



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Approved 16 May 2007

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

11 April 2007

St. Clement's Church

Parish of Prince William, Dumfries, Queensbury and Southampton

### Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes 17 January 2007
- Attendance Report (17 January 2007)
- Team Reports
- Diocesan Roles
- Finance Committee Report
- Nominating Committee Report
- Report of the Task Force Reviewing Diocesan Communications
- Report of the Budget Funding Task Force
- Report of the Human Resources Committee
- Letter to RNS (including summary of conversation)
- Resolutions of the 128<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Synod
- Committee, Groups and Organizations

### Distributed at meeting

- Camps Capital Campaign Update and Financial Statement
- Narrative Budget for General Synod 2007
- Roles and Responsibilities (Constitution and Canons Committee)
- Stewardship and Financial Development Team Report
- Episcopal Team Report
- Schedule of Greater Chapter Meetings

### In attendance:

Stuart Allan, Murry Arnott, Elizabeth Belyea, Patricia Drummond, Keith Dow, David Edwards, Peter Gillies, Vicars Hodge, Hazel MacKenzie, Betty McNamara, Richard McConnell, Betty McNamara, Claude Miller, Douglas Painter, Fred Scott, John Sharpe, Walter Williams

### Regrets:

John Cathcart, George Connor, John Edwards, Charles Ferris, Geoffrey Hall, Don Hamilton, Keith Joyce, Mary MacDonald, Keith Osborne, Elizabeth Reid, Robert Salloum, Donald Thompson, Cecil VanBuskirk.

### Absent:

Caryn Gunter.

### Guests:

Lawrence Carpenter, Leo Martin, Gerry McConaghy, George Porter, Maureen Vail, Ana Watts

## 1. Call to Order

### 1.1 Welcome and Prayer

This session of Diocesan Council was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by the Right Reverend Claude W. Miller postponed from 17 March 2007 due to weather. He opened the meeting with prayer. The Bishop offered a welcome to all present and indicated we were one member short of quorum; however, we would proceed with the knowledge other members were on their way.

### 1.2 Regrets:

Fred Scott offered the list of regrets received (noted above).

### 1.3 Reflection and opening comments

In his opening remarks, the Bishop recognized the fact that all those involved in church work are having a busy spring, including himself and diocesan staff. The Bishop gave a list of some of the things which were going on at this time or in the near future (not in chronological order):

- ∨ Re-gathering at Camp Gagetown
- ∨ House of Bishops (Niagara Falls) with the Archbishop of Canterbury
- ∨ Clergy Day (April 23) with Canon Ron Stevenson and Principal Stephen Andrews of COGS. This meeting will include lay delegates to General Synod.
- ∨ 3 weeks of visits in the Archdeaconries of St Andrews and Woodstock
- ∨ Layreaders' Day (end of May)
- ∨ Diocesan Synod (June 7-9)...Hope to have Bishop Matthias from Ghana as our guest
- ∨ General Synod in June
- ∨ Clergy College in June
- ∨ Council of Provincial Synod to meet in Fredericton in September
- ∨ Clergy Conference Spouse
- ∨ ACW Annual
- ∨ Camps Capital Campaign events planned for the fall season.
- ∨ Ongoing talks with parishes developing building projects.

The Bishop also reported:

- Elizabeth Harding had been appointed Director at Camp Medley for one year.
- Two summer students will be appointed to parish work shortly.

The Bishop offered his thanks to all those involved in the numerous diocesan activities.

### 1.4 Discussion and study

The Venerable Richard McConnell read John 20:19-23. The Bishop gave a personal reflection on the reading in light of what is going on in Afghanistan. He reminded us how Jesus' call to 'shalom' is often overlooked. He asked us to think of how, as a church, we can react to the lack of peace in our world and how we can support each other in these difficult times. Members of Diocesan Council offered their own comments and reflections.

The study was closed with prayer.

