

# ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

## Journal of Proceedings

### Thirty-fifth Session of the Synod

The thirty-fifth Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario was held at St. Paul's Church, Bloor St., Toronto, Ontario, October 14-16, 2015.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015

Opening prayers were led by Rev. Andrew Wesley in Cree and the Rev. Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan, chaplain for the Synod.

The Metropolitan, the Most Reverend Colin Johnson, called the Synod to order.

Invited guests to the Synod were the Primate, The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, and the Primate's Principal Secretary, the Ven. Paul Feheley.

Most Rev. Colin Johnson announced that Christopher Riggs, Q.C., was retiring as Chancellor and that Jean Bedard, Q.C., had been appointed as his successor. Archbishop Johnson spoke of Chancellor Riggs exceptional service to the Synod and, in particular, the Bishops and Dioceses of the Province. The Archbishop introduced the new Chancellor-designate, speaking of his outstanding qualifications and the abilities that he will bring to his new role with the Province.

The Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne, addressed the Synod members. The Premier spoke of the great value of the work that religious groups in the Province do in speaking on behalf of the poor and burdened in Ontario's society. She said that the Anglican Church in Ontario has historically carried a special role in this and thanked the Synod members for its engagement with her government over the last three years on a number of difficult issues. The Premier invited the Synod members to continue in this ministry and spoke of a number of matters she would like to see discussed with us over the next three years including *End of Life Issues* and how to make palliative care programs the most effective that they can be, and further engagement between the Synod and her government on its *Local Poverty Reduction Program*.

The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches, extended warm greetings to the Synod and spoke of the value of the organization's work.

ASSESSORS

Moved by: Rob Welch

Seconded by: Harry Huskins

That Pursuant to Article 8 (b) of the Constitution, that Clare Burns, Sally Gomery and Rob Welch be elected as assessors.

CARRIED

#### HONORARY SECRETARIES

Moved by: David Embury

Seconded by: Mark Kinghan

That Gary Barker be elected as Honorary Lay Secretary and Robert Towler be elected as Honorary Clerical Secretary.

CARRIED

#### COURTESIES OF THE HOUSE

Courtesies of the House were extended to:

Rt. Rev. Thomas Corston  
Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton  
The Ven. Deborah Lonergan-Freake

#### OMNIBUS MOTION

Moved by: Susan DeGruchy

Seconded by: Harry Huskins

1. The appointment of committees be confirmed.
2. The regrets of absences, greetings, and Courtesies of Synod and of the Floor be extended or received, as the case may be.
3. The Report on Credentials in regard to the number of Episcopal, Clerical, and Lay delegates be regarded as received, and that the Chair, as soon as may be practicable, shall announce the result of such scrutiny.
4. The agenda be adopted.
5. The minutes of the Thirty-fourth Session of Synod, have taken place in Kingston, Ontario, 2012, be adopted.
6. The Reports and Motions printed or posted on the web as part of the Convening Circular, additional non-canonical motions be received.
7. The actions of the Provincial Executive Council be approved.

CARRIED

Prayers were said before the beginning of the election for Metropolitan. Ballots for the election were then distributed.

Diocese of Moosonee video was shown.

#### MOOSONEE REPORT

Most Rev. Colin Johnson and Ven. Deborah Lonergan-Freake reported on the progress being made by the challenges of new ways of working for the Diocese. The reorganization of the Diocese took place at the last Provincial Synod session and this reorganization has been a success both in stabilizing the diocesan finances and in enabling it to expand its mission and ministry work.

#### OPCOTE

The Rt. Rev. Stephen Andrews presented the report. There was a proposal to promote Theological Education through the development of Social Media Video Tools. An initial video entitled “Ask Bigger Questions” was produced late in the summer which explored the impact of theological education.

