

The background of the image shows a serene lakeside scene at dusk. Four Adirondack chairs in green, yellow, blue, and red are arranged on a wooden dock. The calm water of the lake reflects the soft colors of the twilight sky, which transitions from a pale purple to a deep blue. The far shore is lined with a dense forest of trees, their silhouettes visible against the horizon.

Muskoka Deanery Council

Tuesday, May 31st, 2022

7pm via zoom

Agenda

1. Devotion video
2. Review and Adoption of the Agenda
3. Review and Adoption of the Minutes of the February 22nd Meeting
4. Business arising from the Minutes
5. Archdeacon Kelly's Report
6. Archbishop Anne checks in with Deanery Council
7. Diocesan Social Justice Committee presentation with Connie Knighton
8. Financial Report & discernment of 2022 'Deanery Dues'
9. New Business
10. Adjourment

Muskoka Deanery Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022, 7pm

Meeting was held via Zoom with 26 screens representing 31 people. Regional Dean Heather Manuel served as Chair and opened the meeting at 7:06 with welcome to new Deanery Council members elected/appointed at Annual Vestry Meetings.

DEVOTIONS:

Our Opening Reflection was a section of the 'Grounded in Faith, Led by Hope, Called to Action' video from the Black Anglicans of Canada, www.blackanglicans.ca, to honour Black Heritage Month. Heather informed us the 2022 service video would debut on February 27th on the Black Anglicans of Canada Facebook and YouTube Channels, and it would be posted to www.muskokachurches.com

AGENDA:

We reviewed the Agenda and added 'Financial Committee' to the 'New Business' section. Moved by David Hardie, Seconded by Rick Flavell that we adopt the Agenda as amended. Carried.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

We reviewed the Minutes of the November 16th, 2021 Deanery Council. Moved by Margaret Morrison, Seconded by Nora Goltz that we adopt the minutes as amended. Carried.

Feb 22nd, 2022 minutes continued...

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Shirley Burton provided a financial report. Here is a summary:

- Balance in bank December 31, 2020 \$849.24
- INCOME: Dues (optional for 2021) \$190.00
- DISBURSEMENTS: None
- Balance in bank December 31, 2021 \$1,039.24

It was noted the date was misidentified as '2020' at one spot in the original report. Amended. Question raised whether 'Dues' would remain optional in 2022. This question will be on Agenda for next meeting.

Move by David Hardie, Seconded by Mal Binks that the Financial Report be adopted as amended. Carried.

MINISTRY DISCUSSIONS:

Archdeacon Kelly gave an update on various items; highlighting the latest pandemic protocols and inviting discussion.

Heather gave an update on various items; highlighting the Deanery Officials' intention to resume in-person visits in 2022 and inviting discussion.

Feb 22nd, 2022 minutes continued...

Heather then introduced the focus discussion for the evening, which is the Best Practices in governance of multipoint or incumbent-sharing parishes. This discussion began with the Archbishop and Archdeacons as a response to the Synod Office receiving an increase in questions from parishes in collaboration transitions. The conversation grew to include the Regional Deans and has now been referred to the Deanery Councils for input.

The Archbishop will host a follow-up meeting to gather the input expressed at Deanery Councils.

Items of input:

- Muskoka's parishes have a variety of practices when it comes to striking a balance between each community's autonomy and 'team' identity. Muskoka's multi-points have a mix of shared treasury, partially shared treasury and completely divided treasury. Same with Council/Advisory Board structures, Synod Delegate structures, CRA#,s, etc.
- It is not advisable to take a 'cookie cutter' approach to force every parish to operate the same way, it would just increase workload and anxiety.
- "If we ask 10 parishes, we'll find 10 different ways of doing things!" If there is one 'right' way to do these practices, or if the Diocese' preference is to adopt one 'right' way for the sake of consistency, initiative will have to come from the Diocese because it is not likely a single path will arise from the grass roots.

Feb 22nd, 2022 minutes continued...

