



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

161st Regular Session of SYNOD

November 17 – 19, 2022

SYNOD COUNCIL'S REPORT TO SYNOD

Prepared by:
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Secretary of Synod
June 2022

SCOPE OF REPORT

This is the report of the Diocesan Council/Synod Council to the members of the Special Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. During this period, Diocesan Council held 8 meetings (5 email polls and 3 video conference calls using Zoom) and Synod Council 9 meetings (3 email polls and 6 video conference calls using Zoom). On June 16, 2022 Synod Council approved this report.

This report includes:

- (I) A list of members of the Diocesan Council (functioning until December 31, 2021) and Synod Council and its Committees (functioning since January 1, 2022)
- (II) A summary of policy and major items discussed or approved by Council, and
- (III) A summary of diocesan grants, loans and other funding.

(I) List of Members

Diocesan Council (until December 31, 2021)

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil (Chair), Chris Ambidge, ODT, Canon Brian Armstrong, ODT, Mario Bartolozzi, Canon Paul Baston, The Rev. Canon Dr. Eric Beresford, Chancellor Clare Burns, The Rev. Andrea Christensen, Enid Corbett, ODT, Peter Davidson, ODT, Blake Goldring, ODT, Leslie Hajdu, The Rev. Karen Hatch, The Rev. Theodore Hunt, Finn Keesmaat-Walsh, Suzanne Lawson, ODT, The Rev. Leonard Leader, The Rev. Lucia Lloyd, The Rev. Andrew MacDonald, Heather McGregor, ODT, The Rev. Matthew McMillan, Peter Newell, The Rev. Lisa Newland, The Rev. Jesse Parker, Sandy Richmond, ODT, , The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, Sister Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas, SSJD, The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, The Rev. Brad Smith, John Spragge, The Rev. Mike Stuchbery, The Rev. Dr. Monique Taylor, Dave Toycen, ODT, The Very Rev. Stephen Vail, Laura Walton, ODT, The Rev. Kevin Wong.

Synod Council (as of January 1, 2022)

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto (Chair), Chris Ambidge, ODT, The Rev. Canon Simon Bell, Chancellor Clare Burns, The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields, The Rev. Kenute Francis, The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD, Stuart Hutcheson, ODT*, Finn Keesmaat-Walsh, The Rev. Maria Ling, The Rev. Lucia Lloyd, Heather McGregor, ODT, The Rev. Andrew MacDonald, Delores Lawrence, ODT, George Lewis, ODT, The Rev. Jesse Parker, Peter Patterson, ODT*, The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, Sheila Robson, Canon Robert Saffrey (non-voting), The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, Major the Rev. Canon Brad Smith, David Toycen, ODT, Laura Walton, ODT, Eirene Khean Cheng Wee, The Rev. Kevin Wong.

(*As Co-Chairs of the Property Committee, they share 1 vote)



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Committees of Synod Council (as of January 1, 2022)

Audit Committee

Don Gillespie, CA (Chair), R. Paul Singleton, FCA, 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), Vice-Chancellor Marg Creal, Heather McGregor, ODT, The Rev. Michael Perry, Orphee Quarco, David Town.

Risk and Governance Committee

Chancellor Clare Burns (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, Wayne McLeod, John Nicholl, The Rev. Canon Cheryl Palmer, Vice-Chancellor Gail Smith.

(II) Policy Items and Other Major Items

- **Policy Matters** (in alphabetical order)
 - o Capitalization Policy
 - o Ministry Allocation Fund Tithe
 - o Regional Ministry
 - o Synod Council's Policy of Decision-Making and Delegation of Authority Policy
- **Major Items Discussed** (in alphabetical order)
 - o Affordable Housing
 - o Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism Training
 - o Clergy Moving Expenses
 - o Cost of Living Adjustment
 - o Environmental Motions
 - o FaithWorks
 - o Process and Planning Group
 - o Quarterly Fiduciary Reports
 - o Revised Budget for 2022
- **Parish Administration, Amalgamations, and other Arrangements**



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- **Policy Matters**

○ **Capitalization Policy**

A Capitalization Policy was received for information by Diocesan Council at its September 23, 2021 meeting. Any tangible assets over \$2,000 that meet the Policy's definition will be capitalized and amortized per the Accounting Standards for not-for-profit Organizations (ASNPO) standards. The Policy came into effect on August 1, 2021.

○ **Ministry Allocation Fund Tithe**

As reported to Synod in November 2021, Diocesan Council chose to donate a tithe to Indigenous Partners from funds received through the sale of surplus property over the next five years. A primary consideration of our Diocese is to give to Indigenous Peoples first before other diocesan initiatives.

For the period between Synod in 2021 and December 31, 2026, the Diocese of Toronto has committed to helping right our relationship with our First Nations Peoples. We are achieving this by spending up to the current balance of the MAF tithe for this purpose.

