



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 2 December 2016

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Camp Brookwood, Florenceville-Bristol

10 September 2016

Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (18 June 2016)
- Attendance Chart
- Team and Standing Committee Reports
- Legislative Amendments for Synod 2016 Documents

Attending: Irene Adams, Stuart Allan, Kathy Asch, David Barrett, David Bell, Sandra Craft, Patricia Drummond, David Edwards, Geoffrey Hall, Cathy Laskey, Siobhan Laskey, Bonnie LeBlanc, Robert LeBlanc, Rob Marsh, Norman McLeod, Frank Morehouse, Dylan Nicoll, Keith Osborne, Edward Quann.

Regrets: Gilbert Carter, Brent Ham, Chris Hayes, Susan Jack, Rosemarie Kingston, Coralie Losier, John Matheson, Neville Sloane, Richard Steeves.

Guests: Rick Haddad, Cheryl Jacobs, Gisele McKnight, Maren McLean-Persaud, Ken Neilson.

Regrets: Ann Fairweather, Margaret Laking, Leo Martin, Dorothy Shephard, Jason Smith, Kelly VanBuskirk, Walter Williams.

### **Call to Order**

At the appointed time, the Diocesan Council was called to order with Bishop David presiding at the Holy Eucharist. In a brief meditation on the Gospel, Bishop David reflected on the counter-intuitive nature of the gospel – that a shepherd would leave the 99 to find one lost sheep. Though the Pharisees criticized Jesus for his actions, they did not understand his purpose. This purpose is the same for us today: to go after the 'sinners', that is, those that do not follow the cultural and theological rules.

### **Meeting Agenda**

MOTION 1: E. Quann / R. LeBlanc

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

MOTION 1: Carried.

Appointment of Recording Secretary

MOTION 2: K. Osborne / R. LeBlanc

**That Cheryl Jacobs be appointed recording secretary for this meeting.**

MOTION 2: Carried.

### **Minutes of the last meeting – 18 June 2016**

MOTION 3: K. Asch / N. McLeod

**That the minutes of the 18 June 2016 Meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted as amended.**

MOTION 3: Carried.

## **Business Arising**

- (i) Diocesan Council Open House: The Vice-Chair indicated she thought the Open House went well and was pleased with the response. She was away prior to the day and was very happy to have Susan Jack and Gisele McKnight step up to organize. Thirty groups had pre-registered for display space and others showed up on the day. Approximately 60 people other than Council members attended. A good number also toured through the Cathedral. She suggested that perhaps Council should plan to do this again. Thanks and congratulations to the organizers were offered from the floor.

## **Appointments**

### **Interim Diocesan Misconduct Officer**

The Bishop read a letter of resignation as Diocesan Misconduct Officer from Barbara Richards. He noted that Terry Hutchinson is a lawyer in Saint John and a member of the vestry at Trinity, and he has agreed to undertake the role for a year.

MOTION 4: B. LeBlanc / G. Hall

**That Mr. Terry Hutchinson, QC, be appointed as Interim Diocesan Misconduct Officer for a term of one year to be reviewed.**

MOTION 4: Carried.

## **Reception of Team and Standing Committee Reports**

MOTION 5: R. Marsh / C. Laskey

**That the Reports from the Council Teams and Standing Committees be received as submitted.**

MOTION 5: Carried.

Comments:

Related to the Administrative team report, a question was asked regarding the outcome of discussion with the city re the zoning question for the Bishop's Court discipleship house. The answer given was that a member of the local support committee had spoken with Wayne Knorr from the city and was told there was no issue and no need to pursue further as it would create unnecessary bureaucracy.

