



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted April 22, 2015

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

21 February 2015

Christ Church (Parish) Church, Parish of Fredericton

### Pre-Meeting Circulation:

- Agenda 21 February 2015
- Draft Minutes (03 December 2014)
- Attendance Chart
- Team and Standing Committee Reports
- 2015 Diocesan Shared Ministry Budget Draft
- Report to Finance Committee on Joint Proposal for Redevelopment of Cathedral Hall

Attending: Donald Adams, Irene Adams, Stuart Allan, David Barrett, Rachel Barrett, David Bell, Gilbert Carter, Sandra Craft, Patricia Drummond, Bishop David Edwards, Rick Haddad, Geoffrey Hall, Rosemarie Kingston, Jim Knight, Jim McKenna, Cathy Laskey, John Matheson, James McKenna, Christopher McMullen, Edward Quann, Richard Steeves, Allen Tapley, Anne Walling, Walter Williams, Cheryl Young.

Guests: Cheryl Jacobs, Jim Morell, Colin McDonald, Gisele McKnight

Regrets: Brent Ham, Douglas Painter, Tom Fetter, Falen McNulty, Eileen Irish  
and Guests: Leo Martin, Brian Spence.

Lunch was served at noon by the ladies of the congregation, for which appreciation was expressed.

The Bishop began the day with the celebration of Holy Eucharist. His message highlighted Mark's use of the word *ejkbavlon* ("ekbalon") from which we get the word "ballistic". Knowing we are sent out by the Holy Spirit, the bishop urged us individually, and as a diocese to always proclaim the name of Jesus; "wash the feet" of others in ministry and leadership; and live and demonstrate our Lord's commission to be ministers of reconciliation in the world.

### Call to Order

The Bishop called the meeting to order at 10:50, and asked for a motion to appoint a Minutes Secretary *pro-tem* in the absence of Leo Martin.

MOTION 1: G. Hall / D. Adams

**That Christopher McMullen be appointed Minutes Secretary *pro-tem* for this meeting.**

MOTION 1: Carried.

### Meeting Agenda

MOTION 2: W. Williams / E. Quann

**That the Agenda be approved as circulated, with the addition under "Other Items" 8.d. a video of the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz on the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund.**

MOTION 2: Carried.

### Minutes of the Last Meeting – 03 December 2014

MOTION 3: G. Carter / A. Walling

**That the Minutes of the December 03, 2014 Meeting of Diocesan Council be approved as circulated.**

MOTION 3: Carried.

### Membership

MOTION 7.B: D. Barrett / D. Bell

**That Lorna Williams be appointed as Diocesan Archivist for a renewable term of five years in accordance with Canon 4, section 15(1).**

MOTION 7.B: Carried.

It was agreed that a letter be sent from the Bishop to Frank Morehouse, thanking him for his many years of service as Diocesan Archivist and to Twila Buttimer who has retired as the staff-person at the Provincial Archives responsible for the Diocesan Archives Twila has been replaced by Joanna Aiton Kerr.

### Receipt of Reports from Team and/or Committee Chairs

MOTION 4: D. Adams / G. Carter

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

Motion 4: Carried.

### Spiritual Development Team:

A Lenten devotional series, *"The I Am..." Sayings of Jesus* has been prepared by the team, and is available for reading or downloading from the Diocesan website.

### Administration Team:

Attention was drawn to the *"Tracking Our Major Issues and Challenges Report."*

#### Meeting of Synod:

MOTION 7.A: J. Matheson / A. Tapley

**That a one-day Meeting of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton occur on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton.**

MOTION 7.A: Carried.

### Youth and Intergenerational Ministries:

Colin McDonald, Director of Youth and Intergenerational Ministries, reported that Camp Medley will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> year of operation with the goal of serving 700 campers. A relationship with Christ commenced at a Christian Camp is best proven to guide a child into their adult years. Colin is also actively trying to identify sources for outside funding for Medley to ensure that every child has an opportunity to attend, regardless of

economic situation. There will be a special Fund-raising Dinner for Camp Medley on May 2 in Fredericton to raise camping scholarship support.

On the question of the status of Camp Brookwood, although this is a diocesan camp, it has its own Board of Directors, traditions and leadership. Colin is available as a resource person and the diocese is a supportive partner to Camp Brookwood.

