

**TORONTO DIOCESAN ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT
CHRIST CHURCH, STOUFFVILLE
SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014**

REGISTRATION AND EUCHARIST

Approximately 120 attendees were welcomed as they arrived at Christ Church, Stouffville. Morning coffee and muffins, provided by Christ Church ACW, were served during registration. ACW and Chancel items were available for purchase as an extension of the registration table. Sincere thanks to Joyce Ellman for volunteering to be our sales person.

The program for the day began with Music in the Church. The Rev. Jason Prisley extended greetings on behalf of Christ Church. The Presider and Homilist for the Eucharist was Diocesan ACW Chaplain, The Rev. Joan Cavanaugh. We were most grateful to the organist and choir from Christ Church who enhanced the worship service. The theme for our day together was "Living in Hope – Being Missional." The Offering, in the amount of \$623.20, will be designated at a future Board meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GREETINGS AND OPENING REMARKS

Following a short break, Anita Gittens called the Annual General Meeting to order. The meeting began with the singing of "Shine Jesus Shine".

Anita welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and luncheon. She commented that Christ Church was very keen on hosting today's event. In fact, Diane Ferguson sent an e-mail to Anita on January 3rd saying "Happy New Year ... Down to Business!" It was noted that Past Diocesan ACW President June Dyer, and Chancel Chairperson Ruth Briffett, are both members of Christ Church Stouffville. God is good ... the forecast was for rain but it has turned out to be a beautiful day.

Anita Gittens welcomed the Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty, Area Bishop, York Simcoe; Shawn Branch, National Director, Threshold Ministries, New Brunswick; and Shirley Christo, President Elect, Toronto Diocesan Council, Catholic Women's League. Anita also acknowledged Mary Henly, a visitor from St. Mary's in Wiltshire, England.

Anita recognized Toronto Diocesan ACW Past Presidents Gladys McClellan (1988-1991), June Dyer (2001-2004), and Marion Saunders (2004-2008).

Reflecting on Mothers and Daughters, Anita commented that the future of the ACW is represented by the young women who are in attendance today.

In the interest of time, Anita wished to keep her opening comments short. She said that today is a day like no other. There will never be another May 10, 2014 so on this day, act in every moment, with love, purpose, and passion, to capture the unique value this day has to offer.

GREETINGS

College of Bishops

Bishop Peter Fenty began by saying how good it was to be with us today. He recalled attending one of our Annual General Meetings, held at Holy Trinity Thornhill, a few years ago. He was pleased to bring blessings, prayers and good wishes from Archbishop Colin Johnson and the College of Bishops for the work and ministry of the ACW in the Diocese.

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On arriving in Canada, he said that he learned very quickly that there were two groups to be listened to ... the ACW and the Altar Guild! He said that it cannot be over emphasized how much women's ministry is appreciated in the life and witness of the Church. He encouraged us to encourage others to become involved. We live in a time when we must have hope, being missional. The Easter message is to go and tell. He wished us every blessing for our meeting and what we will do this week.

Bishop Fenty wished to recognize the Past Presidents, President, and Officers for the sacrifices they have made and continue to make. He also wished to thank Office Assistant, Judy Beal, for her dedication and faithfulness to the ACW.

Premier of Ontario

Anita Gittens read greetings received from Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario. A copy of the certificate received from the Premier was printed in the Annual Report.

Catholic Women's League

Shirley Christo, President Elect, Toronto Diocesan Council, Catholic Women's League, expressed her sincere thanks for the opportunity to share this day with us. She wished to thank all who were involved in the opening service. She especially wished to thank Rev. Joan Cavanaugh for the beautiful blessing and shared with her a God incidence ... Shirley's Grandmother was a Cavanaugh.

Shirley brought joyful greetings from the Toronto Diocesan Catholic Women's League of Canada and congratulated us on this assembly. As she prepared for today it occurred to her how close we are to each other in our mission as women of Faith.

