



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 19 May 2010

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

20 March 2010

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

### Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda 20 March 2010
- Draft Minutes (07 November 2009)
- Notes from the gathering of the Council (20 January 2010)
- Team and Standing Committee Reports

### Meeting circulation

- Youth Ministries Team Report
- Mission Outreach Team Report
- Notes from the 12 January meeting of the Parish Support and Development Team

Attending: David Barrett, Anna Caines, William Chilton, Patricia Drummond, David Edwards, Ann Fairweather, Joanne Fitzpatrick, Rick Haddad, Geoffrey Hall, Emily Jacobs, Keith Joyce, Robert LeBlanc, William MacMullin, Leo Martin, Gregory McMullin, Claude Miller, Ted Quann, Fred Scott, Clyde Spinney, Richard Steeves, Gordon Thompson, Walter Williams

Guests: Hazel McKenzie, Jim Morell, William Turney, Ana Watts

Absent: John Matheson

Regrets: Vicars Hodge, Martha Jo Hoyt, Brian Hudson, Gerald McConaghy, Richard McConnell, Joan Randall, Kevin Stockall, Michael Tower

Guest Regrets: George Porter

Lunch was served by the Parish at about 12:00 Noon and hospitality appreciated.

### 1. Open

1.1 Chaired by Archbishop Claude Miller, the meeting opened at 10:06 a.m. with prayer. The Bishop read a passage from John 3 (Nicodemus) and offered some comments relating to our current projects and priorities as a diocese. A quorum was informally identified and it was noted that G. Hall would be recording in the absence of L. Martin.

1.2 Member and guest regrets were noted. K. Joyce and L. Martin arrived later in the meeting, as indicated in advance.

#### 1.3 Correspondence

1.3.1 Note of thanks from Archdeacon Michael Pollesel following a letter expressing condolences and a memorial gift to PWRDF at the time of Mrs. Pollesel's death.

1.3.2 Condolences and a memorial gift (PWRDF) were also sent to the family of Canon G. Jackson.

#### 1.4 Agenda

MOTION 1: R. LeBlanc / W. Williams

**That the Agenda as circulated be accepted.**

On the discussion, the Bishop indicated that motions coming forward may be put at the time of the reports from which they come.

MOTION 1 was carried unanimously.

1.4.5 Minutes of the Last Meeting (07 November 2009)

MOTION 2: W. Williams / J. Fitzpatrick

**That the minutes of 07 November 2009 be adopted and the notes from the gathering on 20 January 2010 be received as circulated.**

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

2. Bishop's Remarks

The Bishop made comments on a variety of issues of import:

- Nicodemus Project

What impact does it have on the Teams and Committees of the Diocese?

It is currently central in meetings with parish advisory committees on appointments

Should all Roles and Responsibilities be reviewed in light of the Project?

Some negative feedback but is encouraged by those actively embracing it

Prompted a recent session of visioning by the Finance Committee

How does our Project connect with the "5 marks of mission?"

- Work continues with framework needed for the evaluation of interim ministries
- Commissioning of a new secretariat for NB Anglican Cursillo next weekend (27 March)
- Pleased with continuing work of all committees and council teams with specific mention of some
- Camp Medley progress on construction of staff building (Phase 3?) with June completion date likely
- Provincial Council will meet in PEI in September 2010; General Synod in June 2010
- Recent meeting of the Council of General Synod question: What does an episcopally ordered and synodically governed church look like when it moves from maintenance to mission?
- We have a glorious opportunity to put what we routinely say by rote into action

3. Finished and Unfinished Business

From the Finished / Unfinished Business Summary

- Finished: Tabled 2009 Synod motions removed from unfinished business summary; Revised transformation plan posted (Nicodemus Project - 18 January 2010); Regulation 7-2 schedules (stipend and travel scales) posted; Regulation 7-4 revised and posted (re court leave); 2010 Shared Ministry Budget posted; Admin Team Roles and Responsibilities posted; "Duties of the Vice-Chair" of the Council posted; Stewardship Team Roles and Responsibilities revised and posted; transformation plan "branding" - Nicodemus Project
- Unfinished in process: evaluation of diocesan "structures"; stewardship education; budget support; rural and/or struggling parishes; parish every member visitations; thanks to parishes re 2009 Budget.
- Unfinished business not (yet) in process: embryonic stem cell research; church planting

4. Reports

MOTION 3: D. Thompson / W. Williams

**That the reports pre-circulated, including the Mission/Outreach and Youth Ministries teams distributed, be received.**

MOTION 3 carried unanimously.

4.1 Standing Committees

#### 4.1.1 Finance

Sale of Rectories Policy

MOTION 4: W. MacMullin / D. Edwards

"That this Diocesan Council adopt the proposed policy on the use of funds realized from the sale of rectories as circulated."