#### **Finance Committee:**

The Chair, presented his report, supported by the Diocesan Treasurer.

**Parish Assessments:** Diocesan Treasurer Irene Adams reported that in 2014, parishes had contributed 94% of the requested Shared Mission assessments to the Diocese. This compared with 84% at in 2013. The overall amount requested from the parishes was lower in 2014 and although the actual dollar amounts were comparable in the two years, there was a sense of enthusiasm for the willingness of the parishes to meet the target

MOTION 7C: I. Adams / G. Carter

**That Council approve write-off amounts in accordance with Diocesan Policy A-6 “Outstanding Parish Support” in the amount of \$ 238,242, representing the total owed, but not paid, by the parishes to the Diocese related to Parish support of the Diocesan Shared Ministry Budget prior to January 1, 2013.**

MOTION 7.C: Carried.

R. Haddad asked that it be noted that he abstained from the vote because he regarded himself in a conflict of interest; his parish being one of those who had not fully paid their assessment.

According to Policy A.6, the Finance Committee will be following up with Regional Archdeacons to work with parishes who have contributed less than their full Shared Ministry assessments in assessing their financial viability.

**Employment Assessments:** The Treasurer reported that parishes are almost fully current in their Employment Assessments. Previous arrears in this regard were mostly due to parishes overlooking Pension Bonus Assessments, which are now part of their monthly mandatory automatic bank transfers.

**Pension Bonus:** It was clarified that this assessment is used to supplement pensions of clergy who had retired prior to the implementation of the present clergy pension plan in 1989. At present, 15-20 retired clergy or their surviving spouses benefit from this assistance.

#### **Joint Cathedral – Synod Property Committee’s Cathedral Hall Redevelopment Proposal:**

The Finance Committee met at the Bishop’s request, to consider in detail the Cathedral Memorial Hall redevelopment proposal by the Joint Cathedral /Synod Property Committee. After lengthy discussion and review of the proposed funding plan, the Committee could not recommend the project.

MOTION 7D: G. Carter / S. Craft

**That the Cathedral/Synod joint project not be approved at its present estimated cost.**

Previously, Council had approved this project at maximum cost of \$ 1 million as the diocesan share. The bishop expressed his concern that the present project estimate of over \$ 2.7 million would compromise funding for diocesan ministry and mission. He also indicated that a second motion on this matter, Motion 7.E, would allow the Cathedral congregation to proceed with necessary immediate repairs, should the Synod not proceed with the Joint Project.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION 7.D: R. Kingston / (not seconded)

**That the word “not” be removed from the motion.**

MOTION TO AMEND MOTION 7.D: Dropped.

It was pointed out that this amendment would so alter the intent of the motion that it was out of order. No one seconded the proposed amendment.

Patricia Drummond spoke against the motion, indicating that the cathedral is a vital and growing congregation with excellent outreach and ministry. She quoted Bishop Edward Salmon’s advice to our diocese that we should “plough the good fields first.”

Jim Knight noted that a significant part of the proposed project was for the complete reconfiguration of the Hall’s second floor to accommodate Diocesan Synod offices. The estimates included \$170,000 for a parking lot and \$90,000 for new furnishings. Jim McKenna asked if the project could possibly be downsized to reduce costs. Jim Knight also pointed out that the Joint Cathedral / Synod Committee had not had an opportunity to respond to the Finance Committee’s concerns.

Don Adams spoke in favour of the motion, suggesting this was not a time for the Church to invest in even more “bricks and mortar” rather than mission. Don asked for consideration of other alternative options for this project.

The Chancellor David Bell indicated that the notion’s wording, “at its present estimated cost”, made the motion unhelpfully ambiguous.

AMMENDMENT TO MOTION 7.D: G. Hall / D. Barrett

**That all wording after the phrase “not be approved” be dropped.**

AMENDMENT TO MOTION 7.D: Defeated.

The Dean, Geoffrey Hall, indicated that the Cathedral congregation would be facing another delay to work that should proceed, but would not be adverse to a second careful consideration of the project.