### 1.5 Correspondence

A letter from Canon Geoffrey Jackson, Senior Development Officer of the Anglican Church of Canada was received and read. The letter offered thanks and encouragement to the Diocese vis-a-vis the Letting Down the Nets program. It is noted the name of this program is changed and that the target date for implementation is January 1, 2009.

### 1.6 Point of Privilege

The Venerable Richard McConnell reminded Council that the Venerable Geoffrey Hall had recently experienced a 3<sup>rd</sup> death in his immediate family and requested Council recognize this tremendous loss in the Hall family.

**MOTION 1: R. McConnell/M. Arnott. That this Council extend its heartfelt condolences to the Venerable Geoffrey Hall and his family, and also extend its thanks for all the work he does on behalf of Council**

MOTION 1: Carried unanimously.

1.6 The Agenda: modification requests

The following items were added:

- 3.2.5 Report on the Nurturing Healthy Parishes Symposium
- 3.2.6 Camps Capital Campaign Update

MOTION 2: M. Arnott/D.Painter. **That the agenda be accepted as modified.**

MOTION 2: Carried unanimously.

## 2. Minutes of Last Meeting: 17 January 2007

2.1 Modifications and acceptance

MOTION 3: P. Gillies/B. Macnamara. **That the minutes of the 17 January 2007 meeting of Diocesan Council be accepted as circulated.**

MOTION 3: Carried unanimously.

2.2 Unfinished business

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 2.2.1 Code of Pastoral Conduct             | - tabled - clergy group working       |
| 2.2.2 Parish Budget Support                | - completed                           |
| 2.2.3 Shared Ministry Plan Implementation  | - to be presented at Greater Chapters |
| 2.2.4 Fractured relationship mediation     | - pending                             |
| 2.2.5 RNS School Act and governance review | - letter sent                         |
| 2.2.6 128th Synod Resolutions              | - review today                        |
| 2.2.7 Retired Clergy Benefits              | - on agenda for today                 |

### Point of Order

With the arrival of two more Council members, quorum was now achieved.

MOTION 4: V.Hodge/M.Arnott. **That all previous motions be ratified with the full quorum of Council.**

MOTION 4: Carried unanimously.

A discussion on the Fair Share Allotment was held (reported below).

The Bishop called a recess of the proceedings for lunch at 12:20 pm and the Venerable Vicars Hodge was asked to offer the blessing.

Diocesan Council reconvened at 1:20 pm

## 3. Reports

3.1 Council Team reports:

3.1.1 Youth

P. Gillies made the following additions to the Youth report:

- Soulrush in Miramichi with Capt Rose Steeves. A good weekend with about 40 people.
- TEC slowly getting underway; will not be held at Camp Medley this year
- ReGathering at Cmp Gagetown has 35-40 people registered.
- Camp Medley has a slate of potential staff
- Momentum pre-consult to be held next week
- Chicken Noodle Club banquet in Saint John tomorrow
- National Youth Leaders gathering planned for 2008. G. Porter is part of committee
- G.Porter will be part of the Camp Medley staff training and will offer pastoral support during this transitional year.

- Overnight 'Woody' - an overnight weekend for Camp Brookwood campers was held in March with 18 campers attending. It was held at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Florenceville.

### 3.1.2 Stewardship

Report was circulated at the meeting.

### 3.1.3 Spiritual Formation

No report.

### 3.1.4 Parish Support

It was noted a Wardens' Day is planned for September 22 at Camp Medley.

### 3.1.5 Mission / Outreach

Since the meeting and report, the Companion Diocese Committee met and efforts are being made to bring the Bishop of Ghana to our Diocesan Synod in June.

### 3.1.6 Episcopal

Report was circulated at the meeting.

### 3.1.7 Administration

The motion 'Standing Committees of Diocesan Council' (Business 4.1) comes out of this report and will be dealt with below.

#### 3.1.7.1 Nominating Committee

The motion 'Constitution and Canons Committee Terms of Reference' (Business 4.4) comes out of this report and will be dealt with below.