The CWL Mission Statement is as follows: The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization, rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God. Their Toronto Diocesan Convention Theme is an extension of their national theme: "We Have Seen The Lord – Let His Light Guide Our Path".

Shirley recalled that Past National ACW President Terri Parrill spoke our National ACW Hymn saying "...it clearly defines what we as Anglican Women are all about; a call of Discipleship, a belief in Justice and Freedom for all and a need to see God's Kingdom active here on earth".

These missions and themes speak to common ground where we as women can work together for all of God's people walking in faith and hope.

United Church Women

Anita Gittens read greetings received from the United Church Women.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD MAY 11, 2013

A MOTION was made by Joyce Ellman, seconded by Marion Saunders, that the Minutes be accepted as printed in the Annual Report. **CARRIED.**

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NOMINATIONS REPORT

Marion Saunders explained that the position of Nominations Chairperson is her responsibility as Immediate Past President. She is living in hope that people will come forward and will find it in their ministry to fill several vacancies. The Diocesan ACW Board is a dedicated group of women. The added bonus is shared friendships and inspiration. The time commitment is not overwhelming.

Marion Saunders presented the Nominations Report as follows:

President – Anita Gittens

Executive Vice President – Vacant

Interim Secretary / Treasurer – Enid Corbett

Immediate Past President / Nominations Chairperson – Marion Saunders

Chancel / Needleworkers Chairperson – Ruth Briffett

Public Relations Chairperson – Vacant (Marion Saunders – Interim Chair)

Social Concern & Action Chairperson and

ACW Appointee to the Diocesan Social Justice and Advocacy Committee – Monica Mitchell

Area Vice Presidents:

York Credit Valley – Vacant *

York Simcoe – Vacant **

York Scarborough – Lorna Krawchuk

Trent Durham – Gerri Currier

* *Following the meeting, Valma Hay indicated her willingness to continue as Area Vice President for York Credit Valley if a replacement could not be found.*

** *Following the meeting, June Dyer volunteered to be Correspondent for York Simcoe.*

Deanery Representatives:

Nottawasaga – Eileen Martin

Tecumseth – Lorice Carter

York Mills – Shirley Oxley

Durham-Northumberland – Marion Saunders

Oshawa – Carolyn Atkinson

Peterborough – Gerri Currier

Victoria Haliburton – Hilda Clark

Please consider electing representatives from other Deaneries.

Finance Committee:

Enid Corbett (Interim Treasurer), Joyce Ellman, Lyn Hall, Dorothy MacLeod, Shirley Oxley, Ruth Pengelly, Marion Saunders, Ex-officio – Anita Gittens

There were no further nominations.

A MOTION was made by Eleanor Winters, seconded by Ruth Briffett, that nominations be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Toronto Diocesan ACW Interim Secretary / Treasurer, Enid Corbett, cast the official ballot.

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Anita Gittens commented that we are called to serve. Having just been elected to her seventh year, in what was meant to be a three-year term as President, she once again accepted the position saying, if this is the way I have been called to serve ...then, Here I Am.

She commended the Board members who have agreed to continue and asked everyone to prayerfully consider filling the vacancies.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Bishop Peter Fenty invited the newly elected officers and members of the Board, as well as members of the Finance Committee, to come forward for the Installation of Officers.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Interim Diocesan ACW Treasurer, Enid Corbett, began by giving a short job description for the position of Treasurer. The Office Assistant does the day to day work and prepares the monthly statements. It is the Treasurer's responsibility to check the statements and chair the monthly Finance Committee Meeting. Finance Committee members are needed to help make decisions. A financial background is not necessary. There are two past Diocesan ACW Treasurers available to help.

Enid explained the difference in the three levels of auditing: Audit, Review Engagement, and Letter to Reader. Our new Auditor was hired to perform a Review Engagement at a saving of \$800.00 compared to an Audit.

Enid reviewed the highlights of the Review Engagement Report printed in the Annual Report for 2013. Enid commented that the person assigned to our Review Engagement was a young man, not knowledgeable about ACW or churches. The references to "the church" will be corrected for next year. If anyone has any questions, they are encouraged to contact Enid c/o the Diocesan ACW office.

