**Diocese of Algoma Executive Committee Meeting November 15- 16, 2023 Villa Loyola, Sudbury**

We began with an energizer exercise in which our Chair, Archbishop Anne, divided us into groups of 3 and we answered questions such as:

* What is your favourite Christmas memory?
* What is #1 on your bucket list?
* What was a highlight for you in 2023?

**Archbishop’s Report**

In her Report, Archbishop Anne encouraged us to read the following 2 books: *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and *Stick with Love* by Arun Arora

The new motto for 2024 is from 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (*God loves a cheerful giver*)

Archbishop Anne asked us to pray for Thorneloe University and for their retiring president, Dr. John Gibaut.

She asked us to have conversations about difficult and divisive issues in a civil way and to not be polarized. We need informed conversations as long as we are respectful.

The Archbishop confirmed that, contrary to what was reported in the *Anglican Journal,* she will not be the acting primate when Archbishop Linda Nicholls retires.

**Business Arising from the May 2023 Meeting**

1. St. John the Baptist Ravenscliffe – motion for closure, tabled at the last Executive meeting, was withdrawn by the mover and seconder as they will become a chapel of the Parish of Muskoka Lakes.
2. The rectory beside Gathering Table, Thunder Bay, is in the process of demolition.
3. **It is essential that parish annual returns and statistical forms be completed and returned to the synod office on time.** There are no consequences for incumbents not returning the forms at this time. It is the responsibility of the incumbent to ensure these forms are completed and returned by the required deadline.
4. The Diocesan Property Committee meets around 3 times each year on zoom. The committee needs 3 more members.

**Property Matters**

* Northern Lights Parish is applying to the Anglican Foundation for January 2024 for the repair of the rectory foundation for a grant of $15,000. This application was endorsed by the Executive Committee.
* An addendum to the loan from the Archbishop Wright Building Fund was approved for the rectory of the Church of the Ascension in Sudbury to repair water damage.
* Updates were given about property repairs/improvements completed at other churches.

**Committee Reports**

**Anne Wilson**, our Diocesan Rep for the Anglican Foundation, gave an interesting report on the inclusive and extensive work of the Anglican Foundation.

In the ACW Report, we read that **Janet Pike** from St. Stephen’s in Thunder Bay, has been elected as the national ACW Vice-President.

**Treasurer’s Statements**

We reviewed our diocesan financial statements and accounts receivables for the first 9 months of 2023. Nearly $100,000 will need to be transferred from reserves in order to balance the budget.

The draft 2024 budget was presented by Canon Jane, our Treasurer. The minimum stipend will be increased by 3%, up to $42,317, and the travel allowance will be increased by 3% up to $8,066. It is projected that $191,000 will need to be transferred from reserves in order to balance the budget. At the end of 2024, we might be left with $500,000 in reserves. This is a troubling reality.

**Worship on Nov. 16**

We shared eucharist and Archbishop Anne preached a powerful and moving sermon on remembering that Jesus is with us in the midst of hard times both within the church and outside of the church. We are called to proclaim the gospel and to remember that we are all children of light and to walk as children of light (Paul’s words to the Christians in Thessalonica).

**New Business**

We were informed about the amalgamation of St. Saviour’s in Blind River and Church of the Redeemer in Thessalon and we passed a resolution supporting and affirming this consolidation.

We also commended to the Archbishop the proposed amalgamation of Trinity in Parry Sound and the Parish of Muskoka Lakes. The purpose is to share the cost of an incumbent and to focus on evangelism and on growth.

We approved the transfer of the Episcopal Funds to the Anglican Foundation by the end of 2023. The cash amount is currently around $1,000,000. Additional monies received will be sent to the Anglican Foundation to be part of this new *Algoma Episcopal Fund*. The earnings on the fund will be used to support the ministry of the bishop. The Anglican Foundation is well-versed in investments and sees a need to provide this expertise. For the present time, the Diocese will receive a 4% rate of return every year.

We approved the relocation of gas and sewer lines from an easement to the property of All Saints in Huntsville.

Bridge financing for St. Luke’s Cathedral was approved in support of 180 Brock Street expenses when vacated by Social Services.

**Conclusion**

It was wonderful to have an in-person meeting. The next two meetings coming in 2024 will be done by ZOOM. It had been 4 years since I had been to Villa Loyola in Sudbury and it was a blessing and a privilege.

I thank God for our capable synod staff who work so hard and answer all our questions.

Wishing you God’s presence and blessing,

Deborah Kraft

Archdeacon, Thunder Bay-North Shore