MOTION TO TABLE MOTION 7.D: C. McMullen / R. Steeves

**That Motion 7.D be Tabled until the next meeting of Diocesan Council, so that it may be referred to the Joint Cathedral / Synod Committee for consideration and response.**

MOTION TO TABLE 7.D: Carried.

MOTION TO TABLE MOTION 7.E: D. Barrett / R. Haddad

**That Motion 7.E., “That the Council approve a financial grant in the amount of \$ 250,000 to Christ Church cathedral for the renovation of Memorial Hall,” be Tabled.**

MOTION TO TABLE 7.E: Carried.

**Diocesan Budget:**

The Treasurer presented the Proposed Budget for 2015 which projected revenues of \$1,953,132; 69.6% of which would come from Shared Ministry contributions by the Parishes. Irene emphasized the need for parishes to support this budget as a considerable portion of diocesan expenditures go to direct support for the parishes or to ministry on their behalf. This will require an attentive emphasis on Stewardship Education for parishioners and Vestries alike. Projected expenditures were \$ 2,371,513. This anticipated a deficit of \$ 418,381 for the year.

Much discussion ensued about the propriety of adopting a budget with such a large deficit. The budget would be closely monitored to identify opportunities for savings, among which were current staff vacancies and other unused expenditures.

The Treasurer noted a concern that in 2014, Parishes withdrew \$ 272,000 more than they deposited with the Diocesan Consolidated Investment Fund, suggesting that parish finances were precarious, which could affect their ability to fully support the shared ministry budget. These net withdrawals, along with the cumulative effect of budget deficits seriously affect the Diocesan cash flow.

MOTION 7.F I. Adams / G. Carter

**That the 2015 Budget be approved as presented.**

MOTION 7.F: Carried.

#### **Constitution and Canons:**

##### **Church of England Institute Property:**

MOTION 7.G: S. Allan / D. Bell

**That Council grants permission to the Church of England Institute to convey the Institute's land/building (116 Princess St.) to the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton.**

MOTION 7.G: Carried.

The Chancellor explained that this motion was necessary, according to the Constitution of the Church of England Institute, so that a reconfiguration of its ministry may take place.

#### **Reports From Other Teams**

Rosemarie Kingston reported on behalf of the Diocesan A.C.W., which is preparing for its Annual Meeting May 5-6, 2015, at Christ Church (Parish) Church, Fredericton.

Council members are asked to help make New Brunswick Anglicans more aware of Farraline Home's existence, and the present retirement opportunity of two vacancies.

MOTION 5: I. Adams / P. Drummond

**That Council receive the Diocesan A.C.W. Report.**

MOTION 5: Carried.

#### **Other items:**

**Staffing Update for Synod Office:** There are currently no qualified and interested candidates for the Diocesan Parish Development Officer but the search continues.

Cheryl Jacobs has agreed to stay on indeterminately as the Bishop's Secretary and the Rev. Deacon Debbie Edmondson will fill in while Cheryl is away on holidays.

**Conciliation Training:** Archdeacon Cathy Laskey reported that twelve laity and clergy will be receiving their initial training on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with Ken Neilson (Facilitator of the *In the Stillness* Retreat in St. Martins). Conciliation teams will be deployed as early as May, to assist parishes, clergy and other diocesan personnel or bodies with conflict situations. The Bishop pointed out that this was a key part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's vision that Anglicans be ongoing practitioners of reconciliation.

**Other:** The Bishop highlighted the Diocese's increasing costs for clergy counselling and rehabilitation in financial terms as well as in personnel health and parish vitality,. His intent is that the Diocese will become more proactive in identifying and addressing clergy burn-out and other health issues.

The video from the Primate on P.W.R.D.F. was not able to be presented due to technical difficulties.

**Key Messages:**

Vice-Chair Jim Knight presented his recorded thirteen "Key Messages" for media circulation.

**Next Meeting of Council:**

Wednesday April 22, 2015 at St. Andrew's Church Hall, 214 Pleasant St., Newcastle, Miramichi.

**Adjournment:**

MOTION 6: P. Drummond

**That Council adjourn.**

MOTION 6: Carried.

Time: 3:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rt. Rev. David Edwards,  
Bishop and Chair

The Ven. Cathy Laskey,  
Secretary of Synod

The Rev. Christopher McMullen,  
Recording Secretary *Pro-Tem*.