A MOTION was made by Monica Mitchell, seconded by Ruth Staples, and supported by Jean Glionna, that the Review Engagement Report Financial Statements for 2013 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

AUDITOR

A MOTION was made by Enid Corbett, seconded by Lyn Hall, that Gary Booth CA Professional Corp be appointed to provide a Review Engagement report for the year 2014. **CARRIED.**

2015 PROJECTED BUDGET REPORT

Enid Corbett drew attention to the 2015 Projected Budget which was included in the registration folders. This is for information purposes only. The 2015 Budget will be approved by the Diocesan ACW Board at their December Board Meeting. It is slightly less than 2013 actuals with a conservative estimate of anticipated interest income. If anyone has any questions, they are encouraged to contact Enid c/o the Diocesan ACW office.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Rev. Joan Cavanaugh was pleased to introduce our Guest Speaker: Shawn Branch, National Director, Threshold Ministries. She has been impressed by his dedication to God to "go out and make disciples" as he proclaims Jesus on the streets.

Shawn Branch began by saying that it was great to be here. Jokingly, he suggested that we should pray intentionally for St. Paul's, Minden (Rev. Joan's parish).

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Shawn told us that he became National Director of Threshold Ministries (previously known as Church Army in Canada) two years ago. It has been an incredible journey.

So often we try to continue doing the same thing, hoping for different results. Had Church Army never changed, they would still be wearing uniforms and there would be no women involved. (He commented on the polyester uniforms several times – obviously very glad that they had been discontinued.) The ministry has changed and evolved, but the heart has not changed. The name has changed but the identity is the same.

In 1882, there was an English Curate at St. Mary's, Kensington (near the palace). He was very passionate. He came to faith late. He had lost his fortune in the depression. He felt burdened while passing people on the street on his way to church aware of the contrast between them and the congregation. He went out on the streets to witness. This resulted in people coming off the street into the Church. As a result, he was fired!

With the Archbishop's blessing to continue this ministry, three hundred evangelists were commissioned in three years. In the early 1900's the Church in Canada needed help proclaiming the Gospel. Missionaries were brought to Canada from England. The original home base was on Howland Avenue in Toronto. In a few years they outgrew that facility and moved to Brunswick Avenue where they continued to grow.

The first woman was commissioned in the 1960's. Until then, only men had been commissioned. They served in communities across Canada to people desperate for hope and good news.

They have evolved and grown with the church and the culture, sprinting, trying to stay a few steps behind. They are blessed to have women and men and churches across the country partnering with them. It was noted that Dioceses do not fund Church Army. Donations received are primarily from individuals. Shawn commented that he is convinced that there has been confusion regarding Salvation Army versus Church Army and that donations have no doubt been misdirected.

There have also been other changes. In the past, Church Army was 90% Anglican. Other denominations were turned away. Also, in the past, only lay people were involved. Clergy are now welcomed.

Shawn drew attention to a display table that included copies of their most recent newsletter. Many are called to ministry, but not as priests. A training session is being held this week with participants from St. John to Victoria to the North. Someone is to be commissioned to ministry in Inuvik. Four others are considering this possibility. We need evangelists in the Diocese and in the Church. Calls are often received from Bishops expressing a need for evangelists, asking "Who can you send?" It is very difficult when there aren't enough people.

Their goal is to help people to take a simple step and develop a relationship with Christ.

Shawn thanked us for our support and invited phone calls to learn more about the work of Threshold Ministries.

THANK YOU!

Anita Gittens explained that the Chancel Guild was one of four founding groups when Anglican Church Women was incorporated in 1967. A promise was made to Chancel Guild at the time of incorporation that we would continue to honour their commitment to The Church Army, now known as Threshold Ministries. Anita presented Shawn Branch with a token of our appreciation and gratitude.

BUSINESS MEETING will continue after lunch.

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LUNCH

The Lunch Grace “Joyful, Joyful” was sung.