○ **Regional Ministry**

Regional ministries help ministries flourish in a wider geographical area while considering the Diocese's vision and mission. A small group developed a module in 2021 to help support the development of regional ministries. In addition, Diocesan staff identified a need to place curates in these regional ministries for training purposes. After training, these curates will take up leadership roles in their churches. Council agreed to a pilot project to fund curates that will go into strategic locations in the Diocese.

○ **Synod Council's Policy of Decision-Making and Delegation of Authority Policy**

A Policy that defines the decision-making authority of Synod Council, together with the authority that Synod Council delegates to the Finance Committee, the Human Resources Committee, the Property Committee and the Risk and Governance Committee of Synod Council was developed and approved. The Policy is considered a "work in progress" for the pilot period and will be reviewed regularly.

- **Major Items Discussed (in alphabetical order)**

○ **Affordable Housing**

The Property Committee sees as a top priority the creation of a process for parish property redevelopment that will facilitate the creation of affordable housing.

In developing a development model the following concerns have been identified:

- Use of for-profit developers carries certain risks for parishes.



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- Enormous time commitment by parish officers (who are often not experts in property matters).
- Before construction is completed, there is a risk of developer project failure & resultant loss of promised outcomes.
- After completion, risk of poor building construction or property management – the parish is merely a tenant with no authority.

In response to these concerns, the following concept for development has been developed:

- Work (including legal expenses) handled at the Diocesan level - to prepare a proven template for parishes to use.

Key Elements include:

- Work with an ecumenical developer
- Parish/diocese retain ownership of the property
- Use of a trust (or other) approach to preserve parish charitable status
- Repeatable approval process with Municipality, so each future approval takes less time and bureaucracy

Target Outcomes:

- 30%+ affordable units in market-level building
- Climate positive structure
- Built to last
- Professional property managers after completion
- Worship space (as needed)
- Community space (as needed)
- Annual flow of funds to support ministry at parish and diocesan levels

The Diocese is working closely with St. Mary and St Martha and St. George by the Grange as it works towards achieving the target outcomes identified.

- **Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism Training**
Members of Council participated in Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism Training on September 17 and 18, 2021.
- **Clergy Moving Expenses**
Diocesan Council approved that the maximum contribution for clergy moves in 2022 as set out in Canon 11, section 6 would remain at \$1,500.
- **Cost of Living Adjustment**
A cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the clergy minimum stipend scale, diocesan staff scale, and unit amounts of 3.0% were approved for 2022.



○ **Environmental Motions**

In 2019 Diocesan Synod approved two motions relating to creation care: Motion #10, encouraging parishes and individual Anglicans to curtail their use of single-use plastic products, and Motion #15, urging the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care to develop a Diocesan Environmental Plan, addressing such matters as Diocesan spending practices, travel policies, land use and development, assisting parishes with reducing their carbon footprint, assisting clergy to purchase or lease zero emission vehicles, developing modules for clergy and lay formation on the connection between creation care and the Gospel and promoting reduced consumption as part of a Christian rule of life.

The Bishop's Committee on Creation Care (the Committee), while it does not report to Synod but rather to the Diocesan Bishop, has made the following progress on these motions in 2021-22:

- Concerning Motion #10 and single-use plastics, the Committee has produced a colour poster for parishes with suggestions of alternatives for single-use plastics commonly used in parish operations, especially in the kitchen, cleaning and waste management, and children's ministry. This poster can be found on the Diocesan website at <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/social-justice-advocacy/creation-care/practical-greening/>
- As regards Motion #15, during 2021-22 the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care has primarily focused on promoting community gardens (using its community garden toolkit created in spring of 2021); creating educational and liturgical resources to help bring together the connection between creation care and the Gospel; and working (together with other Dioceses in the Anglican Church of Canada) on finding ways for parishes to reduce their environmental footprint. This work has been promoted through expanded communications via articles in the monthly Anglican newsletter and posts on a dedicated Facebook page.

The committee is encouraged by the many parishes around the Diocese which have embarked on new or expanded community garden projects in the past year. Several of these projects have focused on adding native plants to attract and sustain pollinator species of insects and birds. Garden projects have been especially popular through the COVID-19 pandemic as offering a lower-risk way for parishioners to work together. They also provide a visible witness to the local community of a parish's commitment to caring for creation – and often a way for the community to participate in that endeavour.

A major piece of work for the Committee was the creation of the resource, "Ecological Grief and Creational Hope: A Lent Curriculum for all Ages." Each unit of this six-week curriculum offered deep reflection on a scriptural text, questions for reflection, prayers, suggested activities, and resources for digging deeper. Adaptions were identified for using the resource



with children and youth. Not only did several parishes in the Diocese use this curriculum during Lent 2022, but the resource has been picked up for use by Dioceses across Canada and the U.S., and is being adapted for use during other seasons of the church year, including the Season of Creation.

