



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 19 May 2016

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

17 March 2016

Church of the Resurrection

Parish of the Nerepis and St. John

Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (23 January 2016)
- Draft Minutes of Executive Committee (28 January 2016)
- Attendance Chart
- Team and Standing Committee Reports

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, Cathy Laskey, Bonnie LeBlanc, Robert LeBlanc, Coralie Losier, Rob Marsh, Norman McLeod, Dylan Nicoll, Keith Osborne, Edward Quann, Neville Sloane, Richard Steeves, Allen Tapley.

Regrets: Sandra Craft, Siobhan Laskey, John Matheson, Frank Morehouse.

Guests: Tom Fetter, Rick Haddad, Cheryl Jacobs, Leo Martin, Colin McDonald, Gisele McKnight, Maren Mclean-Persaud, Ken Neilson, Jason Smith.

Regrets: Margaret Laking.

Call to Order

The Council gathered at the Church of the Resurrection on a snowy St. Patrick's Day. The Bishop then called everyone to order at 10:10 a.m. for the celebration of Holy Eucharist. In his brief message, he reminded members of the sacrifices St. Patrick made in his determination to bring the Christian faith to Ireland. With Holy Week just around the corner, he asked members to reflect upon what needs to be sacrificed in order to bring the message of Christ further in the Diocese.

A short break followed the Eucharist with the meeting called back to order at 11:00 a.m. at which time the Bishop introduced Maren McLean-Persaud as Camp Medley Director and Ken Neilson as Parish Development Officer. Congratulations were offered to Ken on completing his PhD.

Meeting Agenda

MOTION 1: N. Sloane / E. Quann

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION 1: Carried.

Diocesan Council Orientation

As part of Growing Together, Council divided up in pairs to answer the question 'What is the most important thing you've learned in Lent?'

Minutes of the last meeting - 23 January 2016

MOTION 2: N. Sloane / K. Asch

That the minutes of the 23 January 2016 Meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted as circulated.

MOTION 2: Carried.

Reception of Executive Committee Minutes – 28 January 2016

MOTION 3: A. Tapley / R. LeBlanc

That the minutes of the 28 January 2016 Meeting of the Executive Committee be received as circulated.

MOTION 3: Carried

Reception of Team and Standing Committee Reports

MOTION 4: R. Marsh / P. Drummond

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

MOTION 4: Carried

Motion to Write-Off

This motion comes from the Finance Committee Report.

MOTION 5: G. Carter / I. Adams

That the sum of \$58,929 be written off in accordance with Policy A-6: Outstanding Parish Support representing arrears that were recorded as of December 31, 2013 as follows: (the Parish of) Dorchester - \$1,094, Ludlow & Blissfield - \$6,336, Millidgeville - \$10,241, Renforth - \$16,916, Sackville - \$5,448, St. Stephen - \$18,894, with all other arrears to remain in place at this time.

MOTION 5: Carried.

Motion re: Parish of Coldbrook and St. Mary's

This motion comes from the Finance Committee Report.

MOTION 6: I. Adams / G. Carter

That Council approves a Diocesan loan to the Parish of Coldbrook & St. Mary in the amount of \$65,000 and furthermore that the parish be granted approval to access their rectory funds as a repayable loan for the purpose of purchasing land to facilitate their ministry.

MOTION 6: Carried

Note: The purchase of land is to extend the parking lot.

Motion re: Parish of St. Mark's, Sussex Corner

This motion comes from the Finance Committee Report.

MOTION 7: N. Sloane / G. Hall

That Council approves a Diocesan loan guarantee in the amount of \$270,000 in support of the Parish of St. Mark's, Sussex Corner to facilitate their proposed renovation project.

MOTION 7: Carried

Note: The renovations were proposed as a result of the accident whereby a car hit the church. The Parish has \$160,000 already and they feel confident they can meet the increased financial obligation.

Discipleship House (Bishop's Court) Pilot Project Presentation

The Bishop welcomed Mr. Tom Fetter to the meeting who led Council members in a presentation to further explain the report in the pre-meeting circulation. The Discipleship House (Bishop's Court) Pilot Project was to be for one year. Sharing personal experiences on learning how to pray, Mr. Fetter reminded members of the changing cultural setting where a community of support and prayer becomes important.

The Bishop offered thanks to Mr. Fetter for his presentation.

Break for lunch

The Bishop offered grace and asked members to reconvene at 1:00 pm. Words of thanks were expressed to the members of the Church of the Resurrection for the lunch they provided.

At 1:00pm, Council was reconvened with singing and prayer.

Discipleship House Proposal

MOTION 8: D. Barrett / G. Carter

That Diocesan Council continue the Bishop's Court Pilot Project (Discipleship House) in September 2017 with the first action being the establishment of the Local Committee, appointed by the Bishop, reporting to the Administration Team, to review the recommendations and continue to develop the project for implementation.

A question was raised as to why it could not continue in September 2016. The reply was that a year is needed in order to fully prepare. The ministry side of the project has had a good start; however, the administration side and a local support team needs to be developed.

