

Executive Committee of the Diocese of Algoma Meeting Summary

November 24-25, 2021

Archbishop Anne's Motto for 2022

"So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new."

(2. Cor. 5.17)

The Executive Committee meets three times a year in order to pray, discern and discuss the work in between Diocesan Synods. Gathering as one, this body serves the wider diocese and church.

A Message of HOPE: Our opening reflection was led by Bishop Victoria Matthews who is canonically resident in the Diocese as the Bishop in Residence at St. Michael and All Angels in Thunder Bay. In honour of the approaching season of Advent, she provided a message of HOPE and reflected on her experience of leading the Diocese of Christchurch in New Zealand following a major earthquake in 2011 which destroyed the cathedral. Ms. Peggy Morrison opened our second day of meeting with a reflection on Jesus' encounter with the disciples on the road to Emmaus: just when they thought all HOPE was lost, Jesus reminded them of the 'big picture' of God's plan, and it kindled HOPE within them again!

Executive Committee's HOPE: While we are still in the pandemic, we are in a transitional liminal time where we are moving from an ending towards a new beginning. We have HOPE for new beginnings in the Anglican Church of Canada. The Diocese of Algoma has been invited to participate in consultations with members of the Strategic Plan Working Group from the Council of General Synod as we prepare for General Synod next year. *Invitation to participate will be extended throughout Algoma and Moosonee.* Those willing to participate will be asked to offer their insights on how the Anglican Church of Canada can become a transformative church. More details to come as dates are set.

-We celebrated the \$10,000 raised for the *Say Yes! To Kids campaign* for the Anglican Foundation of Canada. To our knowledge all applicants for grants will be recipients.

-We also celebrated those who *graduated from Thorneloe University's 39th Convocation*, and for the new beginnings of both the students and the university.

-We celebrated the emerging staff position of *Indigenous Ministries Coordinator*. There are currently consultations with Indigenous elders surrounding the best way to fill this position.

-We celebrated the faith and ingenuity of the *Anglican Church Women's ministry* in the Diocese and nationwide.

-We celebrated the newly formed *Social Justice Committee* scheduled to have their first meeting on the weekend.

Reopening Protocols : The latest [Revised Reopening Protocols](#) are now available on the Diocesan website. These changes came into effect November 25. Implementation will vary depending on the protocols of your local Public Health Unit. Please continue to consult the Diocesan website for updates in addition to your local public health authority's website.

Property Matters Across the Diocese: We dealt with issues arising from parishes and sales of various vacant lands. We updated the membership of the Property Committee to include current Regional Deans Rev. Gordon Holroyd and Rev. Heather Manuel. We extended the contract of our Property Coordinator, Mr. Ken Lawson, through to March 2024. Ken's mission is to update the property records, attend to title and variance issues and facilitate the sale, transfer or disposal of Diocesan properties and unused lands. Ken's salary is paid from the proceeds from the sale of these lands. We approved a motion to allow the Diocesan Officials to dispose of unused lands that are unrelated to a parish upon consultation with the Deanery Officials, and report the disposal to the Executive Committee.

Financial Discussions: We dedicated our second day of meeting to reviewing the Diocesan financial statements and discussing the financial realities we face in the years ahead. We acknowledged the reality of decline in our Diocese but, are taking initiatives to address it; we acknowledge the stress and struggle of our parishes; we acknowledge the conversations are only at the beginning, and the answers are not simple. We also acknowledge the increased cost of living and have voted to increase the minimum stipend and diocesan office salaries by 0.5% while retaining suspensions for additional apportionment per Synod, contributions to the travel pool, and the supplementary employment benefit (SEB) for 2022. As we continue down this road, we dare to HOPE that Jesus will meet us, walk with us, and reveal to us the wisdom of God's plan for us. Let's walk together! The journey is just beginning!

Please contact your Archdeacon & Deanery Officials for more details about the work of the Executive Committee.

Submitted by:

Mr. Thomas Ferris (Algoma Lay Steward) & The Rev. Heather Manuel (Muskoka Regional Dean)