Work continues on updating the Diocesan Green Congregation Guide, with input from the Diocese of Niagara and the interfaith organization Faith & the Common Good. The Committee is also exploring how our Diocese might become involved in a Net Zero Churches network proposed by members of the national Creation Matters Working Group of the Anglican Church of Canada. The goal of the network is to connect Dioceses across the Anglican Church of Canada, provide a suite of recommended solutions for parishes looking to reduce their carbon footprint, and help connect them with the expertise and financial incentives to implement those solutions. The Committee is in discussions with the Diocesan Bishop and the Diocesan Property Committee to see how our Diocese might participate in this initiative and how it might fit in with the strategic planning and vision of the Diocese.

- **FaithWorks**

Diocesan Council approved the FaithWorks Goal for 2022 of \$1,500,000.

- **Process and Planning Group**

A newly constituted Process and Planning Group was formed to shape and plan 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.

- **Revised Budget for 2022**

At its March 2022 meeting, Council approved a Revised Budget for 2022.

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

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

- **St. Bartholomew, Toronto**

- This parish has been under diocesan administration since 2012 under Canon 24. In September 2021, Council approved the re-appointment of Kevin Forrest as Administrator for a further 6-month term.



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- **St. John, West Toronto**

In October 2020, Council approved that St. John, West Toronto, be immediately placed under Canon 24. Philip Conliffe has been serving as their Administrator to carry on the function of receiver and manager since that time, most recently being reappointed in October 2021 for another term.

- **St Chad**

In March 2022, Council approved that St. Chad be immediately placed under Canon 24. Varun Balendra has been serving as their Administrator to carry on the function of receiver and manager since that time.

- **Canon 25 – Diocesan Missions**

- **Grace Church in Scarborough**

At the request of the parish, Grace Church in Scarborough was designated a Diocesan Mission at the April 28, 2022 meeting of Council. A Board of Management has assumed the governance.

- **Trinity Church, Barrie**

In recent years, Trinity Church, Barrie has been through transition and is working on recovering in a fresh way. The parish was invited, and they have taken up the offer to request a designation of Diocesan Mission pursuant to Canon 25 with the establishment of a Board of Management effective October 1, 2021.

- **Disestablishments**

- **Christ Church, Omemee**

Diocesan Council acknowledged that the congregation of Christ Church, Omemee in the Parish of Ida and Omemee be disestablished as of December 31, 2021.



(III) 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, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

Ministry Allocation Fund Grants (MAF)	# of grants/loans	Amount
Congregational Growth	17	304,287
New and/or Innovative Forms of Ministry	2	124,000
Real Estate	2	544,000
New Hope Mission Grants	7	45,250
Reach Grants	15	60,010
Stretch Grants	1	20,000
Loan	3	3,450,000
Other	7	392,969.33
Total		\$ 4,940,516

Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-Imagine Church (OFOH)	# of grants/loans	Amount
Adaptive Re-Use of Parish Facilities	0	0
Communicating in a Wireless World	5	27,024
Enabling Parishes to Become Multi-Staffed	2	35,000
Leadership Development	6	109,822
Pioneering Ministry	0	0
Total		\$171,846

The Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation (ADTF)	# of grants/loans	Amount
FaithWorks Endowment Fund	1	67,250
BO Bishops Company	1	25,685
BO Soward Bequest	1	99,095
BO See House	1	28,604
BO Former Community Dev. Fund	2	3,433
BO Episcopal Endowment	1	128,630
Howland Estate	7	1,603
Burgess Theological Fund	1	696
Clergy & Theological students endowment	2	2,876
Bullard Theological Fund	5	8,490
Mason Theological Fund	1	193
St. Mark & Calv. Theological Fund	2	3,045
Jackson Theological Fund	2	2,472
Payne Theological Fund	1	447
Archbishop Johnson Leadership Development	1	7,850
Canon Robert L. Falby Memorial Fund	1	25,560
W. Alex & Shirley Jackson Memorial Fund	1	1,200
Most Rev. F. J. Hiltz Scholarship Fund	1	5,000
Samuel Chamberlain Fund	1	10,750
Total		\$422,879



Other Grants	# of grants/loans	Amount
Carleton Fund Grants	2	15,339
Area Council Grants	21	80,450
Curacy Grants	97	239,216
FaithWorks Grants	32	1,436,502
Bishop's Company Fund	3	4,250
Discretionary Medical and Dental Grants	5	9,317
York Rectors Fund Grants	54	450,202
Etobicoke Glebe	12	7,200
Total		\$2,242,476

Other Funds	# of grants/loans	Amount
Short Term Disability Reimbursement	2	8,614
Parental & pregnancy leave	4	4,000
Clergy Moving Cost Reimbursement	6	8,922
Clergy Retirement Housing & Retiree benefit fund	9	69,121
Widows and Orphans Benefactors	74	60,590
Total		\$151,247

