



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 13 May 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

18 March 2009

Church of the Resurrection, Parish of the Nerepis and St. John

Pre-meeting circulation (electronically):

- Agenda 18 March 2009
- Draft Minutes (17 January 2009)
- Unfinished Items Summary (11 March 2009)
- Attendance (29 January 2009)
- Team and Standing Committee Reports
- Rural and/or Struggling Parish Task Force Report
- Update from the Sharing Ministry Task Group

Meeting circulation

- Proposal for the Mary Jacob Trust for the (vocational) Diaconate

Attending: David Barrett,, Heather Carr, William Chilton, Patricia Drummond, David Edwards, Joanne Fitzpatrick, Greg Frazer, Geoffrey Hall, Vicars Hodge, Robert LeBlanc, Hazel MacKenzie,, Richard McConnell, Gregory McMullin,, Keith Osborne, Douglas Painter, Ted Quann, Joan Randall, Fred Scott, Clyde Spinney.

Guests: Elizabeth Harding, Rob Marsh, Ana Watts.

Regrets: Keith Joyce, Jon Lownds, Gerald McConaghy, Falen McNulty, Claude Miller, Gordon Thompson, Michael Tower, Walter Williams.

Guest Regrets: George Porter

Lunch was served by members of the Parish at 12:15 p.m.. With the Council's thanks.

1. Open

1.1 Welcome members and guests

In the absence of the Bishop, H. MacKenzie was chair and opened the meeting with welcome and the Collect for Ash Wednesday. V. Hodge added his welcome and spoke briefly about the excitement and challenges of being in the new Church of the Resurrection. All agreed it is a wonderful facility.

1.2 Regrets were recognized.

1.3 Study: Bishop Salmon Study for Lent 4

The Council viewed the introductory video by Bishop Salmon, divided into small groups for discussion and shared responses.

1.4 Correspondence

Note was made of the letter of thanks to the General Synod dated 02 February 2009.

1.5 Agenda Modifications

The tabled motion regarding the Mary Jacobs Trust added as the first item.

Motion 1: R. McConnell / R. LeBlanc

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion 1: Carried unanimously.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

2.1 Adoption

Motion 2: D. Edwards / K. Osborne

That the minutes of the 17 January 2009 meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted.

Motion 2: Carried unanimously.

2.2 Completed items from past minutes (for information)

2.2.1 Regulation 2-1 Resolutions Committee posted

2.2.2 Letter of thanks to General Synod sent 02 February 2009

2.2.3 Budget Support Task Force Report received and posted

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
- Coordination of Initiatives
- Regulation 4-1 Regional Governance
- Fund for (vocational) diaconate training

Clarifications requested:

- a. Clean Water as a Sacred Gift. With the recent article in the NB Anglican, is this issue not finished? Several perspectives were shared. It was agreed that a report to the Synod could serve to retire this item from unfinished business.
- b. Camp Brookwood Task Force. The question was raised as to when a report might be expected. No information available.
- c. Code of Pastoral Conduct. There are questions among some clergy as to the status of this item. An update from the Dean to the Episcopal Team states that the clergy committee has finished its work. With the Bishop's absence and other factors, receiving the review by the Chancellor has been delayed. Progress is expected in April.

Motion 3: V. Hodge / H. Carr

That Team and Standing Committee reports be received.

Motion 3: Carried unanimously.

3. Reports Review

3.1 Team and Standing Committee

ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Presented by F. Scott

- § Synod Planning. A brief update from the meeting of Synod Planning on 17 March. Theme: "Celebrating God's Grace ... Responding to God's Challenge" and logo. Arrangements for a Friday banquet with the Primate as speaker need to be determined and finalized.
- § Co-ordination of Initiatives. K. Osborne shared his concern that the Planning Study would receive equal status with other reports at Synod. A reminder that the mandate of the Sharing Ministry Task Group was to co-ordinate four initiatives for presentation to Synod.

SHARING MINISTRY TASK FORCE

P. Drummond read the update report from James Morell.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Presented by F. Scott

- § 2008 records reveal a very good show of support for the Diocesan Budget by parishes. Meeting budget primarily due to under expenditures in several areas. Camps project debt stands at – \$100,000 as an Anglican Foundation loan, \$230,000 other debt now held internally. The Diocese of Fredericton is not used to holding debt.
- § A question was asked about the need for Diocesan Council to approve the process for handling the Camps Project debt. The Chancellor advised that although the Finance Committee has authority, it would be wise to seek the approval of the Council once a plan is finalized.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Presented by G. Hall

- § Clarification that it is the Pension Office of the Anglican Church of Canada that has moved, not the Canada Pensions Office. Regulations have been updated to reflect the move.
- § With the change of status of the Human Resources Committee as a standing committee with an expanded roles and responsibilities, the Committee is very busy with various working groups. Any one interested in being involved with the tasks at hand should contact the Committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Presented by G. Hall

CONSTITUTION AND CANONS COMMITTEE

Presented by C. Spinney

EPISCOPAL TEAM

Presented by D. Painter

- § The Team has been low on membership making work difficult.
- § The Clergy Day 21 April 2009 will need to be rescheduled due to a conflict in the Bishop's schedule.

