



# 163<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session of Synod

November 7 – 8, 2025

**CONVENING CIRCULAR**

**SECTION B**

**SYNOD COUNCIL'S REPORT TO SYNOD**

## Synod Council's Report to Synod

Prepared by:  
Canon Laura Walton, ODT, Secretary of Synod  
June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Scope of Report

This is the report of the Synod Council to the members of the 163<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session of Synod. This report covers the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025. During this period, Synod Council held 17 video conference calls using Zoom and had 8 email polls for a total of 25 meetings. On September 13, 2025, 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.

### (I) List of Members

#### Synod Council

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto (Chair), The Rev. Alvarado Adderly, Chris Ambidge, ODT (since June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025), Varun Balendra, ODT (Executive Director, non-voting), Lawrence Barker, The Rev. Deb Chapman (since June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025), The Rev. Canon Susan Climo, Chancellor Marg Creal, The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields, Delores Lawrence, ODT/ Heather McGregor, ODT\*\*, Constance Kendall, ODT, George Lewis, ODT, The Rev. Lucia Lloyd, The Rev Graham McCaffrey, The Rev. Lisa Newland, Adam Nymann, Stuart Hutcheson, ODT/Peter Patterson, ODT\*, The Rev. Canon Mark Regis, The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, The Rev. Philip Stonhouse, David Toyce, ODT, Canon Laura Walton, ODT (until Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 when hired as a member of Staff), Eirene Wee, The Rev Deb Wilson(until April, 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025).

#### Committees of Synod Council

##### *Audit Committee*

Don Gillespie, CA (Chair), Yvonne Murray, CPA, CMA, Johan Van't Hof, CPA, CA, 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, The Rev. Roshni Jayawardena, Laura Johnston, Peter Tovell, ODT, Vice-Chancellor John van Gent

*Human Resources Committee*

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

*Risk and Governance Committee*

Chancellor Marg Creal (Chair), The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, The Rev Canon Dr Alison Falby, Vice-Chancellor Mark Hemingway, John Nicholl, Vice-Chancellor & Registrar Gail Smith, The Rev Canon Kevin Wong

*Investment Committee*

Dvid MacNicol (Chair), Billy Ng, Stephen Rodaway, ODT, Peter Stanley, Kennedy Marshall, ODT, The Rev Ian LaFleur, The Rev. Louise Dightam, The Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger

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

### **- Policy Matters and Major Items Discussed**

- Area and Area Council Working Group
- Cast and Learn Grants
- Cast the Net & NetMinders – Synod Council Workshop
- Database Project
- FaithWorks
- Ministry Allocation Fund (“MAF”) Grants
- Monthly Committee Reports
- Pre- Development Fund
- Process and Planning Group
- Quarterly Fiduciary Reports
- Season of Spiritual Renewal
- Stretch Grants

### **- Policy Matters and Major Items Discussed or Approved (in alphabetical order)**

#### **○ Area and Area Council Working Group**

This group began its work after the suspension of Canon 43 & 44. Three options were presented to multiple stakeholder groups to gather further insight into changing the area structure. The suggestion was made to ask for the resuspension of Canon 43 & 44 at Synod 2025 in the hopes of putting a pilot project in place for a trial period.

#### **○ Cast and Learn Grants**



Cast and Learn grants address a gap in our program have allowed parishes to ask for funding between \$10,000 and \$40,000. They have been used numerous times in the last 2 years.

- **Cast the Net & Netminders**

The Cast the Networking group completed their work, having Council endorse the Vision and Calls for the diocese that they put forward after an extensive consultation process. This was approved in principle in February 2024 after an in person meeting of Synod Council. The Cast the Net Visioning Team was created which is now known as the Netminders. The final report was issued and accepted.

- **Database Project**

The diocese has begun work on a project that is necessary to enhance security and connectivity. Vendors have been solicited and one was chosen. The project is being worked on and assessed for functionality. Implementation has begun. Funding for this project was through Our Faith Our Hope “Communicating in a Wireless World”.

- **FaithWorks**

Synod Council approved the FaithWorks Goal for 2024 and 2025 of \$1,500,000.

- **MAF Grants & Loans**

These grants and loans are offered in 3 broad categories: real estate, congregational growth and ministry resources and creating new forms of ministry. There were numerous over the last 2 years that were approved by Synod Council based on PEMG’s recommendations.

- **Monthly Committee Reports**

Finance, Human Resources, Property and Risk and Governance Committees submit monthly reports based on their meetings. The reports update Council on the work being done what Council needs to approve for that work to move forward.

- **Pre-Development Fund**

This fund was created to be used as a strategic initiative to support sustainable development projects. Property and Finance Committees will recommend guidelines for the administration and utilization of the funds before any funds are issued.

- **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 fiduciary reports consisting of a Litigation Report, Compliance Certificate and Financial Results.

- **Season of Spiritual Renewal**

The Rev Canon Dr Judy Paulson was hired to oversee the Season of Spiritual Renewal that came from the Cast the Net Report. Plans for the work to be done are updated regularly to Synod Council.

- **Stretch Grants**

These are one-time grants that are meant to boost the reach and ministry of successful projects in the Diocese. They range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 in amounts and fund new and innovative ministries that focus on reconciliation, lay leadership, evangelism, social action, justice and creating a culture of gratitude.

