



Muskoka Deanery Council

November 16, 2021

Agenda

1. Opening Reflection
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Review and Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings: June 1st & September 7th
4. Archdeacon's Report
5. Deanery Warden of Lay Readers' Report
6. Financial Report
7. Financial Discussion: Best Practices and Ways Forward
8. Election of Regional Dean
9. New Business
10. Adjournment



MINUTES OF THE DEANERY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 1, 2021

Meeting held by zoom with 34 present.

Heather opened with a video “With a Good Mind, You Can Make it Through” by Rev Ginny Doctor.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: one correction – should read City of Toronto (not Parish of St. Simon’s). Moved by Robert Clubbe, Seconded by David Hardie that the Minutes be adopted as amended. Carried.

Treasurer’s Report – Shirley reported that there is currently \$849.03 in the Deanery Council account. Moved by David Hardie, Seconded by Pam Thornton that the Deanery forego collecting deanery dues for 2021.

Lots of discussion – several parishes are having financial problems. No fundraisers can proceed at this time. Virtual Synod would cost about \$30 /parish. Corb Smith indicated that he was a firm believer in building up nest eggs and felt that a notice should be sent out and those who can manage to pay should. Robert agreed that a request should be sent out and those who could not pay should not be concerned. Susan concurred. Moved by David Patterson, Seconded by John Dunbar that the Motion be withdrawn. Motion amended by David Hardie – notice of dues will be sent out but there will be no mandatory collection this year. Seconded by Pam Thornton. Carried.

June 1 Minutes Continued...

Archdeacon's Report – was circulated ahead of meeting.

Deanery Officials' Report – the priorities for summer are re-opening and synod preparation. Hoping for on-site visits to resume before winter.

Phase in of In-Person worship – Diocesan protocols will be available June 4. For now: Step 1 – 10 persons outdoors – June 14 Step 2 – 15% or capacity for indoors – July 5 Step 3 – expect to see capacity increase beyond 15% - July 26

Consider – what will we retain of the online ministries we have developed? What will the new normal be – opening our doors to new possibilities, community connections, practical and spiritual needs, assistance with cost.

Synod Preparation – the Diocese will host zoom information sessions for delegates in late June. It is hoped to have an in-person gathering for Muskoka delegates in late August or early September. Sept 7 at 7:00 pm we will have a pre-synod Deanery Council. The Synod guest speaker is Susan Beaumont who will hold sessions on "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going". Sessions will be held the afternoon and evening of September 9 and the morning and afternoon of September 10 by Zoom. Synod will be held the morning and afternoon of September 17 and the morning of September 18 by zoom.

ACW – Linda Smith reported that the 1st zoom annual meeting was held May 26 and was well attended and very successful. A report will follow. Bala has been delivering lawn balloons for birthdays and meet by zoom every two weeks.

June 1 Minutes Continued...

Huntsville ACW has not been able to do as much as it used to do pre-pandemic, but the pastoral care group has been “off the wall” delivering baskets at Easter and Christmas, delivered palm crosses and call folks with no internet access. Moved by Nora Goltz, Seconded by Lynn Preston, that the Reports be accepted as presented. Carried.

Election of Youth Delegates to Synod – we need to put names forward over the summer. Youth are to be between the ages of 16 and 24.

Accessibility – some 2021 deadlines have been extended to 2025. You can check the website (www.aoda.ca) – we are classed as fewer than 50 employees. By 2012 we should have developed a plan, made sure everyone knew it and it should be posted including a fire safety plan which should be posted and provided to local fire departments. In 2015 we should have barrier free print materials. 2017 – online materials are to be in large print and image based. 2025 – barrier-free parking, service counters, lobbies and waiting areas. Staff/volunteers need to be trained on how to modify services so they are accessible, patron person should be able to park and enter while remaining comfortable and have access to essential services such as washrooms. Annual Practices need to be reviewed to ensure annual checks are being performed.

The Mission & Ministry Team from Christ Church, Windermere gave a brief presentation about developing an outreach fund for community care. Presentation notes will be available on the www.muskokachurches.com if you would like to share it with your congregation. Moved by Robert Clubbe that we adjourn at 8:47 pm. We closed with the Grace.

September 7th Minutes...

Meeting was brought to order with 33 in attendance.

Heather opened with prayer and a reflection video from Susan Beaumont, our guest speaker at the upcoming Synod.

Jane Mesich discussed the budget (located at page 142 of the Convening Circular) and the Financial Statements (found at page 100). It was noted that these documents are public and can be shared with the congregations. Hugh thanks Jane for her sound financial management. Robert Clubbe asked about fundraisers/appeal to help top off the reserves. This has been discussed but was put on the back burner due to COVID.

Election of Lay Stewards Susan and Lynne were thanked for all their hard work. We need to elect one steward to complete the balance of Lynne's term and one new delegate for a full year term. Gunars Balodis has allowed his name to stand for the balance of Lynn's term. As there were no further nominations, Moved by Robert Clubbe and Hugh that nominations be closed. Carried. Gunars is acclaimed.

