



Provincial Synod Highlights Spring 2022 Meeting

The Council of The Ontario Provincial Synod met on March 21st by video conference.

The meeting opened with Morning Prayer led by Archbishop Anne Germond, following which she presented her report, reminding us that God uses the smallest of offerings in seemingly overwhelming situations.

Archbishop Germond also reported on behalf of the Safe Church Working Group, which has been meeting since 2018, with the goal of implementing [The Anglican Communion Charter for the Safety of People](#). A resource team is being assembled with members from each Diocese. Current members have received training and are available to assist upon request through the Diocesan Chancellor to the Provincial Chancellor.

Bishop Michael Oulton reported on the search for a new Provincial Executive Officer. It was determined that the process will continue until the end of April. Thanks were offered to Archdeacon Harry Huskins for continuing in this role until a successor is appointed.

Bishop Susan Bell informed members of the Vocations and Formation conference which will be taking place in June called “Calling and Forming Priests for Tomorrow’s Church: Pathways to Partnership” with a focus on priestly ministry.

Treasurer Gilles Tessier led a presentation of the 2021 Financial Reports, noting that costs had been lower than budgeted due to the pandemic.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz and Archdeacon Larry Armstrong advised that the Moosonee School of Ministry has been renamed the Thomas Corston School of Ministry for Moosonee, in honour of and thanksgiving for the late Bishop Corston's leadership in founding and teaching at the school. Mindful of the School's vital role in forming leaders, and of its financial need, Provincial Council approved a one-time gift of \$10,000 to the school and will review support at the fall meeting.

Archbishop Germond noted that the Provincial House of Bishops has continued to meet throughout the pandemic. She expressed the grief of the House on the death of Bishop Corston. She offered congratulations on behalf of the Province to Bishop Philip Poole and Ms Suzanne Lawson, both of whom were recent recipients of [Lambeth Awards](#). As we draw closer to the Lambeth Conference, the Archbishop encouraged sharing of the [pre-conference videos](#).

Archdeacon Tanya Phibbs reported that the Executive Officers have also been meeting regularly, with discussions including transitions during the pandemic and rebuilding post-pandemic.

Bishop Bell reported on the Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination, drawing attention to the challenges presented by the recent requirement for the discernment events to be online.

Bishop Andrew Asbil recommended that we familiarize ourselves with the [Highlights](#) from the Council of General Synod, noting that the rescheduled meeting of General Synod will take place in 2023, and will include a focus on the governing documents for the Indigenous Church, and strategic planning.

Bishop Shane Parker reflected on the recent protests in Ottawa, noting especially the emotional and financial distress resulting from the extended, complex situation. He also asked for our prayers for peace, and our financial support, for Ukraine.

Archdeacon Harry Huskins invited consideration of priorities for Council as we look forward to our fall meeting, at which time they will be set.

Prolocutor Laura Walton provided a review of the undertakings of the Eldercare Working Group, which is prioritizing access to and communication about resources, especially concerning legalities, finances, the long term care system, and facilitating socialization to prevent isolation. The intent is to have resources available to be linked on diocesan websites.

Council also received the Journal of the proceedings of the October 2021 Provincial Synod and the report of the Secretariat for Government Relations.

The next meeting is intended to take place in person on September 26th in Toronto.