



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 23 June 2009

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

13 May 2009

St. Martin in the Woods, Parish of Shediac

### Pre-meeting circulation (electronically):

- Agenda 13 May 2009
- "Ministry in Hard Times"
- Draft Minutes (18 March 2009)
- Unfinished Items Summary (18 March 2009)
- Attendance (18 March 2009)
- Team Reports
- Primate's request for governance review

### In Meeting circulation

- Bible study Acts 3:1-10
- Administration Team Report
- A Word to the Church on Questions of Human Sexuality (COGS)

Attending: David Barrett, Judith Campbell, Heather Carr, William Chilton, Patricia Drummond, Joanne Fitzpatrick, Geoffrey Hall, Martha Jo Hoyt, Robert LeBlanc, Hazel MacKenzie, Gerald McConaghy, Richard McConnell, Falen McNulty, Greg McMullin, Claude Miller, Keith Osborne, Ted Quann, Fred Scott, Clyde Spinney, Gordon Thompson

Guests: Leo Martin, Ana Watts

Regrets: Greg Frazer, Donald Hazen, Vicars Hodge, Keith Joyce, Douglas Painter, Joan Randall, Michael Tower

Guest Regrets: George Porter

## 1. Call to Order

### 1.1 Welcome members and guests

Call to order 10:00 a.m. The Bishop opened with prayer, extended welcome to members and guests, and offered thanks to Archdeacon McConnell and the people of the Parish of Shediac for their hospitality. He acknowledged the healing prayers for his recent surgery with humility and thanks. He also offered his appreciation to the Vice-Chair for her leadership at the last meeting of the Council.

### 1.2 Regrets

Received as recorded.

### 1.3 Study: Ministry in Hard Times (Dan Hotchkiss)

The Council was divided into small groups and asked to look at the Scriptural passage Acts 3:1-10. In answering the questions below, the Bishop asked members to build on the theme of the Hotchkiss article.

The questions for reflection were:

1. Has our action really served to break the idols that dominates us?
2. as our diocese invested more in internal and ecclesial affairs, or, in service to restore people's lives and influence the transformation of society?
3. In our diocese is our agenda tied to the church, or do we truly take on the urgent agenda of building the different world that is possible?

Sharing of small group discussion followed.

#### 1.4 Bishop's Comments

The Bishop gave an overview of his calendar.

Apr 19 Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection, Parish of Nerepis and St John

Apr 19-23 House of Bishops. Statements are available on the internet

Apr 23-30 St. Andrew's Deanery: 3 Confirmation Services, Meetings, Visitation

May 2 Mothers' Union Rally

May 2 Deconsecration of the old St John's Church, Parish of Richmond

May 3-6 Archdeaconry of Fredericton: 2 Confirmations Services

May 7-10 Council of General Synod

May 24 Dedication of new entrance, Parish of Sussex

May 24 Parish of Central Kings

May 26 Bishop's Counsel, Parish of New Bandon

May 28 Parish of Musquash Confirmation: 21 candidates

May 29 Quebec City: Installation of the new Bishop

Retirement of Archbishop Stavert

Bishop assumes position of acting Metropolitan until Provincial Synod

Jun 4-6 Diocesan Synod

Jun 7 Atlantic School of Theology Founding Parties

Jun 14-18 Archdeaconry of Fredericton

Jun 21 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish of Hardwicke

Jun 22-26 Clergy College

In the fall, the Bishop's agenda includes the Council of General Synod, two Archdeaconry visits, a meeting of the House of Bishops and a possible visit to the Diocese of Ho in Ghana.

#### 1.5 Correspondence

None

#### 1.5 Agenda Modifications

The Secretary of Synod apologized for the errors in the Agenda. The Bishop called for modifications and none were requested.

Motion 1: G. McMullin / K. Osborne

**That the agenda be approved as circulated.**

Motion 1: Carried unanimously.

## 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

2.1 Corrections and adoption - 18 March 2009

Motion 2: H. MacKenzie / R. LeBlanc

**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

- 2.2.1 Rural and Struggling Parishes Task Force (Report to Synod)
- 2.2.2 Coordination of Initiatives (Report to Synod)
- 2.2.3 Clean Water as a Sacred Gift (Report by PWRDF to Synod)
- 2.2.4 Primate's Request for Governance Review (submitted and attached)
- 2.2.5 Embryonic Stem Cell Research (Motion to Synod)
- 2.2.6 Regulation 4-1 Regional Governance
- 2.2.7 Committees, Groups and Organizations reports to Synod
- 2.2.8 Motions referred to Synod (notices published)
  - 01 Parish Documents to Synod (notices published)
  - 02 Language of Canon Three
  - 03 Embryonic Stem Cell Research
  - 04 Clergy Quorum

## 2.3 Unfinished items from past minutes

- Code of Pastoral Conduct
  - Draft was sent to the Bishop and to the Clergy working group. Very encouraging discussions. From a legal point of view, it should not be called a Code, but rather a Statement of Principles. It will be published as the Bishop's Guidelines on conduct in ministry.
- Camp Brookwood Task Force
  - Nothing to report at this time
- Evaluation of Diocesan Services
  - Motions to Synod recommend direction.
- Partnership with General Synod
  - The Planning Study of January 2008 needs action. Motions to Synod recommend direction.
- Mary Jacob Fund for Diaconate
  - On-going.

## 3. Reports

### 3.1 Team and Standing Committee Reports

Motion 3: G. McMullin / F. McNulty

**That the Team and Standing Committee Reports of Diocesan Council be received as circulated.**

Motion 3: Carried unanimously.