Moved by: Rt. Rev. Stephen Andrews

Seconded by: Dr. Harry Cleghorn

That this Provincial Synod commend distribution and use of the OPCOTE theological education promotional video “Ask Bigger Questions” throughout the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario via social media and in Synods, dioceses, parishes, schools and other appropriate venues.

CARRIED

#### SECRETARIAT FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Archdeacon Harry Huskins and Donna Cansfield reported on the work of the Secretariat over the last three years. They have been involved in the new *Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, The College of Psychotherapists and the *Heritage Act*.

The work has been done jointly with the Lutheran and United Churches. Dr. Mary-Cate Garden has been appointed our Provincial Representative on Heritage Matters. The Cemeteries Act has been replaced by the new *Funerals, Burials and Cremation Services Act* and on Jan. 2, 2016 the present Cemeteries Regulations Unit will be dissolved and transferred to a new Bereavement Authority of Ontario. The Ontario Human Rights Commission is re-writing its Policy on Religious Freedom and Creed.

Rt. Rev. P. Poole thanked the Secretariat and the Most Rev. Colin Johnson for all their hard work in the last three years.

CARRIED

## ELECTION OF METROPOLITAN

The ballots having been counted, the Rev. Canon Robert Towler announced that The Most Rev. Colin Johnson has been re-elected as Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

The Diocese of Huron video was shown.

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu led in Prayers and Grace in Mandarin before breaking for Lunch.

Rev. Can. Alyson Barnett-Cowan led the synod in bible study.

## SISTERHOOD OF SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE

Sister Constance Joanna gave a short history of the Sisterhood and explained the new companions program. It is a monasticism rooted in the Anglican tradition. Companions will develop a rhythm of life including public and private prayer, engage in service to others and learn to live in intentional community.

## GENERAL SYNOD MATTERS

The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, the Primate, reported on the work of the General Synod. The *Marks of Mission* continue to strongly influence the mission and work of the Anglican Church of Canada. There will be a review of the new ways of working. Some committees have fewer face to face meetings. The finances have stabilized. Anglican Appeal is now known as Giving with Grace. General Synod 2016 will discuss the amendments to the Marriage Canon. Talks are being held about the possible creation of a fifth province for indigenous peoples. The Archbishop of Canterbury has scheduled a meeting of the Primates of the Communion.

## ELECTION OF PROLOCUTOR

Laura Walton of the Diocese of Toronto was elected Prolocutor on the second ballot.

## WORKSHOPS

Four workshops were held.

Communications and social media - Bill Mous

Affordable housing - Ryan Weston

End of life issues - Donna Cansfield

Aboriginal issues - Rt. Rev. Mark Macdonald

The Diocese of Ontario video was shown.

A banquet was held at St. Paul's Church and former Senator Hugh Segal, master of Massey College, University of Toronto, was the guest speaker. He stressed that the Church needs to be at the forefront of social issues.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

The Synod opened with prayer and bible study led by the Rev. Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan.

The Diocese of Ottawa video was shown.

#### KEY NOTE ADDRESS

The Key Note address was given by the Professor William Cavanaugh, DePaul University in Chicago. His subject was Reimagining the Church in the Public Square. He said that the Church should not seek to go back to a time when it had political influence and power. The Church is positioned to minister to individuals in a way that removes barriers and embodies Christ's radical but very human compassion. Our goal is to be members of one another - to suffer and rejoice together.

After the address a panel and table group discussion moderated by the Rev. Professor Kevin Flynn, director of Anglican Studies, St. Paul University, Ottawa and consisted of Laurette Glasgow, Canadian Church's Special Representative on Parliament Hill, The Rt. Rev. Mark Macdonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop and the Rt. Rev. Stephen Andrews was held. The discussion raised question about how involved the Church should be in trying to influence public policy. Lobbying is a good thing but people notice more when you go in to the streets and get messy doing things that other people are not doing and in ways they are not doing it.

The Diocese of Toronto video was shown.

The Rev. Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan led the synod in prayer and grace before lunch.

