

**Muskoka Deanery Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, 7pm via Zoom**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Reflection
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Review and Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting: November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021
4. Ministry & Financial Reports
5. Discussion: Best Practices and Advice for Multipoint Parishes
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

**DRAFT Muskoka Deanery Council Meeting Minutes**  
**November 16th, 2021**  
**7:00 pm via Zoom**

Meeting held by Zoom with 26 people present.

Heather opened with video devotion from PWRDF about the World of Gifts campaign.

After this video Heather mentioned the videos of Susan Beaumont's presentation to Synod have been made available. Please check Deanery website for details.

Kelly made a suggestion in the chat room that PWRDF offers a planting of trees in Africa as part of the World of Gifts campaign which might be appropriate for the 2022 "Treebilee".

Review of the Agenda, moved by John Dunbar, seconded by Catherine Murkin, the Agenda be accepted as submitted/amended, carried. One item added to New Business from Margaret Morrison.

Review of Minutes from June 1st and September 7th meetings

Corrections/amendments – June 1st meeting ACW – change "Huntsville has not been doing much" to "has not been able to do as much as they usually do".

Moved by Carol Hardie, seconded by Mal Binks, Minutes be accepted as submitted/amended, carried.

Corrections/amendments – September 7th meeting.

No corrections or amendments .

Moved by John Dunbar, seconded by Cory Brunatti, Minutes be accepted as submitted, carried.

Archdeacon's Report – was circulated ahead of meeting.

Comments/Questions – Kelly reminded people to stay vigilant with protocols due to COVID numbers rising

Deanery Warden of Lay Readers' Report – was circulated ahead of meeting.

Comments/Questions – Heather mentioned the Lay Readers' Advent Quiet Morning being led by the Diocesan Lay Reader Chaplain Rev. GailMarie, more information will be forthcoming

Deanery Financial Report – was circulated ahead of meeting. Comments/Questions – wording change after circulation. "We have not requested or collected annual dues (\$30.00) since 2019" changed to "We have not collected annual dues (\$30.00) since 2019"

Motion to accept Reports, moved by Nora Goltz, seconded by John Dunbar, carried.

Open discussion on Finances: Best Practices and Ways Forward

Floor opened for discussion on Post-Pandemic Financial Management: Tips, Advice and Best Practices  
Heather started discussion by summarizing the Diocese reliance on reserves through COVID and coming out of the Pandemic. The Finance committee is looking for suggestions and comments from the Deaneries on ways to proceed moving forward. Good discussion ensued, including some specific question as follows:

Jacque Howell – recognizes people have concerns about using reserves but she would rather a congregation use the money for mission and ministry instead of not using it if there is a shortfall in budget

Ted White – asked for more details of the issues with Diocesan Finances?

Short synopsis provided – many years of transferring money from reserves to balance budget What amount of money was being used in past 5 – 6 years? \$25,000 to \$70,000 in past years however proposed is 120,000 to 130,000 moving forward

How long will our reserves last? Approximately 4 years in reserves at projected level of transfer

Is our experience similar to other Dioceses?

Need to have a major focus on fund raising

Need hard-nose advice from Diocesan Treasurer and Admin & Finance Committee on how to reduce costs

Look at Legacy planning – parishioners being encouraged to make arrangements in their estate planning – long term benefits

Robert Clubbe – time for parishes to invest money in ministry and mission.

Time for Diocesan-wide campaign for fund raising to support ministry and work of Diocese

Sharon (Almaguin) – What would happen if the reserves were gone?

Diocese would be forced to have a balanced budget

Is the money being used to fund local churches?

Portion goes out of Diocese to National Church & a small portion is for emergency funds for parishes. Balance is for administration of the Diocese

Is there a team working on this issue?

There is a Finance Committee to help advise and shepherd ideas to the Executive Committee

Gunars Balodis – last 24 months there has been a build up of personal savings due to lack of places to spend money. Need to reach out to the community with unique and useful ideas for fund raising, support is there if we approach it correctly. More positive light instead of negative

Good discussion and ideas, please email any other ideas and comments to Heather before next week's Executive Committee meeting.

Election of Regional Dean – Kelly assumed Chair of Meeting for election. Brief summary of the Canon surrounding the Election process and requirements. Floor open for Nominations..

Nominations – Heather Manuel (nominated by Mal Binks, seconded by Barbara Graham), no other nominations made.

Motion to close nominations by Mal Binks, seconded by John Dunbar, carried.

Acceptance of nomination – Heather accepted nomination.

Election/Acceptance – Heather acclaimed as Regional Dean

New Business: Development of On-Line Services – Margaret Morrison introduced the discussion

i. Is there some interest in working co-operatively for on-line services?

- ii. Use a variety of people (ministers, deacons, laity), have people with talents and skills to help put together the services
- iii. Provide better quality and give people a rest from trying to do all the work for on-line services
- iv. Some parishioners want to go back to on-line services due to rising COVID numbers and all the inherent risks associated with small buildings closed up during winter
- v. Mal Binks - Windermere has invested \$2,500.00 for equipment to improve their Zoom services
- vi. They will be doing Zoom services through the winter, three weeks from home and on the 4th Sunday of the month from the Church to allow for people to have an inperson service (if they are not connecting through Zoom)
- vii. Has allowed for summer parishioners to stay connected, has been financially beneficial for the parish to have those connections
- viii. Heather – mentioned her parish is looking at a hybrid model as several parishioners are going to be going away for the winter
- ix. Barbara Graham – asked about hybrid service and was not in favour of it
- x. Laura Stevens – they have been doing pre-recorded services and posting them, asked what others are doing
- xi. In the deanery we have a mix of Zoom (live), Facebook, and YouTube services
- xii. Kelly suggested that Deanery Council may not be able to vote on this subject as it would have to be an agreement between Incumbents to work together for on-line services, this could happen immediately if they wanted
- xiii. Discussions on this will continue through email, please contact Heather if you have ideas.

Motion to Adjourn, moved by Mal Binks at 8:12 pm.

Next meeting will be held before the next Executive Committee Meeting in March 2022.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Houghton, Diocesan Lay Reader

## Muskoka Deanery Financial Statement ending DECEMBER 31, 2021

	Balance in bank December 31, 2021	\$849.24
<b>INCOME</b>		
	Dues (optional for 2021)	\$190.00
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
	None	\$-
	<b>Balance in bank December 31, 2020</b>	<b><u>\$1,039.24</u></b>