



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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ADOPTED 18 JUNE 2016

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Trinity Church Hall, The Parish of Sussex  
19 May 2016

### Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (17 March 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, Gilbert Carter, Patricia Drummond, David Edwards, Geoffrey Hall, Brent Ham, Chris Hayes, Susan Jack, Rosemarie Kingston, Cathy Laskey, Siobhan Laskey, Bonnie LeBlanc, Robert LeBlanc, Coralie Losier, Rob Marsh, John Matheson, Norman McLeod, Frank Morehouse, Keith Osborne, Edward Quann, Neville Sloane, Allen Tapley.

Regrets: Sandra Craft, Dylan Nicoll, Richard Steeves.

Guests: Cheryl Jacobs, Leo Martin (pm), Colin McDonald, Gisele McKnight, Maren Mclean-Persaud.

Regrets: Ann Fairweather, Rick Haddad, Leo Martin (am), Ken Neilson, Jason Smith, Walter Williams.

### Call to Order

Bishop David opened this session of Diocesan Council with the celebration of the Eucharist. Using the passage John 16:12-15 and Rublev's icon *The Hospitality of Abraham to the Angels*, the Bishop spoke on the doctrine of the Trinity. He noted he had included this talk in his workshop on Church Doctrine given at the Layreaders' Day the previous Saturday. He noted how the Trinity is a perfect communion in themselves, each looking to the other persons, but that there is a space in the front for us to be included in the circle.

### Meeting Agenda

The Chair proposed an amendment to the agenda.

MOTION 1: S. Allan/N. Sloane

**That item 6(b)ii Discipleship House be moved under Business Arising and renumbered as item 5(b)iii.**

MOTION 1: Carried.

### Appointment of Recording Secretary for the morning session

MOTION 2: D. Barrett/S. Jack

**That Cheryl Jacobs be appointed as recording secretary for the morning session of this meeting of Diocesan Council.**

MOTION 2: Carried

### **Minutes of the last meeting - 17 March 2016**

A correction was made to the note under Motion 7 (re: Parish of St Mark's, Sussex Corner) on page 2. It should read that the parish has \$160,000 and not \$60,000.

MOTION 3: N. Sloane / G. Carter

**That the minutes of the 17 March 2016 Meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted as corrected.**

MOTION 3: Carried.

### **Business Arising**

(i) Safe Harbour: Rob Marsh provided an update. The Board has been working with Flood Construction and the company has proposed an amount to remove the lien. Partners in Youth are looking for a 3 year commitment with a 2 year renewal. Social Services has agreed to a 3 year term + 3 year renewal guaranteed a \$150,000 shelter enhancement grant to be released once everything is in order.

MOTION 4: R. Marsh/N. Sloane

**That we ask our lawyer to put together a purchase agreement for the purchase of the building known as Safe Harbour.**

MOTION 4: Carried.

(ii) Diocesan Open House: Cathy Laskey noted there will be a Diocesan Council meeting on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The Diocesan Open House will take place from 2 to 4 pm. Sandra Craft is looking after the arrangements; however, she is currently in Alberta in Fort McMurray and needs help. Dylan Nicoll has volunteered to look after Bishop's Court Discipleship House. Geoffrey Hall is looking after Cathedral details for tours. Susan Jack volunteered to provide leadership arranging for displays of various diocesan and parish ministries in the Cathedral Hall. Rosemarie Kingston suggested including a tour of Farraline Home. John Matheson asked about inviting Mr. Ross and John Sharpe from Partners for Youth. Neville Sloane asked about organ music and the question was referred to the Dean.

(iii) Discipleship House (Bishop's Court) Pilot Project: Cheryl Jacobs reported that a local committee is now in place with Kimberly Ranson as chair, and members from two Fredericton churches. Two house mentors have been approved, namely Tom Petitgrew and Matt Piamonte.

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

MOTION 5: N. Sloane/P. Drummond

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

MOTION 5: Carried.