- Congregations need a degree of autonomy within a parish in order to have a sense of ownership of their community's unique ministry.
- Congregations need to feel connected within a parish in order to have a sense of being supported in their ministry by a larger family.
- 'Town Hall' style meetings are helpful to bring congregations together to get to know each other and support each other in ministry.
- Keeping pieces of governance local to each point rather than centralized gives more people an opportunity to be involved in their local church. This is especially important in parishes that are a mix of year-round and seasonal points.
- Muskoka's parishes have been through many realignments over the past 20+ years, creating a culture of collaboration fatigue: why bother taking the time and effort to centralize treasury or administrative structure if our configuration is bound to change again?
- What does online ministry add to this conversation? Gives us the potential to have meetings with multipoint representation via zoom rather than expecting people to drive. Helpful in the winter and with seasonal parishes. Online ministry can help build team identity through shared website, Facebook, YouTube, etc.

Feb 22nd, 2022 minutes continued...

NEW BUSINESS:

Sharon Yetman commended to the Council's attention the benefits of planned giving/legacy giving as a stewardship initiative. She outlined the benefits of gifts of life insurance, and the availability of local insurance brokers to assist us with developing this initiative. This generated some discussion and questions, as some people were familiar with this type of legacy giving and some were not. It was noted that the

Anglican Church of Canada had this initiative in recent history and may still have staff available to assist. It was noted the Diocese intended to make stewardship education a priority in 2022, so Muskoka will likely have the opportunity to commend this issue into the wider work of the Diocese.

Sharon forward some of her materials to Heather and will work with others who are interested in this topic.

MEETING ADJOURNED WITH GRACE AT 8:22

From the Archdeacon – Deanery Council May 2022

In the season of Easter, we hear a lot from the book of Acts, also known as “The Acts of the Apostles.” Penned by the same author as the Gospel of Luke, Acts is an exciting, action packed book of scripture, telling the story of the joys, challenges, and growth of the early church. Some have suggested that this book could also be known as “The Acts of the Holy Spirit”, because it’s here that we are given the account of the Day of Pentecost, and we see how closely the Apostles follow the leading of that same Spirit in their missionary journeys.

As many of our congregations begin to emerge from a long season of pandemic, I believe the book of Acts has many lessons for us. They were tasked with building something new (within a long established heritage), they faced significant hardship, and they struggled with arguments that threatened to divide them. And I think we can relate to this – at least to some degree!

Though it varies from place to place, I think it’s safe to say that the pandemic has exacerbated already existing church challenges throughout our Deanery, and in many cases, the task before us is one of rebuilding. It can feel daunting, and we might even be tempted to despair.

But, like those first Apostles, we also have the gift of the Holy Spirit to teach and to guide, and we have the promised, abiding presence of Jesus Christ. Therefore we have hope – great hope! – in the midst of the challenge. Can you relate to both the struggle and the hope that we see in the book of Acts? I can, and I suspect I am not alone. How can we work together to rebuild? The time is ripe for new conversations. I am grateful that Archbishop Anne will be present with us for part of our upcoming meeting to help us get started.

Archdeacon's Report continued...

On another note, the clericus has welcomed Lay Incumbent Cory Brunatti, who is now ministering with the congregation at Trinity, Parry Sound. Cory's tech skills helped so many of us adapt to online expressions of worship and fellowship in the past few years, but these are hardly his only skills!

Congratulations Cory on this new appointment!

I pray that this Deanery Council meeting will be an enjoyable time of good sharing and encouraging discussions.

There is much to celebrate and much for which we give thanks.

"So the word of the Lord grew mightily, and prevailed." ~ Acts 19:20

In Christ, risen, ascended, and with us still, Ven. Kelly Baetz

Deanery of Muskoka Financial Report

Submitted by Shirley Burton

Bank Balance March 31, 2022 \$1,069.24

Interest \$0.21

Total Income \$1,069.45

DISBURSEMENTS none \$0.00

Balance in bank April 29, 2022 \$1,069.45

Question for Deanery: Should we resume 'dues' in 2022?