



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 18 March 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

17 January 2009

Christ Church (Parish) Church, Parish of Fredericton

Pre-meeting circulation (electronically):

- Agenda 17 January 2009
- Draft Minutes (04 November 2008)
- Unfinished Items Summary (11 January 2009)
- Attendance (27 November 2008)
- Team Reports
- GS Planning Study - Executive Summary (January 2009)

Meeting circulation

- Power Point: Planning Study Report
- Planning Study Report
- Regulation 4-2: Diocesan Regional Governance Draft
- Report from the Task Force on Budget Support: Final Draft

Attending: David Barrett, Judith Campbell, Heather Carr, William Chilton, Patricia Drummond, David Edwards, Greg Frazer, Geoffrey Hall, Martha Jo Hoyt, Robert LeBlanc, Jon Lownds, Hazel MacKenzie, Gerald McConaghy, Richard McConnell, Falen McNulty, Claude Miller, Keith Osborne, Douglas Painter, Ted Quann, Joan Randall, Fred Scott, Clyde Spinney, Gordon Thompson, Walter Williams.

Guests: Janis Branscombe, Lawrence Carpenter, Gil Carter, Elizabeth Harding, Leo Martin, James Morell, George Porter, Jackie Streight, Ana Watts.

Regrets: Donald Hazen, Vicars Hodge, Keith Joyce, Gregory McMullin. Michael Tower,

Guest Regrets: Chris VanBuskirk

1. Open

1.1 Welcome members and guests

The Chair, the Right Reverend Claude Miller, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He offered words of welcome to council members and guests and asked G. Hall for regrets.

1.2 Regrets

As listed.

1.3 Study: Matthew 6:25-33

G. Thompson read Matthew 6:25-34. The Bishop explained he used this passage because, since our last Synod, there has been a feeling of anxiety around the Diocese and that words such as crisis and trouble have made their way into our discussions. Quoting Stephen Lang, the Bishop read: "Any parent, or anyone who has ever been a child (which includes everyone), knows that every father and mother does things that the child cannot understand. What is the usual response of the

child? Trust. True the child can respond with tantrums, screaming 'It's not fair,' and crying and sulking. But part of growing up is learning to accept situations, trusting that the parent is watching and protecting no matter what. What is true of human parents is true, the Bible says, of God as well, only more so. God is in charge regardless of how frustrated or perplexed we may be. Jesus, who took pleasure in referring to God as well, several times spoke of the childlike trust that was a trait of God's people. It is one of the sweet ironies of the Bible: To mature spiritually, we must become like children, trusting someone wiser and greater than ourselves."

The Bishop reminded those gathered that in his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus always used simplistic metaphors to demonstrate the kingdom. As a result, the Bishop invited council members to think of parables in our experience in this Diocese that demonstrate the kingdom of God in our midst.

- one response pointed to the Parable of the Good Samaritan as one parish offered to help another in trouble.

- another responded with the Parable of the Yeast where new ideas, new initiatives are being brought forth but they are still at the burgeoning stages. We will find the results amazing.

The Bishop added his own example with the former St. Paul's (Valley) Church where someone suggested they could do more with their assets by closing their doors. While some may have seen this as a drastic suggestion with many negatives, the results proved otherwise. This was truly sacrificial ministry. Other examples abound; yet, they are not seen.

The Bishop wishes all could be more childlike in their innocence and trust and faith. In other words, to accept the fact that God is in control.

The Bishop completed this study with prayers focusing on the work of the Council, the Diocese, the upcoming Synod and ordinations.

1.4 Correspondence

None

1.5 Agenda Modifications

Motion 1: G. McConaghy/H. Carr

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion 1: Carried unanimously.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

2.1 Corrections and adoption - 17 September 2008

Motion 2: G. McConaghy/W. Williams

That the minutes of the 04 November 2008 meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted.

Motion 2: Carried unanimously.

