



# Muskoka Deanery Council

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# Agenda

- Opening Reflection
- Review & Adoption of the Agenda
- Review & Adoption of Previous Minutes
- Business arising from the Minutes
- Financial Report
- Archdeacon's Report
- Diocesan Social Justice Committee
- Anglican Foundation of Canada
- Anglican Church Women
- Follow-up from Vestries: Reporting, Capital Projects
- Follow-up from Synod: Lay Readers, Communion Forest & Faith Formation
- Other Business



# Minutes of Previous Meeting: Oct 30, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm with 25 in attendance. Heather showed the video “For All The Saints”, then opened with prayer.

**Agenda:** Moved by John Dunbar, seconded by Ron Algate that the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried.

**Minutes:** Moved by Nancy Houghton, seconded by Pam Thornton that the Minutes of the previous meeting be adopted as circulated. Carried.

**Financial Report:** Moved by Margaret Morrison, seconded by Ellie Kadwell that the Financial Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

**Archdeacon's Report:** Kelly shared part of Archbishop Anne's letter of October 24, 2023 with respect to the war in the middle east and suggested that we can assist via PWRDF or Companions of Jerusalem. Grace Church, South River and St. Stephen's, Vankoughnet have been deconsecrated. On September 10, the Rev. Judie Cooper became the new incumbent at Christ Church, Windemere. Rev. Dr. GailMarie Henderson retired from parish ministry effective September 3. Dean Jim McShane will be retiring at the end of the year. Deacon Heino Claessens is assisting at Christ Church, Port Sydney while Rev. Owen Ash is away. The ACW gathered three times in 2023. There is a prayer vigil for the Holy Land.

## Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> Minutes, p.2

**Anglican Foundation:** Anne Wilson advised that the mission statement was revised earlier this year. Applications have increased from twice a year to four times a year (January, April, July and October). You do not have to be a member of the Foundation to apply. There is an increase in the categories for grants with a Level C for up to \$50,000 (1/Diocese/year) being added. \$628,000 has been given out since January – an average of \$270,000 to 24 applicants in 18 Dioceses. \$50,000 to Huron Farmworkers' Ministry. Anne would be happy to assist by answering any questions she can.

**Greening Initiatives:** Communion Forest ([www.communionforest.org](http://www.communionforest.org)) from Lambeth Conference. Go to the website for information and resources. Susan Pincoe advised this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their community garden and they are planning to develop a prayer garden. Frank Berg and Rev. Margaret advised that they plan to have a community garden which can be shared with the winter pantry. St. James planted 2 apple trees for TreeBible. Apple jelly was made from the harvest and is being shared. Phelan indicated that St. Thomas' is trying to reinvigorate the quad and are hoping to involve the youth.

**Lay Leader Formation:** Rev Margaret advised that Rev. Canon Donald Laughton has a program to develop lay leaders, specifically Lay Readers, with respect to pastoral counselling skills and shared the information with her. She is happy to share with others. Heino Claessen advised that the Niagara Diocese has created Niagara's School of Missional Leadership with a Lay Reader course starting in 3 weeks. They also have other great courses. It was suggested that we put together a resource centre for the Deanery. Rev Kelly Baetz advised that All Saints had 4 new Lay Readers in 2023 with a 5<sup>th</sup> to come in 2024. They are using Pilgrim from the Church of England discipleship course in 6 week segments. Muskoka will be hosting the Lay Reader Conference in September.

## Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> Minutes, p.3

**Courageous Conversations:** Muskoka Lakes and Trinity, Parry Sound have submitted a consolidation proposal to the Deanery Executive for comment. Rev Margaret Morrison is organizing Gospel Based Discipleship on Thursday evenings – a draft schedule will be sent out shortly. She will also send out the format for anyone interested in leading a session. She has some ecumenical interest as well. Looking for volunteers for Children's Ministry (Bible stories and hymns). Lake of Bays got a grant to finance this. Lynne Preston is working with Rosseau Lake College coordinating the kids to get community hours for doing yard work and community dinners in Rosseau. She also would like to do a book containing stories people want to tell about the past. They have 2 students attending church on Sunday. Next Courageous Conversations meeting is Tuesday, November 7.

Pam Thornton suggested Ellie Kadwell and/or parish treasurer from Gravenhurst to be a representative for Muskoka on the Diocesan Administration and Finance Committee. Rev Kelly suggested an accountant named Frank and will speak to him. We are looking for one representative from Muskoka.

Rev Canon Bob Elkin is now the chair of the Bishop's Endowment Fund Committee. We need 1 or 2 representatives from Muskoka for fundraising etc.

**Moved by Nick that we adjourn at 8:40 pm.** Next meeting will be in February.

We closed with the Grace.

Respectfully,

Janet Borneman

# Business Arising...

## MUSKOKA REPRESENTATION

- Diocesan Administration & Finance Committee
- Episcopal Endowment Fund

**ONLINE COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY:** You can advertise the services and links (see below) which may be helpful for 'snowbirds', 'seasonals' or others who are not able to attend church in person throughout the winter. You can participate by attending or taking a role in the leadership rotation.