After a discussion on the matter, the following motion to table was made:

Motion to table

MOTION 9: B. LeBlanc / N. Sloane

That this motion be tabled until the next meeting of Diocesan Council.

MOTION 9: Defeated.

Amendment

AMENDMENT TO MOTION 8: P. Drummond / N. Sloane

That the date '2017' be replaced with '2016, if practicable'.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION 8: Carried with 15 yeas and 6 nays.

AMENDED MOTION 8:

That Diocesan Council continue the Bishop's Court Pilot Project (Discipleship House) in September 2016, if practicable, with the first action being the establishment of the Local Committee, appointed by the Bishop, reporting to the Administration Team, to review the recommendations and continue to develop the project for implementation.

AMENDED MOTION 8: Carried with 16 yeas and 5 nays.

Motion re: Safe Harbour

MOTION 10: I. Adams / R. Marsh

That Council direct the Diocese to enter into an agreement in principle to purchase the building known as Safe Harbour for an amount not to exceed \$642,000, net of HST and related costs.

MOTION 10: Carried with 1 nay vote.

The Diocesan Treasurer explained the difference between purchasing the property and offering a loan guarantee. A more specified focus on the ministry would be put in place to serve youth between the ages of 16 and 19. Before this motion would be acted upon, operational funding from other partners would have to be in place. At the request of Partners for Youth, the operations of Safe Harbour would be financed by the Provincial Government and fundraising efforts for a minimum of 5 years.

Treasurer's Report

The Diocesan Treasurer gave an overview of her report. She drew attention to parish assessments which at the time of printing were lower than last year for the first two months of the year. She also spoke on the application for three summer students through the Canada Summer Jobs Program. These students would help parishes and the Diocese by providing assistance in the Diocesan Resource Centre, developing a Safe Church Training module, and supporting the development of parish web sites.

Parish Support and Development Report

MOTION 11: P. Drummond / R. LeBlanc

That the Parish Support and Development Report be received.

MOTION 11: Carried

Pat Drummond reminded everyone to promote and encourage participation at the Wardens/Treasurers' Day. She was also pleased to announce Brent Ham had agreed to chair this team.

Youth and Intergenerational Report

Colin MacDonald shared a number of upcoming events in the next few months indicating it will be a busy period. He recognized the challenge is always to make sure all the information is shared with the parishioners around the Diocese. He encouraged members of Council to help in this endeavour.

Camp Medley Director

Maren McLean-Persaud reported the interviews for the camping season were now underway. She invited everyone to the upcoming fundraising dinner. A work day to get the camp ready is planned. She was happy to report the Camp is booked on weekends from the end of April to October. Lastly, she spoke on an upcoming pilot project which would bring the camp experience to parishes in the form of a Vacation Bible School.

Camp Brookwood

Robert LeBlanc shared that Camp Brookwood was in the midst of making preparations for the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Camp.

Parish Development Officer

Ken Neilson reported he is getting settled into the position. He is looking forward to the challenges of developing ideas and programs to present to the parishes.

Legislative Amendments

In presenting these proposed amendments to the Diocesan Legislation, the Chancellor reminded these proposed changes are for discussion purposes at this point. He highlighted proposals in:

Canon Two, section 2 entitled *The Chair*, in section 9, entitled *Voting* and in section 12 referring to *Membership in the Provincial and General Synods*.

Under Canon Three, three-fourths is changed to two-thirds (subsection 2.1) for consistency's sake as well as speaking on the potential appointment of an Assistant Bishop (section 16).

In Canon 5, changes are proposed under the Finance Committee directions regarding investments (subsection 1.4) and to the Diocesan Signing Authority (subsection 3.2)

Lastly, he drew attention to proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Diocese of Fredericton, speaking on subsection 4.1.1, subsection 4.2 and subsection 4.7.1 which deals with *Lay Members of the Synod*.

MOTION 12: D. Bell / N. Sloane

That Diocesan Council approve the amendments to the Constitution and recommend them to the Synod for enactment.

MOTION 12: Carried.

Planning of June Meeting/Open House

The Vice Chair of Diocesan Council is requesting help in planning this day which will include a shorter Council Meeting. The day is being envisioned as one of celebration. Anyone interested is asked to speak to either Sandra Craft or Cathy Laskey.

Correspondence

The Secretary of Synod shared a letter which had been received from the Premier of the Province of New Brunswick acknowledging courtesies sent to him at the conclusion of our last Diocesan Synod (November 2015).

Future Meetings

Thursday, May 19 – Parish of Sussex
Saturday, June 18 – Cathedral, Fredericton
Saturday, September 10 – Camp Brookwood
Thursday, October 6 – Location TBA
Diocesan Synod, November 5 - Fredericton

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Diocesan Council is scheduled for 19 May 2016 at Trinity Church in the Parish of Sussex beginning at 10:00 am.

Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, the Bishop extended his thanks for the very positive response to Caring for Colin where over \$170,000 was raised. He reported that Colin and the Ranson family were now home and that the initial reports of the surgery are very positive.

Adjournment

MOTION 15: E. Quann

That this session of Diocesan Council be adjourned.

The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer.

Time: 2:40 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