

Muskoka Deanery Council Meeting April 18, 2023

Agenda

1. Opening reflection on 1st Peter; this letter is the scripture focus for Synod
2. Deanery Ministry
 - a. Review and Adoption of Minutes of February 2023 Meeting (below)
 - b. Review and Adoption of Financial Report (below)
 - c. Review and Adoption of the Archdeacon's Report (below)
 - d. Presentation of Licenses
 - e. Presentation from Muskoka Ministry Endowment Fund (separate attachment)
 - f. Courageous Conversations update and next steps
3. Synod Preparation
 - a. Presentation and discussion from Diocesan Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer (separate link)
 - b. Election of Youth Delegates to Synod
 - c. Election of Lay Steward
 - d. Election of Regional Dean
9. Other business
10. Adjournment

Deanery Council Meeting February 20, 2023 By Zoom

Meeting was brought to order AT 7:00 PM with 22 in attendance. Heather opened with prayer.

Anne Wilson from the Anglican Foundation gave a brief synopsis of what the Anglican Foundation does and various grants that were available including grants for outreach when partnering with community organizations.

Minutes: Moved by Nancy Houghton, seconded by Nick Turnbull that the Minutes of the previous meeting be adopted as amended. Carried.

Financial Report: Moved by Corbett Smith, seconded by Jane Templeton that the Financial Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

Business Arising:

Synod will be held in person May 10 to 13 in the Sault. We need 3 youth delegates (between the ages of 16 and 24) to represent the Deanery. There will be a pre-Synod meeting in April.

Anne Wilson from the Anglican Foundation talked about funding grants, the revised mission statement (see the website) which is based on values of faith, generosity and inclusiveness and strives to serve the people of God. In 2022 \$970,000 was granted to 140 recipients. There have been 40 projects in Algoma since 2010 (6 last years). Say Yes to Kids raised over \$160,000 last year – the goal this year is \$200,000. There will now be quarterly grant cycles (January, April, July and October instead of the previous twice a year. There are 3 categories of grants: A) up to \$5,000 with no matching funds or membership requirement; B) up to \$15,000 with matching funds required; and C) up to \$50,000 with a matching fund requirement and at the discretion of the Board. The Diocese may submit up to 3 requests a year for A) and B) but only once for C). Anne urges continued donations at the discretion of individual parishes, Deanery councils, etc.

Courageous Conversations:

3 questions were circulated to be discussed at the parishes and 3 reported back. It was suggested to “map” Muskoka – locate church on a map with information about each parish. See www.muskokachurches.com. A zoom meeting was suggested regarding the decline in the church and Canadian and American stats were reviewed. All Saints held a gathering on November 1 in person. *The Baby and the Bathwater* book study was held in 2 parts via zoom, and study of this book is recommended. We also held a zoom with the clergy of the Ottawa Valley Anglican Parish to learn about its reorganization into large-team ministry. Their geographically is similar to Muskoka (same number of points, using Lay readers, incumbents and retired clergy). Several parishes reported on the discussion they were having within the parish, with neighbour parishes as well as some interest in ecumenical partnerships. It was suggested that the \$3,000 offered by the Diocese be used to hire someone to create a schedule to share services throughout the Deanery. This is to be referred to Clericus to keep track of the parish conversations and prepare for the large team conversation.. Over the season of Lent we are encouraged to have discussions within our own parish and chat with our neighbours. We will come back in April with a discussion on the larger amalgamation/partnership.

New Business:

Several things are happening on line over Lent. Heather will send links via email. There will be an online study for Synod delegates on Thursdays with Kelly. A reminder that Annual Reports are dues to the Deanery and Diocese and are to include memorials. The Diocesan Executive is meeting March 15 and 16. The Pre-Synod Council meeting will be April 18 – hybrid or zoom.

Moved by Ron Algate that we adjourn at 8:44 pm. We closed with the Grace.

Respectfully,
Janet Borneman

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank Balance Jan. 31, 2023	\$1,164.72
INCOME	
Dues from Parishes	\$30.00
<u>Interest</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total Income	\$1,194.72
DISBURSEMENTS	\$0
Bank Balance March 31, 2023	\$1,194.72

Submitted by
Shirley Burton

Archdeacon's Report – Deanery Council, April 2023

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
(1st Peter 1:3-4)

These verses from 1st Peter give us wonderful words for Easter season, which is probably why they are part of the Epistle reading for the first Sunday after Easter! We will be hearing from this letter over the next several Sundays, and those attending Diocesan Synod (May 10-13) will also be steeped in the Apostles' words, both through Bible study and through readings at worship services. I have to admit that 1st Peter is not a book of the Bible I paid much attention to prior to this year. I have now studied it three times, with three different groups, and have found it a challenge and a joy. I look forward to sharing a short reflection based in 1st Peter 1:3-9 with you at our Deanery meeting.