## **Motion re: Representative for Negotiations between Parish of Shediak and Shediak Camping Ltd.**

The Bishop gave some background on the proposal to create a new camping facility in Pointe-du-Chêne. There have been some objections, particularly from a group called the Red Dot group as well as another camping facility, Oceanic, which is also located on church property. The parish has requested some documents signed by bishop and secretary of Synod at short notice and other transactions have taken place without being signed off so that there now may be issues with clear title. Council also need to be made aware of what is happening with the campground portfolio due to its contentious nature. The purpose of reinstating Archbishop Claude as representative is so that someone keeps on top of it on the bishop's and Council's behalf.

MOTION 6: D. Nicoll / R. Marsh

**That on behalf of the Diocesan Finance Committee, the Administration Team recommends that Claude Miller, the representative previously appointed by the Bishop to participate in the ongoing discussions and negotiation between the Parish of Shediak and Shediak Camping Ltd., be reinstated and instructed to closely monitor the process and report back to the diocesan Finance Committee to ensure ongoing confidence that due process is being followed and that the vested interest of the Diocese is protected.**

MOTION 6: Carried.

Comments:

A question was asked about the timing re the leasing of the land. The Bishop indicated we cannot put it to our process until a request is made by the parish.

A question was asked as to whether the property is currently used for which the answer was no.

#### **Motion re: Safe Harbour**

The Treasurer proposed the following motion, noting that with the signing of a Letter of Intent by the stakeholder parties (Safe Harbour Board, NB Department of Social Development and Partners for Youth), everything is in place for the purchase to go ahead.

MOTION 7: I. Adams / N. McLeod

**That the Diocese be given approval to enter into an agreement to purchase the building known as Safe Harbour for amount of \$642,000, based upon the receipt of a letter of intent which was signed by all parties, said purchase to be funded by the George Bartlett Bequest.**

MOTION 7: Carried.

Comments:

There was a request for clarification of the duration of any agreement with Partners for Youth to which the Treasurer indicated it would be three years plus a further three years upon review.

There was a request for background on the George Bartlett bequest. The Treasurer explained that George was an Uncle to Dorothy Wilkes and with the passing of all of his remaining descendants, the Diocese was named as a recipient in perpetuity of a portion of his estate, which is managed by a Hawaiian trust. She noted that the first payment has been received (\$24000 US after costs related to legal work to prove our eligibility) and that future annual payments could be closer to \$50,000 US.

#### **Motion re: Parish of New Bandon Loan Guarantee**

The Treasurer referred to the Finance Committee report for further details on the following motion, noting this request is to facilitate the parish obtaining a loan from a commercial bank or another parish once they determine their needs and so that they can make a request to the Property committee which requires financing in place.

MOTION 8: I. Adams / R. LeBlanc

**That a tentative approval of a loan guarantee in the amount not to exceed \$60,000 to the Parish of New Bandon, pending receipt of further details and review by the Property Committee.**

MOTION 8: Carried.

#### **Motion re: 2015 Financial Statements**

The Treasurer presented the 2015 statements, prepared by Grant Thornton, indicating that this was a Review Engagement rather than a full Audit.

MOTION 9: I. Adams / P. Drummond

**That Diocesan Council receive the 2015 Financial Statements as presented.**

MOTION 9: Carried.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented her report with results as of the end of August. She noted that 96% of support of the shared ministry budget has been received to date, including some

advance and arrears payments, and there are no concerns with respect to pension bonus assessments. There was a request for clarity regarding interfund transfers to which the Treasurer explained that this is typically trust money that was not able to be taken directly from the trust account because of timing of investments coming due.

#### **Motion re: Property Tax issue**

With respect to the second paragraph in the Overview section of the Treasurer's Report (obligation to advise province when church owned property rented out for income), concerns were raised regarding the Diocesan responsibility to be transparent on this so as not to provide grounds for a change in the church exempt status. The matter being too complicated to discuss at Council, the following motion was presented:

MOTION 10: S. Laskey / I. Adams

**That the property tax questions raised be referred to the Finance Committee and that they report back to Council.**

MOTION 10: Carried.