Events related to our theme were held:

Tour of All Saints Church, Sherbourne Street

Tour of Church House

Successful Advocacy - Lobbying Politicians led by Donna Cansfield.

A Eucharist with the Installation of the Metropolitan, Prolocutor and Chancellor was held at St. Simon-the-Apostle Church. A reception followed.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

The Rev. Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan led the synod in Morning Prayer and Bible Study.

#### BUDGET

Din Oosterbaan presented the budget and responded to questions asked.

Moved by: Mark Kinghan

Seconded by: Philip Poole

That the Preliminary Budget for 2016 be amended to reduce the reserves by \$21,000.

CARRIED

Moved by: Susan De Gruchy

Seconded by: Harry Huskins

That the Preliminary Budget for 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

Moved by: Susan De Gruchy

Seconded by: Harry Huskins

That the financial review statements be accepted

CARRIED

Moved by: Susan De Gruchy

Seconded by: Harry Huskins

That the firm of Joe Ruscio Professional Corporation be appointed to conduct the Financial Review for 2015.

CARRIED

OPCOTE presented a motion

That this Provincial Synod authorize and encourage the production of a series of up to four additional videos by OPCOTE promoting theological education as a resource for equipping lay and ordained ministries and for engaging questions of general theological interest; and hereby commit financial resources of \$21,000 in the coming triennium for this project from reserves.

After much discussion it was:

Moved by: Stephen Andrews

Seconded by: David Selzer

That this Motion be referred to Provincial Council for further discussion.

CARRIED

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The diocesan delegations and the youth delegates caucused at their tables to choose the members of the new Provincial Council. The new Council will consist of:

Metropolitan: Most Rev. Colin Johnson

Provincial Chancellor: Jean Bedard, Q.C.

Prolocutor: Laura Walton

Executive Officers: Ven. Dr. Harry Huskins, Rev. Susan DeGruchy

Treasurer: Din Oosterbaan

Clerical Secretary: Rev. Canon Robert Towler

Lay Secretary: Garry Barker

Diocese of Algoma

Rt. Rev. Stephen Andrews, Troy Wilson, Ven. Marie Loewen

Diocese of Huron

Rt. Rev. Robert Bennett; David Embury, Rev. Canon Timothy G. Connor

Diocese of Moosonee

Most Rev. Colin Johnson, Ilene Jeremy, Rev. Lisa BrantFrancis

Diocese of Niagara

Rt. Rev. Michael Bird, Canon David Ricketts, Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Mondloch

Diocese of Ontario

Rt. Rev. Michael Oulton, Harry Cleghorn, Ven. Wayne Varley

Diocese of Ottawa

Rt. Rev. John Chapman, Michael Perkin, Rev. Kathryn Otley

Diocese of Toronto

Most Rev. Colin Johnson, Suzanne Lawson, Rev. David Giffen

Youth

Viola David, Ontario

## PRIORITIES

A range of possible choices as the Provincial Synod's Priorities for its work in the next three years were discussed by the members of the Synod. These Priorities will be set by the Provincial Council at its next meeting after careful consideration of what was said about this at the Synod session.

## SOUND SYSTEM

Moved by: Rt. Rev. Philip Poole

Seconded by: Rt. Rev. Michael Bird

That the Executive be requested to ensure that the next gathering of Provincial Synod be equipped with a sound system so that every speaker must use a microphone during sessions in common.

CARRIED

Best wishes were extended to Rt. Rev. Terry Dance on his upcoming retirement.

Following an invitation extended by Bishop John Chapman it was agreed that the next Provincial Synod will be held in Ottawa in 2018.

Moved by: Susan De Gruchy

Seconded by: Harry Huskins

That the ballots used for the elections be destroyed.

CARRIED

Most Rev. Colin Johnson led the Synod in Prayer.

Moved by: Susan De Gruchy

That Synod be prorogued.