Administration Team - Diocesan Synod:

The Secretary of Synod spoke on the plans regarding the upcoming Diocesan Synod to take place at Christ Church (Parish) Church and indicated the Planning Committee was meeting on Tuesday. A chair is needed for the Hospitality Committee and for one of either the Planning Committee or the Agenda Committee.

Finance:

The Chair of the committee reported he was pleased with the returns on the Shared Ministry Program and that the one issue on employment costs is close to being resolved. He also indicated the motion in regards to a grant for the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock (listed as Motion E in the agenda) was being withdrawn.

**Motion re: Parish of Musquash**

MOTION 6: G. Carter/N. McLeod

**That the Parish of Musquash be granted approval to move forward with their plans to rent the rectory, provided the lease agreement is revised to cover concerns raised with regard to utilities, insurance and property taxes.**

MOTION 6: Carried.

**Motion re: Parish of Grand Manan**

MOTION 7: G. Carter/S. Jack

**That the Parish of Grand Manan be granted approval to proceed with the sale of the rectory within the \$99,900 - \$129,900 ranged as proposed.**

A question was raised as to whether the parish planned on purchasing another property. The local Archdeacon indicated that it would need about \$150,000 to fix.

MOTION 7: Carried.

**Motion re: Parish of East Saint John**

*Please note the correction from the printed motion in the Agenda. It should read "...All Saints, East Saint John, church roof..." rather than "...Trinity Church roof..."*

MOTION 8: G. Carter/B. LeBlanc

**That the Parish of East Saint John be granted approval for the withdrawal of \$12,000 from their rectory fund for the purpose of repairing All Saints, East Saint John, church roof, with repayment, through electronic funds withdrawal, of this loan and previous ones to commence in January 2017 at a minimum of \$200 month with said repayment to continue until the rectory fund has been restored to its original value of \$70,000.**

The Chair indicated the larger repayment amount is because it had been determined that the parish had previously received loans from the rectory fund and had not finished paying them back. Following a question, the rules around rectory funds was explained.

MOTION 8: Carried.

**Motion re: Parish of Nerepis and St. John**

MOTION 9: G. Carter / S. Jack

**That the Parish of Nerepis and St. John be granted a \$12,000 grant from the Diocesan Ministry Development Fund subject to the commitment by the Parish to provide a financial recovery plan for addressing outstanding loans in a format acceptable to the Finance Committee. Funds are to be used solely for the purpose outlined in their proposal.**

The Bishop defined the Diocesan Ministry Development Fund. The Chair of Finance Committee indicated they are aware that this parish has several loans and are paying back some of them, but not all hence the need for a financial recovery plan.

MOTION 9: Carried with more than one vote in opposition.

**Motion re: Application to the Anglican Foundation**

MOTION 10: G. Carter/B. Ham

**That Council approve the Application for a grant to the Anglican Foundation by the Diocesan Companion Diocese in the amount of \$15,000.**

The funds from this application would be used to bring one adult and eight students from the Diocese of Ho to our Diocese to participate in camping ministry.

MOTION 10: Carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Diocesan Treasurer gave an overview of her report. She drew attention to parish assessments for the Shared Budget saying much of the shortfall is simply a question of timing. In regards to Policy A-6, two parishes have been notified with one positive response which Finance Committee will review at its next meeting.

The variances in the budget were explained and the finances find themselves roughly at the same place as they were last year at this time.

MOTION 11: I. Adams/G. Carter

**That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.**

MOTION 11: Carried.

### **Break for lunch**

The Bishop offered grace and asked members to reconvene at 1:00 pm. Following lunch, words of thanks were expressed to the members of Trinity Church for their hospitality.

At 1:00pm, Council was called to order by the Bishop.