#### Finance Committee

Presented by G. McConaghy. F. Scott explained the changes in the financial statements as reported in item #1 of the report. The motion listed in the Report will be dealt with under Business.

#### Canons and Constitution Committee

Presented by C. Spinney.

#### Human Resources Committee

Presented by F. Scott. There is a need for nominations to replace outgoing members. This Committee requests direction from the Council on several HR issues.

Comment: Council needs to take a proactive attitude with reports presented at Council with a more thorough consideration of the content.

#### Nominating Committee

Presented by G. Hall.

A brief discussion was held on the composition of the Diocesan Council and specifically on the current pattern of electing a new Council every two years. Questions were raised on the frequency of Synod and on the possibility of electing a Council to serve for a longer period. Break for lunch at 12:00 pm. R. McConnell offered a blessing. Following lunch, the Archdeacon of Moncton gave a tour of St. Martin-in-the-Woods, highlighting recent renovations.

The Bishop suggested consideration of advice which this Council could give to the in-coming Council and for an orientation session in September. The following list was produced:

- More proactive, initiate and establish priorities for the term (2)
- group to oversee reports affirmed by Synod to assist the Bishop and Council to identify priorities like the current sharing ministry task force
- review pattern of two year governance in order to help committees follow vision.
- Diocesan Council meetings to discuss at least 1 priority taken by a committee to follow the direction which the Council requests
- Bishop articulates vision to Council which does the work. Bishop and Council focus on vision and mission priorities
- longer terms for Council committees, ie 3 years
- need chairs of standing committees of Council and Council Teams 'in the loop'
- Council attendance requires commitment
- Archdeaconry elected members (7) appointed to one Council Team?
- Retain eligible team members and appoint new people to fill in gaps
- team chairs should be considered who are members of the Council.

Spiritual Development Team  
In Convening Circular

Stewardship Team  
No report

Administration Team  
A report was circulated. Some comments were made regarding Synod arrangements.

Parish Support and Development Team  
Presented by H. MacKenzie. She highlighted her continuing concern regarding Communications within parishes and the Diocese.

Mission and Outreach Team  
Presented by K. Osborne

Youth Team  
Convening Circular

Episcopal Team  
Convening Circular. The Bishop commented that at our last Synod he had asked for a "brutally honest" discussion of issues of sexuality. He recognized this has not happened to everyone's satisfaction. The issues are significant and the difficulty in the conversation is not uncommon across the Church. Resources from the Anglican Communion and General Synod are available.

### 3.2 Other reports

#### 3.2.1 Sharing Ministry Task Force

This report is in the Synod Convening Circular. The Bishop offered his thanks for the work completed by the Task Force.

### 3.3 Items for Discussion

- 3.3.1 Synod notices of motion  
Discussion took place throughout the meeting. A request arose regarding the order of motions on the Synod Agenda.
- 3.3.2 Nominations, elections and appointments - June 2009  
The Secretary of Synod made an appeal for names to fill the large number of positions becoming available in June. Names should be submitted to the Nominating Committee, with prior permission of the person being nominated.
- 3.3.3 Process for team organization  
Council needs to give some thought as to the best way to deploy its membership amongst the seven teams of Council in order to achieve the work of Council. This should happen at the June 2009 meeting.

#### 4. Business

4.1 Tabled DC 060610-08 Code of Pastoral Conduct

Motion 4: C. Spinney / F. McNulty

**That motion DC 060610-08 Code of Pastoral Conduct be lifted from the table and withdrawn.**

Motion 4: Carried unanimously

4.2 Report of the Sharing Ministry Task Force (Nominating Committee)

Motion 5: G. McConaghy / P. Drummond

**That the May 2009 report of the Sharing Ministry Task Force be received.**

Motion 5: Carried unanimously.

4.3 Loan Guarantor (Finance Committee)

Motion 6: G. McConaghy / G. McMullin

**That the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton agree to serve as guarantor with regard to a parish to parish loan being negotiated for the Parish of St George.**

Motion 6: Carried unanimously.

For information purposes, the proposed loan is in the amount of \$235,000. L.F. Scott was singled as a very important link in the brokering of this proposal between parishes.

4.4 Re: Motions to Synod

Motion 7: P. Drummond / G. McConaghy

**That the Agenda Committee of Synod 2009 be advised of the request that motions 2009-07, 2009-08, 2009-09, 2009-10, 2009-11, printed in the Convening Circular, be given priority on the Agenda and be the first debated.**

Motion 7: Carried unanimously.

4.5 Next Meeting

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

4.6 Announcements

- The Bishop handed out the statement "A Word to the Church on Questions of Human Sexuality" from the Council of General Synod
  - The Primate will be the featured speaker at the Synod Dinner and he will speak on the Mission of the Church. Members were asked to encourage others to attend the Friday evening Synod dinner at RNS.
  - The Bishop is to recognize a couple of people from the Diocese at the Synod Dinner.
  - H. Carr expressed her thanks for the opportunity to serve on Council
  - K. Osborne found it gratifying to see the restructure of the Council into working teams.
  - F. McNulty felt it was a great experience.

- With applause, Council offered its congratulations to F. McNulty on her upcoming graduation where she will be conferred with the degree of Bachelor of Business Administration.
- The Bishop offered his thanks to all outgoing members with the prayer that their good work continue.

## **5. Adjournment**

Motion 8: H. Carr

**That this meeting of Diocesan Council be adjourned.**

Motion 8: Carried unanimously

The Bishop closed with prayers of thanksgiving, continued guidance and safety and offered a blessing.

Time 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Leo Martin  
Recording Secretary

The Venerable Geoffrey Hall  
Secretary of Synod

The Right Reverend Claude Miller  
Chair

23 June 2009