MOTION 5: P. Drummond/W. Williams. **That the Nominating Committee be removed from the oversight of the Stewardship and Development Team.**

MOTION 5: Carried unanimously.

MOTION 6: W. Williams/D. Painter. **That the reports of the Diocesan Council Teams be accepted with thanks.**

MOTION 6: Carried unanimously.

#### 3.1.7.2 Finance Committee

F. Scott reported the diocesan books had been reviewed and audited. 2006 proved to be a remarkable year as a result of parish support.

MOTION 7: M. Arnott/H. Mackenzie. **That the financial report be accepted.**

MOTION 7: Carried unanimously.

## 3.2 Other Reports

### 3.2.1 Communications Task Force Report

MOTION 8: H. Mackenzie. **That the Communications Task Force Report be received for presentation at the 129<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Synod.**

MOTION 8: Carried unanimously.

MOTION 9: P. Gillies/P. Drummond. **That the Communications Task Force be dismissed with thanks for their work.**

MOTION 9: Carried unanimously.

### 3.2.2 Reply to RNS Governance Committee

MOTION 10: K. Dow/D. Edwards. **That the letter of reply to RNS Governance Committee and the report of on-gong conversation be received.**

MOTION 10: Carried unanimously.

### 3.2.3 Fair Share Allotment Proposal (Discussed before lunch)

Mr. Lawrence Carpenter and Mr. Gerry McConaghy were welcomed to the meeting by the Bishop. In turn, they presented the reasoning and conclusions of the Fair Share Contribution Proposal including schedules). It was noted the Task Force wanted an involvement at the Deanery level and a need for complete transparency in the system proposed.

Archdeacon Allan, as a member of this committee, stressed the focus should move from "paying into the diocese" to "contributing to the mission" of the Church. As such, he proposed the word "allotment" should be changed to "contribution" in the upcoming motion. All concerned agreed to this change.

F. Scott, also a member of the Task Force, added this proposal falls within the Shared Ministry Plan. He also mentioned this proposal has to be presented with clarity and effective communication in order to maintain its integrity.

Members of Council noted:

- Challenges in meeting obligations are not always financial; sometimes, these challenges are based on demographics and leadership.
- There were a number of questions based on the formula itself
- We need to become a functional family...pastorally and otherwise
- The formula excludes capital bequests (but includes interest) and funds raised for capital projects, flow-throughs.
- A question was raised as to the need for consequences to parishes who do not meet the requirements.
- This is a chance to move from solitary parochial thinking to community diocesan family thinking.

### 3.2.4 Retired Clergy Benefits

F. Scott presented this report found on pages 44 - 47 of the Council package. A motion is listed under Business 4.5

### 3.2.5 Nurturing Healthy Parishes Symposium

H. Mackenzie and Archdeacon Drummond gave an enthusiastic report on the symposium which they attended in Orillia, Ontario. In this report, they recommended the Diocese takes a serious look at the Fresh Start Programme ([www.freshstartcanada.ca](http://www.freshstartcanada.ca)) recognizing that change does have to come from the laity.

Both offered their thanks to Council for the opportunity to attend this symposium.

The Bishop then offered his thanks for the report and the enthusiasm which they both showed. He suggested the report should be made available to the Parish Development Team and the Stewardship and Financial Development Team. Those teams could, in turn, make recommendations to Council for consideration and implementation.

### 3.2.6 Camps Capital Campaign

F. Scott presented the detailed report which was distributed at the meeting, including the financial report for this campaign. It was noted the campaign has now passed the half million mark.

MOTION 11: M. Arnott/D. Painter. **That the two reports on the Camps Capital Campaign be accepted as presented.**

MOTION 11: Carried unanimously.

