



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

115 CHURCH STREET, FREDERICTON NB E3B 4C8

(506) 459 1801 [o] (506) 460 0520 [f]

Approved 14 January 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

09 November 2005

Church of St John the Baptist and St Clement

Parish of Millidgeville

Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda
- 30 September 2005 Draft Minutes
- Committee Reports

Meeting circulation:

- Anglican Appeal Advent Calendar
- Book: From Scarcity to Abundance
- Camps Capital Campaign, Phase II Form
- Youth Committee Report
- Development Session Questionnaire Results and Analysis
- Clergy Health Coverage (re: Retirees)

In attendance:

Stuart Allan, Murray Arnott, George Connor, Robyn Cuming, Patricia Drummond, Keith Dow, Peter Gillies, Geoffrey Hall, Don Hamilton, Vicars Hodge, Bonnie Hunt, Hazel MacKenzie, Claude Miller; Keith Osborne, Elizabeth Reid, Fred Scott; Cecil VanBuskirk, Clyde Spinney.

Guests:

Peter Irish, George Porter, Ana Watts.

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 - Members of Diocesan Council and guests gathered in the hall at the Church of St John the Baptist and St Clement in the Parish of Millidgeville. The Right Reverend Claude Miller, Bishop and Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. The Chair offered words of thanks to the hosting parish for their hospitality. The Chair led us in prayer, sending condolences to the family of the late Stanley Weaver, and asking for prayers of support for the Reverend Bill LeGrand and his family.

1.2 - Regrets

Malcolm Berry (on leave), Charles Ferris, Heather Carr, John Cathcart, Keith Joyce, Richard McConnell, Robert Salloum, Donald Thompson.

1.3 - Bishop's Comments

The Bishop gave brief comments on the successes of the Bishop's Dinners which have been held in different archdeaconeries. He noted he is very pleased with the attendance and results of these dinners.

1.4 Study and Discussion

The Bishop called on Peter Gillies to read Matthew 25:14-30. A discussion followed ensued on the fear of the third servant and his apparent inability to take risks.

1.5 Quorum

A quorum was declared at 16 and the meeting proceeded. Comments were made to indicate the importance of sending regrets to the Secretary of Synod (G Hall) and also of informing him if you know you are going to be late; otherwise, a quorum may not be achieved and the preparations for the meeting would have been a waste of time and money.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - 30 September 2005

2.1 Modification and Acceptance

MOTION 1: G. Connor / V. Hodge - **That the minutes of the 30 September 2005 meeting of Diocesan Council be accepted as circulated.**

MOTION 1: Carried unanimously.

2.2 Arising from minutes and unfinished items

The Secretary of Synod gave a brief overview of the following items:

2.2.1 Signing authority Canon change (Canons and Constitution Committee)

This item is ongoing. The Constitutions and Canons Committee hopes to present a motion at Synod 2007.

2.2.2 Companion Diocese Committee

A report will be given later.

2.2.3 Stewardship Pilot Program Proposal (Business)

There is a motion regarding this item under New Business.

2.2.4 Atlantic School of Theology Board of Governors membership (Episcopal Team Report)

The Bishop has appointed Mr. Richard Thorne to sit on AST Board of Governors.

2.2.5 St. Michael Report study and response (Episcopal Team Report)

Diocesan Council is asked to respond to the Primate's request.

2.2.6 General Synod partial release proposal (Notice sent)

Completed.

2.2.7 Review of resolutions of the 128th Synod requiring action

The agenda notes includes a list of motions which need Diocesan Council action:

128-01 - Property Insurance - in progress

128-06 - Memorial to General Synod - completed

128-08 - Rural Communities - Need to decide which team will undertake this task

128-09 - Availability of Minutes - completed

128-10 - Editorial Policy - on priority list of Administration Team

2.3 Agenda

MOTION 2: H. MacKenzie / K. Osborne - **That the agenda be accepted as circulated.**

MOTION 2: Carried unanimously.

3. Reports

3.1 Council Team reports:

3.1.1 Administration

The report can be found on page 9 of the pre-meeting circulation. The status of each item is noted in the report.

