

GETTING A MOTION BEFORE SYNOD

There are three different methods by which a substantive (or non-procedural) motion can get before Synod that also will determine the order in which the motion is considered.

Order of Consideration: [Canon Two, sections 7(4) and 8(2)]

Motions will be considered at Synod in the following order:

- 1) Notices given at a preceding Synod (in the order received);
- 2) Notices given six weeks before Synod (in the order received); and
- 3) Notices given at Synod before the deadline set by the Agenda Committee (in the order received).

Motions may otherwise be received without notice, only with the permission of Synod.

Making a Motion: All substantive motions are initiated by giving a Notice of Motion by way of the required form. Notices of Motion can be given either before or during a Synod.

Before Synod: [Canon Two, sections 7(1)(b) and 7(2)]

Notices of Motion for regular meetings of Synod can be sent to the Secretary of Synod not less than six weeks before Synod, and will be printed in the Synod Journal in the order received.

At Synod: [Canon Two, sections 3(10), 7(1)(a) and 7(3)]

Notices of Motion can be given at a meeting of Synod by delivering the same to the Resolutions Committee before the deadline set by the Agenda Committee. A Notice of Motion can be given for consideration either at the current meeting of Synod or at the next regular meeting of Synod.

Procedural Motions: [Canon Two, section 8(5)]

Procedural motions (such as a motion to amend, table, refer or adjourn another motion) may be made without notice and must be disposed of before consideration of the substantive motion before Synod.

Resolutions Committee: [Canon Two, section 3(1), Diocesan Council Guidelines]

The Resolutions Committee does not have authority to veto or refuse a motion, but will seek to ensure that the language reflects the mover's intent, and may recommend clarifications to the mover and point out potential concerns. It may also suggest consolidation of a proposed motion with other motions received on the same subject.

New Expenditures: [Canon Two, section 8(3)]

Motions proposing new expenditures must either identify a proposed source of funding or be qualified as being made "subject to available funding."

Notices of Motion (Proposed Resolutions)

2005-01 Insurance

Moved by: Mr. Murry Arnott
Seconded by: The Ven. Stuart Allan

That this Diocesan Synod authorize and direct the Diocesan Council to investigate and, if feasible, to implement specific diocesan policies requiring mandatory minimum levels of coverage for property insurance for all Diocesan and Parish-owned buildings as well as minimum levels, forms, and terms of coverage for general broad-form liability insurance, and to investigate the practicality and financial viability of a single group property and liability insurance plan with mandatory parish participation.

Background:

Property and Liability Insurance: The Diocesan Council has affirmed the recommendation of the Finance Committee that it is time for the Diocese to articulate clear directives with regard to basic mandatory coverages, terms and limits with regard to property and liability insurance for our parishes, which at this point are non-existent. It would also be wise to research the financial and practical viability of a mandatory group plan.

To that end, Diocesan Council has approved the motion for consideration by the Synod in June of this year.

2005-02 Gambling

Moved by: Mr. Don Thompson
Seconded by: The Ven. Geoffrey Hall

That this Diocesan Synod reiterate its official position on the detrimental effects of gambling and lotteries, both inside the Church and in wider society. These activities often bring harm to the less fortunate and seldom prove to enhance the lives of those more fortunate who experience financial gain by them. In the interest of keeping our moral house in order, this Synod affirms that such means of fund-raising are against the tradition and teaching upheld by the Diocese of Fredericton and parishes are to be encouraged to promote good stewardship and direct giving as the highest method of Church support.

Background:

The Diocese of Fredericton and its Bishops have in the past taken a clear stand against gambling and lotteries for the purpose of raising monies.

Gambling and lotteries continue to be promoted and encouraged by government and some Christian denominations as an accepted method of profit and charitable fund-raising.

Our present Bishop has spoken clearly against such fund-raising means, in continuation of the teaching and tradition of this Diocese.

2005-03 Homophobia

Moved by: Heather Carr
Seconded by: The Rev'd Canon Bill MacMullin

That this Diocesan Synod renounce homophobia and all forms of sexual hypocrisy and abuse as evils against which Christians must always be on guard and affirm all peoples as precious in God's sight.

