



# 162<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of Synod

November 17 – 18, 2023

**CONVENING CIRCULAR**

**SECTION B**

**SYNOD COUNCIL'S REPORT TO SYNOD**

## SYNOD COUNCIL'S REPORT TO SYNOD

### Scope of Report

This is the report of the Synod Council to the members of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of Synod. This report covers the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. During this period, Synod Council held two hybrid meetings, seven video conference calls using Zoom, and had two email polls for a total of 11 meetings. September 28, 2023 Synod Council approved this report.

This report includes:

- I. List of Members of Synod Council and its Committees
- II. A summary of policy and major items discussed or approved by Synod Council,
- III. A list of Parish Administration, Amalgamations and other Arrangements, and
- IV. An overview of diocesan grants, loans and other funding.

Synod Council continues to operate under the Pilot Governance project approved by Synod in 2021. In early 2022, Synod Council approved a policy that defines the decision-making authority of Synod Council together with the authority that Synod Council delegates to its committees. The policy allows a committee to approve certain items, recommend them for approval or report to Synod Council. [Read the policy.](#)

### (I) List of Members

#### Synod Council

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto (Chair), Chris Ambidge, ODT, The Rev. Canon Simon Bell, Chancellor Marg Creal, The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields, , The Rev. Kenute Francis, The Rev. Canon Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD, Finn Keesmaat -Walsh (until November 2022), Delores Lawrence, ODT, George Lewis, ODT, The Rev. Maria Ling, The Rev. Lucia Lloyd, Heather McGregor, ODT, The Rev. Lisa Newland, Stuart Hutcheson, ODT/Peter Patterson, ODT\*, The Rev. Jesse Parker, The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, Sheila Robson, ODT, The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, Major The Rev. Canon Brad Smith, David Toycen, ODT, Canon Laura Walton, ODT, The Rev. Kevin Wong, Eirene Wee.

(\*As Co-Chairs of the Property Committee, they share one vote)



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

## **Committees of Synod Council**

### *Audit Committee*

Don Gillespie, CA (Chair), Johan Van't Hof, CPA, CA, Anne Todd, CMA, Susan Tremayne-Moon, CPA, CA.

### *Finance Committee*

George Lewis, ODT (Chair), Mario Bartolozzi, The Rev. Molly Finlay, Leslie Hajdu, ODT, Vice-Chancellor Mark Hemingway, The Rev. Leonard Leader.

### *Property Committee*

Stuart Hutcheson, ODT (Co-Chair), Peter Patterson, ODT (Co-Chair), Michael Davies, LLP, Laura Johnston, The Rev. Mark Regis, Peter Tovell, ODT, Vice-Chancellor John van Gent

### *Human Resources Committee*

Delores Lawrence, ODT (Chair), Heather McGregor, ODT, The Rev. Michael Perry, Vice-Chancellor Gail Smith, David Town, Orphtee Quarcoo

### *Risk and Governance Committee*

Chancellor Marg Creal (Chair), Vice-Chancellor Brian Armstrong, ODT, Vice-Chancellor Paul Baston, The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, The Rev. Canon Dr. Byron Gilmore, Vice-Chancellor Mark Hemingway, John Nicholl, The Ven. Cheryl Palmer, Vice-Chancellor Gail Smith.

## **(II) Policy and Major Items Discussed or Approved**

- Policy Matters and Major Items Discussed
  - Capital Redeployment grants
  - Cast the Net grants
  - Celebrating Black History Month
  - Changing Church
  - FaithWorks
  - Hybrid Work Policy
  - Leadership Giving
  - Master Agreement for Redevelopment Projects
  - Process and Planning Group
  - Quarterly Fiduciary Reports
- Parish Administration, Amalgamations, and other Arrangements
- **Policy Matters and Major Items Discussed or Approved** (in alphabetical order)
  - **Capital Redeployment grants**



**Diocese of Toronto**  
Anglican Church of Canada

During the height of the pandemic, Diocesan Council raised funds by approving the sale of vacant land using the proceeds to support parishes. Members reflected on the impact and effects of the grant funds offered to the parishes and how they have helped.

- **Cast and Learn Grants**

Cast and Learn grants address a gap in our program and would allow a parish to ask for funding between \$10,000 and \$40,000. These grants allow parishes to try new projects and test new ideas.

- **Celebrating Black History Month**

Members were provided with an overview of the origin of the annual observance of Black History month worldwide and in Canada. The 2023 Black History month theme is “Ours to tell” and focused on the positive impact that people of African heritage have individually and collectively made, and are still making to life in Canada.

- **Changing Church**

Council members enjoyed watching a video on the Anglican Church of Canada’s new strategic planning initiative to explore the theme “A Changing Church, A Searching World and a Faithful God”, which will help unify Canadian Anglicans in embracing the future with confidence and faith. Members were briefed on the learnings received from the national church process and the power of discernment, the power of listening, the power of being in discipleship and the value of an aspirational approach. All the pieces of the strategic initiative came into being when the life of Christ was put in the Centre.

