



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted May 29, 2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

20 February 2021

Videoconference

Pre-meeting circulation

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (December 5th, 2020)
- Chancellor's Report
- Finance Committee and Treasurer's Reports
 - December 31, 2020 Shared Ministry and Employment Assessment
 - December 31, 2020 Financials
 - January 31, 2021 Shared Ministry and Employment Assessment
 - January 31, 2021 Draft Financials
 - 2020 Camp Medley Financials
 - Parish of Fredericton Grant Application
- Committee and Team Reports: HR, Mission and Outreach, and Spiritual Development
- Representative Reports: Parish Development Officer and Camp Medley Director
- Other: Diocesan Committee Structure Feedback Report

Members Attending

Kathy Asch, David Barrett, David Bell, Ken Brien, Perry Cooper, David Edwards, Geoffrey Hall, Brent Ham, Heather Harris-Jones, Chris Hayes, Lionel Hayter, Susan Jack, Mary Anne Langmaid, Cathy Laskey, Siobhan Laskey, Bob LeBlanc, John Matheson, Michael O'Hara, Keith Osborne, David Peer, Matthew Pitman, Paul Ranson, Joni Richardson, William Ross, Kevin Stockall, Robert Taylor, Cheryl Young.

Members Regrets

Eric Beek, Linda Fury, Coralie Losier, Rob Marsh, and Ted Quann

Guests

Shawn Branch (Zoom co-host), Cheryl Jacobs (Zoom co-host), Gisele McKnight, and Linda Nicolls (Primate).

Guests Regrets

Rosemarie Kingston

Worship

1. The Archbishop welcomed everyone to the virtual conference room at 10:00 am and began the morning work by leading the Council in Morning Prayer.
2. At 10:20 am the Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls reflected on her perspective on her recent experiences on how things are unfolding for the Church as a result of COVID-19 and the role of the National Church and her position as Primate. She likened this time as a period where the Church is being pruned and stripped back to what is essential. She noted the challenge many Anglicans are having with Eucharist services and how we have reclaimed the daily offices. As our lives normalize after the Pandemic consequences lessen, we will need to discuss what do we keep and what do we need to let go. She misses her in-person meetings with fellow Bishops and expressed her delight with the creativity that the Diocese of Fredericton has approached clergy training and mission activities. As Primate she has lots of visibility, but little Authority and she sees the primary task of the National Church as communicating both within the National Church and with dioceses and with the Anglican Communion and Ecumenical partners. She notes five items in particular that rest on the national church: learning better ways to be church from our First-Nation brothers and sisters, dismantling racism, working with the Anglican Communion against human trafficking, and working for climate justice, and discipleship.
3. From 10:35 to 11:00 am the Diocesan Council members participated in a question-and-answer session with the Primate.

Call to Order

4. Archbishop Edwards called the meeting to order at 11:05 am and acknowledged that the land on which we join to hold this videoconference includes the traditional unceded territory of the Passamaquoddy, the Abenaki, the M'kmaq, the Wolastokuk (Maliseet), and the Wabanaki Confederacy.
5. The Archbishop asked for any regrets and none were received.
6. The Archbishop asked Shawn Branch to review the process for voting that the hosts will use in the meeting.
7. The Archbishop introduced the Agenda for the meeting and asked for any changes or additions. He noted the addition of 2020 Camp Medley Financials as an additional Treasurer Report and the Secretary asked that an agenda item for the Ho Mobile Clinic be added under Other Items. There being no objections to the modified agenda, the Chair adopted the agenda for the meeting, as amended.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

8. Diocesan Council reviewed the minutes of the last Diocesan Council meeting. The Secretary reviewed changes to paragraphs 10 and 28 to more accurately reflect the record of the discussion. Paul Ranson and Michael O'Hara noted that though they attended the meeting, the record does not reflect it.

MOTION 1: Michael O'Hara / Joni Richardson

That Diocesan Council accept the minutes of the last meeting on December 5th, 2020, as amended.

