



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 20 March 2010

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

07 November 2009

St. Luke's Church Hall, Parish of Woodstock

Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda 07 November 2009
- Draft Minutes (18-19, 29 September 2009)
- Study: Stewardship and Simple Thinking (Alban Weekly No. 273)
- Team and Standing Committee Reports

Meeting circulation

- Youth Ministries Team Report
- Constitution and Canons Committee Report
- Report from Camp Brookwood (slide presentation)
- 2010 Shared Ministry Budget (slide presentation)

Attending: Anna Caines, William Chilton, Patricia Drummond, David Edwards, Ann Fairweather, Rick Haddad, Geoffrey Hall, Vicars Hodge, Martha Jo Hoyt, Brian Hudson, Emily Jacobs, Keith Joyce, Robert LeBlanc, William MacMullin,, Gerald McConaghy,, Claude Miller, Ted Quann, Gordon Thompson, Fred Scott, Clyde Spinney, Richard Steeves, Kevin Stockall, Michael Tower, Walter Williams

Guests: Jim Morell, George Porter, Ana Watts

Regrets: David Barrett, Joanne Fitzpatrick,, Leo Martin, John Matheson, Richard McConnell, Gregory McMullin, Joan Randall

Guest Regrets: Elizabeth Harding, Robert Marsh, Victoria Garrett

Lunch was served by ladies of the Parish at about 12:15 p.m. and thanks to them and Archdeacon Williams for the hospitality was expressed by G. Thompson on behalf of the Council.

1. Open

- 1.1 Chaired by Archbishop Claude Miller, the meeting opened at 10:06 a.m. with prayer. C. Miller welcomed new member R. Steeves with congratulations on his appointment as Archdeacon of Chatham and recognized P. Drummond in her new role as Archdeacon of Fredericton.
- 1.2 Member and guest regrets were noted.
- 1.3 Correspondence
 - 1.3.1 Letter of thanks from Buckingham Palace and her Majesty the Queen for greetings sent from the 130th Session of Synod.
 - 1.3.2 Memo from the Guild of St. Joseph - Camp Medley 2010 highlighting the creation of the this group in support of on-going maintenance work at Camp Medley. Reply and thanks to be returned.

1.4 The Bishop shared various items of his work over the past several weeks including: the meeting of Provincial Synod (September), visits to four deaneries and several Confirmations, meeting of the House of Bishops (November) with a full day on congregational development, preparations for the up-coming trip to our Companion Diocese of Ho, October presentation of the ACOA grant for development work at Camp Medley.

1.5 Agenda

MOTION 1: R. LeBlanc / T. Quann

That the Agenda as circulated be accepted.

MOTION 1 was carried unanimously.

1.5 Study: "Stewardship and Simple Thinking" (Alban Weekly No. 273)

Small groups discussions ended with group reflections including: our need to look beyond the real estate and its far more than money; need to "qualify" when using the term "stewardship" ie "the stewardship of our NN"; change of culture and way of thinking is the goal; its about Jesus and we need that witness always front and centre.

2. Minutes of the Last Meetings (18-19 and 29 September 2009)

MOTION 2: B. Hudson / W. Chilton

That the draft minutes be adopted as circulated.

When the question was called, Motion 2 was carried unanimously.

3. Finished and Unfinished Business

From the Finished / Unfinished Business Summary

- Finished business: final version of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Evaluation Task Force.
- Unfinished business in process: evaluation of Diocesan "structures;" stewardship education; parish support of the shared ministry budget; rural and/or struggling parishes support.
- Unfinished business not (yet) in process: embryonic stem cell research; church planting

MOTION 3: V. Hodge / D. Edwards

That motions tabled at Synod 2009 be removed from the unfinished business summary.

Motion 3 was carried unanimously.

Southend Saint John Ministry

The Chair asked D. Edwards to comment on the plan of the Archdeaconry of Saint John to re-establish a ministry in southend Saint John. A recent mission with Greg Paul (12-14 October 2009) has helped to identify ministry needs. Funding for a two year full-time ministry position almost in place and an appointment early in 2010 is anticipated.

4. Reports

4.1 Standing Committees

4.1.1 Finance

- The Draft Shared Ministry Budget was presented guided by slides highlighting the variations from 2009, new initiatives and adjusted continuing commitments. Significant discussion included addressing:
- What is being done practically to move us to a 10-10-10 system?

- What is being envisioned as a solution to difficulties with accountability on all fronts, including financial?
- There is a need to ask members of the diocese to support the shared ministry budget as our mission and ministry and intentionally request that parishes "subscribe."
- Thanks and appreciation to parishes from the Bishop would be a useful action? Episcopal Team?
- Significant financial pressure being exerted by the growing list of retired clergy in terms of the pension fund and health care benefits.
- The \$3000 increase to General Synod and its rationale
- What would happen if we planned on exceeding budget at all levels?
- Issues of law vs grace both individual and corporate - goals just meeting the perceived obligation
- church planting might be done with an excess of budgetary requirements?