If these ministries would be a helpful addition to your parish life, please join in! Everyone is welcome!

- **Sunday Morning Zoom Services 9:30am**
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82935549779>
- **Gospel-Based Discipleship Zoom Studies Thursdays 7:30pm - 8:30pm**
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83289181933>
- **Children's Bible Stories (new video live every Saturday 9am)**
- [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxXsgoblfsH4fW1x7AJhOIPV\\_c8cpt7yd&si=dVx9KZNksa71iLvR](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxXsgoblfsH4fW1x7AJhOIPV_c8cpt7yd&si=dVx9KZNksa71iLvR)

# FINANCIAL REPORT

|                              |               |             |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Balance at previous meeting: |               | \$1255.00   |
| Income:                      | Parish 'dues' | \$30.00     |
|                              | Interest      | \$0.30      |
| Expenses:                    |               | <u>none</u> |
| Current Balance:             |               | \$1285.30   |

## Recommendations:

- Keep 'dues' at \$30 per parish for 2024
- Update signing authorities to include Treasurer, Archdeacon and one member of the Deanery Officials

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM VESTRIES

Annual Reporting by February 28<sup>th</sup>: [www.dioceseofalgoma.com](http://www.dioceseofalgoma.com), “About the Diocese”, “Parish Budget Package”. Please remember to send a copy of your Annual Vestry Report package to the Regional Dean via email or mail.

Capital Project Application Form: [www.muskokachurches.com](http://www.muskokachurches.com), “Property, Finance and Accessibility Resources”. Projects over \$40,000, requiring loans or changing the character of the worship space need to go to the Diocesan Executive Committee for approval.

Other Forms available on the muskokachurches.com website:

Barrier-Free Access “Accessibility Standards Ontario”

Central payroll for guest Officiants “Honourarium Central Payroll”

Deanery Officials’ Annual Visit to your parish “Parish Visit Forms”

Outside groups using your facility “Rental Usage Agreement”



# RESOLUTIONS ARISING FROM SYNOD

## Resolution #1: Formation and Education

Timeline: Vestry 2024

That every parish in the diocese be expected:

- to identify at least one area of formation or education which needs to be further developed in the congregation(s), bearing in mind the Archbishop's Charge
- for the parish ordained and lay leadership to take concrete steps to address the area(s) of development
- and to report to their Deaneries and to the diocesan office the step(s) they have already taken (or are committed to taking before the next diocesan synod); and that this reporting process on progress be undertaken no later than the next regular parish Vestry meetings in early 2024.

## Resolution #2: Episcopal Endowment Fund

Timeline: Immediate

need for a member from Muskoka...perhaps someone in your congregation?

That an Episcopal Fund Committee be established, consisting of at least one member from each deanery, to begin the work of resourcing a secure financial future of the episcopacy in Algoma.

## RESOLUTIONS ARISING FROM SYNOD

Resolution #3: Parish Funding For Lay Readers Timeline 2024 -2029  
We strongly encourage that every parish set aside a minimum of .1% of their annual budgets to support layreaders between 2024-2029.

Resolution #4: Communion Forest Initiative, [www.communionforest.org](http://www.communionforest.org)  
Timeline: Deanery Education provided in October 2023, video on [www.muskokachurches.com](http://www.muskokachurches.com)

Parish initiative to be undertaken prior to May 2025 Bearing in mind the “Communion Forest,” we ask that each deanery provide some education about the Christian stewardship of creation; and that each parish undertake at least one initiative, before the next diocesan synod.

**RESOURCES AVAILABLE:** -Muskoka Ministry Endowment Fund Grant application window for 2024 will be open soon. Applications will be circulated when available. The 2023 amount was \$470 per parish, 2024 amount to be determined.



# SAVE THE DATE for 2024

Diocesan Social Justice Committee is hosting “Homelessness Week” from April 28 – May 4 in which we will hold Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> worship with focus on Homeless.

Worship resources provided by Social Justice Committee, with daily scripture and prayer focus prompts on Diocesan website or YouTube  
Each parish will engage in an initiative to assist their community combat homelessness.



# SAVE THE DATE for 2024

Anglican Church Women's Annual Conference  
May 28-30<sup>th</sup> in HUNTSVILLE, MUSKOKA!

Go to [www.dioceseofalgoma.com](http://www.dioceseofalgoma.com)

To find the Registration Form, Agenda and  
Information sheet!





# SAVE THE DATE for 2024!

Anglican Foundation of Canada's  
'Say Yes to Kids' Sunday is June 2<sup>nd</sup>!

Check out the Anglican Foundation at [www.anglicanfoundation.org](http://www.anglicanfoundation.org) to apply for a ministry grant children/youth ministry, communion forest/greening initiatives, capital/accessibility projects or any ministry!

Your church can become a member of the Foundation to support its work!



## **SAVE THE DATE for 2024!**

The Lay Reader's Annual Conference  
will be held in Muskoka from  
Friday, Sept 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup>!

Our Lay Reader's are working out  
the details about hosting and agenda,  
please save the date and provide help to  
your Lay Reader's as they prepare!