MOTION 1: Carried

Business Arising

9. **Synod Office Move Update.** The Secretary of Synod updated Council on the Synod Office Move Project. Since the last meeting:

- the Synod office has moved to temporary accommodations in Cathedral Memorial Hall.
- Bishop's Court and the Synod Office were sold on January 18th, 2021.
- The Archbishop and Synod staff continue to explore office space requirement and the viability of a project to construct a building at 121 Church St.
- Should a new construction project move forward the project will move through the Synod approval process.

10. **The Diocesan Council pre-meeting package.** The Secretary investigated the expectations and realities of providing pre-meeting information to Council members. The primary constraint to sending pre-meeting information early is providing current financial information. The best compromise is to ask for information so that the pre-meeting package could be prepared and sent five days before the meeting (Monday for a Saturday meeting) and to plan meetings for the end or very beginning of a month. Lionel Hayter suggested that when a large pre-meeting package is expected, to send some information even earlier and provide two packages.

11. **Diocesan Council Committee and Team Structure.** Susan Jack presented feedback from council review of the December report. The report focuses on identifying "what is required" and less on "how to accomplish it." The intent is to have a plan for the next meeting of Council and to start implementing the plan by September. Susan noted the recommendation that 2-3 more members would be required to work through the Governance issues and Terms of Reference of any new or refocused committees, teams, or working groups.

12. Lionel Hayter received assurance that the Committee was not suggesting supplanting the Executive Committee with the Administrative Team. The Chancellor recommended that any plan for review by the Council members should ideally allow a 4-week period for review prior to the meeting, and certainly as far in advance of the meeting as possible.

Reports to Council

13. The Chair asked for a motion to receive all reports sent in the pre-meeting package.

MOTION 2: Lionel Hayter / Robert Taylor

That Diocesan Council receive all reports.

MOTION 2: Carried

14. **Chancellor's Report.** David Bell reviewed a recommendation to change Canon Six in his report (starting on page 17 of the pre-meeting package). Diocesan Council is being asked to recommend these changes to Synod. The proposed amendment would

grant the diocesan bishop power to summon and, if present, chair meetings either of a parish corporation or of the voting members of a parish. Currently, the diocesan bishop has no formal relationship with parish corporations. Only territorial archdeacons may exercise some canonical role in the governance of parishes, and only if they are vacant.

MOTION 3: David Bell / Bob LeBlanc

That Diocesan Council recommend to the Synod that Canon Six – Parish Governance be amended, as presented.

MOTION 3: Carried

The full text of the recommended change is found in the Legislative Appendix to the minutes.

15. **Finance Committee.** Susan Jack provided additional information on Shared Ministry reductions and Grant approvals from the Finance committee. The additional information is in the Financial appendix to the minutes. She explained that the Shared Ministry reduction requests are intended for short-term, temporary financial challenges that parishes face from time to time and must be accompanied by a recovery plan.

16. Siobhan Laskey questioned whether the Finance committee should recommend, and Council should approve these requests. The Chancellor provided an opinion that Canon Five gives the Finance Committee jurisdiction to dispose of the requests in question. The Council will come back to this issue at its next meeting after time is taken to research and consider this issue in more depth.

17. Susan noted that the report also included an Anglican Foundation grant request from the Parish of Fredericton for council consideration. Diocesan Council must grant approval for submissions to the Anglican Foundation for grants and loans and the Parish must be a member of the Anglican Foundation. The mover and seconder agreed to a friendly amendment to the notice of motion to change "loan" to "grant."

18. Concern was expressed that the council is being asked to approve an Anglican Foundation application for a parish corporation that has only recently become a contributing member of the Anglican Foundation, information not available to members of the Council. Cathy Laskey indicated to the chair that she was prepared to propose a motion which she felt would be a solution, and a way forward, to support the foundation's work. The chair added this to the agenda under Other Items.

MOTION 4: Susan Jack / David Peer

That Diocesan Council approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee for the Parish of Fredericton to apply for an Anglican Foundation grant of \$15,000 towards their roof replacement project.