MOTION 3: G. Hall / M. Arnott - **That the report of the Administration Team be accepted.**

MOTION 3: Carried unanimously.

MOTION 4: M. Arnott / S. Allan - **That the report of the Finance Committee be accepted.**

It was duly noted that this motion accepts the report only and that the recommendations in the Finance Committee Report will be debated under the business section of the agenda.

MOTION 4: Carried unanimously.

3.1.2 Episcopal Ministries

The report can be found on page 9 of the pre-meeting circulation. A question was raised as to which team should look at Rural Ministries. After discussion, it was felt this should fall under the Parish Support and Development Team.

MOTION 5: G. Hall / G. Connor - **That the report of the Episcopal Team be accepted.**

MOTION 5: Carried unanimously.

3.1.3 Mission / Outreach

The report can be found on pages 10 - 11 of the pre-meeting circulation. A report from David Watts is appended on his attendance at the National Church Consultation on Social Justice. The Bishop mentioned the Cathedral in Iqaluit had burned on the weekend and he asked whether our Diocese could offer any kind of material support. This will be discussed under New Business and Keith will also bring this to his committee.

MOTION 6: K. Osborne / D. Hamilton - **That the report of the Mission and Outreach Team be accepted.**

MOTION 6: Carried unanimously.

3.1.4 Parish Support and Development

The report can be found on page 12 of the pre-meeting circulation. A discussion on the viability of Anglican House came out of the report.

MOTION 7: C. VanBuskirk / H. MacKenzie - **That the report of the Parish Support and Development Team be accepted.**

MOTION 7: Carried unanimously.

3.1.5 Spiritual Formation

The report can be found on page 12-13 of the pre-meeting circulation. It was noted that item #15 (Parish Enrichment) is in reference to the workshops being offered.

MOTION 8: D. Hamilton / R. Cuming - **That the report of the Spiritual Formation Team be accepted.**

MOTION 8: Carried unanimously.

3.1.6 Stewardship and Financial Development

The report can be found on page 13 of the pre-meeting circulation. The Bishop added comments on the national programme "Letting Down the nets" (page 4). He was pleased to announce the Diocese of Fredericton had been awarded one of the six pilot projects which means the diocese will receive funding from the National Church in forming an education programme within the diocese with a focus on planned giving. The Bishop also announced that there will a meeting with National Church Consultant, Suzanne Lawson on December 10th to discuss the strategies needed by the Diocese to formulate a 5/10 year plan. This meeting should involve as many members of Diocesan Council as possible.

MOTION 9: V. Hodge / P. Drummond - **That the report of the Stewardship Team be accepted.**

MOTION 9: Carried unanimously.

3.1.7 Youth Ministries

The report was circulated and presented. The following was added verbally as #7 under the Current and Planned Youth Events and Projects:

7. There are a number of events that we have an interest in though not a direct connection that I thought might be mentioned in other reports like Spiritual Formation but were not, like the recent Manna event which had approximately 150 11to 15 year olds in attendance.

MOTION 10: P. Gillies / V. Hodge - **That the report of the Youth Team be accepted.**

MOTION 10: Carried unanimously.

The Bishop invited the Diocesan Youth Coordinator to offer his comments who mentioned the challenge of communication in letting young people know what is going on; to have events

which are held across the diocese; and, that he is now a member of the Ask and Imagine Board. Ask and Imagine trains youth for leadership in ministry and applications for upcoming gatherings will be out shortly.

The Bishop reinforced the fact that youth continues to be a priority across the Canadian Church. A Primate's Dinner was held to raise funds in support for the webcast discussions which the Primate has with young Anglicans. In our diocese, over 300 Christmas cards are being sent to recent confirmands from the Bishop, Youth Coordination and Christian Education Director to show our new members they are not forgotten and inviting them to upcoming events.

3.2 Other Reports

The Secretary of Synod offered comments on the summary from the Regional Forums. Thanks were offered to Cecil for his analysis of these items and it was suggested each team chair should take the time to review these findings.

The Secretary of Synod also offered his thanks to all for sending their reports prior to the meeting of Diocesan Council since it makes preparations much easier.

The Bishop invited Archdeacon Allan to offer the blessing over lunch at 12:15 p.m. Time to reconvene: 1:00 p.m..