Moved by Pam Thornton, Seconded by Glad Bryce that Colin Edwards be elected to the full term position. Colin accepted. Moved by Robert Clubbe and John Dunbar that nominations be closed. Colin was acclaimed.

September 7th Minutes Continued...

Synod Schedule – September 9 from 3 to 4:30 and 6:30 to 8:00 and September 10 from 9:30 to 11:00 and 2:30 to 4:00 are sessions with Rev Dr. Susan Beaumont, Synod guest speaker, on church leadership in uncertain times.

Workbooks have been sent to incumbents to be forwarded to synod delegates.

The opening service will be September 16 at 7:00 pm.

Synod runs from 9:00 to 5:00 on September 17 and 9:00 to 12:15 on September 18. All by Zoom.

New Business: The annual Layreaders' Conference is hosted by Sudbury-Manitoulin this year and will take place September 24 and 25 by Zoom. Deadline to register is September 10.

Moved by Hugh that we adjourn at 8:11 pm.

Next meeting will be held prior to the November Diocesan Executive Meeting.

Archdeacon's Report

Dear Deanery Council Members in Muskoka,

I hope you have all been enjoying this extended fall season (which I fear is quickly about to turn!). It has been an eventful few months in our Deanery and Diocese, with the first ever virtual Diocesan Synod taking place in September, and many new policies created since then that affect all our parishes. Perhaps most notable is the COVID-19 vaccination policy, which all Deanery Council members should read if they have not done so already. Incumbents are responsible to ensure proof of vaccination (x2) is viewed for all the people in our congregation to whom the policy applies. If you have questions or concerns, you are asked to contact our Diocesan Archdeacon, Jay Koyle, directly. He can be reached at 705- 256-5061.

Archdeacon's Report continued...

Many of our parishes continue in a time of transition, both waiting and reflecting on the future shape of their ministries as they seek more permanent arrangements and Incumbents. I am grateful to the clergy and lay people providing leadership and Sunday services in Lake of Bays, St. Thomas' Bracebridge, Christ Church Port Sydney, and Trinity Parry Sound. With COVID cases on the rise once again, please continue to be vigilant around our protocols. We all recognize that it is difficult to persevere in patience, but this is a fruit of the Spirit indeed, so let's keep at it.

As temperatures drop and windows in our church buildings begin to close, please give some thought to if there are any other ways to improve ventilation. If your congregation is thinking about moving back to Zoom services over the winter (as has been the developed practice of some), please send me a note describing when you will be doing this, and what steps you have taken to advise your congregations as well as potential visitors of the arrangements. Thank you.

Deanery Warden of Lay Readers

The annual Lay Reader's Conference was hosted by Sudbury-Manitoulin Deanery and took place over zoom on September 24 and 25.

The theme was 'transformation'. A fair number of Muskoka Lay Readers were in attendance. Two sessions were held, the first on biblical storytelling by Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green and the second on compassion fatigue by Rev. Rhonda Hirst. Both of these sessions were interesting and timely. Once we are able to meet again in person, we will reach out to Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green to see if she can do a similar presentation at a Deanery Lay Reader meeting.

We have not been meeting regularly during COVID – many of our Lay Readers do not have internet, or their internet does not support the zoom or similar platforms. I feel rather disconnected from everyone at this point (as I am sure is the case for many of us). I am hoping to hold an Advent Bible Study for those who can attend by zoom (or by phone) as a way of trying to get us back together. I am also hopeful that once in-person meetings can start back up, we may be able to make use of the zoom platform for book studies or other initiatives that were not feasible when we were only meeting 3 times a year.

Respectfully Janet Borneman Deanery Warden of Lay Readers.

MUSKOKA DEANERY FINANCIAL STATEMENT 29-Oct-21

Bank Balance April 30, 2021 \$849.03

Interest \$0.21 \$0.21

Total Income \$849.24

DISBURSEMENTS none

Total Disbursements \$0.00

Balance in bank October 29, 2021 \$849.24

Please note: We have not collected annual
dues (\$30.00) since 2019



Post-Pandemic Financial Management: Tips, Advice and Best Practices



Election of Regional Dean

- ELECTION PROTOCOLS
- Any Clergy holding license for at least 3 years is eligible to serve at the Regional Dean. Term of office expires at the Deanery Council meeting prior to the next regular Diocesan Synod (should be May 2023).
- If voting is required, it will occur via the 'chat' function.
- Please indicate your vote in a private message to the Chair or Chair's designate.
- If you cannot operate the 'chat' function, please let the Chair know and a phone option will be made available for you.



New Business...

- Online Ministries

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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 comments 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.

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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:

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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 – approximately 4 years in reserves at that level of transfer Is our experience similar to other Dioceses? Need to have a major focus on fund raising Need hard-nose advice from Jane 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 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.

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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

- 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 in-person 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 in March before the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Houghton, Diocesan Lay Reader