



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Approved 22 June 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

18 May 2005

St. George's Church, Parish of Bathurst, Bathurst

Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda
- 02 April 2005 Draft Minutes
- Council Team Reports
- Pilot Project Stewardship Development (Proposal)

Meeting circulation:

- Parish Registers Inserts

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Members of Diocesan Council and guests gathered at St. George's Church for coffee/tea and discussion. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. with the Right Reverend Claude Miller assuming the Chair. The Chair declared a quorum and led all members in the Lord's Prayer.

1.2 Regrets and Attendance

Regrets: Ed Coleman (L); David Edwards; Shara Golden; Trevor Holder; Keith Joyce; Christopher Ketch; Ginny McEwen; Elizabeth Murray; Keith Osborne; John Sharpe; Donald Thompson.

Attending: Stuart Allan; Murray Arnott; Douglas Barrett; Malcolm Berry; Rod Black; Heather Carr; John Cathcart; Patricia Drummond; Charles Ferris; Geoffrey Hall; Vicars Hodge; Mohan Iype; Richard McConnell; Claude Miller; Elizabeth Reid; Fred Scott; David Watts.

Observers: Frank Morehouse (Diocesan Archivist); George Porter; (Youth Director); Ana Watts (Communications Officer);

1.3 Bishop's Comments

The Bishop noted everyone was busy with the upcoming Diocesan Synod. He informed Council that all Greater Chapters had held their pre-Synod meeting, except for the Archdeaconery of Shediac which would be holding their meeting this evening (May 18th).

2. STUDY AND DISCUSSION

H. Carr read the gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday (Matthew 28:16-20). The Council as a whole discussed three questions which had been provided by the Bishop.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - 02 April 2005

Correction to the Minutes: D. Barrett noted that his name had been omitted from the list of those in attendance.

MOTION 1: S. Allan / M. Arnott - **That the minutes of the last meeting (02 April 2005) be accepted as corrected.**

MOTION 1: Carried unanimously.

3.1 Arising from the Minutes

3.1.1 Sexual Harassment Policy introduction and implementation (01 Sept/30 Nov 2005)

C. Ferris stated everything is off to a very good start and proceeding as anticipated. It will be brought before Council after Synod. A few questions were asked surrounding training. The Chancellor indicated a basic training of do's and don't's would be done at the Archdeaconery level with resource people. Presently, the resource people on the committee are the Chancellor, Shara Golden and Kara Patterson, a law graduate.

3.1.2 Privacy Policy introduction and implementation (01 Nov 2005)

C. Ferris reported this policy is also proceeding as planned. The Privacy Policy would limit access to our parish registers. While some dioceses do restrict access, our archives does not have any policy at this time. This access would have to change in order to comply with the new policy. This change would not apply to 'managers' and those seeking personal information; however, it would restrict general seekers for an undetermined period of time. The Chancellor would like feedback on this part of the policy. He is seeking informal feedback (verbal, e-mail,...) The overriding concern is an invasion of privacy in the personal information provided to the Church.

3.1.3 Signing authority Canon change

This is in reference to a motion which was passed at a previous Council meeting in order to recognize signing authority in the Canons.

3.1.4 Companion Diocese Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

3.1.5 2005 Council Development (30 Sept/01 Oct 2005)

Planning group has not met at this time.

3.1.6 Stewardship Pilot Program Proposal

Copy of the proposal is attached to the pre-meeting circulation

3.1.7 Stewardship Workshop (24 April) - Bathurst

To be reported later.

3.1.8 Council participation in Synod

Will be discussed later in the meeting as a reminder that members are being asked to take a leadership role at Synod.

At this point, the Chair asked if there were any business additions to the Agenda.

5.1.2 Change the wording after 'modified' to 'as per attached on page 16 of the pre-meeting circulation.'

5.1.5 That Council support the Canon change in reference to the Archives.

MOTION 2: E. Reid/J. Cathcart - That the agenda be accepted as revised.

MOTION 2: Carried unanimously.

4. Reports

4.1 Team Reports

4.1.1 Administration

No report from S. Golden.

4.1.1.1 Finance Committee

M. Arnott presented a verbal report. He noted the 2004 financial statements are prepared included in the Synod Journal. The Committee has met three times since the last Council and there are concerns regarding arrears in payroll. A new policy has been issued to all parishes whereby after three months of arrears, the diocese would stop covering the payroll of a particular parish. The policy states that after one month of arrears, the Archdeacon would be asked to look into it; after 2 months of arrears, the Bishop and Parish Advisory would meet; and, after 3 months, the parish payroll would be discontinued until arrears are met. There have been few adverse reactions to this policy.