On the discussion

Concern expressed about unique circumstances where rectory funds would appropriately be used for other purposes. Is this addressed early in the policy draft? How does this affect a move from maintenance to mission focused? Some minor additions were suggested.

MOTION to amend 4a: C. Spinney / D. Edwards

That the proposed draft policy be amended:

line 30 "The intended purpose of the rectory trust funds is normally to ensure ..."

line 37 "Plan for repayment of the capital funds so withdrawn, if any"

line 39 "Where applicable, in order to ensure the availability of adequate ..."

When the question was called

MOTION 4

**That this Diocesan Council adopt the proposed policy on the use of funds realized from the sale of rectories as amended.**

was carried unanimously.

Retiree Benefits

MOTION 5: C. Spinney / D. Barrett

**That this Diocesan Council request the Human Resources Committee undertake a study and report on the topic of post-retirement medical benefits with the view to developing recommended policies around eligibility requirements and possible cost sharing and that the report be completed by September 2010.**

MOTION 5 carried unanimously.

#### 4.1.2 Nominating

Appointments

MOTION 6: G. Hall / R. LeBlanc

**At the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, that the following appointments be made:**

**The Rev'd Canon Elaine Hamilton – Nominating Committee**

**Mr. Jack Walsworth – Nominating Committee**

**Mr. Roger Castonguay – Human Resources Committee.**

MOTION 6 carried unanimously.

#### 4.1.3 Constitution and Canons

The Chancellor offered a brief overview of an issue of the expropriation of a small parcel of land at RNS which is in hand. He also indicated that a full report regarding the governance revisions at RNS, with which progress has been made, could be expected at the next meeting of the Council.

Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure

Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure

MOTION 7: C. Spinney / T. Quann

**That the responsibility for the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure, including PRISM workshops, be conferred on the Human Resources Committee.**

MOTION 7 carried unanimously.

4.1.4 Human Resources

4.2 Council Team Reports

4.2.1 Administration

The Chair highlighted the Report on progress with the item currently occupying the time of the Team: the Nicodemus Project.

Next Diocesan Synod

MOTION 8: P. Drummond / D. Edwards

**That Council agree to hold a diocesan synod on June 3-4, 2011 in Fredericton, at a site to be determined, with the opening worship service in the afternoon of the 3rd and adjournment by late afternoon on the 4<sup>th</sup>.**

On the discussion

It is necessary, for a variety of reasons, for us to have a date and general location towards which to work for planning purposes.

When the question was called, MOTION 8 was carried unanimously.

4.2.2 Youth Ministries

Report distributed.

4.2.3 Parish Support and Development

D. Edwards distributed copies of notes from a previous meeting of the Team to facilitate an update on progress in planning for a congregational development fund.

Congregational Development Fund

MOTION 9: C. Spinney / G. Thompson

**That the notes of the 12 January 2010 meeting of the Parish Support and Development Team be received as a report on progress and planning for a diocesan congregational development fund.**

On the discussion

Concern was expressed that this needs to be considered a "stand alone, special" appeal. The counter concern is that we not be seen, as a diocese, with multi-pronged fund-raising initiatives and therefore not at unity. There is need to "motivate before we initiate." In addition, although the creation of this fund is a very good idea and will no doubt receive support, it will require coordination and administration (collection and tracking of donations in small denominations). Are we planning for these realities?

When the question was called, MOTION 9 carried unanimously.

D. Edwards requested that if Council members had further comments or suggestions they should be communicated to the Team, through him, before 06 April 2010.

4.2.4 Mission Outreach

A. Caines highlighted Team efforts to assemble a list of "mission contacts" in parishes by making specific contact with each parish to obtain the names of those passionate about mission.

Mission Outreach Team Roles and Responsibilities

MOTION 10: A. Caines / W. Williams

**That the Diocesan Council adopt draft Roles and Responsibilities for the Mission Outreach Team as circulated.**

MOTION 10 carried unanimously.

4.2.5 Stewardship and Financial Development

4.2.6 Spiritual Development and Support

4.2.7 Episcopal Ministries

In the absence of a report, the Bishop offered comment:

- No chair of this team and it is difficult for the Bishop to chair
- 7 potential participants to ACPO in May 2010 / 14+/- discerning towards the vocational diaconate
- learning weekend for clergy and wardens previously scheduled 28 May - a decision has been made to postpone until such time as there is enough time to plan adequately. One suggestion has been that this initiative function at the archdeaconry level. Could the Archdeaconry of St. Andrews be a pilot?
- information about a potential national financial campaign indicates that church at the national level plans to support dioceses in the initiation/execution of local campaigns recognizing mission beyond

4.3 Other Reports

4.3.1 Evaluation Task Force

Membership being assembled; two meetings; hope for report to next meeting; this is a daunting task and needs to be approached in a way that will make a difference.