A delicious roast beef dinner was served.

Following the meal, Anita Gittens thanked the Christ Church ACW for organizing such a lovely meal, with special appreciation to the men for serving the meal. The answers for the table quiz were reviewed.

BUSINESS MEETING – Continued

ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS AS PRINTED

A **MOTION** was made by Marion Saunders, seconded by Lorna Krawchuk, that the Annual Reports be accepted as printed. **CARRIED.**

APPRECIATION

Anita Gittens expressed her appreciation to Diocesan ACW Chaplain, the Rev. Joan Cavanaugh, presenting her with a gift. Rev. Joan responded that it is an absolute honour. She encouraged us to keep what we are doing, echoing the words of the Bishop that the ACW is the backbone of the Church.

Anita also expressed her appreciation to Office Assistant, Judy Beal, presenting her with a gift.

SPECIAL PROJECTS (SOCIAL CONCERN AND ACTION)

Monica Mitchell was invited to introduce our second Guest Speaker. Monica began by saying that she looks forward to celebrating this day with us every year. Women are the founders of the Church because we were the first ones at the Resurrection!

The Special Project theme for 2014-2015 is Mental Health. York Simcoe has chosen LOFT's Bradford House as their Special Project. Monica was very pleased to introduce Matthew Biehn from LOFT.

Matthew began by sharing a story with us about a particular client who considers LOFT family.

LOFT helps thousands of people every year with housing, complex and multifaceted issues, homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse. Many clients face multiple challenges. Everyone is welcome. They are accepted without prejudice and allowed to maintain dignity and control of their life.

LOFT works with youth in cooperation with the Hospital for Sick Children and CAMH. They provide services on evenings and weekends when the youth are most vulnerable. Three hundred youth are being serviced. This will increase to five hundred with the new program that is being introduced.

LOFT creates conditions for recovery. The first step is hope. People live with dignity – often for the first time in their life.

LOFT was founded in 1953 under the name Anglican Houses. LOFT stands for Leap of Faith Together. The cost of housing is \$49/day which is considerably less than the cost of hospitalization.

Matthew concluded by saying that he is humbled by our compassionate interest in LOFT.

Minutes – Page 7**THANK YOU**

Anita Gittens presented a gift to Matthew Biehn along with our thanks for his presentation. As previously mentioned, York Simcoe has selected LOFT's Bradford House for their Special Project. Suggestions would be appreciated for the other three areas – York Credit Valley, York Scarborough, and Trent Durham.

ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

Before adjourning the business meeting, Anita Gittens expressed her appreciation to each and everyone for being here today. She expressed her sincere thanks to the host church – Christ Church, Stouffville. In particular, Anita wished to express her thanks to Diane Ferguson. Every year we worry about the Annual General Meeting; and every year it turns out to be a wonderful event. Perhaps we need to have trust and faith, and not worry so much!

Office Assistant, Judy Beal, spoke briefly about the benefits of becoming involved in the Board – in particular, the fellowship and the inspiration that comes for learning what other ACW groups are doing. She also wanted to express a very sincere thank you to our Diocesan ACW President, Anita Gittens. Anita has just completed the sixth year of a three year term and deserves our gratitude for all that she has done.

The meeting adjourned with the ACW Prayer.

CLOSING

In closing, Anita Gittens asked everyone to pray for Past Treasurer, and member of the Finance Committee, Dorothy MacLeod. Dorothy's husband recently passed away. As she arrived at the hospital, having received the phone call that her husband had passed away, Dorothy fell and broke her hip! Dorothy expressed her regret at not being able to attend the AGM saying, if not for her emergency hip surgery, she would have been here. A card for Dorothy was available for signature at the registration desk. Anita Gittens also mentioned that Marion Chambers had expressed her regrets that she could not be here today. We also remember those who were present with us today even though they are unwell.

The day ended with the singing of "Lift High The Cross" and a round of applause for Diane Ferguson, Christ Church ACW.

Minutes taken by Judy Beal.