MOTION 4: Carried

19. **Treasurer's Report.** Heather Harris-Jones summarized her Treasurer's report. She expects the December Shared Ministry Report may change slightly as Parishes close their books on 2020 and that she is waiting for more information on our investment performance for the end-of-year financials. Robert Taylor thanked the

Treasurer and the Synod Office Financial staff for coordinating the submission of the Government wage subsidy for parishes.

20. Siobhan Laskey asked if the Shared Ministry and Employee and Pensions reports are Confidential, and if not, could the notation be removed. The Treasurer agreed that the notation is unnecessary and will remove that footer annotation in future reports.

21. The Treasurer then reviewed the January 2021 financial information noting that January's numbers are skewed by the sale of the Synod Office and Bishop's Court, which was planned for December but did not occur until January 2021, and timing issues for monthly revenue and expenses which have a larger effect early in the financial year.

22. The Treasurer then presented the 2021 Financial Statements for Camp Medley pointing out that the Camp ended the year with a surplus.

Other Items

23. **The Anglican Foundation.** This discussion item continues a conversation started during the consideration of the Financial Committee report. Cathy Laskey put forward a motion to ensure that every corporation becomes a supporting member of the Anglican Foundation, qualifying parish corporations and the cathedral to apply for funding in the future.

MOTION 5: Cathy Laskey / Chris Hayes

That Diocesan Synod pay the Anglican Foundation \$50.00 per parish for membership in the Foundation and the amount to be drawn from the Shared Ministry budget.

24. At the request of the chair, Cathy withdrew the motion and the discussion was deferred to the next meeting to allow more time for Cathy Laskey to work with the Chancellor on wording of the motion and to figure out what the synod or diocesan council can or cannot do for a corporation.

25. **Companion Diocese Report – Ho Mobile Clinic.** Archbishop David Edwards vacated the chair and passed control of the meeting to Susan Jack, the Lay Vice-Chair. He wanted to speak about the Clinic project with the intent to move a motion. The Secretary provided a verbal summary of the Companion Diocese Report, which is appended to the minutes. It was not included in the pre-meeting package but contains an item of importance for the Council's consideration on the Ho Mobile Clinic Project. The project has roughly C\$25,000 left to raise by mid-March. The plan is to order the vehicle from Malley Industries (a Moncton, NB firm that specializes in Medical Vehicles) at the end of March, start ordering medical equipment in mid-April, and have the clinic in Ghana by the end of this year. The fundraising is time sensitive as the matching funds expected from Rotary International are provided on a first-come-first-served basis.

26. David Edwards proposed that the Synod donate \$5000 to the Ho Clinic Project to spur the effort to raise the remaining \$25,000. The Treasurer noted that special purpose funds for grants exist that could be used for this donation. A question was asked if Synod could cover the gap while continuing the fund-raising effort in order not to delay the project timeline. David Edwards expressed his preference for seeking

support before the Synod covered any gap. The Council followed Siobhan Laskey's recommendation to split this decision into two motions.

MOTION 6: David Edwards / Joni Richardson

That Diocesan Council donate \$5000 to the Ho Mobile Clinic Project.

MOTION 6: Carried

MOTION 7: Siobhan Laskey / Heather Harris-Jones

That Diocesan Council make a direct appeal to Parishes to support the Ho Mobile Clinic Project, with a commitment to cover any shortfall up to \$20,000.

MOTION 7: Carried

27. The Lay Vice-Chair of Council passed control of the meeting back to the Archbishop

28. **Rolling Meeting Schedule.** Our next meeting is planned for May 29th. We will reconsider in-person meetings when provincial health guidelines relax.

<p style="text-align: center;">2021-2022 Saturday May 29 Saturday Sep 25 Friday Dec 3 to Saturday Dec 4 Saturday February 26, 2022</p>

Adjournment

29. The Archbishop asked for a motion to Adjourn.

MOTION 8: Michael O'Hara

That this meeting of Diocesan Council be adjourned.

30. The Archbishop closed the meeting at 1246 and members said the grace together.

Respectfully submitted,

The Most Rev David Edwards
Archbishop and Chair

The Rev David Peer
Secretary of Synod