4.3.2 Companion Diocese Grain Grinder Project

Findings of the delegation trip to Ho would indicate that tentative plans to send "help" to Ho in the form of missionaries from this diocese would not meet needs. C. Miller indicated that an idea for a project which would provide a grain grinder to each parish of Ho has been shared with the Bishop's Counsel, members of which are in support.

Companion Diocese Grain Grinder Project

MOTION 11: K. Joyce / G. McMullin

**That this Diocesan Council approve, in principle, a project whereby each of seven Fredericton archdeaconries provides a grain grinder to each of seven parishes in the Diocese of Ho at a cost of approximately \$4000 each.**

On the discussion

A question was raised about how to execute such a transaction. The issue was raised again about the administrative reality of collecting and tracking a large number of small donations, the receipting the same and that all aspects of moving forward need to be well planned. One suggestion was that there be exploration with PWRDF and its relationship with the Canadian Food Grains Bank. Another suggestion was that there be exploration with Mothers' Union.

MOTION 11 was carried unanimously.

5. Working Sessions

5.1 Communications Committee

Hazel MacKenzie made a presentation on behalf of the Committee, including:

- Definition: "Communication is a process whereby information is enclosed in a package and is channeled and imparted by a sender to a receiver via some medium. The receiver then decodes the message and gives the sender feedback."
- Our communications need to be Christ-centred
- Review of Committee Roles and Responsibilities
- Communication challenges
- Parish communications officers? How to proceed

Discussion followed on challenges and potential future direction.

## 5.2 Nicodemus Project

Members of the Council were each asked to share how the Project has affected them. Many are encouraged by the potential in following up on the initiatives and directions. Some are frustrated by those who seem not to be engaged. Some have not participated or in a limited way. Overall, the Council was pleased and encouraged by progress made and named many good things happening while recognizing that not all will have similar success.

## 6. Other Business

### 6.1 Future Meetings of the Diocesan Council

MOTION 12: D. Edwards / G. Thompson

**That the following meetings of the Diocesan Council be scheduled:**

**Saturday, 18 September 2010, Parish of Newcastle**

**Wednesday, 10 November 2010, Fredericton**

MOTION 12 carried unanimously.

## 7. Key Messages

A. Fairweather facilitated the naming of key messages.

The Diocesan Council:

- Was encouraged to hear that people across the Diocese are embracing the Nicodemus Project and that there is evidence of progress on steps toward Project goals.
  - Was also encouraged to learn that people are feeling excited about relearning what it is to be Christian and Anglican.
  - Understands that if individuals have an aversion to the title (Nicodemus Project), this does not necessarily mean they are not supportive of why and what we need to do to help fulfill our mission - "to proclaim the Gospel for the making of disciples," and our vision - "to be a diocese of mission-focused, healthy, welcoming and growing parishes."
  - Was appreciative of the members of the Diocesan Communications Committee for sharing their communications challenges. In particular, when asked if it is Council's wish that each parish appoint a Communications Officer to enable two-way communication between the parish and the Diocese, the response was 'yes.'
  - Agreed, in principle, with the proposed goal of providing corn and grain grinders to the seven parishes of our Companion Diocese of Ho, which will involve our Archdeaconries and draw our Diocese together. This project will have a major impact on the lives of the people in those communities.
  - Was delighted to learn that the construction of the new administration/staff accommodations building and renovation of the nurse's hut/infirmary at Camp Medley is ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed by the June 1 deadline.
  - Adopted a new policy on the use of funds realized from the sale of rectories.
  - Was pleased to learn of the number of individuals in the Diocese currently in discernment leading towards ordination: seven potential attendees at ACPO (Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination) in May 2010 and 14 towards the (vocational) diaconate.
- A. Fairweather

8. Announcements

8.1 Next Meetings

Wednesday, 19 May 2010, Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis

Saturday, 18 September 2010, Parish of Newcastle

Wednesday, 10 November 2010, Fredericton (location to be determined)

8.2 Celebration Dinner

P. Drummond briefed the Council on plans for a diocesan family celebration in recognition of the election of our Bishop as metropolitan on the evening of 07 May 2010 at the Crowne Plaza, Fredericton. Archdeacons are being asked to facilitate promotion and the selling of tickets.

8.3 Welcome and thanks

Recognizing that a formal opportunity had not arisen, A. Caines welcomed the Council to the Parish. The Council also thanks the Nerepis and St. John for its hospitality, including lunch.

8.4 The Bishop thanked members for the significant good work being accomplished between meetings of the Council.

9. Adjournment

MOTION 13: C. Spinney

**The meeting be adjourned.**

With closing prayer the meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

The Most Rev'd Claude W. Miller  
Bishop and Chair

The Ven. Geoffrey Hall  
Secretary of Synod and Recording Secretary

25 March 2010