



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted September 16, 2015

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

June 20, 2015

Camp Brookwood Anglican Church Camp, Florenceville-Bristol, NB

### Pre-Meeting Circulation:

- June 20 Agenda
- April 22, 2015 Draft Minutes
- Attendance Chart
- Team and Standing Committee Reports
- Bishop Edwards' Performance Review
- Diocesan Ministry Development Fund Proposal from Finance Committee
- Discipleship Houses of the Diocese of Fredericton Proposal

Attending: Members: Donald Adams, Irene Adams, David Barrett, Rachel Barrett, David Bell, Gilbert Carter, Sandra Craft, Patricia Drummond, David Edwards, Geoffrey Hall, Eileen Irish, Rosemarie Kingston, Jim Knight, Cathy Laskey, Edward Quann, Anne Walling and Walter Williams  
Guests: Jim Morell, Colin McDonald, Gisele McKnight, Cheryl Jacobs, Brenda MacPherson

Regrets: Members: Stuart Allan, Rick Haddad, Brent Ham, John Matheson, James McKenna, Christopher McMullen, Douglas Painter, Richard Steeves, Allen Tapley and Cheryl Young  
Guests: Leo Martin

Absent: Guest: Brian Spence

### 1. Holy Eucharist:

The Bishop opened the meeting with the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

The Bishop noted that tomorrow is National Aboriginal Day. He shared that we have come to the end of the Truth and Reconciliation Process, a reconciliation process which had its beginnings in South Africa and in the church with Bishop Desmond Tutu. Reconciliation is not about agreement; it is about living together with our disagreements. Justice in terms of reconciliation is based around healing. In the bible we have the creation story, a verdict, then punishment and death. God works toward reconciliation, culminating in Jesus' death on the cross. The purpose from this point on is reconciliation. With reconciliation there is a willingness to step out of our realm (space) into the realm of the other person in the hope they will step into ours. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, said that we need to work

for reconciliation, out of our space into another person's. Reconciling and healing are very important.

#### **Call to Order**

The Bishop thanked Camp Brookwood for their hospitality, and called the meeting to order.

Sandra Craft agreed to take the minutes.

#### **2. Meeting Agenda**

MOTION 1: E. Quann/E. Irish

**That the Agenda be approved as presented.**

MOTION 1: Carried.

#### **3. Adoption of Minutes of the Last Meeting – April 22, 2015**

MOTION 2: D. Barrett/R. Barrett

**That the minutes of the April 22, 2015 meeting of Diocesan Council be approved as circulated.**

MOTION 2: Carried.

#### **4. Membership**

MOTION 3: E. Quann/P. Drummond

**That Brenda MacPherson be appointed as the lay member from the Archdeaconry of Chatham effective immediately.**

MOTION 3: Carried.

MOTION 4: W. Williams/D. Barrett

**That Ann Fairweather be appointed as the Nominations Committee Chairperson effective immediately.**

MOTION 4: Carried.

#### **5. New Business**

##### **a. Bishop Edwards' Performance Review**

Further to the review document circulated, Irene explained that the review followed a similar format that is used for all Diocesan Synod Staff and was based upon the ordinal. Several lay people and clergy participated in responding to the questions (as close to a 360 degree review as we could get). The review has been shared with the Administrative Team, Bishop's Counsel and now Diocesan Council. It will be made public through the NB Anglican. Why do this? - The Bishop said that all Synod Staff are required to be reviewed after six months and one year and then yearly after that and so he felt he needed to be as well. He would not ask anyone to do anything he wasn't prepared to do himself.

##### **b. Ministry Development Fund**

Further to the proposal by the Finance Committee circulated, the need for supporting the ongoing training and formation of new clergy was stressed. As well, as a diocese we need to create opportunities for innovative ministries. To meet the current reality of our

communities, it is envisioned that parallel ministries will be effective for mission and ministry.

The bishop informed council that we will receive a bequest to the Diocese in support of two ministry areas: 1. the training of young clergy and 2. for use at the discretion of the diocese.

**Members were asked to not share this information at this time, until after the funds have been received and an appropriate way to celebrate and remember the donor has been determined.** The estimated value of the estate is approximately 5.5 million dollars.

**c. Discipleship Houses in the Diocese of Fredericton**

Further to the proposal circulated, Colin identified that one way to invest in youth/young adults is to support them while attending university. We have an opportunity to offer a lifestyle of prayer and service, an intentional Christian community. This pilot project initiative needs to be seen as a community house with parishes “adopting” these young people. We have the potential to have other such houses in unused rectories throughout our diocese.