Background:

This resolution is important because we need to make clear that it is unacceptable for Christians to discriminate against people simply because they are homosexual. Also it reminds us that we may be guilty of treating homosexuality differently from other sexual sins like fornication and adultery. Lack of clarity about these things for many years has made it possible to be in the difficult place in which we find ourselves. The motion also highlights the fact that we are all loved and precious to God so we should be to each other. It also reminds us that we need to love the sinner while not accepting the sinful behavior.

2005-04 Same-sex Moratorium

Moved by: The Rev'd Bruce McKenna

Seconded by: Mrs. Cheryl Jacobs

That this Diocesan Synod affirm the moratorium as proposed by the Primates on public Rites of Blessing for same-sex unions and affirm the moratorium as proposed on the consecration of any bishop living in a sexual relationship outside Christian marriage and direct that this affirmation be communicated in writing to the Archbishop of Canterbury and our Primate before the Anglican Consultative Council meets in June 2005.

Background:

In 2003 the Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton passed a motion opposing both the marriage and the blessing of same-sex unions.

The Anglican Communion Primates' meeting Communiqué of February 2005 signed by our Primate asks 'our fellow primates to use their best influence to persuade their brothers and sisters to exercise a moratorium on public Rites of Blessing for Same- sex unions and on the consecration of any bishop living in a sexual relationship outside Christian marriage.' (Section 18)

This action is intended to restore full trust of the bonds of affection across the Communion. (Section 19)

2005-05 Sexual Sins

Moved by: Mrs. Cathy McKay

Seconded by: The Rev'd Keith Osborne

That this Diocesan Synod affirm the traditional teaching of the Church and Scripture that fornication, adultery and sodomy are all sinful in God's eyes.

Background:

The Church may not lower God's standards of sexual morality for any of its members but must honour God by upholding these standards in the face of the departure of society from them.

2005-06 Anglican Communion

Moved by: The Ven. Vicars Hodge

Seconded by: Mrs. Shara Golden

That this Diocesan Synod memorialize General Synod as follows:

- **That this Diocesan Synod of Fredericton affirms that it regards being in full and visible communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion throughout the world as essential and vital, and**
- **That any consideration of the Anglican Church of Canada 'walking apart' from the rest of the Anglican Communion is unacceptable and indeed contrary to the Solemn Declaration of 1893, and would thus seriously jeopardize the relationship between this Diocese and General Synod.**

Background: None

2005-07 Registers

Moved by: Shara Golden

Seconded by: The Ven. Stuart Allan

That this Diocesan Synod repeal section 5 of Canon Five of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton, and substitute therefore the following provision, as proposed by the Diocesan Council Administration Committee and the Diocesan Archives Committee.

Registers

5(1) The Rector or incumbent of each parish shall keep registers of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals and burials and services held (vestry book).

5(2) A register of baptisms shall contain the name of the parish corporation, the church, the date of the baptism, the baptized person's Christian names and surname, the baptized person's address, date and place of birth, sex, the birth names and occupations of the baptized person's parents, the church or other location where the baptism was performed, and the names of the sponsors and of the officiant.

5(3) A register of confirmations shall contain the name of the parish corporation, the church, the date of the confirmation, the candidate's Christian names and surname, sex, date and place of birth, date and place of baptism and the officiant at baptism, where confirmed and by what Bishop, and date and place of first communion (whether before or following confirmation).

5(4) A register of marriages shall contain the name of the parish corporation, the church, the date, the full Christian names and surnames, addresses, occupations, marital status, dates of birth and baptism, religious affiliation of both parties, the place and date of the marriage, names and birth places of parents, the signature of the officiant, the signatures of both parties and of witnesses, and the number and date of the license.

5(5) A register of funerals and burials shall contain the name of the parish corporation, the church, the date, the full name of the deceased person, the person's last address, sex, name of next of kin or contact person and relationship to the deceased person, date and place of birth and death, whether or not there was cremation, date and place of funeral, date and place of committal, and the name and signature of the officiant.

5(6) A register of services (vestry book) shall contain the name of the parish corporation, the church, the date, the day of the Christian year, the hour, type of service, name of the officiant and of the

preacher, number in the congregation, number of communicants, the amount of collection (open, envelopes, special and e-offering), and the initials of the persons completing the count.

5(7) The Diocesan Council may by regulation prescribe forms for parish registers and for certifying information from a register.

