

# HALLOWTIDE

**OCT 31**



Hallow's Eve

**NOV 01**



October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

All Saints' Day

**NOV 02**



All Souls' Day

Muskoka Deanery Council

# Agenda

1. Opening Devotion
2. Review and adoption of agenda
3. Review and adoption of minutes from April meeting
4. Review and adoption of the financial report
5. Archdeacon's Report
6. Anglican Foundation update
7. Communion Forest initiatives
8. Lay Leaders formation initiatives
9. Courageous Conversation initiatives
10. Representation from Muskoka on the Diocesan Administration & Finance Committee and Bishop's Endowment Fund Committee
11. Other business
12. Adjourn

# MINUTES OF THE DEANERY COUNCIL MEETING

## APRIL 18, 2023

The meeting was held at Trinity Church, Parry Sound with 26 attending in person and 19 attending by zoom. Heather called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm and thanked Trinity for the wonderful dinner. Kelly gave the opening prayer and the reflection was based on a reading from 1st Peter.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Moved by Jim Schell, Seconded by Margaret Morrison that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as amended. Carried.

Financial Report:

There is an error in the report as presented. The Bank Balance should be \$1,194.72.

Moved by Nancy Houghton, seconded by Steve Newroth that the Financial Report be accepted as amended. Carried.

Archdeacon's Report:

Kelly introduced Owen Ash from Niagara who has been the interim at Christ Church, Port Sydney since November. A service of new ministry will be held on May 14 at 11:00 am. Owen specializes in assisting congregations going through transition. Nancy Houghton was presented with her Diocesan Layreader Licence. Derek Shakespeare has retired and hold a Diocesan Layreader Emeritus certification. Jim Schell and Margaret Morrison were presented with their Deacon Associate licenses.

# MINUTES OF THE DEANERY COUNCIL MEETING: APRIL 18, 2023

## Muskoka Ministry Endowment Fund:

A reminder that the Muskoka Ministry Endowment Fund is accepting applications for mission and ministry work. Proper receipts must be provided. Applications need to be signed and include a budget and be submitted to Betty Whetham by June 16.

## Courageous Conversations:

The collaborative ministry conversation continues within the Deanery. There are discussions going on between parishes at this time, and council received some updates. Members expressed the opinion that the next step should be a Deanery wide invitation to discussion on a large team model of ministry, such as the Ottawa Valley type of ministry. Margaret suggested that some research be done into other possible models (than the Ottawa Valley) and that the information be presented during the large discussion. Moved by Jim Schell, seconded by Nancy Houghton that we proceed with a large group meeting discussion of ministry collaboration. Carried.

## Synod Preparation:

Jane Mesich and Jennifer Baron advised that the convening circular has been posted on the website and should be read in advance. Page 20 lists the canonical motions which need a 2/3 majority in both houses (lay and clergy). If a motion passes with 50% +1, it must come back to next synod. Reach out to Archdeacon Debra Kraft or Archdeacon Jay Koyle with any questions.

# MINUTES OF THE DEANERY COUNCIL MEETING: APRIL 18, 2023

With respect to the proposed budget, recommendations can be made to executive, but Synod cannot spend money (only the executive can). Recommendations must be 2 sided. Jennifer advised that if you want to make a motion to send Jane on an all expenses paid cruise (which Jane would support but she does not have a vote a Synod) you need to say where the money/revenue will come from to cover the expense. Orientation is at 4:00 pm on Wednesday at the Cathedral and the opening service will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday. 3 deacons will be ordained and 3 Canons will be installed (Jane Mesich, Garth O'Neill and Ken Lawson).

Budget Jane advised that 2024 and 2025 budget estimates are simply a guess given the current climate (inflation, interest rates, etc). It is estimated income will drop 25%. Line 25 is paid to Provincial Synod and then goes to various theological colleges such as Thorneloe's Bachelor of Theology program. Allowance for doubtful accounts is 18.9% of the deficit. Jane indicated that parishes that are in arrears of their stipend for one full year can apply for forgiveness. Synod expenses are budgeted annually and to into reserves in off years.