4.1.1.1.1 Camps Capital Campaign

M. Arnott reported Peter Irish's work is moving forward and that his presentations are receiving positive feedback. He will make a presentation at Synod and he is very enthusiastic about the Campaign. In Phase 2, the pledges and donations amount to approximately \$50,000. There is concern that the Council's commitment (this word later changed to positive response)

from the members is only at 50%. There were a few questions regarding some concerns about programs at Camp Medley; however, the members were reminded the Campaign is directed at the facilities.

A questions was raised regarding ACOA - no answer has been received yet. Members were reminded the campaign is not dependent on ACOA grants

4.1.1.3 Synod Planning

G. Hall indicated there are three documents in the pre-meeting circulation:

- a detailed agenda for information purposes
- the redraft of the Resolutions Committee Guidelines
- Comments on the Response to the Bishop's Charge

M. Iype indicated there are two tasks to be aware of: The first deals with the presentation of the reports which are printed in the Synod Journal. M. Iype will give a short presentation of all the reports; but this will not be a reading of the reports.

The second task involves the Bishop's Charge Response (pages 14 and 15 of the pre-meeting circulation). Synod delegates will be divided into 7 groups of 50 under the direction of one Archdeacon. These groups will then be divided into 5 sub-groups of 10. The smaller groups will answer three questions before returning to the larger group of 50 as a plenary. The Archdeacons will work with Team chairs and others as requested to formulate the response which will be delivered on the Synod floor. Due to the fact that other tasks may be appointed throughout Synod, it is permissible to delegate some of these tasks.

C. Ferris informed members the deadline to request a display at Synod is May 20th.

MOTION 3: C. Ferris/S. Allan - That the Synod Resolutions Committee Guidelines as revised be adopted. (Section 5.1.2 of the agenda).

MOTION 3: Carried unanimously.

4.1.2 Episcopal

D. Watts offered a verbal report. The Team met on April 28th and two issues arose out of that meeting. The first is the diocesan relationship with Atlantic School of Theology. It was felt AST support should be replaced as a line item in our budget. The proposal is coming at a later Council meeting since it was believed we should wait until the completion of our discussions with the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

The second issue surrounds a request to honour Mary Namerie Jacobs who was installed in the order of deaconess by Bishop Medley, possibly making her the first woman in Canada to be installed in this order. The team endorses the implementation of a scholarship for a female theological student in holy orders. A motion will be presented at the next meeting of Council seeking its support. E. Reid presented this proposal at the ACW Annual in Rothesay and it received positive feedback. A request was made for a biography of Mary Namerie Jacobs before the next meeting of Council.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:05 p.m. Members of Council reconvened at 12:50 p.m. with Archdeacon Allan offering a word of thanks to the women of the Parish of Bathurst for the meal.

4.1.3 Mission and Outreach

The report was circulated as part of the pre-meeting circulation.

S. Allan informed Council of the Reverend Bill LeGrand's very serious health issues and asked for prayers for Bill and Anne-Marie. He stated the Saint John Deanery clergy are currently helping with the Chaplaincy duties.

MOTION 4: M. Berry/M. Iype - That the Mission and Outreach Report be accepted as circulated.

MOTION 4: Carried unanimously.

4.1.7 Youth Ministries Report

No report from C. Ketch.

G. Porter gave a verbal report on the activities surrounding youth in the Diocese:

- Mission C2C is proceeding well with 10 youths and 4 adults. The group is very close to reaching the base financial goal of the mission; however, it is hoped to exceed this goal in order to cover other expenses.
- Youth Action Team and Youth Action Committee have recently held a joint meeting to discuss their respective mandates.
- GYM (Growing Youth Ministry) has met once a month during the past year with the help of Liz Harding.
- UNB Chaplaincy is wrapping up for the year.
- Helped with the interview/hiring of camp staff at Camp Medley and will be a chaplain at Camp Brookwood.
- The Bishop also indicated Liz Harding accompanied him at a recent Confirmation.

The Bishop suspended discussion on the three remaining reports and offered a word of welcome to Frank Morehouse, Diocesan Archivist.

5.1.5 Proposed Changes to Parish Registers

The floor was then offered to the Chancellor, with the Archivist, for a discussion on the proposed parish registers.

C. Ferris said 8 deaneries had been visited thus far and the 9th would be visited this evening. Each meeting brought suggestions which were taken under advisement. The financial implications of this proposed change rest on the fact the Diocese would undertake the initial cost of binders and paper. The Diocese would supply 1 binder per parish for to replace the different registers AND 1 binder per church building to replace the existing vestrybooks.

