



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 27 August 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

31 May 2008

St Luke's Church Parish Hall, Woodstock

Pre-meeting circulation:

- § Agenda 31 May 2008
- § Unfinished Business Summary (15 May 2008)
- § Correspondence (The Most Rev'd Fred Hiltz 25 April 2008)
- § Draft Minutes (12 March 2008)
- § Attendance (17 March 2008)
- § Team Reports: Administration; Episcopal; Mission/Outreach: Parish Support; Spiritual Development; Youth;
- § Standing Committee Reports: Finance; Human Resources; Nominating; Rural and Struggling Parishes Task Force
- § Draft Regulations

Meeting Circulation

- § Bible Study (Matthew 7:21-29)
- § Camps Project Summary
- § Letting Down the Nets Power Point
- § Communications Report
- § Scouting Information Sheet
- § Budget Funding Task Force Power Point
- § Residential School Power Point

Attending: David Barrett, Heather Carr, William Chilton, Patricia Drummond, Greg Frazer, Geoffrey Hall, Vicars Hodge (afternoon), Martha Jo Hoyt, Keith Joyce, Robert LeBlanc, Jon Lownds, Hazel MacKenzie, Gerald McConaghy, Richard McConnell, Falen McNulty, Claude Miller, Keith Osborne, Douglas Painter, Ted Quann, Fred Scott, Clyde Spinney, Gordon Thompson, Christopher Waldschutz, Walter Williams.

Guests: George Porter, Elizabeth Harding, Ana Watts, Leo Martin,

Regrets: Stuart Allan, Judith Campbell, Vicars Hodge (morning session), Michael Tower, John Sharpe.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Welcome members and guests

The Right Reverend Dr. Claude Miller, Bishop of Fredericton called the meeting to order at the appointed time and opened the proceedings with prayer. He offered greetings to everyone present and offered thanks to the Vice-Chair for accepting the chair at the last Diocesan Council. The Bishop called for regrets.

1.2 Regrets: recorded above.

1.3 Opening comments and study - The Bishop

The Rev'd Canon Jon Lownds and Heather Carr took turns in reading Matthew 7:21-29 as the focus of our Bible Study. Three study questions were offered for this study:

- #1. We hear verse 21 regularly as an offertory sentence, why might it be used in that context?
- #2. Can we imagine Jesus saying "I never knew you" after working our whole life in the Church?
- #3. As people of faith, offer examples of how we build "on rock".

In his comments, the Bishop reminded us that as people of Christ, we often have difficulty accepting gifts. He used himself as an example in having difficulty accepting his sabbatical as a gift to him. It also offered him the opportunity to evangelize because while people may be looking away from the institution of religion, they still hold many questions regarding faith. So with this in mind, the Bishop graciously accepted his sabbatical as a gift. As such he asked us to remember that in gifts, come many opportunities.

The Bishop indicated the Lambeth Conference is fast approaching and that he hopes to complete the optional requirement of developing a DVD of the Diocese to be presented at Lambeth. He also reported that since Bishop Matthias Medadues-Bodahu will be staying in London for an extended period of time, his intended visit to Ghana will be postponed to a later period.

In upcoming events, the Bishop noted many Confirmations, the Cursillo Service of Dedication and Renewal (June 15), Ordinations (September), the Editor's Conference in June, and the Clergy College (June 8-13).

The Bishop congratulated Ana Watts on her election to the Board of Anglican Journal and commended all Council members for their continued work throughout the Diocese.

Ana Watts gave a quick overview on the upcoming Editor's Conference noting that Canon Ron Stevenson, Dr. Michael Higgins and David Folster would be presenters. The Conference theme is to be "How the Church media can do its job and still be in the Church?"

The Reverend Canon Jon Lownds reported the enrollment at the Clergy College now stood at 25. The speakers for the College are the Right Rev. Bill Hockin, Dr. Michael Higgins and the Rev. Donal E. Baustian.

1.4 Correspondence

1.4.1 Primate

A letter from the Primate, the Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, was read. The letter addressed a General Synod 2007 request for Provinces and Diocese to look at their role in the mission of the Anglican Church of Canada. Listed as an item on the agenda.