#### 4. Business

##### 4.1 Standing Committees of Diocesan Council

MOTION 12: V. Hodge/K. Dow. **That the Human Resources and Nominating Committees be recognized as "Standing Committees" of Diocesan Council with Finance and Constitution and Canons (Constitution 11(7)), continuing to report via the appropriate Council Team(s).**

MOTION 12: Carried unanimously.

##### 4.2 Reports to Diocesan Synod

MOTION 13: J. Sharpe/V. Hodge. **That each Diocesan Council Team:**

- 1. Make a comprehensive Team Report with reference to the two years of the Team's work;**
- 2. Collect and submit reports for groups, committees and organizations under their purview as one report , and**
- 3. Submit all to the Secretary of Synod by the 26 April 2007 deadline.**

MOTION 13: Carried unanimously.

##### 4.3 Fair Share Contribution

Please note the word allotment was changed to contribution

MOTION 14: S. Allan/M. Arnott. **That this Diocesan Council:**

- 1. Accept the report of the Budget Support Task Force;**
- 2. Approve the proposed Fair Share Contribution proposal for implementation in January 2008.**
- 3. Encourage in depth discussion at the May Archdeaconry Greater Chapters in order to prepare delegates for a Synod motion required regarding rates of parish contribution;**
- 4. That a policy document be prepared which clearly describes the underlying principles and contribution process for inclusion in the Book of Policies, Regulations and Directives (Red Book) and inclusion in the 2007 Synod Convening Circular.**

MOTION 14: Carried unanimously.

MOTION 15: D. Edwards/R. McConnell. **That a vote of thanks be extended to the Budget Support Task Force for their hard work.**

MOTION 15: Carried unanimously.

##### 4.4 Constitution and Canons Committee Terms of Reference

MOTION 16: V. Hodge/J. Sharpe. **That the draft Roles and Responsibilities for the Committee on Constitution and Canons be accepted as its terms of reference.**

MOTION 16: Carried unanimously.

##### 4.5 Retired Clergy Benefits

MOTION 17: M. Arnott/J. Sharpe. **That Diocesan Council accept with thanks the report on a proposed retired clergy benefits policy and request the Committee facilitate consultation with retired clergy regarding its acceptability.**

MOTION 17: Carried unanimously.

#### 4.6 Future Meetings of Diocesan Council

MOTION 18: P. Drummond/D. Painter. **That the proposed dates for future meetings of Diocesan Council be approved.**

- § Wednesday, 16 May 2007 (Saint John area) – pre-Synod –
- § Wednesday, 27 June 2007 (Fredericton area) - post-Synod - Afternoon Meeting
- § Saturday, 15 September 2007 (location?)
- § Wednesday, 07 November 2007 (location?)

MOTION 18: Carried unanimously.

#### 4.7 Notices

4.7.1 Hospitality thanks.

Thanks to the Parish of Prince William, Dumfries, Queensbury and Southampton.

MOTION 19: K. Dow/M. Arnott. **That a letter of thanks be sent to the Parish of Prince William, Dumfries, Queensbury and Southampton for their hospitality.**

MOTION 19: Carried unanimously.

4.7.2 Review of Motions made at the 128<sup>th</sup> Session of Synod

It was noted that all resolutions of the 128<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Synod (pages 50-51) were completed. The Bishop commended members of Council for completing the mandate passed to them by this Synod.

4.7.3 Thanks

The Bishop extended his thanks to all the guests present at this meeting of Diocesan Council.

4.7.4 Condolences and Support

MOTION 20: W. Williams/K. Dow. **That this Diocesan Council send its condolences and words of encouragement to Padre John Organ at Camp Gagetown, to the Base Commander at Camp Gagetown, and to Padre Malcolm Berry in Afghanistan.**

MOTION 20: Carried unanimously.

#### 5. Adjournment

MOTION 21: W. Williams. Adjournment.

The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer at 3:00 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Leo Martin, Recording Secretary  
The Ven. Geoffrey Hall, Secretary  
The Rt. Rev'd Claude Miller, Bishop and Chair

20 April 2007