Highlights of the May 11-12 (2023) Meeting of the Diocesan Executive Committee

The new Diocesan Executive Committee met twice during Diocesan Synod. As new members were present following recent elections at Deanery Councils, the Archbishop introduced everybody to one another after we opened in prayer. She also thanked out-going Diocesan ACW President, Janet Pike, and welcomed Emily Noble to the Executive Committee, as she prepares to fill her shoes once the ACW Annual takes place in North Bay at the end of this month.

Executive members considered four motions. Two were decided, and two were deferred to the next meeting, which will take place in November 2023.

Decisions taken:

1. Approved, in principle, a loan up to the amount of $500,000 from the Archbishop Wright fund (ABW) for repairs and upgrades to office buildings, owned by the Diocese, that are located on the same lot as our Cathedral and Synod Office. This request comes after at least five years of ongoing and thorough discussions between the Cathedral congregation, the Synod Office staff, and the William McMurry Corporation, as well as real estate and other consultants. The strong intention is to retain the building not only as a current revenue stream, but also for future creative use to serve our shared Diocesan mission.
2. Approved a loan of up to $20,000, also from the ABW fund, to Church of the Ascension, Sudbury, for urgent repairs to the rectory.

Deferred motions:

1. A loan request from St. John the Divine, North Bay, for up to $71,500 from the ABW fund was considered for a second time. This money is sought for repairs to the sanctuary ceiling. The congregation has begun their own fundraising towards this project and submitted a robust report outlining their mission and ministry activities, centred in downtown North Bay. Executive tabled the motion and will consider this request again at the November meeting. Their application to the Anglican Foundation, also in support of this project, must necessarily be put on hold until Executive reaches a decision.
2. A motion to close St. John the Baptist, Ravenscliffe, was deferred to the November meeting. St. John's has been a chapel for a few years but needed a new patron church in order to keep functioning as such. A new offer of patronage has been made within the Deanery of Muskoka (where Ravenscliffe is located) and is being considered by the Archbishop.

The Executive was not able to complete the agenda due to the limited time to meet during Synod. The Accounts Receivable document was circulated, detailing amounts owing to the Diocese from every parish where applicable. Deanery Officials have been asked to follow up where congregations are in arrears and to report their learnings, which will now need to come to the November meeting. Executive was also provided with a report from the Diocesan ACW. All other business that had been on the agenda will be brought forward to the November meeting.