4.1.2 Nominating Committee

The role is tracking position vacancies and facilitating/ directing nominations received, not necessarily generating nominations. The Committee is two members short including a chair. Nominations would be welcome.

4.1.2 Constitution and Canons

Report circulated by the Chancellor highlighting the on-going conversation with Rothesay Netherwood School and their efforts to update school governance structures. The Chancellor indicated his comfort legally with the Diocesan Council considering (rather than the Synod) and approve proposed changes affecting the Diocese when available. The Council should expect a comprehensive report prior to the item being considered in the future.

4.1.3 Human Resources

Report highlights included the proposed motions on Remuneration and Benefits: Regulation 7-2 (2010 Minimum Stipend Scale and Travel Reimbursement Chart), Regulation 7-4 re Court Leave.

4.2 Council Team Reports

4.2.1 Administration

- Revised roles and responsibilities as presented gives responsibility for coordinating, initiating and monitoring transformation initiatives of Synod to the Team.
- The document listing "What's New Since Synod 2009" was briefly discussed. Additions requested as identified. Various resources have been added to the Resource Centre as identified by Dr. Ed White (2009 Clergy Conference).
- Presentation of 03 November 2009 draft Action Plan by Jim Morell. Discussion comments included: Council assumes responsibility for change; parish self-assessments by 30 June 2010 and archdeaconry ministry plans by 31 December 2010 seen as positive and a reasonable expectation; what's the title/brand of this transformational initiative or project?; need for prayer coverage; parish level parish plans top priority; need to tell good news stories to build encouragement and motivation; regarding a possible diocesan staff position in congregational development - decision and support for such a diocesan position needs to come from the bottom (grassroots) up.

MOTION 4: V. Hodge / G. Hall

That this Council approve the direction and content of the 03 November 2009 draft Action Plan with edits proposed and finalized by the Administration Team.

With the question called, Motion 4 was carried unanimously.

4.2.2 Youth Ministries

- Camp Brookwood. Seven members of the Camp Brookwood board assisted the Rev'd Chris Hayes in a slide presentation from the Camp. A successful 2009 season and upgrade of facility needs were identified. Members were asked to share comments and the chair expressed the thanks of the Council for the information and their presence.
- Team roles and responsibilities draft was presented.

4.2.3 Parish Support and Development

P. Drummond highlighted the need to "get going" and that there is significant frustration being felt by the Team. About six individuals are planning to register for the conference by Natural Church Development on 16 November 2009.

4.2.4 Mission Outreach

An award for ministry to refugees was presented to the Diocese in October by the Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and accepted by Refugee Coordinator Jim Chandra. This award was read by W. Williams.

4.2.5 Spiritual Development and Support

Archbishop Miller was asked to comment on Report item 4: Good News sharing symposium. There is an on-going need for the good news of our life as a diocesan family to be shared.

4.2.6 Stewardship and Financial Development

Highlighted was the planned and planning scheduled for 03 December 2009 with The Team, consultants Waller and Jackson from General Synod and other key leaders with the intention of refreshing the last proposed initiative for congregational development and stewardship. There will be need to coordinate this work with initiatives of leader training of the Parish Support and Development Team. Follow-up from the October Stewardship Conference continuing.

5. Business

The Vice-Chair of the Council (A. Fairweather) assumed the role of chair for items of Business and Key Messages at the request of the Archbishop.

5.1. Calculation of Minimum Stipends

MOTION 5: W. Williams / G. McConaghy

That Diocesan Council approve the continued use of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for N.B. as the basis for determining the 2010 stipends and therefore approve that the Scale of Minimum Stipends not be changed for 2010.

Motion 5 was carried unanimously.

5.2 Regulation 7-2 Schedule A Minimum Stipend Scale (Travel Allowances)

MOTION 6: B. Hudson / M. Tower

That Diocesan Council approve that travel allowance and car replacement rates as given in Regulation 7-2 continue for 2010.

Motion 6 carried unanimously.

