



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

115 CHURCH STREET, FREDERICTON NB E3B 4C8

(506) 459 1801 [o] (506) 460 0520 [f]

Adopted November 19, 2015

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

16 September 2015

Camp Medley

Upper Gagetown

Pre-meeting circulation:

- \$ Agenda
- \$ Draft Minutes (20 June 2015)
- \$ Draft Minutes of Executive Meeting (20 August 2015)
- \$ Attendance Chart
- \$ Team and Standing Committee Reports

Meeting circulation

- \$ Family Prayer Card
- \$ PWRDF Information sheet
- \$ Syrian Emergency Relief Information
- \$ Revised Parish Budget Support and Assessments (pages 47-50)
- \$ Report on Parish Reviews - Addendum

- Attending: Donald Adams, Irene Adams, David Barrett, Rachel Barrett, David Bell, Sandra Craft, Patricia Drummond, David Edwards, Rick Haddad, Geoffrey Hall, Brent Ham, Rosemarie Kingston, Jim Knight, Cathy Laskey, Brenda MacPherson, John Matheson, James McKenna, Christopher McMullen, Edward Quann, Richard Steeves, Allen Tapley, Anne Walling, Walter Williams, Cheryl Young.
- Guests: Cheryl Jacobs, Jim Morell, Leo Martin, Colin McDonald, Gisele McKnight, John Paul Westin.
- Regrets: Stuart Allan, Gilbert Carter, Eileen Irish, Douglas Painter, Brian Spence.

Call to Order

At the appointed time, the Bishop celebrated the Holy Eucharist, remembering St Ninian. He spoke on the necessity of those in leadership to remain focused on the Christian call to be servants.

Following the Eucharist and a small break, the meeting was called to order at 10:50 a.m.

Meeting Agenda

Rosemarie Kingston will give a brief report on the ACW

Patricia Drummond will give a verbal report on behalf of the Parish Development Team

MOTION 1: C. McMullen / E. Quann

That the agenda be approved with the above mentioned additions.

MOTION 1: Carried.

Minutes of the last Meeting - 20 June 2015

MOTION 2: D. Barrett / A. Walling

That the minutes of the 20 June 2015 Meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted as circulated.

MOTION 2: Carried.

Minutes of the Diocesan Council Executive Meeting - 20 August 2015

MOTION 3: C. McMullen / P. Drummond

That the minutes of the 20 August 2015 Meeting of the Diocesan Council Executive be received as circulated.

MOTION 3: Carried

Parish of West Saint John

The Chancellor explained that dissolution of a parish in the Anglican Church Act, generally comes as a result of a parish ceasing to fulfill its duties. However, the Parish of West Saint John has voluntarily made the request for dissolution and this decision falls to the Diocesan Council.

The Bishop further explained the Rector and Wardens came to see him explaining they recognized the parish was becoming insolvent. The parish sits in an area of Saint John where 43% of the population is deemed in extreme poverty. As such, there is a need to keep ministry alive in the area. With the dissolution, the assets would come to the Diocese and would allow for the continuing of a viable ministry. The parish would cease to exist as a Corporation and would lose its representatives on Synod; however, a later motion seeks permission to give observer status at the upcoming Synod.

MOTION 4: I. Adams / S. Craft

Whereas the Corporation of the Anglican Parish of West Saint John has, by resolution adopted on April 9, 2015, requested that the Diocesan Council order that the Corporation be dissolved pursuant to s. 7(14) of the Anglican Church Act and that the Bishop of Fredericton issue a Memorial of Dissolution of the Corporation; and whereas the Corporation of the Anglican Parish of West Saint John has now ceased to function; and whereas, notwithstanding s. 7(14) of the Anglican Church Act, the Diocesan Council is of the opinion that an inquiry to determine the standing of the Corporation of the Anglican Parish of West Saint John is unnecessary: moved that the Corporation of the Anglican Parish of West Saint John be dissolved and that the Bishop of Fredericton, pursuant to s. 7(15) of the Anglican Church Act, issue a Memorial of Dissolution accordingly.