1.5 Agenda modifications

The Dean requested an opportunity to speak. Once granted, he offered apologies regarding comments he made at the 12 March 2008 meeting of the Diocesan Council. His comments regarding the Archdeacons monopolizing the conversation was meant as a joke, and was indeed taken as a joke; however, the Dean felt these comments were inappropriate and asked that they be retracted.

Motion 1: Gordon Thompson/Hazel MacKenzie.

That the agenda be accepted as circulated.

Motion 1: Carried unanimously.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

2.1 Corrections and adoption - 12 March 2008

Motion 2: Walter Williams/Robert LeBlanc

That the minutes of the 12 March 2008 meeting of Diocesan Council be accepted as circulated.

Motion 2: Carried unanimously.

2.2 Completed items from past minutes

- 2.2.1 Minutes of 07 November 2007 posted
- 2.2.2 Letter of thanks to and expenses Mr. Charles O'Neill, Diocese of NS and PEI
- 2.2.3 Episcopal Ministries Team Roles and Responsibilities posted
- 2.2.4 Mediation - DC 04 November 2006 - 11 removed from unfinished business
- 2.2.5 Anglican Foundation Application (Richmond) submitted

2.3 Unfinished items from past minutes.

The Secretary of Synod listed the following items as unfinished business. More information is available in the pre-meeting circulation.

- 2.2.1 Code of Pastoral Conduct (Episcopal Team)
- 2.2.2 Shared Ministry Plan Tracking and Implementation (Diocesan Council)
We are stumbling on this item.
- 2.2.3 Marriage and Sexuality (Spiritual Development Team)
- 2.2.4 Clean Water as Sacred Gift (Mission Outreach Team)
- 2.2.5 Embryonic Stem Research (Episcopal Team)
We are stumbling on this item.
- 2.2.6 Support of the Diocesan Budget (Administration Team)
- 2.2.7 Rural and Struggling Parishes (Parish Support and Development Team)
- 2.2.8 Diocesan Budget Process (Administration Team)
- 2.2.9 Memorial of Dissolution of the Parish of St. James, SJ (Administration Team)
We are stumbling on this item.
- 2.2.10 Camp Brookwood Task Force (Episcopal Team)
- 2.2.11 Canon Five, s.7 to Synod re: Parish Financials (Administration Team)
- 2.2.12 Policy on Applications to the Anglican Foundation (Administration Team)

3. Reports

3.1 Team Reports:

Youth Ministries

George Porter asked if there were any questions regarding the submitted report.

Item #2: Confirmands refers to the candidates confirmed by Bishop Miller. The change of venue is partly due to the fact the Base Commander has suspended all non-military activities taking place at Base Gagetown.

Item #7: George gave further explanations on the value and cost saving of this system.

Elizabeth Harding gave a more detailed explanation of her work with Sunday Schools in answer to a question raised at the 12 March 2008 meeting of Diocesan Council. She listed a number of duties she performs regularly and stated she responds favourably to any invitation that comes her way.

Administration

C. Waldschutz reported a motion was forthcoming under Business on the agenda and that the Synod Planning Committee was about to receive a proposal from three archdeaconeries regarding the possibility of hosting Synod 2009.

Ana Watts, at the invitation of the Chair, presented the Communications Committee Report as part of the Administration Report.

Parish Support and Development

H. MacKenzie presented the report highlighting the challenge of communication. It was suggested every parish needs a communication person (other than the Rector). The Regional consultations showed parishes are not aware of the available resources and there is a constant struggle in developing a bank of resources. An interest needs to be created amongst the parishioners so they will look for the information. A further suggestion was made that these items should be discussed at the Greater Chapter meetings in the fall. Following a discussion on the challenges of communicating information properly and swiftly, the Bishop asked all members not to be discouraged but to always move forward.

Mission and Outreach

K. Osborne presented this report highlighting the addition of the Rev. Marian Lucas-Jeffries as our liaison to Sophia House and commending the Parish of Kingston to our prayers in their efforts to receive a refugee family. It was also noted that James Chandra is willing to speak to parishes/deaneries and make presentations on refugees.

A question was raised as to where General and Provincial Synods fall in our team structure. The Bishop suggested these should fall under the Mission and Outreach Team.