Jane estimates that the reserves will be completely depleted in 5 to 10 years at the current rate.

The Administration and Finance committee is looking for new members. Anyone in the Diocese can be considered now that meetings can be held by zoom. The committee deals with compensation, property, legal matters, insurance, etc. There are 3 to 4 meetings per year, held over zoom. Contact Heather or Kelly if you are interested. The position is a 2 year term.

# MINUTES OF THE DEANERY COUNCIL MEETING: APRIL 18, 2023

Election of Youth Delegates (16-24)

There are no nominations to be put forward.

Election of Lay Stewards

Gunars' term is expiring, Colin's term is continuing.

John Dunbar was nominated and is willing to stand. There were no further nominations.

Moved by Jim Schell, seconded by Nancy Houghton that nominations be closed. Carried. John was acclaimed.

Election of Regional Dean

Heather vacated the chair and Kelly chaired this portion of the meeting.

Moved by Jane Templeton, seconded by Pam Thornton that Heather Manuel continue as Regional Dean.

No further nominations. Heather was acclaimed.

Cory Brunatti was thanked for making the zoom work.

Moved by Eric Tucker that we adjourn at 8:45 pm. We closed with the Grace.

Respectfully submitted

Janet Borneman

# Muskoka Deanery Financial Report

Balance as of April 18 <sup>th</sup> Deanery Council Meeting:		\$1,194.72
Income		
	‘Deanery Dues’	\$60.00
	Interest	\$0.28
Expenditures		
	None	<u>\$0.00</u>
	<b>Current Balance:</b>	<b>\$1,255.00</b>

# Archdeacon's Report pt.1

First of all I know our hearts and minds are on what's happening in the Middle East. I want to share just a few lines from Archbishop Anne's short letter of October 24th, as follows:

"...we continue to pray for peace and an end to this war. And, as we are able, to give to agencies that are working to heal, to protect, and to provide for those living in the midst of this crisis. May the Prince of Peace bring peace to all and may we be instruments of that peace."

One way we can give is through the organization Companions of Jerusalem, which is a national body of the Anglican Church of Canada, and of course we can also give through PWRDF.

Since our last meeting of Deanery Council, two of our Deanery churches have been deconsecrated. Grace Church, South River, was deconsecrated on July 3rd, and St. Stephen's Vankoughnet on October 7th. Both of these worship services were very well attended, as people gathered to give thanks for the ministry and legacy of these congregations.

On September 10th, Christ Church Windermere officially welcomed their new Incumbent, The Rev. Judie Cooper, with a celebration of New Ministry and a wonderful outdoor luncheon. We wish both Rev. Judie and the congregation all God's best at this new beginning.

On September 3rd, Rev. Dr. Gail Marie Henderson retired from Parish Ministry. She is still involved in many arenas of church life and in theological education and we give thanks for that!



# Archdeacon's Report cont'd

We also give thanks for the ministry of our Dean of St. Luke's Cathedral, Sault Ste. Marie, The Very Rev. Jim McShane, who is retiring at the end of December.

At our September clericus we welcomed Deacon Heino and presented his letter of permission from Archbishop Anne. Deacon Heino comes to us from the Diocese of Niagara, from where he recently retired, and attends the Parish of the Good Shepherd, Emsdale.

It has been both hopeful and heartening to see that the Anglican Church Women in our Deanery have now gathered three times in 2023 as a whole Deanery group, in Emsdale, Huntsville, and most recently Bala. All of these events by all accounts have been extremely well received. Well done ladies!

As we approach All Saints Day and all Souls Day this week we think of all the people in our congregations, both those living and those who have died, who have set us great examples in faith, hope, and love.

**Ven. Kelly Baetz**

The Ven. Kelly Baetz, Archdeacon, Deanery of Muskoka, Diocese of Algoma. 705-789-2216

## Introduction

The Communion Forest is an exciting new initiative of the Anglican Communion to significantly increase the number of Anglican tree growing and ecosystem conservation, protection and restoration activities around the world and to deepen care for creation within the life of the Church and its members. It is a practical, spiritual and symbolic response to the environmental crisis, and an act of Christian hope for the well-being of humanity and all God's creation.

