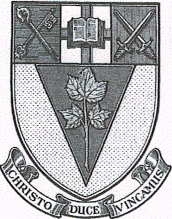
## **The Ontario Provincial Commission**



**On Theological Education**

**The Anglican Church of Canada**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Chair: The Right Reverend John Chapman, Bishop of Ottawa

Minutes of the Meeting of April 27, 2018, at Trinity College, Toronto

Present: Bishop John Chapman (Chair), Cliff Dee, Mark Harris, Chris Brittain, Marilyn Malton, Tanya Phibbs, Terry DeForest, David Selzer, Kevin Flynn, Jay Koyle, Mary Conliffe, Peter Robinson, James Sholl,

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Bishop Chapman, who opened the meeting with prayer.

The agenda was adopted and the minutes of the previous meeting approved.

Video Project: Terry DeForest reported on the Video Project including the survey undertaken as part of this. It is recommended that there be five segments of the Project produced.

The purpose of the Project: To develop a social media set of resources to invite people into the enterprise of theological education. There has been a strong response to raising the money to pay for the Project. By the end of the year there will be a dissemination plan in place in which the delivery system will be primarily digital.

Bishop Chapman suggested that a report on the Project be made to the October Provincial Synod session in Ottawa.

Motion: Moved by David Selzer and seconded by Jay Koyle; that OPCOTE endorse the Video Project and provide resources and materials for marketing and developing platforms for theological education and the institutions they represent. Carried.

Recruitment: The members discussed how to consolidate various resources from a wide variety of theological education centres for the convenience of inquirers. This included the possibility of finding a volunteer, skilled in social media, to take on these responsibilities.

Marilyn Malton will canvass the Colleges about their available social media resources and will report back to the next meeting in September

Lifelong learning and the Continuing Education Plan: David Selzer reported on the National Pension Plan proposals to increase the Continuing Education Plan’s annual contribution amount from $450 to $900 over three years.

Tanya Phibbs reported on the discussions at the Senior Staff Consultation on the Diocese of Montreal’s continuing education approach. The ELCIC website also has useful material on this theme.

Motion: Moved by David Selzer and seconded by Jay Koyle, that OPCOTE commend to the Province of Ontario the development of a Clergy Continuing Education Model that serves as a program model for the constituent dioceses. Carried.

2.

The Commission members heard a report from Larry Armstrong on the outstanding success of the Moosonee School for Ministry and the number of new ordinands that have been called forth by this. The Moosonee School cost about $65,000. A School for Ministry is probably needed every two to three years but the Moosonee diocese does not have the money for this. Discussion followed about how this funding might be generated. Bishop Chapman suggested that already budgeted, but unexpended, continuing education funds in the individual dioceses could be pooled to create a provincial fund for this purpose. The next meeting will follow up on this proposal.

The B.Th. through TST: Todd Townsend is preparing a report and the matter was held over until the next meeting.

‘Equipping The Saints’ follow up: Kevin Flynn reported on the ‘Equipping The Saints’ initiative in the Church of England with its emphasis on ‘collaborative ministry.’ It is an attempt to bring coherence to a wide range of programs and studies with ‘common awards.’ The University of Durham grants the degree involved which streamlines the previous processes. This involves collaboration among a number of Colleges which previously granted these degrees. “The reality is that it is an internal Church accreditation programme.”

The General Synod’s Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee is discussing furthering common theological standards. “The basic standards of theological education, and the qualification and training of candidates for ministry of the Church” [*Declaration of Principles*, (6) (l)] is a General Synod jurisdiction within the Canadian Church.

The next meeting will discuss the ELCIC document on Public Ministry and Jay Koyle will distribute this.

TRC and the Provincial Council’s Discussion Group: The Reverend Larry Armstrong (Council member from the diocese of Moosonee) and the Reverend Lisa BrantFrancis (formerly in the diocese of Moosonee and now at Tyendinaga in the diocese of Ontario) joined the meeting. Todd Townsend is the liaison between OPCOTE and the Discussion Group. Bishop Nicholls joined the conversation by telephone.

A review has been done about what each of the institutions is doing in regard to the TRC ‘*Calls for Action*’ number 59 & 60 and notes on this were circulated at the last meeting. There was a general discussion of what could be done to respond to the *Calls for Action* and Lisa BrantFrancis asked “*Do you think your courses at your institutions are responding adequately.*”

The Provincial Council’s Discussion Group has identified three areas as the focus of it work:

1) Anti-Racism;

2) Mandatory history course for clergy; and

3) Course to promote Indigenous values for clergy training involving culture, faith and cosmology.

Bishop Chapman asked if there is something that could be developed at the provincial Church level in which the Colleges and Diocese would collaborate on the *Calls for Action* which might involve transferrable credits between the Colleges.

The members discussed the two approaches of responding to the *Calls for Action* by (i) developing distinctive courses and (ii) incorporating indigenous elements into more general courses.

There will be further discussion at the upcoming September meeting about this and about what is needed in the Report that OPCOTE will make to the October Provincial Synod session in Ottawa. A small group was formed to take the lead on this chaired by Bishop Chapman and consisting of Mary Conliffe, Kevin Flynn, and Lisa BrantFrancis. Tanya Phibbs will ask Todd Townsend if he would like to be part of this.

Bishop Chapman will convene this group before mid-June and the, probably, once more in September in Kingston.

Follow up items:

1) Video Project: Terry DeForest to prepare report as an appendix to Bishop Chapman’s OPCOTE Report to the Provincial Synod session in October.

2) Recruitment: Marilyn Malton will canvass the Colleges about their technical social medial resources and report back to the next meeting.

3) TRC / Provincial Council Discussion Group: A small group was formed consisting of Bishop Chapman, Mary Conliffe, Kevin Flynn, Lisa BrantFrancis (and, possibly, Todd Townsend). Bishop Chapman to convene the group before mid-June probably in Kingston.