

Diocesan Executive Committee Meeting Summary

Wednesday June 8 and Thursday June 9, 2022

Our meeting on June 8th began with worship. We reflected on Psalm 16. Archbishop Anne invited us to reflect on the psalm's contemporary translation that is included in *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* by Eugene Peterson. This reflection enabled us to consider the importance that our modern-day language plays in Biblical study and interpretation.

Archbishop's Report:

"Treebilee"

- Archbishop Anne began her very thorough and comprehensive report by paying tribute to Queen Elizabeth as she marks her Platinum Jubilee. In celebration of this significant occasion Archbishop Anne reminded us of her Diocesan initiative that encourages every parish in Algoma to help raise up a "green canopy" over Algoma by planting trees in honour and celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Archbishop Anne congratulated those people and parishes who have done some successful community tree planting, and she encourages those who have not yet done so, to consider how they might celebrate a "Treebilee" by planting trees in honour of the Queen and for the sake of Creation Care.

Covid Protocols – Entering Green Stage

- Revised Covid Protocols for the Green Stage in Algoma are posted on the Diocesan website.
- Parishes that are using individual cups must provide sound theological education on the Holy Eucharist to enable a smooth return back to Common Cup. Where it applies this must remain an item for Vestry meetings until the Common Cup is restored. Archbishop Anne has encouraged us to enjoy the "freedoms" we have now, especially in light of the fact that parishes may need to pivot and pull back should the numbers of Covid cases begin to rise.

What Does it Mean to Be Church?

- Archbishop Anne asks that everyone serving within the local parish level, deanery level, and diocesan level begin to seriously ask, discern and enter into productive dialogue about what it means for us to *be* the Church in this current place and time? The Archbishop underscored the fact that we know we need to change, but we are not sure how, or what to do. She reported that each Deanery in the Diocese of Algoma will receive \$3000.00 as seed money to help explore, develop and implement new ways of doing ministry.

Ministry of Presence – Raising Up Lay Leaders

- Archbishop Anne said that she would like to see our diocese offer more spiritual formation and training in order to better equip our faithful Lay Leaders in their various ministries. This will be included in her report to Synod in 2023.

Covid Protocols Update:

- Further to the Archbishop's Report, Archdeacon Jay Koyle explained the liturgical and theological reasons for why the Common Cup is the best practice for Anglicans upon entering the *Green Stage*. He noted that in terms of transmitting germs or viruses, being in close proximity to people indoors without the safety precaution of wearing a mask is riskier than is sharing the Common Cup at Communion.

The Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG) of the Council of General Synod (CoGS)

- Members of the Executive Committee heard and participated in a presentation given by The Strategic Planning Working Group of General Synod. The SPWG introduced us to the *Five Transformational Aspirations* which have been adopted by the Council of General Synod and in breakout groups we reflected on the following questions: Do the Five Aspirations appeal to you? Do they correspond to your current activities and future hopes? Are there things that are missing or unclear? What followed was a rich and thought-provoking discussion.

Financials:

- RBC Financial Advisors Leila Fiouzi and Jacinta O'Connor presented the Executive Committee with a thorough update on all diocesan investments.
- There was some discussion, followed by a motion that the \$75,000 of Algoma's Funds for the Residential School Settlement be redirected to the *Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association*.
- A discussion was had concerning the proposal to increase mileage and travel rates in light of gas prices and high inflation. The casual rate for travel will increase from 0.40/km to 0.50/km. Incumbents will be asked to submit mileage for the year to assess the travel allowance received. Any overages will be drawn from the Diocesan travel pool.
- Jane Mesich cautioned that without government (pandemic) subsidies being received in 2022-23 there will be financial difficulties going forward.

Property Matters:

Property Matters were discussed for the following parishes. Deanery Officials have further details.

- St. John's Garden River
- The Chapel of St. Stephen's Vankoughnet
- St. John's Schreiber
- St. Michael and All Angels Thunder Bay
- St. Peter's Sault Saint Marie
- All Saints White River

Governance:

- With the help and support of the Rev. Heather Manuel and the Rev. Claire Miller, new forms for Parish Visits by Deanery Officials have been created. The new forms will be standard forms used by Deanery Officials across the diocese. There were some suggested corrections to these forms that were agreed upon. Deanery Officials will await to receive the revised forms before they serve as Algoma's official visitation forms.

Committee Reports:

Reports were received from:

- Social Justice Committee
- Diocesan ACW
- Sudbury-Manitoulin Pastoral Care Worker

Looking Ahead: Meetings to be held at Villa Loyola, Sudbury

- Archbishop's Council – November 7-8
- Diocesan Executive Committee Meeting – November 9-10

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green and Mr. Dale Sparkes