As we move into spring, it feels to me like our congregations are also “in bloom.” This week I attended the women's gathering at St. James in Gravenhurst, and it was so lovely to enjoy a simple cup of tea and a plate of goodies and to chat with friends, old and new. It has been many months now since the last pandemic shut down, but in-person gatherings beyond the parish level are still relatively rare, and it is a delight to see them coming back (including for this, our Deanery meeting!). We have adapted to forms of on-line ministry, worship, and administration during the pandemic and we have adapted well. Many Deanery churches worked together to provide worship via the Zoom platform over the winter months, and meeting as clericus via zoom allows our clergy to retain most of the day for parish work instead of travel. So we take the on-line lessons we have learned with us as we move forward.

Another in-person meeting happening soon is, of course, Diocesan Synod. Please keep Archbishop Anne, the Synod Office staff, and Synod Committee members in your prayers as the large task or organization continues. We also think of our Muskoka Deanery delegates, particularly any who are attending this Synod for the first time. I would like to remind congregations that each parish should send, with their clergy or with their lay delegate(s), two cards to be presented at the opening worship. At Synod 2021, the following suggestion was made by the Bishop's Charge Response Committee, and then endorsed by vote (emphasis in bold mine):

*“Many churches and individuals have become innovative and worked hard to keep Christ's love alive in their area and beyond. There are more ways than any of us are aware of, so let us go back to our churches and make some lists of what your church did to stay connected during this past 18 months. Also, in the coming two years as we move into different stages, keep lists to help remember what you tried that may be new, innovative or restructured. Then at our next Synod, **each church could bring two cards. The first card listing all of the innovative efforts that your congregation has used to continue to “be church”, which were helpful and perhaps ongoing, and a second list of the efforts that you tried that did not work as you expected.** When we return in 2023, there would be many, many cards, containing much of the same information, but perhaps there is a seed here or there, which would benefit us all. For the cards containing ideas that were unsuccessful, there can be a time of letting go. Perhaps a burning of those cards or a ceremony to commemorate those less successful efforts.”*

At the Deanery Council meeting on April 18th, we will welcome Jane Mesich and Jennifer Baron, our Diocesan Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. They are coming not only to present the Diocesan

budget, but also to share in fellowship and prayer and, for Jennifer, to meet many of you for the first time. I know you will welcome them warmly. At this meeting I will also present new licenses for The Rev. Margaret Morrison and The Rev. Jim Schell.

Though not on the agenda, here in this report I also want to express a warm welcome to The Rev. Owen Ash, who will be continuing in ministry at Christ Church, Port Sydney, and to function in the Deanery. Rev. Owen has a special interest and skill in meditation, as well as a strong background working with congregations in transition. Christ Church Port Sydney celebrates 150 years of ministry this summer, and Deanery members are welcome to join in the celebration on July 22nd in the afternoon.

Thank you to The Rev. Dr. David Hardie, who has been taking many services at the Parish of St. Stephen while Rev. Peter is on leave. Thank you also to the Wardens of that parish who are finding effective and creative ways to carry on their various ministries and activities.

Grace Church, South River, has made the difficult decision to close. A service of deconsecration will take place soon, most likely early July. Please pray for the faithful remaining members of that congregation who have taken great care in making this decision, and for Rev. Catherine Murkin, whose contract with that part of her parish concludes in early May.

Thank you to Cory Brunatti and the congregation at Trinity Church, Parry Sound for their hospitality in providing both meeting space and a meal for our Deanery meeting! Thank you also to my fellow members on Deanery Executive: Rev. Heather Manuel, Gunars Boladis, Colin Edwards, and our Treasurer, Shirley. These positions are key not only in helping out within Muskoka, but in representing Muskoka in the wider church.

“Synod” means something like “walking on the road together.” May we do so in our parishes, Deanery, and Diocese, drawing strength from the Easter Gospel.

Yours in Christ,



Ven. Kelly Baetz

ACW ANNUAL REGISTRATION

Tues. May 30, Wed. May 31, Thurs. June 1, 2023

North Bay, Ontario

Accommodations at Fairfield Inn & Suites

\$110 Registration.

Mission Focus: Covenant House

Shelter and medical care for homeless youth.

Form at www.dioceseofalgoma.com

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO:

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA ACW

or submit E transfer acwjacque@gmail.com