MOTION 4: Carried

Discussion on the motion reiterated the need to keep ministry alive because the people of the area cannot be abandoned.

MOTION 5: P. Drummond / W. Williams

Moved that, on dissolution of the Corporation of the Anglican Parish of West Saint John, all assets of the Corporation vest in the Diocesan Synod and that, pursuant to s. 8(2) of the Anglican Church Act, such assets, or the proceeds of disposition of them, be held in trust for such Christian mission by and to the people of West Saint John as the Bishop of Fredericton shall direct.

MOTION 5: Carried

Discussion stressed assets would be held in a separate fund and disbursed the Bishop's discretion.

MOTION 6: J. McKenna / A. Tapley

Diocesan Council recommends to the forthcoming Synod that it seat with non-voting status up to three delegates from the former parish of West Saint John.

MOTION 6:

Clarification was given that the group which identifies itself as the mission would select their own three observers.

Receipt of Reports from Team and Committee Chairs/ Designate

Constitution and Canons Committee

The Chancellor explained that since the Constitution does not specify the length of the term for Diocesan Council, this could become problematic if a Synod is held every year. This would mean that new members would have to be elected every year and create a large turnover. The proposed motion for the upcoming Synod would allow for the existing pattern of two year terms.

MOTION 7: D. Bell / D. Adams

That the Diocesan Council recommend to the forthcoming Diocesan Synod that the Constitution of the Diocesan Synod be amended by adding s. 11(9) as follows:

11(9) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, where a regular meeting of the Synod is called for a time that is within 18 months of the holding of the last regular meeting of the Synod, the members of the Diocesan Council shall continue in office for a further term provided that their status is otherwise in conformity with this Constitution and provided that no such continuation occur twice in succession.

MOTION 7: Carried.

Finance Committee - Camp Medley Inter-fund loan

After some research, it was discovered the intent of this 2009 loan for renovations at Camp Medley was that it would be financed in part by the St Paul's Valley Trust. The work was done and set in place by the Finance Committee of the day; however, the documents were never signed and remained at the draft level. The loan technically never existed since the renovations were paid through the General Account. The Executive adopted a motion to remove this loan from the financial documents.

MOTION 8: I. Adams / R. Haddad

That Council ratify the following motion made by the Diocesan Council Executive on August 20: That the amount of \$232,827 recorded as an inter-fund Loan as of January 1, 2014, related to previous Camp Medley renovation Projects, be forgiven and that this debt be removed from the Financial Statements of the Diocesan Synod, effective December 2014.

MOTION 8: Carried

Financial Committee - Statements

The treasurer went over the financial statements for 2014 indicating they were reviewed by Grant Thornton. She stressed this was a review engagement and not an audit. She

proceeded to give an explanation of the different statements. These comments can be seen on pages 44-46 in the Council package. Overall, the treasurer feels the review is positive.

MOTION 9: I. Adams / D. Barrett

That Council approve the 2014 Financial Statements as prepared by Grant Thornton as recommended by the Finance Committee.

MOTION 9: Carried

The Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee commended the treasurer for her continued work.

A question of clarification was asked regarding any liability regarding Safe Harbour. Members were informed the Diocese has no legal or financial responsibility.

Break for lunch

The Bishop offered a blessing for the meal (12:05PM)

Council reconvened at 12:45 PM with the introduction of Maren Persaud, as year round Director for Camp Medley.

Finance Committee- 2015 Operational Results

The treasurer is encouraged with the financial results to the end of August 2015. She is especially pleased that parish contributions to the end of August 2015 are at the 99% level of amounts requested with two parishes who have not contributed to the Shared Ministry Budget thus far.

Under Policy A-6, five parishes have been reviewed and the treasurer gave an overview of each of the visits. There was a reminder all communities are different and face challenges that may be unique to their locations.

The Bishop offered his thanks to all those who participated in the support teams.

MOTION 10: I. Adams / R. Haddad

That Council receive the Treasurer's Update on the 2015 Financial results.