- 5.3 Regulation 7-2 Schedule A Minimum Stipend Scale
MOTION 7: C. Spinney / W. Williams
That Diocesan Council approve an amendment to Regulation 7-2, Schedule A, that the dates under "Year Ordained" be advanced by one year and that Note #5 be repositioned to Note #2 for improved clarity; no change in wording is proposed.
Motion 7 carried unanimously.
- 5.4 Regulation 7-2 Schedule B Travel Reimbursement Chart
MOTION 8: V. Hodge / D. Edwards
That Diocesan Council approve wording changes to Regulation 7-2, Schedule B, from "Hospital Chaplain and Diocesan Youth Director" to "Saint John Hospital Chaplain and the Youth Action Director."
Motion 8 was carried unanimously.
- 5.5 Regulation 7-4 Vacation and Leave of Absence
MOTION 9: C. Spinney / G. Hall
That Diocesan Council approve the proposed amendment to Regulation 7-4, by adding the new Part 8 entitled "Court Leave" as proposed.
Motion 9 was carried unanimously.
- 5.6 2010 Shared Ministry Budget
MOTION 10: G. McConaghy / D. Edwards
That the Diocesan Council approve the Draft Shared Ministry Budget for 2010 with total expenditures of \$1,671,465 funded by \$1,476,190 from the parishes and \$195,275 from interest and other sources.
Motion 10 was carried with two opposing votes.
- 5.7 Administration Team Roles and Responsibilities
MOTION 11: G. Hall / R. LeBlanc
That the Roles and Responsibilities of the Administration Team be adopted.
Motion 11 carried unanimously.
- 5.8 MOTION 12: C. Spinney / B. Hudson
That the 02 November 2009 draft role and duties of the Vice-Chair be adopted as presented.
On the discussion, it was suggested that the list include review of these duties every six months. With that understanding,
Motion 12 was carried unanimously.
- 5.9 Stewardship Team Roles and Responsibilities
MOTION 13: G. Hall / R. LeBlanc
That the Roles and Responsibilities of the Stewardship Team be modified to include (under on-going responsibilities) "To develop and maintain a program for planned giving."
Motion 13 carried unanimously.
- 5.10 Church Planting
MOTION 14: V. Hodge / W. MacMullin
That the issue of exploring possibilities as proposed by the resolution of Synod 2009 be referred to the Mission Outreach Team for exploration.
When put to a vote, Motion 14 was carried unanimously.

5.11 Every-member Stewardship Visitations

MOTION 15: V. Hodge / W. MacMullin

That the possibilities regarding providing resources to facilitate every member visitations in parishes be explored by the Stewardship and Financial Development Team.

Motion 15 was carried unanimously.

5.12 Intention Expression of Thanks to Parishes for Budget Support

MOTION 16: V. Hodge / B. Hudson

That thanks be sent to parishes for support of the 2009 Shared Ministry Budget and that the Episcopal Team be charged with the facilitation of that action from the Bishop's Office.

On the discussion: It was proposed that communication should not exclude parishes not providing requested support in 2009.

Motion 16 carried unanimously.

6. Key Messages

A. Fairweather facilitated a conversation on key messages. Those named included:

The Diocesan Council:

- Passed responsibility for monitoring and implementing initiatives from Diocesan Synod 2009 to the Council Administration Team by way of new roles and responsibilities.
- Decided to move forward with the direction and detail of an action plan in its draft form with minor edits before publication for use throughout the Diocese
- Adopted the Shared Ministry Budget for 2010 including funding planned for several new initiatives as outlined in the action plan
- Had an enlightening discussion about the Alban Institute article (AW 273) entitled "Stewardship and Simple Thinking"
- Was delighted to have members of the Board of Directors of Camp Brookwood share a presentation and their good news of a successful 2009 camping season (enrolment up 50% this year) and was made aware for further upgrades (pool decking and washroom facilities).
- Looks forward to tenders closing on 12 November 2009 for construction work on the staff accommodation facilities at Camp Medley
- Celebrated the report on plans for a renewed South End Saint John Ministry and its staffing early in 2010

A significant discussion ensued regarding the content and use of a "key message" – good news or significant decision or happening? The resulting understanding was that the "messages" would be used by members to assist in communicating with the diocese, parishes, greater chapters and individuals following the meeting of the Council. It was concluded that these are not official "news release" items and that interpretation would be a necessary feature in their use. The expectation continues of the customary Diocesan Council News publication following the meeting.

Assuming the chair again, Archbishop Miller asked for announcements.

7. Announcements

7.1 Next Meetings

Wednesday, 20 January 2010, Parish of Fredericton

Saturday, 20 March 2010, Parish of the Nerepis and St. John

Wednesday, 19 May 2010, Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis

7.2 Branding Transformation

J. Morell requested that members continue to think about possible titles, slogans or brands for the transformational change initiatives/action plan and to communicate those if possible.

7.3 Thanks again to the Parish of Woodstock for hosting the Diocesan Council.

8. Adjournment

MOTION 17: G. Thompson
That the meeting be adjourned.

With closing prayer, blessing and wishes for safe travel, the meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Archbishop Claude W. Miller
Bishop and Chair

The Ven. Geoffrey Hall
Secretary of Synod and Recording Secretary

12 January 2010