MISSION AND OUTREACH TEAM

Presented by K. Osborne

- § New PWRDF Diocesan Coordinator is now in place.
- § Concerns with the Companion Diocese Committee regarding a delegation to Ho and what we should be doing as a diocese in this relationship.
- § Refugee Coordinator work more or less on hold due to current government regulations realities. D. Edwards stated that Jim Chandra had been extremely supportive of a refugees issue in their parish.
- § Seafarer's Mission - more communication about this on-going ministry is needed.

PARISH SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Presented by H. Mackenzie

- § Communication is the largest issue standing in the way of this work.

§ The Team makes an appeal for others to be interested and involved in the important work of supporting parishes. Very little response to the request for leadership to address parish visioning needs.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Presented by G. Hall.

§ Team intends to proceed with plans for a fall stewardship conference. Leadership to be determined.

YOUTH MINISTRIES TEAM

§ Liz Harding added that she is encouraged by the extent to which Camps Medley and Brookwood are working together recently.

3.2 Other reports

3.2.1 Proposal for the Mary Jacob Trust

Presented by D. Painter

§ Some time was allowed for a reading of the proposal. The proposal at the front of the report was later modified slightly and made as a motion.

3.2.2 Rural and/or Struggling Parish Task Force

Presented by P. Drummond.

3.3.3 Sharing Ministry Task Group Report

P. Drummond read the report.

§ A comments included questioning the extent to which the results of the work of this group will change the substance of the task force reports and whether the Planning Study report should be included. The Council was reminded of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Task Group, as established, to co-ordinate four initiatives.

4. Business

4.1 Mary Nameria Jacob Education Trust

Motion 4: D. Painter / C. Spinney

That the Diocese of Fredericton establish the Mary Nameria Jacob Education Trust to:

a) assist individuals in the Diocese of Fredericton to attend or participate in courses, workshops, schools or programs with the like purpose of building skill or knowledge relating to the education, training and/or formation of deacons (vocational) in the Anglican Diocese of Fredericton;

b) assist the Commission and/or the Diocese in the funding of events and activities in support of the Formation and Education of Deacons (vocational) in the Diocese of Fredericton.

That the Trust, having been formed, be announced, with a formal Signing Ceremony and Commissioning during the meetings of Synod at Saint John, in June 2009.

Motion 4: Carried unanimously.

4.2 Appointments

Motion 5: G. Hall / R. McConnell

That Mrs. Joanne Fitzpatrick be appointed to Diocesan Council (SJ Lay).

That the Rev'd Kevin Cross be appointed to the Committee on Human Resources.

The Mr. Julian Dickson be appointed to the Committee on Nominating.

Motion 5 carried unanimously.

4.3 Committees, groups and organizations reports to Synod 2009

Motion 6: G. Hall / R. McConnell

That Diocesan Council Teams, on behalf of the Council, collect, co-ordinate and finalize reports from all groups, committees and organizations under their purview as designated in the Summary of Roles and Responsibilities submitted to the Secretary of Synod by the 01 April 2009 report deadline.

Discussion: G. Hall referred to the agenda note. Reports to the Vice-Chair would help facilitate the process.

Motion 6 carried unanimously.

4.4 Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Motion 7: V. Hodge / G. Hall

That this Diocesan Council recommend by motion that the 130th Session of Diocesan Synod memorialize the General Synod which forwards the motion made to the 129th Session of Synod (DS 129-22a) regarding Embryonic Stem Cell Research.

Motion 7 carried unanimously.

4.5 Rural and/or Struggling Parishes Report

Motion 8: P. Drummond / H. Carr

That the February 2009 report of the Task Force on Rural and/or Struggling Parishes be received.

Motion 8 carried unanimously.

4.6 Motion to Synod - Clergy Quorum

Motion 9: C. Spinney / V. Hodge

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."

On the discussion, V. Hodge pointed out the need to address the issue of the size of Diocesan Synod and that of parishes no longer able to function as corporations. Although the proposed amendment alleviates the danger of a meeting not meeting the requirements for a quorum, it does not adequately address the deeper more significant issues. The Chancellor advised that an amendment to the Constitution can be made in one Synod if the required six week notice is given. (Constitution s.13(1))

When the question was called, Motion 9 carried unanimously.

4.7 Regulation 4-1 Regional Governance

Motion 10: C. Spinney / V. Hodge

That the draft regulation, 4-1 Regional Governance, be adopted.

Motion 10 carried unanimously.

4.8 Meeting Change

Motion 11: G. Hall / R. McConnell

That the previously scheduled 16 May 2009 meeting of the Diocesan Council be changed to Wednesday, 13 May 2009 to avoid holiday weekend.

Motion 11 was carried unanimously.

4.9 Next Meetings

Wednesday 13 May 2009 (Parish of Shediac, Shediac)

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

4.10 Announcements

4.10.1 Ordinations to the Priesthood on March 28th at 4:00 p.m., Cathedral

The Reverend Michael Caines

The Reverend Jasmine Chandra

The Reverend Kevin Cross

The Reverend Dick Black

4.10.2 The Bishop will dedicate the Church of the Resurrection, Parish of the Nerepis and St. John on Sunday, 19 April 2009 at 4:00 p.m.. All are invited.

5. Adjournment

Motion 12: H. Carr

The meeting be adjourned at 2:43 p.m..

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

The Ven. Geoffrey Hall
Secretary

Mrs. Hazel MacKenzie
Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council

23 March 2009