2.2 Completed items from past minutes (for information)

- 2.2.1 Stewardship Team Roles and Responsibilities (posted)

- 2.2.2 2009 Remuneration and Reimbursement Scales (posted)

- 2.2.3 Tracking of Shared Ministry Plan (referred to Sharing Ministry Task Group)

2.3 Unfinished items from past minutes

- § Code of pastoral conduct

- § Marriage and sexuality

- § Clean water as sacred gift

- § Embryonic stem cell research

- § Support of the Diocesan Budget

- § Rural and/or struggling parishes

- § Camp Brookwood Task Force

- § Evaluation of Diocesan Services

- § Partnership with General Synod

- § Primate's request for ACC ministry/mission review

- § Costing of Ministry Areas

- § Coordination of initiatives
- § Regulation 4-1 regional governance
- § Fund for (vocational) diaconate training

The Secretary of Synod noted explanations of these are found in the pre-meeting package.

A question was raised on the item of the Camp Brookwood Task Force. It is the belief of the Task Force that their work is completed and the report added to the package of the last Council meeting.

Motion 3: R. McConnell/P. Drummond

That the Report of the Camp Brookwood Task Force be presented at the next meeting of Diocesan Council (or the next possible one).

Motion 3: Carried unanimously.

3. Reports

3.1 Team and Standing Committee Reports

ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Presented by F. Scott.

A question was raised regarding the date of the upcoming Synod. It should read 04-06 June 2009

Motion 4: F. Scott/D. Edwards

That the Administration Team Report be accepted.

Motion 4: Carried unanimously.

SHARING MINISTRY TASK FORCE

The Roles and Responsibilities are included for information and to indicate the Task Force is now established.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Presented by G. McConaghy.

He added the Budget for 2008 will be met.

Motion 5: G. McConaghy/R. LeBlanc

That the Finance Committee report be accepted.

Motion 5: Carried unanimously.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Presented by F. Scott

Motion 6: F. Scott/K. Osborne

That the Human Resources Committee report be accepted.

Motion 6: Carried unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Presented by G. Hall

He added that Anne Walling has been appointed as PWRDF Co-Ordinator.

Motion 7: G. Hall/F. McNulty

That the Nominations Committee report be accepted.

Motion 7: Carried unanimously.

CONSTITUTION AND CANONS COMMITTEE

Presented by C. Spinney

Motion 8: C. Spinney/H. Mackenzie

That the Constitution and Canons Committee report be accepted.

Motion 8: Carried unanimously.

EPISCOPAL TEAM

Presented by D. Painter

The Ordination Process Task Force Executive Summary is appended for information purposes. The recommendations are made to the Bishop.

Motion 9: D. Painter/K. Osborne

That the Episcopal Team report be accepted.

Motion 9: Carried unanimously.

MISSION AND OUTREACH TEAM

Presented by K. Osborne

A question was raised regarding how to deal with item #5 Clean Water. The discussion centered on giving this topic a higher profile such as educating the parishioners that water is a sacred gift of God and that it needs to be offered on Sunday as such. The idea was presented that perhaps a Bishop's Directive might be in order.

The suggestion was made the resolutions Committee might be able to scrutinize motions before they come to Synod so these motions do not leave the Council unequipped to deal with them. The Chancellor indicated the Resolutions Committee can offer guidance and make suggestions only.

A final point was made that we need to look at how we contaminate or threaten to contaminate water supplies ourselves.

The suggestion of an article in the NB Anglican was made.

Motion 10: K. Osborne/H. Carr

That the Mission and Outreach Team report be accepted.

Motion 10: Carried unanimously.

PARISH SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Presented by H. Mackenzie.

She added the team recently to review the comments of the questionnaire sent to Wardens. Archdeaconery events are being planned for April 18 with the purpose of informing newly elected wardens of what their role and responsibilities are.

Motion 11: H. Mackenzie/T. Quann

That the Parish Support and Development Team report be accepted.

Motion 11: Carried unanimously.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Presented by D. Barrett.

He stated that due to a misunderstanding, the items on the report should all be listed as Priority 1.

Motion 12: D. Barrett/R. LeBlanc

That the Stewardship Team report be accepted.

Motion 12: Carried unanimously.

3.2 Other reports

3.2.1 Draft Regulation 4-1 Regional Governance

The Chancellor presented this regulation so council members may have the chance to review it before it is brought before Council for adoption in March. The Chancellor invited members to send their comments and suggestions to the committee by email. One suggestion was

brought forward, namely that treasurers should be added to the membership of Greater Chapter, as required.