Lunch Break

Members of Diocesan Council reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

The Bishop made the following comments:

- each member of Council was supplied with a copy of the book, "From Scarcity to Abundance" - the Rev'd David Ponting. Cost is \$25 if members wish to purchase.
- there are now 6 students in theological colleges
- one candidate will soon be ordained to the diaconate
- two deacons will soon be ordained to the priesthood
- in the new year, two people will be ordained to the vocational diaconate
- eight candidates plan to attend ACPO.

3.3 Camps Capital Campaign

The Bishop invited Peter Irish to give Council an update on the campaign. This may be found on pages 36-40 of the pre-meeting circulation. The up-to-date amount now reads \$242,500 in donations and pledges. A question was asked regarding the trust from St. Paul's Church. It was indicated the trust has not been set up yet and that those numbers are not added in the present totals.

The Bishop offered thanks to Peter for his report.

4. Business

The Chair called for items 4.6 and 4.7 to be dealt with first.

4.1 Retiree's Extended Health Plan

MOTION 11: M. Arnott / G. Connor - That the recommendation from the Finance Committee regarding a change in carriers for the Extended Health Plan for retirees be approved, with an effective date of January 1, 2006.

Discussion: Background for this motion may be found on page 26 of the pre-meeting circulation. In addition, the handout on Clergy Health coverage was passed around. A letter was sent to the retired clergy pointing out the situation that costs are rising and that the number of participants is also rising. In the letter, it was proposed that the Extended Health Benefits be replaced by Blue Cross plan C which would in effect reduce diocesan costs by half. Reactions to this fell into

three categories: (a) personal loss, (b) taking away a benefit, (c) symptomatic that retired clergy are not included in discussions. After much discussion, the question was called.

MOTION 11: Defeated.

4.2 2006 Diocesan Budget

MOTION 12: M. Arnott / G. Connor - That this Diocesan Council approve the 2006 Diocesan Budget as proposed by the Finance Committee. Because of the strong likelihood the Budget will not be funded, the Committee makes the following recommendations:

- a) that the Mission Outreach and Parish Assessment be combine into a single budget request, incorporating an increase of 10%
- b) That Council authorize withdraw of up to \$50,000 from Endowment Funds to help finance the 2006 operating budget
- c) that the proposed 2006 budget total expenditures be reduced 2%
- d) that Council develop an effective way to deal with parishes who have not been contributing toward Diocesan budget support.

Discussion: The Budget was balanced under the assumption of the cost saving on the change in the Retired Clergy health costs and a substantial increase in parish assessments. It was stressed that the mission of the church covers the whole budget.

MOTION 12a TO AMEND: F. Scott / M. Arnott - **That recommendation (a) be changed to read: "that the Mission Outreach and Parish Assessment increase by 10%."**

AMENDMENT: Carried unanimously.

MOTION 12b TO AMEND: F. Scott / G. Connor - **That the words 'subject to the availability and the use of capital' be added to recommendation (b).**

AMENDMENT: Carried unanimously.

MOTION 12c TO REFER: V. Hodge / H. MacKenzie - In reference to recommendation (d), **That Council ask the Parish Development and Support Team to find effective ways of working with parishes who have not been fully paying their Parish Assessment and Mission Outreach.**

MOTION TO REFER: Carried unanimously.

The mover and seconder of Motion 12 agreed to withdraw recommendation (c) from the original motion.

MOTION 12 (amended) **That this Diocesan Council approve the 2006 Diocesan Budget as proposed by the Finance Committee. Because of the strong likelihood the Budget will not be funded, the Committee makes the following recommendations:**

- a) **that the Mission Outreach and Parish Assessment be increased by 10%.**
- b) **that Council authorize withdrawal of up to \$50,000 from endowment funds to help finance the 2006 operating budget subject to the availability and the use of capital.**

MOTION 12 (as amended): Carried unanimously.