MOTION 10: Carried

Other Reports

MOTION 11: W. Williams / J. McKenna

That Council receive the reports from the Team and Committee Chairs.

MOTION 11: Carried

Human Resources - no further comment

PWRDF - Anne Walling spoke on the Syrian crisis. 20 million dollars has been contributed for food, clothing and shelter as immediate relief as bringing families to another country takes longer. She reminded members that the Canadian Government will match every donation dollar for dollar until the end of the year. She also indicated that although the Syrian crisis is taking a lot of attention at this time, others are not forgotten. She encouraged everyone to look at the PWRDF website for further information.

Spiritual Development - The team is undertaking a Prayer Emphasis Initiative with family prayer cards to be distributed to the parishes.

Synod Planning - The deadline for reports is now passed in order to ensure everything is in place for the printing of the books. Greater Chapters are set to begin on October 13th.

Stewardship - Members are asked to encourage people in the parishes and archdeaconeries to attend the Conference on October 17th. Everyone is asked to bring non perishable items to the meeting. These will then be divided and sent to the different archdeaconeries for distribution.

Youth/Intergenerational - The Director spoke on the upcoming youth events. He also spoke on the successful camping season throughout the Diocese. It was also noted a donation was made as follows: **"The Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Children's Foundation of the New Brunswick Protestant Orphans' Home is pleased to advise you that your application has been approved for a grant in the amount of \$8000 to assist with the cost of sponsorship fees for children to attend one-week summer camp who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend."**

ACW - There are some concerns over the empty rooms at Farraline Home which cause a strain on the budget. However, the garden party in the summer was very successful.

Parish Support and Development - At the Wardens Day, a request was made to simplify the Foundation for Life donation form. This was done however it was not very effective since very few donations came in. The Diocese did contribute \$10,000. Grants were given to Camp Brookwood, St Margarets Church, sponsored people to different workshops. The Foundation will once again go through the NB Anglican for its requests for donations. Advance notice was given that the next Wardens Day is scheduled for April 30th.

Administration - no further comment

Parish of St Mark (Stone) Church Renovation Project

The Bishop passed the chair to the vice-chair of Council

The Reverend Dr John Paul Westin, Rector of St Mark (Stone) was called upon to make the presentation. He indicated renovations has been an ongoing project for years. He outlined the plan which would have a cost of approximately one million dollars. The parish already has about \$600,000 and is ready to proceed with the work immediately. This would allow for a completion date around the end of June 2016.

MOTION 12: J. McKenna / C. McMullen

That Council ratify the following motion made by the Diocesan Council Executive on August 20: That the Executive of Council approve the application of St. John's (Stone) church for a \$30,000 grant to The Anglican Foundation for renovations.

MOTION 12: Carried

A question was asked whether the idea of abandoning one church was looked at; however, due to the distinct nature of both churches, it would be viewed as a detriment to ministry uptown.

MOTION 13: D. Adams / A. Walling

Moved that Council approve diocesan guarantee of a loan from The Parish of Saint John (Trinity) to the Parish of St. Mark (Stone) in the amount of up to \$400,000 for renovations which are subject to approval from the Property Committee.

MOTION 13: Carried

The Bishop resumed the chair.

Key Messages

The Vice Chair indicated these would be circulated following the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Diocesan Synod scheduled for November 7th at Christ Church (Parish) Church.

Bishop's Closing Comments

He offered thanks to Don Adams (and his team) for the lovely lunch

He offered thanks to Anne Walling who is resigning as PWRDF Coordinator

He offered thanks to all members of Council, especially those who would not be returning to Council after Synod.

Council members responded with applause.

Adjournment

MOTION 14 : D. Barrett

That this session of Diocesan Council be adjourned.

The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer.

Time: 3:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Rev'd David Edwards
Bishop and Chair

The Ven. Cathy Laskey
Secretary of Synod

The Rev'd Canon Leo Martin
Recording Secretary

Minutes Adopted November 19, 2015