



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 17 September 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

27 August 2008

St Paul's Church, St Paul's Hall, Rothesay

Pre-meeting circulation:

- § Agenda 27 August 2008
- § Draft Minutes (31 May 2008)
- § Attendance (31 May 2008)
- § Interim Report: Diocesan Budget Support Task Force

Attending: David Barrett, Judith Campbell, Heather Carr, William Chilton, Patricia Drummond, David Edwards, Greg Frazer, Geoffrey Hall, Donald Hazen, Vicars Hodge, Martha Jo Hoyt, 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: Bishop Edward Salmon, Robert Marsh, Leo Martin, and members of the Budget Support Task Force: Janice Branscombe, Lawrence Carpenter, Jackie Streight, Chris VanBuskirk.

Regrets: Keith Joyce.

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; offering thanksgiving for Bishop Edward Salmon's presence in the Diocese, and giving thanks for the work of the members of the Budget Support Task Force and of Council.

The Bishop offered warm thanks to the Rector and the Parish of Rothesay for their hospitality in hosting this extra meeting of Diocesan Council.

1.2 Regrets

The Bishop called for regrets and they noted above.

1.3 Opening comments and study - The Bishop

Since Council was joined by a number of guests, the Bishop called on all those present to introduce themselves, indicating their parish and/ or Archdeaconeries.

1.4 Correspondence

None

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

2.1 Corrections and adoption - 31 May 2008

Motion 1: Douglas Painter/Jon Lownds

That the minutes of the 31 May 2008 meeting of Diocesan Council be accepted as circulated.

Motion 1: Carried unanimously

3. Business and Discussion

The Bishop gave a quick review of the work which was assigned to Diocesan Council at the 129th session of the Diocesan Synod (2007). This work is indicated by the following motions approved at the aforementioned Synod:

Motion 129-11a (motion to amend 129-11)

Be it resolved that in accordance with the principles, definitions and processes described in the Report of the Budget Funding Task Force, that the bases for determining individual parish fair share contributions in support of the Diocesan Shared Ministry Budgets for 2008 and 2009 be set as follows: 13.64% (2008) and 12.27% (2009) of parish operating income, and that the "single" support request be eliminated. Carried.

Motion 129-11b (motion to refer)

That this matter of funding as it pertains to Fair Share Contributions be referred to Diocesan Council. Carried.

The question facing Diocesan Council remains: how do we move forward in resourcing this plan and how does it impact our vision as a Diocese.

The members of the Budget Support Task Force made the recommendation to the Bishop that perhaps he should invite Bishop Edward Salmon, retired Bishop of South Carolina and proponent of the 10-10-10 proposal. As a result, the two bishops started corresponding, and Bishop Miller extended the invitation to Bishop Salmon that he come and be the guest speaker at the 2008 Clergy Conference and at a session of Diocesan Council.

Bishop Salmon offered Council a condensed version of what he shared with the clergy. The clergy session was audio taped and is available from anglican.nb.ca.

Some background/highlights of Bishop Salmon's presentation:

- Clergy from the Diocese of Fredericton were in Charleston for a conference and Bishop Salmon met with them. Some of the discussion, especially around the 10-10-10 apportionment, was brought back to the Diocese of Fredericton.
- There are some misunderstandings surrounding the 10-10-10 and Bishop Salmon is here to help clarify some of them as well as give some background to it.
- 10-10-10 is a slice of an institutional transformational process, not a technique.
- In South Carolina, the change was phenomenal. In 1990, the parochial income was 9.6 million dollars with 20-25% going to the Diocese (1.6 million); in February 2008, the parochial income was 32 million with 2.5 million going to the Diocese (not every parish submitting 10%).
- The principle of 10-10-10 is that increased funding at the grassroots level (parishes) will empower ministry at that level and parishes will take ownership of ministry.
- The Diocese is the basic unit of the church catholic and parishes are expressions of it
- Before the transformational change can take place, a systemic change in the "headship" was needed:
 - vestry rotates every 3 years
 - teach vestry members how to be leaders
 - teach spiritual hygiene to leadership: such as not receiving inflammatory comments about a 3rd party; learning to live as the Gospel teaches
 - Ephesians 4: leaders need to be accountable

- Start by transforming leadership in light of the generosity of God and getting to know who we are as disciples of Christ. Too often finances are a block to generosity and few clergy are willing to speak about money. We need to remember that money equals power, position, status which in turn equals to a false god.
- The Gospel is a confrontation to that false god since worship of mammon will not allow us to receive the generosity of God.
- Leaders need to take risks for Jesus Christ in order to proclaim the Gospel. We need to teach what we have to teach and get away from assessing blame on others.

Questions/Comments

- Builders for Christ: Invite everyone in the Diocese to become missionaries for \$25/year for adults or \$1-5/year for children. The money raised is used for the different parochial programs of the Diocese.
- Encourage parishes to do mission: We need to break the system whereby parishes hang on to the Diocese like puppies hang on to the mother. Bishop Salmon recommends a transformation where the Diocese sends someone to the parishes to help. Encourage parishes to help each other. Let go of anything that anyone else can do better than you and empower them to do it.
- Who teaches the parishes leadership: Bishop Miller brought Bishop Salmon to the Diocese to teach clergy and Council; to empower members of the clergy and Council to teach the parishes.
- 10-10-10: Parishes are asked not to drop to the 10% mark immediately but to cap their apportionment and allow it to drop naturally until it reaches 10%.
- Invest in congregation: Once the diocesan portfolio had reached the stated goal, the excess was used to invest in people. There needs to be constant evaluation. Also encourages parishes to help each other
- Theology of risk: Jesus was the risk of God. God took the risk to come to us as Jesus Christ. The cost of that risk was crucifixion. In that love (risk) everything was transformed. Where there is no risk there is no life. The risk that God took saved the world. We need to take risks for the Gospel; not stupid ones, but a willingness to stick our necks out.
- Worship: The style of worship is not the issue but rather faithfulness to the Gospel.
- Demographics: Changes in demographics is causing a sense of uneasiness and fear. With fear, comes blame and blaming each other becomes counter productive. With changes in demographics, we can choose to be in charge of it or be victims of it. Building trust is important and the only way to become trustworthy is to be trusted. Jesus Christ trusted us and we killed him; yet, he continues to trust us.
- Resources may need to be redeployed. We can't let buildings or otherwise become hindrances to the message of the Gospel. Example of farmer: "If you spend too much time making the bad fields become good, eventually the good fields will turn bad."

The Council expressed its warm thanks to Bishop Salmon with a standing ovation.

Bishop Miller noted a suggestion by some clergy that Bishop Salmon return so that we become accountable to what he has taught us.

4. Next Meeting

4.1 Next Meeting of Diocesan Council

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

5. Adjournment

Motion 2: Vicars Hodge

That this meeting of Diocesan Council be adjourned.

Motion 2: Carried unanimously

Bishop Miller closed this session of Council and dismissed members and guests with prayer and blessing.

Time 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Leo Martin
Recording Secretary

The Venerable Geoffrey Hall
Secretary of Synod

The Rt. Rev'd Claude W. Miller
Chair

17 September 2008