale/Almaguin has been particularly creative in using social media to fundraise!
- Parishes expressed concern with the ongoing financial impact to parishes in 2021 and would like to engage in discussions about planning for the financial recovery of the parishes and Diocese. We have shared this with the Executive Committee and will ensure opportunity to advance the conversation. If your parish is in need of assistance, or would like to be part of the 'financial recovery plan' conversation, let us know.

Susan Pincoe
Lay Steward

Lynne Preston
Lay Steward

Heather Manuel
Regional Dean

Muskoka Deanery Council Meeting Minutes February 22, 2020

Held at All Saints, Huntsville.

Rev. Kelly Baetz called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

The following Licenses were presented as prepared by the Archbishop:

Derek Shakespeare and Nancy Houghton at Diocesan Layreaders

Lynda Mee as Deacon in Charge of Christ Church, Port Sydney

Judie Cooper as interim incumbent at St. Thomas', Bracebridge and Lake of Bays

Announcements:

-St. Thomas, Ullswater/Bent River hosts Hymns thru the Ages on Saturday, March 28 at 7 pm

-Trinity All Saints, Bala holding Mardi Gras Pot Luck on Tuesday at 5:30 featuring "Louisiana Treats"

-Pancake Supper in Bracebridge hosted by Jenny and Allen Fry on Tuesday from 5:00 to 7:00 – free will offering

-Port Sydney – Pancake supper Tuesday 5:00 to 7:00

-St. Thomas', Bracebridge – pancake supper at 6:00pm, Messy Church next Friday at 5:30 pm

-Bala LENTEN QUIET DAY scheduled to March 28 at 10:00 am, all welcome

-St. Mark, Milford Bay is holding a "come and go" on Ash Wednesday from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm

-Rosseau having scalloped potato and ham dinner at Frost Hall on Tuesday from 5:00 to 7:00

-Gravenhurst has 32 teams walking in the "coldest night of the year" tonight. St. James has one team of virtual walkers as well

-Church of the Good Shepherd has a pancake dinner Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:00

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Edna Murdy Seconded by Conrad Tucker that the Minutes of October 8, 2019 be adopted as circulated (with the correction to the spelling of Heather Manuel's name). Carried.

Business Arising:

a) Congregational Development Officer – A motion was brought forward to the Executive Committee. The position will remain but the actual tasks and duties will be changed.

b) Contributions to the Bishop's Endowment Fund can be made in lieu of financial gifts to Harry Huskins on his retirement.

c) Line 36 of the Diocesan Budget – this is the interest that the Diocese pays on overdraft and is \$2,500 and growing at this time.

Reports: Shirly presented the Treasurer's Report and advised that the bank account essentially remains unchanged. **Moved by Mal Binks, Seconded by Diana Wilde that the report be accepted as circulated. Carried.**

New Business:

a) There is a retired clergy retreat at Cedar Campus, Northern Michigan in May. Some retired clergy need assistance with out of province health insurance which can range in cost from \$45 to \$600 depending on the health of the person. Discussions included concerns regarding the political climate in the US, the fact that a passport was required in order to attend and that retreats could be held in Canada. **Moved by Helen McNaughton, Seconded by Larry Jeffery that a total of \$200 be made available form the Deanery account for any retired clergy needing assistance to attend the retreat.** 7 opposed, 24 in favour. **Carried.**

b) **Moved by Mal Binks, Seconded by Barbara Graham that the Diocesan Executive re-examine the question of out of country clergy retreats. Moved by Judie Cooper that the Motion be amended to add that retreats would be preferred to be held at a Canadian site for political and financial reasons.** Discussion included financial considerations such as cost of passport and out of country insurance. 37 for, 0 opposed. **Carried.**

Election of new Regional Dean: **Moved by Mal Binks, Seconded by Edna Murdy that Heather Manuel's name be put forward.** Heather agreed to allow her name to stand. There being no other nominations, Heather was acclaimed.

Regional Gathering – it has been mandated by the Archbishop that there be a pre-synod gathering to discuss the Marriage Canon. The goals are to make the synod delegates aware of the wishes of the Deanery and how we walk together. Harry Huskins is to attend this meeting which will be held on March 21 at St. Thomas', Bracebridge. Coffee at 9:00am and the Engaging with Scripture exercise will begin at 9:30. Margaret would start with small groups, some scripture and sharing with the larger group. Groups will be composed of both clergy and laity. Harry will give the history of how we got to where we are along with a slide show on the interpretation of scriptures. These will be discussions about how the United church (and others) reached their decisions. We need to remember that marriage is a civil contract governed by the government and that churches are agents of the government. We need to have both perspectives presented. There was some discussion about removing the civil proponent from the marriage service or just getting out of the marriage business altogether. The perspective of the clergy needs to also be considered. The meeting should end by 2:00 pm.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:45 pm at St. James, Gravenhurst – dinner at 6:00 pm. **Moved by Janet Borneman that we adjourn.** Closed with the Grace.