F. Morehouse discussed the rationale behind these proposed changes. A number of questions were answered regarding changes proposed for the registers. It was noted archives' employees fully support this proposal.

MOTION 5: C. Ferris/ S. Allan - That the Diocesan Council support the motion which is coming before Synod regarding the proposed changes to Parish Registers.

MOTION 5: Carried unanimously.

The presentation of reports resumed.

4.1.4 Parish Support and Development

No report from K. Borthwick.

4.1.4.1 The Warden's Day Evaluation Summary is attached to the pre-meeting circulation. It was added that more than half of the wardens present were present for the first time. The evaluation is used in the planning of the next year.

MOTION 6: S. Allan/J. Cathcart - That the Parish Support and Development Report be accepted as circulated.

MOTION 6: Carried unanimously.

4.1.5 Spiritual Formation

J. Cathcart reported 2/3 of the groups will have a display at Synod. The Layreaders' retreat has 108 registrants so far and 125 are expected. The Spiritual Development Retreat on Partnering in Prayer is scheduled for June 24-26 at the Hugh John Flemming Centre with Fr. Paul Sullivan as leader. This retreat is intended for both lay and clergy.

MOTION 7: V. Hodge/H. Carr - **That the Spiritual Formation Report be accepted as presented.**

MOTION 7: Carried unanimously.

4.1.6 Stewardship

G. Hall led the members of Council through the report as circulated before the meeting. He stated there are two points to note in the report. The first is representation at the TENS conference; the second is the proposal of the Pilot Project in Stewardship Development.

MOTION 8: S. Allan/M. Berry - **That this Council send an appropriate individual to the Stewardship Conference (TENS) in North Carolina 23-25 June 2005 at a cost of approximately \$1500.**

MOTION 8: Carried unanimously.

MOTION 9: E. Reid/M. Arnott - **That the Stewardship Report be accepted as circulated.**

MOTION 9: Carried unanimously

Archdeacon Berry took this time to welcome the Bishop and D. Thompson as the newest members to have completed a Cursillo weekend.

5. Business

5.1 Notices of Motion

5.1.1 TENS Stewardship Conference

Dealt with under Stewardship Report

5.1.2 Synod Resolution Committee Guideline Revision

Dealt with under Administration Report

5.1.3 Clarification of Committee

A question was asked whether the word 'advisory' should be added in front of 'committee'. The Chancellor felt the word advisory is too weak.

MOTION 10: C. Ferris/D. Watts - **That this Diocesan Council clarify the title "the Committee" named in the Sexual Harassment and Assault Policy as the "Sexual Harassment and Assault Committee."**

MOTION 10: Carried unanimously.

5.1.4 June 2005 Meeting of new Council

The following words are to be added "in Fredericton at 1 p.m."

MOTION 11: R. McConnell/J. Cathcart - **That Diocesan Council meet for one half day for the purpose of post-Synod business, 22 June 2005 in Fredericton at 1 p.m..**

MOTION 11: Carried unanimously.

5.2 Future Meeting Schedule

The meetings dates as reported on the agenda are 22 June 2005, 30 September/01 October (Development) and 09 November 2005. The November meeting will be held in Saint John.

F. Scott indicated budgetary planning is affected by future meeting dates. Budget consultations need to be done before October in order to give budget numbers to the parishes in a timely fashion. It was suggested that by the 22 June meeting, the 7 committees should have some idea of what budget they request and submit their numbers to the Diocesan Treasurer.

5.3 Other Notices

The Chair requests all members of Council encourage their respective parishes to attend the Diocesan Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving to be held at the Aitken Centre during Synod. This service is not for delegates only but is open to everyone. A time of fellowship will follow.

G. Hall reminded everyone to send in their regrets to whomever calls the meeting in a timely manner so it can be decided whether a quorum will be present. If necessary, it is easier to cancel or postpone a meeting before everyone has left to attend it.

The Chair also reminded everyone that members voted unanimously to hold this meeting of Council in Bathurst; yet, after the meeting, some members called the Bishop to say it was too far to drive. Such concerns should be discussed before the vote is taken.

6. Adjournment

MOTION 12: J. Cathcart - **That this meeting of Council be adjourned.**

The Chair closed the meeting with prayer at 2:35 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Leo Martin (The Rev.)
Recording Secretary

The Rt. Rev'd Claude W. Miller, Chair
18 May 2005