The Communion Forest is a global initiative made up of local activities undertaken by parishes, dioceses and provinces across the world. The activities are determined locally, so that they are geographically and environmentally appropriate.

The Communion Forest could therefore become one of the most ecologically diverse and geographically widespread environmental initiatives in the world.



Local expressions might be about planting a new forest, but could equally be about:

- 🌱 Planting trees along boundaries, roads, on church land (eg churchyards)
- 🌱 Restoring a piece of waste land in a town
- 🌱 Creating a tiny city garden
- 🌱 Making your churchyard a wildlife corridor
- 🌱 Setting up a tree nursery
- 🌱 Getting involved in a local conservation project
- 🌱 Advocating to prevent the destruction of a habitat.

The Communion Forest is not just about trees! Other ecosystems that might be relevant in your context include:

- 🌱 **Landscapes:** urban green spaces, grasslands, deserts
- 🌱 **Coastal & marine:** coral reefs, mangrove forests, estuaries, seagrass
- 🌱 **Freshwater:** rivers, lakes, wetlands, streams

## What are the characteristics of a Communion Forest initiative?

With all this diversity, what do Communion Forest initiatives have in common?

Projects and activities that are part of the Communion Forest movement are living demonstrations of the Fifth Anglican Mark of Mission:

*Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*

Specifically, Communion Forest projects should demonstrate the following characteristics. They...

- Are about ecosystem conservation, protection or restoration and/or tree growing.
- Have a strong on-going connection to an Anglican community. This could be a church, diocese, province, school, college, church agency, recognised project or other institution.

- Articulate the Christian motivation for their action.
- Connect with other Marks of Mission, such as serving community food needs or peace building.
- Are brought into the spiritual and liturgical life of the church community (for example, services are held there; there is a connection with baptisms, weddings and/or confirmations).
- Help deepen and challenge people's theology of creation care away from harmful, extractive world views and theologies of domination towards mindsets and theologies of relationship, interdependence and care for the natural world.



## What kind of project do you want to do?

Your first step is to decide what kind of initiative you want to do. Do you want to...

- 🌱 Start a new **tree growing** initiative?
- 🌱 Help **conserve** or **restore** an environment that has become degraded?
- 🌱 **Protect** an existing forest or other habitat?
- 🌱 A mix of the above?

The possibilities are endless, so how do you decide what to do? A good starting point is to ask: what is the next thing God is calling you to do, where you are, with the unique assets (resources, skills, opportunities and experience) you have?

Some general considerations:

- 🌱 Protection and restoration should be considered ahead of establishing something new because this is likely to have the most significant impact environmentally.
- 🌱 Where something new is set up, the emphasis should be on growing, not just planting. It is about growing the right kind of tree in the right place.
- 🌱 Be ambitious! But make sure you focus on quality as well as quantity.
- 🌱 Think about sustainability and the long term.

*"Good forest conservation and restoration work can deliver positive social and environmental impacts. If conducted improperly, they can have negative impacts."*

*"Given the growing global interest in tree planting, it's important to know that planting is just one type of forest restoration and is often used when more natural processes are not feasible."*

*"Overall, good forest restoration involves local people, uses the best methods for the location (not necessarily planting), helps address the drivers of forest loss and degradation, and monitors efforts to make sure the restored forest thrives. It's not only about having more trees in the ground, but a sustainable forest for the future."*

*"It's also important to remember that protecting existing forests is vital to solving these challenges – and as complex systems no amount of restoration can bring back what is lost forever."*

Trillion Trees guide to investing in forest restoration.

# Lay Leaders formation initiatives

## Motion #1:

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.

## Motion #3:

We strongly encourage that every parish set aside a minimum of .1% of their annual budgets to support layreaders between 2024-2029.