Stewardship and Financial Development

D. Barrett presented this report and stressed the good news item whereby Canon Geoff Jackson and Rob Waller met with the Team.

Spiritual Development

G. Thompson presented this report. He noted the Cursillo service is for the whole Diocese and he asked members of Council to encourage everyone to attend. He also indicated the Team was unclear as to its role...whether it is to report, to initiate new programs, to support The Bishop explained his understanding is that Teams are umbrella groups through which all groups in the Diocese report to Council.

W. Chilton stressed the Team's 'other' note where thanks are offered to those individuals who work diligently at Diocesan Office. Again, the Bishop echoed this statement adding there are many who do the work of the Diocese.

Episcopal Ministries

D. Painter presented this report and promoted the use of SKYPE in all meetings.

3.2 Standing Committee Reports

3.2.1 Constitution and Canons

The Chancellor indicated he did not have a report. He spoke on the high standards of the previous chancellor and of his own struggles of balancing his professional life with the demands of the church.

3.2.2 Nominating

G. Hall presented this report and added that nominations are received by the Committee and anyone with the wish to make nominations are encouraged to do so.

3.2.3 Human Resources

G. Hall presented this report. He noted more information on EAP will be added to the Red Book Policies draft which pertains to Clergy Remuneration and Benefits.

Motion 3: K. Joyce/F. McNulty

That the reports of the different Teams and Standing Committees be accepted as circulated and presented.

Motion 3: Carried unanimously.

[The Bishop called on the Dean to offer a word of blessing for lunch prepared by the ladies of the parish. Council suspended its proceedings for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Council reconvened at the call of the Bishop at 12:45 p.m.]

3.2.4 Finance

G. McConaghy presented this report and stressed items 1 and 2 of the report. A motion in respect to the Residential Schools refund will be presented later.

F. Scott highlighted the financial situation of the Camps capital campaign as indicated in the handout. He listed the problem as the income not covering the debt incurred.

F. Scott spoke on Addendum 1 in the pre-circulation package: Discretion in Respect of Replacement Cost Coverage for Building and Contents. A motion will be presented under Business.

G. McConaghy presented the Interim Report on the Diocesan Budget Support Task Force. The report includes some factual information gathered from a recent trip to South Carolina.

Bishop Salmon is scheduled to speak to the task force following the Clergy Conference in August.

Motion 4: G. McConaghy/V. Hodge

That the Financial Report be accepted as presented.

Motion 4: Carried unanimously.

3.3 Other reports

3.3.1 Rural and Struggling Parishes Task Force

P. Drummond presented this interim report focusing on some of the celebrations and concerns around the Diocese.

Motion 5: R. McConnell/ W. Chilton

That the Interim report from the Rural and Struggling Parishes Task Force be received as circulated.

Motion 5: Carried unanimously

3.3.2 Budget Support Task Force

Presented under the Financial report

3.3.3 Camp Brookwood Task Force

Walter Williams offered a verbal report. He indicated the Task Force (same membership as the Board) met a couple of times and is re-energized with its focus of taking positive steps forward. The challenge at this point is securing chaplains and a cook.

Motion 6: H. MacKenzie/ H. Carr

That the Camp Brookwood Task Force Report be accepted as presented.

Motion 6: Carried unanimously.

3.4 Items for Discussion

3.4.1 Partnership with General Synod re development

G. Hall made a power point presentation bringing Council members up to date on the current status of the Diocesan partnership with General Synod.

4. Business

4.1 Residential Schools Settlement refund

Motion 7: G. McConaghy/ D. Barrett

That the refund resulting from the renegotiated Residential Schools Settlement in the amount of \$299,687 be distributed proportionately between Diocese and the parishes that made specific contributions to the Fund.

Fred Scott gave a background review of this payment with the help of power point so that members could vote in an informed way.

Motion 7: Carried with 1 opposing vote.

4.2 Anglican Foundation Application (Parish of Upham)

Motion 8: G. Hall/V. Hodge

That diocesan Council approve the application of the Parish of Upham to the Anglican Foundation for rectory renovations in the amount of \$8825.00.

Motion 8: Carried with 1 opposing vote.

