Notices of Motion (continued)

Motion 2026-06 – Obsolete or Impractical Trusts
Edias Christopher Tapera/Myrna Good-Hollett

MOVED THAT
Diocesan Council be advised as follows:

1. To invite parishes and the Synod Office to identify any trust, memorial, endowment, or other externally restricted fund held for charitable purposes where the original purpose appears to have ceased, become impracticable, become obsolete, or is otherwise incapable of being fulfilled;

2. To collect from such parishes or church bodies a brief description of the trust, the donor's stated purpose, the amount currently held, and the reasons why the original purpose is thought no longer capable of fulfilment;

3. To seek legal advice respecting the provisions of the *Anglican Church Act*, the *Trustees Act*, and any other applicable law concerning the variation or administration of charitable trusts and restricted funds;

4. To consider whether there are circumstances in which applications to vary or reform particular trusts may appropriately be pursued in accordance with applicable law and with due regard to the charitable intentions of the original donors;

5. To report its findings and recommendations to a future session of Synod.

Financial implications: No necessary implications other than Synod staff time to review its own trusts and survey parishes.

Background: Many parishes and other church bodies hold restricted gifts, memorial funds, bequests, and charitable trusts that were established decades ago for purposes that reflected the needs and ministries of their time. In some cases the ministry, programme, building, or activity for which the gift was established no longer exists. Consequently, funds may remain dormant while pressing ministry needs exist elsewhere within the parish.

The purpose of this motion is not to authorize the redirection of restricted funds. Rather, it seeks to determine whether existing legislation and legal processes provide practical mechanisms by which obsolete charitable purposes may, where appropriate, be varied while continuing to honour the intentions of donors as closely as possible.

Any consideration of trust variation would remain subject to applicable law and would be undertaken individually in relation to the particular trust involved.

ROTHESAY NETHERWOOD SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY

Every school day at RNS, the whole student body gathers in our Memorial Chapel. During this daily time of song, Scripture, and prayer, the students also hear either a short reflection from me, or presentations from other members of our community about a wide variety of topics.

It is a time to honour and acknowledge both our diversity and our shared community as a school… to learn from one another and explore each other's cultures, interests, and faith commitments in respectful and supportive ways.

This is especially evident in our Chapel Speech tradition. Every year, all of our Grade 12's take one day in Chapel to offer a 5-6 minute speech on something that *they* believe to be true. Throughout this whole process, I get to walk alongside them, helping to guide them in their preparations, and to offer a personal prayer afterwards for each one. This is a tradition that I consider myself blessed to be able to support, and these senior students continue to both surprise and challenge me through the wisdom and unique perspectives they so courageously share.

I am also blessed to be able to work alongside great colleagues in the RNS Wellness Team (school nurses and our counsellor), offering one-on-one spiritual and pastoral care to our youth and adults alike, as well as helping to resolve conflicts between our students when they arise through restorative practices.

In addition to these regular duties, I have been able to support a student-led youth group that meets during lunch, offer a Bible Study and Christian Basics (Catechism) Club, and have led special services like our annual Lessons & Carols service, and a walk to the cenotaph at the Rothesay Common to commemorate Remembrance Day as a school.

As with every community, our school is facing the many challenges common to our fast-changing world, but as a whole we remain committed to the good work of building up the next generation to be well prepared with wisdom, skill, and hope to take on these challenges too. Please continue to pray for the students, staff, and faculty at RNS, that we may continue to be a place where character, courage, creativity, and community can thrive here in our province.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Montgomery, School Chaplain