Background:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this motion is two fold. First, the amendment to Canon Five (Diocesan Business/Record Management Functions), s. 5 will permit the removal of two outdated and largely unused registers (Register of Communicants; Register of Publication of Banns) and the updating of the form of the other five current registers (register of baptisms; register of confirmations; register of marriages; register of funerals, cremations and burials and the register of services (vestry book)). Moreover, the content and format of baptismal, marriage and other certificates will be determined by regulation.

Second, the approval of this motion would be accompanied by a replacement of the current hardbound register books by a single loose-leaf version with separate sections for baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals/cremations/burials and services (vestry book). The Diocese would be responsible for providing each parish corporation with the binders and pages for the new registers. That is, the Diocese would provide each Parish with one binder for the register of services (vestry book) for each church in a parish; and one binder for the other four registers.

RATIONALE

The rationale for the proposed number and content of registers is based on current usage and, and the need for somewhat more comprehensive information.

The rationale for the proposed change on format of the register books from hard bound to loose-leaf binders is the need for the secure, environmentally safe and consistent preservation of the information contained in the registers. The past twenty-five years have witnessed a remarkable evolution in the management of Diocesan records. The materials, which were, in effect, randomly stored in approximately one hundred diverse locales are now professionally managed in a secure, environmentally safe and very accessible facility. The approval of this recommendation would place the management of our Diocesan registers on the same plane as other invaluable Diocesan records.

SPECIFIC PROPOSED CHANGES

The proposed additions in content are as follows:

- Each proposed register will contain the name of the parish corporation, the church, the year and a space to indicate the page number.
- The proposed register of baptisms will contain the sex of the baptized person and the birth name of the baptized person's mother.
- The proposed register of confirmations will contain the place of birth and baptism; and the confirmed person's date of birth and sex.
- The proposed register of marriages will contain the marriage license number, as this is now a civil marriage prerequisite. It will also contain the addresses of the witnesses.
- The proposed register of funerals and burials will now contain separate references to the funeral and burial services, and recognize the practice of cremation. It will also contain information regarding the deceased person's date of birth, next of kin, relationship of next of kin, and the date and place of the funeral.

- The proposed register of services (vestry book) will recognize e-offerings and will require the initials of the counters, who may be other than the Rector or Church Wardens.

The proposed loose-leaf binders will have dividers for each section. The pages will be removed on an annual basis and forwarded to the Diocesan Archives (through the Synod Office). Parishes could photocopy pages for their own records. This will ensure that the original records are secure, and that the holdings at the Diocesan Archives are up-to-date. In addition, the Diocese may make format changes where new information is required to be included in a register. The Diocese will ensure that the binders and paper meet or exceed archival and parish standards.

The quality of the binders and the paper will address the potential concerns of torn or lost pages. One notes that registers are not accessed on a daily basis, and that the “wear and tear” on registers may be less than that on aged registers in the current format.

The requirement that information contained in registers be submitted to the Diocesan Archives (through the Synod office) may also help to ensure that registers are being completed in a correct and secure manner.

COST IMPLICATIONS (Canon Two, s. 8(3))

There will be an initial start-up cost associated with the new system for registers, including the custom made binders for each parish corporation (currently a parish cost) as well as pages pre-printed on paper of appropriate quality. We estimate this cost to be in the range of \$4,000 to \$6,000. This will need to be covered out of operating funds as a non-budgeted expenditure. In subsequent years the annual cost will be minimal as it will be limited to replenishing paper supplies, and it will be incorporated into the Diocesan Budget for Archives maintenance.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Each Deanery Clericus in the Diocese has studied the proposal in detail. It has also been the subject of detailed review and revision by the Diocesan Archivist, the Diocesan Archives Committee and the Diocesan Council (in particular, its Administration Committee).

The current section 5 reads as follows:

Registers

5(1) Registers of all Baptisms, Confirmations, publications of Banns of Marriage, Marriages, Burials, services held, and of communicants shall be kept in the various parishes of the Diocese.

5(2) All register books for the same shall be provided by each parish and contain the following information:

(a) Register of Baptisms - date of Baptism, child's Christian name, parents' Christian names and surnames and abodes, date of child's birth, place of birth, occupations of the parents, by whom Sacrament was administered, and in what church, as well as names of sponsors.