3.2.3 Planning Study Report (LDTN/GS Consultants) and Executive Summary

The Secretary of Synod made this presentation using a copy of the Power Point Presentation which Canon Geoff Jackson and the Reverend Rob Waller made to the clergy in December 2008. The following comments were added:

- this study was primarily funded by General Synod
- the report is returning to Council because it was Diocesan Council that entered into the partnership
- where does the Report go from here?
- the Report reminds Council that the Diocese is at a crisis point and that the breadth of our Diocese is unique in the Canadian Church.
- the report leaves Council with a lot to think about.
- the Bishop reminded Council that everyone has a part to play in the success of the recommendations made by the report. As a Diocese, we can do what is attainable without losing sight of the big picture.

Council broke for lunch at 12:10 p.m. and the Bishop offered a blessing for lunch. Council was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

3.2.2 Budget Support Task Force

G. McConaghy presented the members of the Task Force and noted they spent considerable time looking at the Diocese of South Carolina model of 10-10-10 and that the report being presented received the unanimous support of the committee. He offered thanks to all the committee members for their hard work.

Comments:

- The Bishop echoed the statement of thanks to all members of the Task Force.
- Has any thought been given to the idea of mandatory 'fair share'? Some thought was given to it, but it is hoped the report will be received by parishes as sincere; therefore leading all parishes to support it fully, without the need of any punitive action.
- The assumption should be that if this document is accepted by Synod, the parish representatives, as members of Synod, would be accepting of the recommendations and bring these back to the parish as a positive step.
- What were the challenges? Even though the task seemed impossible at the beginning, the work proved to be positive. There is a concern about how to convince people to tithe and on how to attract those who are on the periphery. The Task Force worked diligently in making sure the language of the report is inclusive and not offensive to anyone.
- The Task Force recognizes the need for a cultural change in thought. The first 10 is the important one.
- The Bishop added that our pastoral response to all Anglicans (active and non-active) is commendable. Our challenge rests in their response.
- The suggestion was made to have a subtitle added to our Synod, "It's all about you!"
- We need to be aware of ramifications at the parish level.

Motion 13: G. McConaghy/R. McConnell

That the report of the Budget Support Task Force be accepted.

Motion 13: Carried unanimously.

3.2.4 Rural and/or Struggling Parishes Task Force

P. Drummond gave a verbal report with the hope to have a completed written report in the very near future.

The recommendations will fall under the following areas:

- Spiritual growth
- Self examination at all levels
- Alternative ways to ministry
- Fund initiated in the style of 'Builders for Christ'
- Leadership Development: Priests, Greater Chapters,...
- Stewardship
- Communications: with a link in every parish

3.2.5 Sharing Ministry Task Force

James Morell was invited to give a verbal report. He indicated the Task Force has had one meeting and they are presently looking at the three reports given to them. The six following points were recognized as the first tasks.

1. Where should we go? (Will need Synod time)
 2. Even though there is a reluctance to speak about stewardship, the 'pause' button cannot be activated while things are being sorted out.
 3. A strong vision for the Diocese and strong leadership by the Bishop and Council is important.
 4. A communication plan is needed.
 5. No need for more consultation, but synod delegates, wardens, etc need time to discuss
 6. A commonality of prayer and bible study during the lenten period.
- The Task Force will be meeting again soon with the intention of coming up with 3 to 5 things to challenge Synod into the first steps of action and growth.

4. Business

4.1 Diocesan Synod June 2009 (Administration Team)

Motion 14: F. McNulty/D. Edwards

That a meeting of Diocesan Synod (presumably the 130th) be called 04-07 June 2009 and held at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre, Saint John NB.

Motion 14: Carried unanimously.

4.2 Election of Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council (Nominating Committee)

With the resignation of Christopher Waldschutz, G. Hall brought forward the nomination of Hazel Mackenzie. The Bishop called for further nominations.

G. McConaghy/R. LeBlanc

That nominations cease.

Motion 15: Carried unanimously.

Hazel Mackenzie is Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council by acclamation.

4.3 Executive Committee appointment (Nominating Committee)

Motion 15: G. Hall/T. Quann

That Hazel Mackenzie be appointed to the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy incurred by the resignation of Christopher Waldschutz.

Motion 15: Carried unanimously.