- **FaithWorks**

Synod Council approved the FaithWorks Goal for 2023 of \$1,500,000.

- **Hybrid Work Policy**

The COVID-19 pandemic was a time of many changes for the Diocese of Toronto and its staff. One of the learnings from this period is that while staff can generally work successfully from home, working in the office is still valuable. The Diocese implemented a Hybrid Work Policy and updated our Flexible Hours Policy to reflect this new situation.

- **Leadership Giving**

Giving by leaders is normative, expected and viewed as an honourable practice. Our Director of Stewardship Development discussed the important role that leaders play in modelling generosity. Giving is done from the top to the bottom, inside out, and it means that for any fundraising effort



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada



to be successful, the leadership team must project and model that the vision of the organization.

- **Master Agreement for Redevelopment Projects**

In March 2023, Synod Council approved a Master Agreement that sets out a process and fee structure, and defines the framework for working with Kindred Works. Each new project will follow the same general process which will comply with Canon 6 and will require Synod Council approval. It will avoid the need to recreate a new process for each build, reducing the project timeline, the burden of parish volunteer time, and the need to be subject matter experts in property development. On completion of the project, facility management agreements will be arranged with Kindred Works, avoiding the burden to the parish of managing a building.

- **Process and Planning Group**

The Process and Planning Group continued its work in shaping and planning the agendas for meetings of the Synod Council.

- **Quarterly Fiduciary Reports**

Council members received regular quarterly fiduciary reports consisting of a Litigation Report, Compliance Certificate and Financial Results.

- **Parish Administration, Amalgamations, and other Arrangements**

- **Canon 24 – Diocesan Administration of Parishes**

- **St. Andrew, Japanese and St. David, Donlands**

At its October 20, 2022 meeting, Synod Council approved the voluntary amalgamation of St. David, Donlands and St. Andrew, Japanese. In December 2022, Charles Cutts was appointed the Administrator to help the parish navigate the amalgamation process.

- **St. Bartholomew, Toronto**

This parish has been under diocesan administration since 2012 under Canon 24. Kevin Forrest continues to serve as the Administrator.

- **St Chad**

In March 2022, Council approved that St. Chad be immediately placed under Canon 24. Since October 2022, Philip Conliffe has served as the Administrator and is carrying out the function of receiver and manager.

- **Canon 25 – Diocesan Missions**

While there were no Diocesan Missions established during the reporting period, the following are all designated Canon 25 Diocesan Missions:



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

- All Saints Church-Community Centre
- Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale
- St. George by the Grange (on sabbath rest)
- St. George, Newcastle (on sabbath rest)
- Grace Church in Scarborough
- Holy Wisdom
- St. Mary and St. Martha
- St. Monica
- St. Peter, Cobourg
- St. Stephen, Maple
- Trinity Church, Barrie
- **Disestablishments**
  - **St. Leonard**  
Synod Council acknowledged the disestablishment of St. Leonard at its March 2023 meeting. The last service was held on February 26, 2023. The building remains consecrated and a decision about the future of the building will be made at a later date.

#### **(IV) Diocesan Grants, Loans and Other Funding**

This section contains a summary of grants, loans and other funding provided by the Diocese during the reporting period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

*Information continues on the next page.*



<b>Ministry Allocation Fund Grants (MAF)</b>	<b># of grants/loans</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Congregational Growth	15	465,191
New and/or Innovative Forms of Ministry	6	157,311
Real Estate	2	171,635
Reach Grants	2	10,000
Loan	0	0
Other	2	76,208
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$880,346</b>
<b>Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-Imagine Church (OFOH)</b>	<b># of grants/loans</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Adaptive Re-Use of Parish Facilities	1	40,969
Communicating in a Wireless World	2	31,116
Enabling Parishes to Become Multi-Staffed	1	43,000
Leadership Development	9	148,109
Pioneering Ministry	2	90,315
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$353,509</b>
<b>The Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation(ADTF)</b>	<b># of grants/loans</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Burgess Theological Fund	1	320
Clergy & Theological students endowment	1	2,970
Bullard Theological Fund	2	3,893
Mason Theological Fund	1	89
St. Mark & Calv. Theological Fund	1	1,394
Jackson Theological Fund	3	4,893
Payne Theological Fund	1	206
W. Alex & Shirley Jackson Memorial Fund	1	975
Most Rev. F. J. Hiltz Scholarship Fund	25	127,950
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$142,690</b>
<b>Other Grants</b>	<b># of grants/loans</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Carleton Fund Grants	3	19,262
Area Council Grants	68	82,166
Curacy Grants	17	382,868
FaithWorks Grants	24	1,413,584
Bishop's Company Fund	2	4,000
Discretionary Medical and Dental Grants	9	28,000
York Rectors Fund Grants	54	549,069
Etobicoke Glebe	12	7,200
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,487,149</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>	<b># of grants/loans</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Short Term Disability Reimbursement	16	17,832
Clergy Moving Cost Reimbursement	7	10,211
Widows and Orphans Benefactors	69	65,360
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$93,403</b>



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