(b) Register of Persons Confirmed - date, name in full, age, when and by whom Baptised, where Confirmed, by what Bishop, date of First Communion.

(c) Register of Communicants.

(d) Register of Marriages - full names and ages of both parties with the place of abode, place and date of marriage, name of officiating minister, signatures of both parties and of witnesses, and otherwise in conformity with the requirements of the civil law.

(e) Register of burials - date of burial, name in full, residence, age, date of death, where buried, and officiating minister.

(f) Register of Services - date, day, hour, number of communicants, celebrant or reader, preacher, number of congregation, church, amount of collection (open, envelopes, etc.), initial of Rector or Church Warden.

(g) Register of Publication of Banns - names and ages of both parties, place of abode, and the date of each publication.

(h) Form of Marriage Certificate - the same information as contained in the Register of Marriages, and otherwise in conformity with the requirements of the civil law.

(i) Form of Baptism Certificate - the same information as contained in the Register of Baptisms.

5(3) It shall be the duty of every member of the clergy in charge of a cure of souls to make duplicate record of all Baptisms administered in the parish. One such record shall be made in the ordinary register provided for that purpose by the parish. The second record shall be made on a form provided by the Synod, which record shall be forwarded to the Diocesan Archivist at the end of every year, and kept by him in a secure place.

2005-08 Rural Communities

Moved by: The Rev'd Canon Jon Lownds

Seconded by: The Rev'd Canon Bill MacMullin

That this Diocesan Synod re-affirm its historic commitment to rural communities and respectfully petition the Bishop to consult widely with rural people and parishes, in order (in preparation for another Synod) to draw up proposals with respect to the practical forms this commitment might take.

Background:

A strength of our Diocese historically has been its commitment to rural communities, through the support of rural parishes and resident clergy. This motion is brought with the approval of the Clerici of the Deaneries of York and Fredericton.

2005-09 Synod Minutes

Moved by: The Rev'd David Barrett

Seconded by: Mr. Cecil VanBuskirk

That this Diocesan Synod direct that the Secretary of this Synod make available (or cause to be made available) to every parish and mission in this Diocese, the minutes of this Synod meeting (and all subsequent Synod meetings of this Diocese) within one month of its adjournment.

Background:

The present practice of waiting to circulate the minutes of Synod until the following Session of Synod impedes the accurate recall of events by Synod members.

2005-10 Editorial Policy

Moved by: The Rev'd Chris VanBuskirk

Seconded by: Mrs. Debbie Ritchie

That this Diocesan Synod direct that Diocesan Council (or a committee of its appointing) present a motion to the next regular session of this Diocesan Synod on the purpose, mission and editorial policy of the New Brunswick Anglican and our Diocesan E-News (and all other modes of public communication by our Diocese).

Background:

- We as a diocese have recently adopted a new Constitution;
- The Diocesan E-News is a relatively new medium of communication;
- Letters and articles to the New Brunswick Anglican inevitably require editing; and
- It would be appropriate and timely for this review.

2005-11 General Synod Delegates

Moved by: The Rev'd Canon Bill MacMullin

Seconded by: Mr. Cecil VanBuskirk

That this Diocesan Synod ensure that delegates at our Synod be provided with a brief curriculum vitae of each nominee for Provincial Synod and each nominee for General Synod stating their current stand on relevant issues.

Background: None

2005-12 Marriage

Moved by: Mrs. Shara Golden

Seconded by: The Rev'd Canon William MacMullin

That further to its motion carried at the 127th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton, this 128th session reaffirms and continues to uphold the teaching of the Church and again calls on the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada to affirm and uphold the teaching of the Holy Scriptures and the Church:

- (1) that marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others; and**
- (2) that no clergy person may bless any union or marriage of persons of the same sex; and that the Synod directs the Secretary of the Synod to memorialize this motion to the meeting of the General Synod of 2007.**

Background: None

2005-13 Resolution A134(5)

Moved by: Mr. Alan MacGowan

Seconded by: The Rev'd Alan Reynolds

That this Diocesan Synod repudiate resolution [A134 (5)] of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada (2004) to “affirm the integrity and sanctity of committed adult same-sex relations.”

Background: None