MOTION 5: G. Hall/D. Adams

**That council approve the use of Bishop’s Court as a residence for a student discipleship house beginning in August 2015 for an initial trial period of one year.**

MOTION 5: Carried.

Council discussion included encouragement that this be not only open to those who participated in Camp Medley, verifying zoning and fire regulations, wondering about any maintenance required before people move in, consideration in the future of other locations and ensuring the proper care and use of the antique furniture which had been donated years ago.

**d. SAMS Canada**

The Bishop reported that SAMS Canada is in a position where it can no longer continue in its present format (a power-point was shown). The diocese has been asked to be Kara Thompson Mejia’s employer with her becoming the programme manager for the Honduras Mission currently in Roatan. The SAMS Canada board members have agreed to offer guidance and deputation support to Kara.

MOTION 6: I. Adams/J. Knight

**That the Diocese enter into a 3 year agreement with the Rev. Kara Thompson Mejia as program manager for ministry under the name of “The Honduras Mission”, said ministry to be in collaboration with the Diocese of the Honduras and the Rev. Nelson Mejia; and to provide an opportunity for parishes and individuals to support the program previously operating under the auspices of the South American Mission Society in Canada (SAMS) effective September 1, 2015.**

MOTION 6: Carried.

Council discussion included clarification that donations will flow through the diocese the same as they did with SAMS, agreement will be same as they had with SAMS as far as “stipend” and support for the family, They need to purchase their own insurance which is covered in their

budget. We are supporting the ministry, similarly to the ministry Paul Jeffries serves. Funds do not go directly to the individual.

**6. Reports from Team and/or Committee Chairs**

MOTION 7: J. Knight/G. Carter

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

MOTION 7: Carried.

**a. Administration Team**

Council teams and committees discussion in on hold as they work through human resources and financial issues.

**b. Constitution and Canons Committee.**

MOTION 8: D. Bell/G. Carter

**That Diocesan Council amend Regulation 2-1 (Resolutions Committee Mandate) Section 2(3) to add at the beginning the following: "All motions shall begin with the words 'I move that' or 'Be it resolved that', without further preamble."**

MOTION 8: Carried.

**c. i. Finance Committee**

The chair reported on parish support of the Shared Ministry Budget to the end of 2015. This is a work in progress. The Committee approved an increase to 15% on division of investments. Currently the parishes have an informal agreement concerning their involvement in the DCIF - this will be formalized. Interest only from the \$2.5M will be set aside for training. No changes are recommended from the proceeds from the sale of rectories. It was noted with regret the resignation of the Property Committee Chair, Canon David Kierstead.

**ii. Treasurer's Report**

The Diocesan Treasurer reported that the shared ministry support was now 101%. Six parishes will be further reviewed and supported as per Policy A-6.

**d. Human Resources Committee**

MOTION 9: W. Williams /G. Hall

**That council appoint Rev. Canon Jon Lownds to the Diocesan Human Resources Committee, effective immediately.**

MOTION 9: Carried.

**Lunch**

A lovely BBQ lunch was served by the Camp Brookwood Board Members. This was followed by Mary Lee Philips offering a powerpoint presentation on the ministry of the camp. They are still looking for a chaplain for week 3 (July 19-24) and week 4 (July 26 – 31). They hope to be able to purchase and install a swing set equipment which is more appropriate for older aged children (estimated cost is \$3000.00).

**e. Parish Support and Development**

It was noted that not all parishes give to the Foundation for Life. As council members, we need to encourage people to offer their yearly donation as well as submit applications to support ministry development.

**f. PWRDF**

Anne will provide more information related to the Fracking Forum sponsored by KAIROS to be held in Riverview.

**g. Spiritual Development**

They were greatly encouraged by the reception that Bishop David received during his Pilgrimage. There was great interest generated, with an excellent article in the St. Croix Courier. Next year the walk will be in the Archdeaconry of Chatham. The team is working on a prayer emphasis plan for the diocese, to include workshops and resources.

**h. Stewardship Team**

Back to Church Sunday is scheduled for September 20 and Stewardship Sunday is October 4. The Stewardship Conference is scheduled for October 17 at St. John's Nashwaaksis and is entitled, "Celebrate our Blessings". The Creation Matters Task Group is considering possible areas of focus. At the request of the bishop, a priority focus area is our church buildings. More members are invited to help to work with parishes on environmental issues. Jim Knight is our representative on the National Creation Matters Working Group.

