



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 Friday, September 28, 2018, at Wycliffe College, Toronto

Present: Bishop John Chapman (Chair), Cliff Dee (by distance), Chris Brittain, Marilyn Malton, Terry DeForest, David Selzer, Kevin Flynn, Jay Koyle, Bishop Andrews, Mary Conliffe, Todd Townshend, David Macdonald (Harry Huskins).

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.

Agenda

1. Call to Order by the Chair. Opening prayers
 2. Acceptance of the Agenda. Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting.
- Business Arising:
3. OPCOTE at the Provincial Session in Ottawa, October 9-12.
 4. Recruitment – Report back by Marilyn Malton on social media resources
 5. Further work on developing funding for the Moosonee School of Ministry
 6. B.Th through TST – Townsend Report
 7. Truth and Reconciliation – Report on on-going work with the Prov Council Group
 8. Other matters
 9. Adjournment

Social Media:

Marilyn Malton reported on the social media resources available at the diocesan and national Church levels. Part of the response back on these was that it will not be enough to put the Video Project on the media network, but there will be a need to also provide additional contact information.

Terry DeForest reported on the Video Project. The work continues and is taking longer than expected. There has been *'in kind'* support in the development from Niagara. There is a short fall in the funding but ways of addressing this are being looked at.

There was a general discussion on the focus of the work and what the final product will look like.

The Video Project:

The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Bishop Chapman suggested that a couple of the Commission members review the final product before the next OPCOTE meeting and report on that.

With Bishop Andrews assistance, the group reviewed the segment titled *'The Bigger Question'* that was a 'trial run' for the project.

Bishop Andrews expressed gratitude and appreciation to Terry DeForest for his persevering work on the Project.

The Moosonee School for Ministry:

Cliff Dee reported on this, speaking of the importance of the sacramental tradition in the diocese of Moosonee and in the more isolated communities.

Cliff said that the School was an outstanding success and has led to eleven ordinations in the diocese of those who have been raised up by their own communities to carry out this ministry. He said that there will be a need for such a School every two to three years. Terry DeForest asked if Cliff could provide a breakdown of the costs associated with holding the School and Cliff said that he would provide this.

The overall cost of the School was about \$60,000 and a number of options were considered for financing this on an on-going basis. Bishop Chapman will raise the need for this on-going financing at the Provincial Synod session in Ottawa.

The Commission members agreed on a Motion to be brought before the Provincial Synod session:

Moved, The Commission affirms the importance in the Province of the Moosonee School for Ministry and affirms that ways of supporting this work should be considered in the Province.

B.Th through TST:

Christ Brittain reported that further conversations have taken place about this but that the matter has been shelved for the time being. He briefed the group on the considerations involved in a B.Th.

Todd Townshend said that this is an ongoing consideration and that there is a need for a wider consideration of vocational formation as a whole. Bishop Chapman agreed and said that he thinks that the time has come for a provincial conversation about this as the realities of these needs, challenges, and opportunities for the Colleges and the dioceses are changing very rapidly. The last provincial conference on this, that brought the Bishops, the colleges and the dioceses together at the same table, was held almost two decades ago and that serious consideration should be given to holding another one.

It was agreed that this would be the focus of the next OPCOTE meeting, specifically what such a conference involving the Bishops of the Province would look like, and the formation of a planning team for this. Thorneloe volunteered to host such a conference and comment was made that this might be a good idea as the lay education programmes, and their place in formation in the Province as a whole, will need to be a key component of this discussion.

TRC / OPCOTE:

The small group formed at the last meeting to consider how best to act on the Provincial Synod's designation of this as Priority for the Province's work met in June and Bishop Chapman reported on this. The group consisted of Bishop Chapman, Mary Conliffe, Kevin Flynn, and Lisa BrantFrancis.

The Commission members then discussed this. Concern was expressed about the need for gender balance in the work being done and for the presence of First Peoples as part of this work. The Commission members were asked to think about First People's individuals and academics who could contribute to this work. The Reverend Norm Wesley might be one of these individuals as Co-Chair of the national Church's Anglican Council of Indigenous People.

There was a suggestion that there might be two student representatives on the Commission, one of whom would be indigenous.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action* number 59 and 60:

59. *We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary.*

60. *We call upon leaders of the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and all other faiths, in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, Survivors, schools of theology, seminaries, and other religious training centres, to develop and teach curriculum for all student clergy, and all clergy and staff who work in Aboriginal communities, on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right, the history and legacy of residential schools and the roles of the church parties in that system, the history and legacy of religious conflict in Aboriginal families and communities, and the responsibility that churches have to mitigate such conflicts and prevent spiritual violence.*

The Commission members drafted a Motion to be brought before the upcoming Provincial Synod session in Ottawa in regard to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action* number 59 and 60:

Whereas the Provincial Synod 2015 directed OPCOTE to engage in a full and comprehensive response to the TRC's Calls to Action number 59 and 60 as one of the three Priorities designated for this Triennium;

OPCOTE recommends that the Synod entertain the following motion:

1) *That the Ecclesiastical Province commend, endorse and encourage the Theological Colleges of Ontario in their development and enhancements of courses and / or course content that would address Call to Action number 59 and 60, and*

2) *That the Provincial Synod ask the Metropolitan to call together a group of individuals responsible for:*

a) *The design of a thoughtful and experiential (potentially residential) short course of study to address the concerns in Call to Action number 60, and*

b) *Identify potential First People's leaders to facilitate said course; and*

3) *That the member dioceses in the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario mandate the participation of their postulants and / or newly ordained clergy in such a course, and commit to establishing a pooled funding structure to support it.*

The next meeting of the Commission will be on Friday, April 12, 2019, at 10 am at Trinity College, Toronto.

The subsequent meeting of the Commission will be on Friday, October 18, 2019, at 10 am, at Wycliffe College.