

**Diocese of Algoma Executive Committee Meeting Summary**  
**Wednesday, November 9 and Thursday, November 10, 2022**

We began by reflecting on 1 Peter 1, which was used as a study for Lambeth. The theme was hope. Archbishop Anne reminds us that we can be confident that God can be trusted. He is a living hope. So much around is not hopeful but hope lives deep within us.

**Archbishop's Report**

Archbishop Anne welcomed everyone to the first in person Executive Committee meeting since November 2019. A warm welcome was extended to Carol Nesbitt, the newest member of the committee who has been appointed as the Indigenous/Metis Representative.

Prayers were offered for all who are sick, bereaved, or who continue to suffer as a result of the pandemic as well as individuals in our Diocese and remembered with gratitude Algoma's faithful saints who died in the past year.

We prayed for candidates for ordination and the recently ordained: The Rev. Ann Camber, was ordained as a priest on October 15<sup>th</sup> at Gathering Table in Thunder Bay. On Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, Joyce Foster, Normand Blanchard and Elizabeth Kingston will be ordained to the sacred order of deacons at the Church of the Epiphany in Sudbury at 2pm.

Update on the appointment of the National Anglican Indigenous Archbishop: the selection committee appointed by the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples has interviewed 8 candidates: five bishops and three clergy. Following the selection of the candidate by the committee, that individual will be presented to ACIP and then to the Primate who makes the appointment.

God's Church for God's World – 2022 the Lambeth Conference:

Archbishop Anne thanked the Diocese for sponsoring her to attend the conference and for the contribution of Algoma to the bursary fund which allowed bishops in developing provinces to attend. She reminded us that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves, a different, diverse and varied Communion. She related that there were hard moments when some bishops walked out on Eucharist not wanting to share with others. There were interesting questions about how we function in the cold in Algoma and beautiful moments rooted in prayer and worship. There are many contentious issues however, people sat and listened to one another even though views had not changed. There was a better understanding about each other's context. There is a new appreciation for the Anglican Communion and our place in it. That is what binds us together in this living hope in Jesus and we have to cling to that.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby presented calls around many themes: human dignity got a lot of attention as well as conflict and the undercurrent of tension. He spoke as our leader, named the tension and called everyone to be grown up in Christ and have these hard conversations. He assured everyone that Dioceses that are or are not ready are not going to be disciplined. He gave the leadership that was needed.

Travel, presentations and upcoming engagements

Archbishop Anne expressed that she is delighted to be visiting the Deaneries to hear the stories, take part in ordinations, and to hear the encouragement of our parishes. She thanked those who have had or are having services celebrating the life of Queen Elizabeth and asked for prayers for King Charles III and the Royal family.

A list of the new appointments to positions in the Diocese was presented as well as parishes still in the appointment process. There are three Postulants for ordination to the presbyterate: Thomas Ferris (Emmaus Anglican and St. James Goulais River), Captain Deb Everest – Lay Incumbent at St. George's Thunder Bay and Mrs. Jan Latham – Diocesan Lay Reader serving in Thunder Bay/North Shore Deanery.

### COVID Protocols

There was some discussion about COVID protocols and the influenza increase. Congregations are encouraged to practice safety- if unwell - stay home; take tests; get vaccinated; wear masks.

### Business Arising

Business Arising from the June 8 and 9 Executive Committee meeting was discussed.

Topics included:

- . All Saints, White River
- . Investment Portfolio
- . Canon B3 Update
- . Diocesan Response Group
- . Policy on Remuneration of Honorary Assistants/Associates
- . St. John's, Garden River
- . St. Stephen's, Vankoughnet

### New Business

Anglican Foundation Grant Application - Archdeacon Jay presented a grant application proposal to the Executive Committee, "ReStorying the Church". It is intended to work on discipleship as one of our seeds. It would engage a key group of people to come together and receive training to train and model for others. It is hoped that it will be ready to go with a general budget and how it will be of benefit and how we will resource it for the next meeting of the Anglican Foundation.