**i. Synod Planning Committee**

Sessional committee chairs have been appointed, except for the Arrangements Committee. The date for Synod is November 7, 2015 and will be held in Fredericton. As it is hoped to be more of a program-based synod, a location needs to be chosen to allow for separating into large groups to do our work. Pre-synod information will be available on the website. Please note the various important deadline dates.

**j. Youth and Inter-Generational Ministries**

There are plans for a Youth Ministries Conference on October 2 and 3 at Christ Church (Parish) Church. In 2016, the Canadian Lutheran and Anglican (CLAY) Conference will take place in Prince Edward Island. New members of the Youth and Intergenerational Ministries Team are needed.

**k. ACW**

The Annual General Meeting was held in May at Christ Church (Parish) Church. There is a challenge as membership is declining; however, many projects continue.

**7. Other Items**

It was agreed that a letter of thanks and appreciation from Diocesan Council be sent to Canon David Kierstead for his work as Property Committee Chair.

**8. Key Messages:**

The Vice-Chair identified the “Key Messages” from our work today. These will be e-mailed out to council members.

**9. Next Meeting of Council:**

The next meeting of Diocesan Council will be Wednesday, September 16, at Camp Medley.

**10. Adjournment:**

MOTION 10: W. Williams

**That council adjourn.**

MOTION 10: Carried.

Archdeacon Laskey closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rt. Rev. David Edwards,  
Bishop and Chair

The Ven. Cathy Laskey,  
Secretary of Synod

Sandra Craft  
Recording Secretary *Pro-Tem*.

**Key Messages – Diocesan Council Meeting**  
*Camp Brookwood, June 20, 2015*

1. On the day before **National Aboriginal Day**, the Bishop charged us to adopt an attitude of broader reconciliation – to step into the space of others and invite them to join us there.
2. Council made the following **appointments**: Brenda MacPherson (Archdeaconry of Chatham) as a member of Diocesan Council; Ann Fairweather as Chair of the Nominating Committee; and the Reverend Canon Jon Lownds (Retired Clergy) as a member of the Human Resources Committee.
3. Council received for information the results of the Bishop's first 6 months **360° Performance Review**.
4. The Diocese will facilitate the continuation of **The Honduras Mission** as SAMS Canada can no longer do so. The program manager in Roatan is The Rev. Kara Mejia. This relationship is for a three year period to be reviewed.
5. Council was informed by the Finance Committee that a **Ministry Development Fund** was created through reallocation of a portion of the retained earnings. This is to allow for the diocese to properly equip our clergy and attract new one and address ministry development needs without placing an additional strain on the Shared Ministry operating budget.
6. The concept of **Discipleship Houses** was considered and the proposal approved to use Bishop's Court as a residence for a student discipleship house beginning in August 2015. It is hoped that this trial will be the first example of creative use of our properties.
7. A motion to amend regulations to prohibit **preambles to motions** to Synod was approved, to place more emphasis on clear and accurate explanatory support documents.
8. A number of parishes have responded to meeting their shared ministry amounts or have filed plans as to how they will respond, resulting in the Diocese receiving **101%** of the year to date "ask" as of May 30.
9. Territorial Archdeacons are forming **Parish Support Teams** to come along side Parishes that have not been meeting their shared ministry amounts to work together in considering how to deal with current financial challenges. They will report to the September 16 Council Meeting.
10. Council received a report on new **Foundation for Life** projects - and a request that donations be promoted.
11. The **Stewardship Conference** is being planned for Saturday, October 17 at St. John the Evangelist, Nashwaaksis. **Stewardship Sunday** is scheduled for October 4 and **Back to Church Sunday** is September 20 or a date more appropriate for the Parish Community.
12. Council was advised that a Diocesan **Creation Matters** Task Group made up of Cindy Derksen, Geoffrey Hall, Jim Knight (who is also our Diocesan Representative on the National Creation Matters Working Group), Joyce Tilburt and Kate Turner have met. These initiatives are a result of the 2014 General Synod Resolution A170 R1 (Supporting Creation care across the church) which is also connected to the 2010 Resolution A180-R1 (Climate Change).
13. Council received reports from the Director of Youth and Intergeneration Ministries – and from the Team – as well as a presentation from the Director of Camp Brookwood, Mary-Lee Phillips;

**Camping Spirit** is alive and well!! Camp Brookwood is seeking a chaplain for the weeks of July 19 and 26.

14. As part of the PWRDF report, Council was advised that KAIROS will be hosting a **“Forum on Fracking”** on October 30-31, 2015 at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Riverview.
15. The ACW reported a very successful Annual Meeting at Christ Church Parish Church, Fredericton.

*Respectfully submitted, Jim Knight, Diocesan Council Lay Vice-Chair*