### **Safe Church Part 3**

MOTION 12: I. Adams/B. Ham

**That Council approve Part 3: Risk Management and its schedules to be incorporated into the Safe Church Regulation (Part 1) and its relevant policies (Part 2).**

The Treasurer explained Parts 1 and 2 were already approved in 2014. Part 3 is now on the table and it deals with identifying potential risk and managing it. It also includes a number of resources to complete the package. Accepting this part allows the Diocese to go forward with the training. The objective is that all parishes and leaders will be trained by mid-October. Then an audit for insurances purposes can be completed before the renewal date.

Some questions/observations:

- There is no opting out of this as it is a requirement of the Diocese.
- We are trying to create safer, smarter churches...as such we need to educate
- A concern over the restrictions it places on some parishes.
- It is not going to happen all at once and we need to be realistic about that. We need to be seen as forward without panic. It will take time for people to get comfortable with the documents but they are there to help guide in the unfortunate event where something happens.
- The timeframe is meant to be preparatory with the audit as an indication that we are moving forward in the right direction. It becomes a snapshot of where we are at that point in time.

MOTION 12: Carried.

Thanks were offered to the Diocesan Treasurer for her leadership and guidance in the creation of the document.

### **Youth and Intergenerational Ministries**

Colin MacDonald reminded everyone of a number of upcoming events and asked for continued prayers. The Diocesan Camps are busy getting ready for the camping season.

Maren McLean-Persaud invited members to attend the Camp Medley Open House June 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Annual Report of the Diocesan Privacy Officer**

Cathy Laskey identified that both the Communications and Archives Teams needed to review sections in the Privacy Policy pertaining to each. It is also recommended that reconsideration be given to the appropriateness of having the Executive Archdeacon and Secretary of Synod as the Diocesan Privacy Officer.

### **ACW**

The ACW President reported on the recent Annual Meeting where guests included the Bishop, Gisele McKnight (Communications Officer) and Colin MacDonald (Director YIG). She also indicated plans were underway for a national meeting of women and that more information would be coming.

### **Legislative Amendments**

The Chancellor indicated this was not a fundamental rethinking of our legislation, but rather he described the process as a tune-up.

In Canon Four, he explained changes made to the sections dealing with Episcopal Incapacity (section 1.5), the Bishop's Commissary (section 4), Senior Archdeacon (section 6.2.1), Calling meetings of the Diocesan Council (section 16.6) and possible Conflict of Interest (section 16.9)

In Canon Six, changes were made to reflect our present reality where a lay person is sometimes in charge of a parish (section 1.3), terms of office (2.1) and potential conflicts of interest (section 2.3.2 and section 4.2.1)

In Canon Seven, changes also represent the present reality where a layreader-in-charge may be appointed and adds the word incumbent beside rector.

MOTION 12: D. Bell / N. Sloane

**That Diocesan Council approve in principle the amendments to Canons Two, Three and Five and recommend them to the Synod for enactment.**

The Chancellor reviewed the proposed changes made to Canons Two, Three and Five as they were discussed at the previous meeting of Diocesan Council.

Some questions were raised surrounding the appointment of an Assistant Bishop. As such the following amendment was proposed in order to give time for the matter to be clarified.

AMENDED MOTION: D. Bell/R. LeBlanc

**That Diocesan Council approve in principle the amendments to Canons Two, Three and Five and recommend them to the Synod for enactment, apart from section 16 of Canon Three.**

AMENDED MOTION 12: Carried.

### **Future Meetings**

Saturday, June 18 – Cathedral, Fredericton

Saturday, September 10 – Camp Brookwood

Thursday, October 6 (if needed) – Location TBA

Diocesan Synod, November 5 - Fredericton

**Adjournment**

MOTION 15: E. Quann

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

The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer.

Time: 2:57 pm

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Rev David Edwards  
Bishop and Chair

The Ven. Cathy Laskey  
Secretary of Synod

The Rev. Canon Leo Martin  
Recording Secretary  
*With thanks to Cheryl Jacobs for her  
temporary coverage during the morning session*