

# ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

## PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

MARCH 20, 2017

The meeting was held at the Diocese of Toronto, 135 Adelaide Street E.

**Present:** Most Rev. Colin Johnson, Laura Walton, Prolocutor; Jean Bedard, Chancellor; Canon Rob Towler; Rev. Susan De Gruchy; Ven. Dr. Harry Huskins; Din Oosterbann; Voila David; Rt. Rev. Anne Germond; Troy Wilson, Ven. Marie Loewen; Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls, David Embury; Ven. Tanya Phibbs; Rev. Larry Armstrong; Rt. Rev. Michael Bird; Lay Canon David Ricketts; Canon Michael Mondloch; Rt. Rev. Michael Oulton; Ven. Wayne Varley; Rt. Rev. John Chapman; Michael Perkin; Rev. Kathryn Otley; Ven. Deborah Lonergan-Freake.

**Regrets:** Garry Barker; Ilene Jaremy; Harry Cleghorn; Suzanne Lawson; Rev. David Giffen.

Opening Prayers were led the Most Rev. Colin Johnson.

The agenda was accepted by Consensus.

Courtesies of the Houses were extended to the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw; Donna Cansfield, David Krause and Stephanie Boyd.

### **MINUTES**

Moved by: David Embury

Seconded by Rev. Kathryn Otley

That the minutes of the November 21, 2016 be accepted.

**CARRIED**

### **DISCUSSION GROUPS**

The Homelessness, Eldercare and TRC/OPCOTE discussion groups moved into separate rooms to discuss what they want to accomplish over the next two years and how they want to do this.

Archbishop Johnson led the prayers before lunch and also prayed for the repose of the soul of Most Rev. Terence Finlay who passed away this morning.

### **Secretariat for Government Relations**

Donna Cansfield reported that the most likely date for a provincial election will be June 2018. The government could call an election before this date. The Parties will be more than willing to

listen to the concerns of the Church at this time. The material prepared for the last election was well received and with a few changes it would be helpful to be used again.

## **Reports from Discussion Groups**

### **Homelessness**

Affordable housing also should look at people in transition and youth. Easter 4 – Good Shepherd Sunday would be a good time to endorse this subject. A teleconference call is planned for June to continue discussion.

Members: Troy Wilson, Garry Barker, Kathryn Otley, Bishop Michael Bird, Jean Bedard, Lay Canon David Ricketts, Michael Mondloch, Bishop Michael Oulton, Tanya Phibbs, Bishop Anne Germond, Din Oosterbann.

### **Eldercare**

There are many priorities and challenges. People's stories are the best way of highlighting some of the problems.

Members: Deborah Lonergan-Freake, Suzanne Lawson, David Embury, Wayne Varley, Michael Perkin, Voila David – auditing, Marie Loewen.

### **TRC/OPCOTE**

Links were established with OPCOTE and the Province Council's Government Relations Secretariat. Also means whereby Indigenous Leaders would be included in its discussions. The Group also agreed to prepare overview documentation on the programs at theological institutions in the Province. The Group believed that this approach would enable them to establish goals and make recommendations to Provincial Council in response to the Calls for Actions in the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Report.

Members: Harry Cleghorn, Rob Towler, Bishop Linda Nicholls, Voila David, David Giffen, Larry Armstrong, Laura Walton, Bishop John Chapman.

All groups agreed that today's length of time for the discussions was beneficial but more interaction was needed and hoped to have tele conference calls before the next meeting.

### **CEMETERIES**

Harry Huskins reported work is continuing to be done on problems concerning cemeteries and burial grounds, forensic archaeology, and their regulation by the provincial government. Dr. Mary-Cate Garden (our Heritage Consultant) is carrying this file. A major difficulty is that jurisdiction over cemeteries and burial grounds is divided between the new Bereavement Authority of Ontario and a Registrar in the Ministry of Government Services, while the archaeologists are regulated by the Ministry of Tourism.

## **PROVINCIAL SYNOD AGENDA COMMITTEE**

The following people are on the Agenda Committee for Provincial Synod which is being held at the Delta Hotel in Ottawa on Oct. 9 – 12, 2018.

Algoma – Bishop Anne Germond

Huron – Ven. Tanya Phibbs

Moosonee - Rev. Larry Armstrong

Niagara – Lay Canon David Ricketts

Ontario – Ven. Wayne Varley

Ottawa – Bishop John Chapman

## **FINANCIAL REPORT 2016**

Din Oosterbann reported on the 2016 Financial Statements.

Moved by: Din Oosterbann

Seconded by: David Ricketts

That the 2016 Financial Statements be accepted.

**CARRIED**

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

The next Provincial Council Meetings are November 6, 2017 and March 5, 2018.

Moved by: Michael Bird

Seconded by: David Embury

That the meeting be adjourned.

Archbishop Johnson closed the meeting with prayers.