#### **Episcopal Election Task Force Report**

The Secretary of Synod offered commendation to the Episcopal Election Task Force. The report will be presented at Diocesan Synod in November.

#### **Break for lunch**

Following lunch, words of thanks were expressed to the board members of Camp Brookwood for hosting and providing lunch, and for their efforts for the camp.

Council was called to order by the Bishop.

#### **Legislative Amendments for Synod 2016**

The Bishop asked the Chancellor to introduce the legislative amendments on the agenda.

The Chancellor introduced the proposed changes to Canon One – Definitions, noting there have been minimal changes to definitions.

MOTION 11: D. Bell / P. Drummond

**That the proposed amendments to Canon One – Definitions be approved and recommended to the Synod for enactment.**

MOTION 11: Carried.

The Chancellor introduced the proposed changes to Canon Three, noting that the bulk of the changes had been approved at the May Council meeting but the issue of Assistant Bishop was withheld from that approval so it could be reviewed. He reminded Council that the office exists in the Church Act and Constitution but there is not currently any process for appointing an Assistant Bishop. A question as to where the idea of Assistant Bishop came from was asked; it was noted that the office had been added to the Anglican Church Act in the mid-70s, but no one present remembered why. It was also noted that the office is common in other jurisdictions and is not normally stipendiary. There was some discussion on how an Assistant Bishop would be different from having retired bishops licensed to exercise their pastoral and sacramental ministries. The Chancellor suggested that Council (or Synod) must decide if they want this office.

MOTION 12: S. Laskey / D. Barrett

**That the motion for the proposed amendment to Canon Three (#13) be tabled.**

MOTION 12: Lost. Two in favour.

MOTION 13: D. Bell / N. McLeod

**That the proposed amendment to Canon Three—Election of Bishops providing for a means of appointing an Assistant Bishop be approved and recommended to the Synod for enactment.**

MOTION 13: Carried. One opposed.

In introducing the supplementary package of proposed amendments, the Chancellor indicated these were new items that had come up, as anticipated, as the process unfolded.

MOTION 14: D. Bell / D. Barrett

**That the supplementary package of proposed amendments to the Synod Constitution, the Canons and the Anglican Church Act be approved and recommended to the Synod for enactment.**

MOTION 14: Carried.

Comments:

With respect to the proposed change to the regularity of elections of General and Provincial Synod delegates (Canon Two 12), there was a question as to what happens when there is known loss of some of the delegates and alternates in the intervening period. The Chancellor suggested he would consider a change from "equal number of substitutes" to "any number of substitutes" and present back to Council before Diocesan Synod.

There was also a question regarding the term incumbent as it relates to voting status in a parish corporation (Canon Six 5(i)). The Chancellor explained that, today, only rectors are part of the corporation, but that the Church Act amendments look forward to a future time when an incumbent is part of the corporation, at which time Canon Six can be amended again to give those not rectors a vote. He noted that term Rector is not being dissolved.

The Chancellor introduced the final motion related to legislative amendments as a point of clarification, because, though these proposed changes have already been passed by Council, the previous motion described the changes as being recommended to Synod for "consideration" rather than "enactment".

MOTION 15: D. Bell / K. Asch

**That the proposed amendments to canons Four – Diocesan Governance, Six – Parish Governance and Seven – The Clergy be approved and recommended to the Synod for enactment.**

MOTION 15: Carried.

### **Other Items**

S. Craft noted that the next day was Grandparents Day and wanted to recognize Norman McLeod as a new grandparent (as of 9 days before). Applause was offered.

### **Future Meetings**

Diocesan Synod, November 5 - Fredericton

Thursday, December 1 – St. John (Stone) Church, Saint John

### **Adjournment**

MOTION 16: E. Quann

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

The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer and the Grace.

Time: 1:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Rev'd David Edwards  
Bishop and Chair

The Ven. Cathy Laskey  
Secretary of Synod

Cheryl Jacobs  
Recording Secretary (interim)