There are now four grant cycles beginning in January 2023. A project cannot begin until it has been approved, so the Foundation is increasing the grant cycles to accommodate the need for timely action. We will find out if we have increased submissions to 8 from 4. It is also no longer a requirement to be members of the Anglican Foundation. Grant cycle dates will be posted.

Sudbury-Manitoulin Pastoral Worker - Archdeacon Glen Miller thanked the Rev. Beverly Van der Jagt for her work as Pastoral Worker for the Deanery. Suggestions are being made on how to work the position moving forward.

### Property Matters

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

- . Gathering Table, Thunder Bay
- . St. Michael and All Angels, Thunder Bay

### Mixed Deanery Discussion Groups:

Following dinner, we broke into four groups and had a discussion about courageous conversations in our Deaneries.

### Taizé Service

Our Wednesday evening concluded with a beautiful Taizé service led by Normand Blanchard. The chapel was warm with candlelight and the iconic image of Mary and Jesus. The service was full of inspirational music and singing, readings and times of quiet reflection. A full ten minutes of silent meditation was included. It offered a peaceful, serene conclusion to a very busy day of travel for some and business meetings. We were very blessed to have Normand with us.

## **Thursday, November 10**

After breakfast, the Ven. Glen Miller was celebrant for our Eucharist service and gave the reflection. Our meeting resumed following our worship service. Carol Nesbitt, our Indigenous/Metis Representative began the meeting with a traditional greeting.

We were joined by The Reverend Canon Dr. John Gibaut, President and Provost of Thorneloe University, who updated us on the programs being offered and the necessary changes that have been made. Canon John thanked Archbishop Anne for her support as Chancellor and Archdeacon Glen Miller.

Looking ahead, Thorneloe is considering what could profitably be taught in Northern Ontario that no one else is teaching. Thorneloe is not yet done but in a limbo situation however, looking to the future. It has been devastating for those who have lost their jobs and sadness about the Chapel. It is still open, but no regular service is offered.

## **Committee Reports**

Anglican Church Women – presented by Diocesan ACW President Janet Pike. She reported on the National ACW Presidents' Conference September 29 to October 2 in Corner Brook, NL and the status of the ACW groups in our Diocese.

Social Justice Committee – presented by Chair, the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green - committee would like to know what is being done in our Deaneries and parishes specifically to address poverty in the North and human trafficking. She shared that the UN has a calendar with a special daily focus. There are new mayors who have been in Federal politics elected recently. Archbishop Anne is planning to make appointments to meet with the new mayors. Archdeacons are asked to meet with new officials and let them know that our Archbishop will be coming.

Diocesan Anglican Foundation Representative – Anne Wilson is a wonderful Foundation resource that Deaneries can call upon for presentations.

## **Financials**

Diocesan Treasurer, Jane Mesich, and Assistant Treasurer, Jennifer Baron, presented the Financial Statements. We are no longer receiving the COVID wage subsidy which is impacting our income. Monthly obligations need to be remitted to Synod office to avoid stressing the day-to-day operations of the Diocese. Payroll is done regardless of what is received, however \$250,000 is needed to meet that.

Updates: The office has a new accounting program. We have a new Insurance Broker. Everything is working well so far.

The Budget was presented for 2023. It is a maintenance budget with a 2% increase built in for stipend and travel. Deficit budgets are anticipated this year and next.

The Administration and Finance Committee holds nine meetings – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month and is looking for new members particularly anyone with legal expertise. It deals with audit, investments, banking and property matters. With Zoom capabilities more members could join.

## **Parish Reports**

Report was received from St. Peter's, Callander.

**Looking Ahead: the next meeting will be held via Zoom in March 2023.** Dates to be announced.

Submitted by:

Laurie Sandham, Lay Steward, Thunder Bay – North Shore and Janet Pike, Diocesan ACW President