4.3 Draft Regulations

4.3.1 3-1 Election of Bishops

Motion 9: C. Spinney/ G. McConaghy

That the draft regulations under Canon Three - 3-1 Election of Bishops be adopted.

Motion 9: Carried unanimously

4.3.2 5-1 Beneficiary Funds

Motion 10: C. Spinney/ G. Hall

That the draft regulations under Canon Five - 5-1 Beneficiary Funds be adopted.

Motion 10: Carried unanimously

4.3.3 6-1 Forms of Memorials and Register of Memorials

Motion 11: C. Spinney/ F. McNulty

That the draft regulations under Canon - 6-1 Forms of Memorials and Register of memorials be adopted.

Motion 11: Carried unanimously

4.3.4 8-1 Rules of Ecclesiastical Court

Motion 12: C. Spinney/ V. Hodge

That the draft regulations Under Canon Eight - 8-1 Rules of Ecclesiastical Court be adopted.

Motion 12: Carried unanimously.

4.4 Canon Three (Election of Bishops) Amendments to Synod

Motion 13: C. Spinney/K. Joyce

That the outlined amendments to Canon Three be forwarded for consideration by Diocesan Synod 2009.

Motion 13: Carried unanimously.

4.5 Primate's request RE ACC mission and ministry review

The Bishop agrees Council should do what it can to live up to the request of the Primate. This matter is referred to the Bishop for appropriate action.

4.6 Insurance Minimum Standards Addenda

Motion 14: G. McConaghy/C. Waldshutz

That "A-19 Minimum Insurance Standards - Addendum 1: Discretion in Respect of Replacement Cost Coverage for Building and Contents and Addendum 2: Requirement for Compliance with Established Minimum Standards" be adopted.

Motion 14: Carried unanimously.

4.7 Diocesan Synod Services

Motion 15: G. McConaghy/ C. Waldschutz

In light of the distinct possibility of diminished Diocesan budget support and the need to ensure that ministries and [Synod] services provided in support of parishes and Episcopal ministry are needed and effective, the Finance Committee recommends that Diocesan Council establish a process to evaluate Diocesan ministries and services.

Motion 15: Carried unanimously

4.8 Shared Ministry Plan Tracking and Implementation

Motion 16: D. Barrett/R. LeBlanc

That the Stewardship Team assist the Vice-Chair of the Diocesan Council in tracking the progress and implementation of the "Shared Ministry Plan."

Amendment 1: C. Waldschutz/ D. Painter

That the Stewardship Team track the progress and implementation of the "Shared Ministry Plan."

Discussion followed.

Motion 17: Gerry McConaghy/ Heather Carr

That Motion 16 and the proposed Amendment 1 be tabled for further discussion.

Motion 17: Carried unanimously.

4.9 Partnership with General Synod

Motion 18: Robert LeBlanc/ David Barrett

That the Stewardship Team be charged with maintaining the continuing partnership (Letting Down the Nets pilot diocese) with the General Synod consulting team in developing an "holistic" diocesan stewardship plan.

It was noted that General Synod will fund this work.

Motion 18: Carried unanimously.

4.10 Next Meetings

By consensus of Council, the following dates and venues were agreed upon:

Wednesday 27 August 2008 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. (RNS, Rothesay)

Wednesday 17 September 2008 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Fredericton)

Wednesday 05 November 2008 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (St Paul's, Bushville)

4.11 Announcements

4.11.1 Thanks

The Bishop extended the thanks of the Diocesan Council to the Parish of Woodstock for their hospitality and for the lunch.

4.11.2 The Reverend Royden Ferris

It was noted the Reverend Royden Ferris has left a legacy to the Diocese in the form of a gift of annuity. This is the first time this type of gift has been left. It was indicated his generosity should be recognized through an article in the NB Anglican.

5. Adjournment

Motion 19: G. Thompson

That this meeting of Diocesan Council be adjourned.

Motion 19: Carried unanimously.

In his closing remarks, the Bishop offered his thanks to all Council members for their work and dedication. The Bishop then offered prayers and a blessing upon departing members.

Time: 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Leo Martin
Recording Secretary

The Venerable Geoffrey Hall
Secretary of Synod

The Right Reverend Claude W. Miller
Chair

27 August 2008