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

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

- **Christ the King** – Has been under Canon 24 since July 2023. Karen Lee, David Oakden and Bill Matthews, ODT are working together with this parish. This admin team was given a year mandate that was expanded into a 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

- **Good Shepard, Stayner** – This parish was removed from the Barrie Regionalization and linked with the South Georgian Bay Regionalization in 2024. They have a Canon 24 admin, Dr. Catherine Raaflaub, who began in September of 2024 to navigate the financial difficulties and work with them as they integrate in the regionalization.

- **Huronian Regionalization** – The Huronia Regionalization was put under Canon 24 Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as the regionalization was built. Canon Laura Walton, ODT covered:

- Good Samaritan, Port Stanton
- St. Paul Washago
- St. Luke, Prices Corner
- St. David, Lutheran Anglican Church, Orillia
- St. George, Fairvalley
- St. John's, Waverly

Once Archdeacon John Anderson becomes Incumbent of the Regionalization in 2025 the Canon 24 coverage will be rescinded.

- **St. Andrew, Japanese/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. He stayed on to continue the work after amalgamation.

- **St. Andrew, Scarborough** – Canon 24 administration began December 31, 2024. Stephen Masson, ODT and Yvonne Murray ODT share this role.
- **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 continued to serve as the Administrator until the parish was disestablished in February 2024. The disestablishment occurred after the Report of the Bishop's Commission of Investigation was received and its recommendation implemented.
- **St. John, West Toronto** – The Canon 24 admins were put in place June of 2024. Stu Hutchison, CMS ODT, Brother Reg Crenshaw OHC ODT and Mario Barolozzi, ODT share this role.
- **St. Matthias, Bellwoods** – The parish was placed with a Canon 24 Administrator, Julie Kretchman on June 24, 2024.
- **Canon 25 – Diocesan Missions**  
While there were no Diocesan Missions established during the reporting period, the following are all designated Canon 25 Diocesan Missions:
  - All Saints Church-Community Centre – Synod Council gave permission for them to incorporate at the >>>>> meeting.
  - Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale
  - St. George by the Grange
  - Grace Church in Scarborough
  - Holy Wisdom
  - St. Mary and St. Martha
  - St. Monica
  - St. Peter, Cobourg
  - Trinity Church, Barrie

### **Disestablishments**

- **St. Chad**  
Synod Council acknowledged the disestablishment of St. Chad at its January 2024 meeting. The last service was held February 11, 2024. The building remains consecrated and a decision about the future of the building will be made later.



- **St. George, Newcastle**  
Synod Council acknowledged the disestablishment of St. George, Newcastle at its May 2024 meeting based on CRA requirements.
- **St John, West Toronto**  
Synod Council received the report from the Canon 13 Commission of Investigation for St John, West Toronto. They confirmed the recommendation therein that the parish should be closed as of July 30, 2024.
- **St. Stephen, Maple**  
Synod Council acknowledged the disestablishment of St. Stephen Maple at its October 2023. The last service was on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The building remains Consecrated.

#### Sabbath Rest

The following churches are currently in a period of Sabbath Rest for an undetermined period of time. The buildings remain consecrated in the hope that this time of rest will allow time to assess ministry and that one day the churches will reopen for ministry and public worship.

- Christ Church, Waubaushene
- St. George, Newcastle
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#### (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, 2023, to June 30, 2025.

<b>Grants Disbursed July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025</b>			
<b>Ministry Allocation Fund Grants (MAF)</b>	<b># of grants/ loans</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Congregational Growth	37	1,291,452	
New and/or Innovative Forms of Ministry	13	344,850	
Real Estate	16	1,178,933	
Reach Grants	5	25,000	
Stretch Grants	2	19,445	
Loan	8	3,222,298	
Tithe	3	100,000	
Other	3	77,534	
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,259,512</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	11,404
Communicating in a Wireless World	4	169,513
Enabling Parishes to Become Multi-Staffed	3	506,268
Leadership Development	14	484,370
Pioneering Ministry	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,171,555</b>

  

<b>The Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation(ADTF)</b>	<b># of grants</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Archbishop Johnson Leadership Development	14	15,436.35
Douglas C. Cowling Bursary	8	47,000.00
St. Mark & Calv. Theological Fund	3	6,544.00
Clergy & Theological Students Endowment	1	3,049.00
Bishop Yu Theological Fund	1	80.00
BO Former Community Dev. Fund	2	5,711.00
Bullard Theological Fund	9	18,233.00
Burgess Theological Fund	2	1,497.00
Jackson Theological Fund	4	4,980.00
Mason Theological Fund	2	414.00
Samuel Chamberlain Fund	1	10,232.00
FaithWorks Endowment Fund	2	126,879.00
Most Rev. F. J. Hiltz Scholarship	6	32,500.00
Payne Theological Fund	1	475.00
W. Alex & Shirley Jackson Memorial End	1	975.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$274,005</b>

  

<b>Other Grants</b>	<b># of grants</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Carleton Fund Grants	5	29,789
Baker Fund Grants	5	151,104
Area Council Grants	21	57,153
Curacy Grants	28	831,405
FaithWorks Grants	55	2,531,721
Bishop's Company Fund	81	195,148
Discretionary Medical and Dental Grants	12	14,827
York Rectors Fund Grants	56	1,257,863





Etobicoke Glebe	24	14,400
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,083,410</b>
<b>Other Funds</b>	<b># of grants</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Short Term Disability Reimbursement	25	29,814
Clergy Moving Cost Reimbursement	18	26,085
Widows and Orphans Benefactors	126	90,300
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$146,199</b>