4.4 Reception of Planning Study Report (Administration Team)

Motion 16: G. Hall/D. Painter

That this Diocesan Council receives the Report of the planning study conducted by General Synod consultants Canon Geoff Jackson and the Rev'd Rob Waller with thanks, recognizes the significant no cost to us contribution of our General Synod to current diocesan planning initiatives, and communicates this to General Synod at the earliest opportunity.

Motion 16: Carried unanimously.

4.5 Motion to Synod - Clergy Quorum (Constitution and Canons)

The intent was to have the following motion as a notice for the March '09 meeting; therefore, it is tabled until then.

That Diocesan Council approve and refer the following motion to Synod 2010:

Notice of Intent is hereby given that at the forthcoming Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton to be held in Saint John in June, 2009 the following motion will be made:

Moved that under paragraph 4(2)(e) of the Anglican Church Act, 2003 and paragraph 15(1)(b) of Canon Two, that this Diocesan Synod amend section 7 of the Constitution of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton by adding after subsection (2) thereof, the following subsection:

"7(2.1) For the sole purpose of determining a quorum of the members of the clergy qualified to attend a meeting of the Synod under subsection (2), only those members of the clergy who are either the Rector or the incumbent of a parish, or are otherwise appointed the charge of a parish, chaplaincy or other position of pastoral responsibility by virtue of an appointment from the Bishop, shall be counted for the purpose of determining a quorum."

4.6 Memorial to General Synod re Embryonic Stem Cell Research (V. Hodge)

With the regrets of Vicars Hodge, this item is postponed to the March 2009 meeting.

4.7 Regulation 2-1 Synod Resolutions Committee (Constitution and Canons)

Motion 17: C. Spinney/T. Quann

That the document previously adopted by Diocesan Council as the "Resolutions Committee Guidelines" [current Policy A-7] be re-titled "Resolutions Committee - Mandate" and that the re-titled document be further ratified and confirmed as a regulation of the Diocese [Regulation 2-1 (Canon Two 3(10))].

Motion 17: Carried unanimously.

4.8 Invitation to Synod 2009 (Stewardship Team)

Motion 18: D. Barrett/R. LeBlanc

That Bishop Ed Salmon be invited to make a presentation, based on his talks to the clergy in August 2008, to Synod in June 2009, to renew the enthusiasm of the clergy and to inform lay members of stewardship initiatives taken in the Diocese of South Carolina.

Motion 18a: C. Spinney/P. Drummond

That the words "That consideration be given to inviting Bishop Ed Salmon" replace the words "That Bishop Ed Salmon be invited."

Amendment carried.

Amended Motion

That consideration be given to inviting Bishop Ed Salmon to make a presentation, based on his talks to the clergy in August 2008, to Synod in June 2009, to renew the enthusiasm of the clergy and to inform lay members of stewardship initiatives taken in the Diocese of South Carolina.

Motion 18: Carried unanimously.

4.9 Stewardship Conference (Stewardship Team)

Motion: D. Barrett/R. LeBlanc

That a Diocesan Stewardship Conference be held in October 2009 using Bishop Ed Salmon and the staff of the Diocese of South Carolina as presenters if they are available.

Following discussion this motion was withdrawn.

4.10 Next Meetings

Wednesday 18 March 2009 (Parish of the Nerepis and St. John, Grand Bay-Westfield)

Saturday 16 May 2009 (Parish of Shediac, Shediac)

Wednesday 23 June 2009 (1:30 - 4:00 p.m.) (Fredericton)

4.11 Announcements

4.11.1 Ordination to the (vocational) Diaconate on February 1st at 4:00 pm, Eleanor Dryden and Debbie Edmondson

4.11.2 Ordinations to the Priesthood on on March 28th at 4:00 p.m.
The Reverend Michael Caines
The Reverend Jasmine Chandra
The Reverend Kevin Cross
The Reverend Dick Black

4.11.3 The Bishop will be undergoing surgery on February 16th.

5. Adjournment

Motion 20: G. Thompson

The meeting be adjourned.

The Bishop closed with prayer and the Grace at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Leo Martin
Recording Secretary

The Venerable Geoffrey Hall
Secretary of Synod

The Right Reverend Claude Miller
Chair

29 January 2009