4.3 Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure (B-12) Amendment

MOTION 13: G. Hall / M. Arnott - **That the 30 September 2005 adopted Sexual Misconduct Policy (B-12) be amended by:**

- a) **changing section 9.0 to read "Updating and Reporting Process"**
- b) **changing paragraph 9.1 to paragraph 9.2**
- c) **Inserting a new paragraph 9.1 as follows:**

9.1 The Secretary of the Synod shall report on the use of this policy at each regular meeting of the Synod. The report shall include statistics on the number of complaints made pursuant to this policy since the last report, the number of complaints resolved

and in what manner they were resolved. The report may include recommendations from the officers of the Synod regarding any proposals to modify this policy.

MOTION 13: Carried unanimously.

4.4 Policy A-18 RE Part-time Remuneration and Allowances

As requested by Diocesan Council (17 November 2004 Motion 6)

MOTION 14: G. Hall / K. Osborne - **That this Council adopt the proposed Policy A-18 "Part-time Remuneration and Allowances."**

MOTION 14: Carried unanimously.

4.5 Vision Statement (01 October Council Development)

MOTION 15: G. Hall / V. Hodge - **That this Diocesan Council accept the statement resulting from the Council development session 01 October 2005 and begin implementation of the same:**

Vision: Sharing the responsibility of communicating the Gospel

Archdeaconry Greater Chapters encouraged to take a major role in the work of proclamation;

- Nurturing the process of equipping the saints and making disciples at the local (regional / archdeaconry) level
- Making episcopal / diocesan leadership present in every parish through members of Synod and members of Diocesan Council

Medium-term goal: The development of congregations and ministry in the parish (the engine of mission and evangelism) by way of a shared regional ministry

MOTION 15: Carried unanimously.

4.6 Finance Committee membership

MOTION 16: M. Arnott/ E. Reid - **That Mr. Keith Dow be appointed to the Finance Committee.**

MOTION 16: Carried unanimously.

4.7 Insurance Minimum Standards

MOTION 17: M. Arnott / K. Dow - **That Insurance Minimum Standards (Finance Committee Appendix 2) be approved (subject to further amendment) as the basis for mandatory standards of property and liability insurance coverage for parishes.**

MOTION 17: Carried unanimously

4.8 Development of Partnership with Letting Down the Nets

MOTION 18: M. Arnott / P. Drummond - **That the Diocese respond favourably to the proposed partnership plan recommended by representatives of the General Synod Letting Down the Nets initiative as outlined and refer the issue to the Parish Support and Development and Stewardship Teams for further work including: development of a plan, consultation and implementation.**

MOTION 18: Carried unanimously.

4.9 Retired Clergy

MOTION 19: F. Scott / C. VanBuskirk - **That the Human Resource Committee be asked to conduct a consultative process with our retired clergy regarding the retired clergy extended health care plan and develop a revised proposal on this issue prior to the March 15, 2006 Council meeting.**

MOTION 19: Carried unanimously.

4.10 Cathedral in Iqaluit

MOTION 20: G. Hall / R. Cuming - That we extend our concerns to the Bishop and Diocese of the Arctic and that the Episcopal and Mission Teams communicate our concerns to our own diocese and suggest ways to support.

MOTION 20: Carried unanimously.

4.11 Notices

4.11.1 Meeting Schedule

Saturday, 14 January 2006 (Fredericton)

Wednesday, 15 March 2006

Saturday, 10 June 2006

4.11.2 Other notices

4.11.2.1 The Bishop reiterated the need for Council members' attendance at a meeting on December 10th with facilitator Suzanne Lawson. This is the first step in preparing a strategic plan.

4.11.2.2 The Bishop announced that the lunch provided was a gift from the Parish of Millidgeville.

MOTION 21: F. Scott / M. Arnott - That a note be sent to the Parish of Millidgeville expressing the thanks of Diocesan Council for their hospitality and lunch.

MOTION 21: Carried unanimously.

4.11.2.3 The Bishop informed members that he had just received notice that Mohan Iype was in hospital and sends regrets.

5. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN: K. Dow - That this meeting of Diocesan Council be adjourned.

The Chair closed the meeting with prayer and a blessing at 3:50 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Leo Martin (The Rev.)
Recording Secretary

Geoffrey Hall (The Ven.)
Secretary of Synod

Claude W. Miller (The Rt. Rev'd Dr.)
Chair