Highlights from the March Meeting of the Diocesan Executive Committee (March 6-7 2024)

FOR OUR COLLECTIVE “TO DO” LIST:

Parishes are asked to send in registers (Sunday vestry books, marriage/funeral/baptism/confirmation registers) to the **Diocesan Archives** as soon as they are full OR when they are of an age where the paper could begin to yellow. A general guideline is if a register is older than the year 2000, it should be sent in whether it is full or not so that the paper can be preserved.

June 2nd, 2024 is **“Say Yes To Kids! Sunday”** in Algoma! Visit the Anglican Foundation of Canada website for resources to mark this Sunday.

In Deaneries where there is not someone who has taken on the task of **Vector Solutions Screening in Faith training** for the whole Deanery, parishes must select someone do this on behalf of the parish, and send that person’s name to Liz Hamel at the Synod Office by the end of March. This applies to Muskoka and in Thunder Bay-North Shore. This training is mandatory and is part of our commitment to Safe Church.

The **ACW Annual** is taking place in Huntsville (Muskoka Deanery) May 28th – 30th. We celebrate with Janet Pike, who is becoming the National ACW President. Registration and other information can be found on the Diocesan website ([www.dioceseofalgoma.com](http://www.dioceseofalgoma.com), then go to “Ministries” then select “Anglican Church Women.”)

The Social Justice Committee of the Diocese asks us to promote **Homelessness Week**, which is the week of April 28th. Further information will be available soon on the Diocesan website.

FINANCES:

At the end of January, the **Diocesan budget showed a deficit of ($8,779)** compared to a $3,581surplus in 2023. The $11.000 reduction is due to an apportionment decrease of $2,500 and an increase in expenses related to retirement allowances and employment cost of approximately $8,500.

The Diocese had receivables from parishes of $350,000 at the end of January 2024. This is because of arrears and late payments from the parishes for apportionment and central payroll. The overdraft protection the diocese has is $250,000. Therefore, the cashflow situation at the diocese is critical. Parishes are asked to pay whatever they can as soon as they can, even if it’s just a partial payment.

PROPERTY:

The building at **180 Brock Street** (on the same lot as St. Luke’s Cathedral and the Synod Office) will not have a tenant in it come April. Revenue from this tenant helps support St. Luke’s Cathedral so a strategy to recoup this loss and further increase income is needed. The Executive Committee has enabled further discussion to happen among the relevant parties in Sault Ste. Marie to discern a way forward.

The **Church of the Ascension, Sudbury**, has asked Executive for permission to engage a real estate agent to sell the **Rectory** and this was granted. It had been hoped that renting out the rectory would result in a net financial gain for the parish but that has not proven to be the case. Executive is mindful that there is currently a tenant in the rectory.

The Diocesan **Property Committee** needed some new members in order to have representation from every deanery, and new volunteers came forward at this meeting to help make that happen. The members of the property committee now includes: The Rev. Heather Manuel and Colin Edwards (Muskoka), The Ven. Joan Locke and Peter Armstrong (Temiskaming), Don Vardy (Algoma), Ken Lawson (Synod Staff). The Property Committee meets around three times a year and works on on-going property matters across the Diocese between meetings of the Diocesan Executive Committee. **Still need representatives from Sudbury-Manitoulin and Thunder Bay-North Shore.**

OTHER:

A large portion of our day two agenda was devoted to a discussion about the position of what is now called the **Diocesan Archdeacon**. The Ven. Jay Koyle, who now holds this position, is moving across the parking lot to become the Incumbent of St. Luke’s Cathedral and the Dean of Algoma beginning April 1st. Ven. Jay explained how he has engaged the work of Diocesan Archdeacon, outlining several aspects of the work. This was followed by some questions and answers, and then small group discussion about how the position may best serve Algoma in the immediate future. Five small groups met, and note takers were appointed to report back to the Archbishop. A second meeting of the Executive Committee may be necessary before June (via zoom) to talk more about this.

Executive discussed whether or not to hold **“hybrid” meetings** in future (including a zoom option for those unable to attend the annual in-person meeting). Team building is important and physical presence is part of that. Discussion around moving the in-person meeting to June rather than November as more may be able to attend at that time of year. On the other hand, the November meeting is good to have in person because that’s the one where we set the budget. For 2024, the in person meeting will be in November but we can revisit. No motion was passed as to whether or not to offer hybrid meetings in future.

Deanery Officials from each Deanery gave a report on what is happening with **parish visitations** and other aspects of Deanery life. As to parish visitations, which should be completed annually, here is what was reported:

* Muskoka – in “winter mode”; the bulk of parish visits happen in spring/summer, not only because of the weather but because several congregations are only open seasonally;
* Temiskaming – no parish visits took place over the winter but some are planned for shortly after Easter;
* Sudbury-Manitoulin – parish visitations to take place between Easter and the fall, though one visit to St. George’s Espanola has taken place;
* Algoma – visits planned for summer and fall;
* Thunder Bay-North Shore – a hearty report was given on the Deanery generally but no mention of parish visitations that have taken place. Their Regional Dean, the Rev. Gordon Holroyd, had recently resigned.