



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Approved: 28 Sep 2023

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

3 June 2023

Camp Medley

### **Pre-meeting circulation**

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (Mar 8, 2023)
- Correspondence from the Rev Canon Kevin Stockall
- Finance Committee Report
- Parish of Hammond River application to the Anglican Foundation
- Treasurer's Reports
  - April 30, 2023 Shared Ministry and Employment Assessment
  - April 30, 2023 Synod Financial Statements
  - 2022 Financial Statements Engagement Report
  - 2022 Financial Statements
- Committee and Team Reports: Human Resources Committee
- Other Items: Proposal for Nominating Committee Roles and Responsibility, Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Diocesan Committee Structure – Revised.

### **Members Attending**

Martha Barker, David Bell, Michael Briggs, Jasmine Chandra, Robert Cheatley, Connor DeMerchant, David Edwards, Trevor Fotheringham, Geoffrey Hall, Brent Ham, Heather Harris-Jones, Margaret Holder, Bonnie Hunt, Susan Jack, Cathy Laskey, Gerald Laskey, Bob LeBlanc, Leo Martin, Rob Marsh, John Matheson, Laura McNulty, Robert Montgomery, Tony Munn, David Peer, Julian Pillay, Paul Ranson, Nancy Stephens, Robert Taylor, Marilyn Wilson.

### **Member Regrets**

Perry Cooper, Jill Stewart.

### **Guests Attending**

Shawn Branch (PDO), Cheryl Jacobs (Technical Support), Neil Osiowy (Council Nominee), Caleb Twinamatsiko (Parish of Pennfield).

### **Guest Regrets**

Gisele McKnight.

### **Opening**

1. David Edwards opened the meeting at 9:20 am by acknowledging that the diocese conducts its activities on the traditional and unceded territory of the Wabanaki people, which includes the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, and Peskotomuhkati nations. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship," entered into with the British Crown in the 1700s, to establish an ongoing

relationship of peace, friendship, and mutual respect.

2. David Edwards then noted regrets from two council members: Jill Stewart and Perry Cooper and moved immediately to Item 1c, the appointment of a clergy member from the Archdeaconry of Fredericton. The clericus of the two deaneries in the Archdeaconry have recommended that the Diocesan Council appoint the Rev Neil Osiowy as a member of the Diocesan Council to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of the Rev. Paul Ranson as Archdeacon of Fredericton.

*MOTION 1: Robert Taylor/David Peer*

***That Diocesan Council appoint Neil Osiowy as the Clergy member to the Diocesan Council from the Archdeaconry of Fredericton.***

*MOTION 1: Carried*

3. The bishop asked Caleb Twinamatsiko to come and speak about the Martyrs of Uganda, which the Anglican Church commemorates on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Caleb is a priest of the Diocese who comes from Uganda, and he noted that this day is very important for the church in Uganda and the witness of the martyrs was instrumental to extending God's kingdom into Uganda.

4. The bishop began the discernment part of the meeting with an address to council. The address will be published in full separately. He provided the council members with his vision for the Diocese which has two main parts: 1) that the Diocese will continue to be a place where everyone in New Brunswick has access to Anglican worship and ministry, and 2) that the Diocese will be a place where the church engages in local ministry for the extension of God's Kingdom in word and action.

5. The bishop explained the 5 focus areas he has discerned and encouraged the Diocesan Council to continue his work and determine the way forward for the diocese:

- Discipleship and Formation
- Shape of Ministry
- New Styles of ministry
- Sharing resources
- Cathedral

6. The bishop noted how difficult it is to lead in our structures. Any real change will need to be led at the local level.

7. After addressing the diocesan council members, the members broke into smaller groups to consider the bishop's address along with the charge to synod, the response to the charge, and the bishop's address to the diocesan council in December. Shawn Branch lead members through a discernment in smaller groups that ended when the results of small group discussion were shared with other groups. The results of the session will be compiled and shared with the council members separately. The discernment session ended at noon.

8. The diocesan council deliberations paused at noon while the bishop led members in a celebration of the Eucharist which ended at 12:30 pm.

### **Call to Order**

9. Diocesan council members shared lunch from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm provided by Camp Medley staff. David Edwards called the meeting back to order at 1:30 and asked the Secretary to present the amended agenda for the meeting sent out before the meeting. The agenda amendments included moving the discernment from item 7 to item 1, adding an item of New Business to appoint a governor for AST, and two sub-items under the Nomination process in 7a and the Diocesan Council Committee structure in 7b.

*MOTION 2: Trevor Fotheringham / Bob LeBlanc*

***That Diocesan Council accept the agenda as amended.***

*MOTION 2: Carried*

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

10. Diocesan Council reviewed the minutes of the last Diocesan Council meeting. The secretary presented the input received from members and the resulting corrections to the minutes:

**Page 6 of the meeting package paragraph 3 third line:**

*Remove “that” after “components.”*

**Page 7 of the meeting package referring to page 16 of the previous meeting package:**

*“of” and “on” should be reversed in the sentence on the title of the document about the Task Force on Racial Justice*

**Page 10 of the meeting package paragraph 25 last line:**

*Add “to” before December.*

**Page 13 of the meeting package:**

*The second line in the draft Terms of Reference should say “Charter for Racial Justice,” not “Charter of Racial Justice.”*

*MOTION 3: Gerry Laskey / Robert Taylor*

***That Diocesan Council approve the minutes of the last meeting March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, as corrected.***

*MOTION 3: Carried*

### **Correspondence**

11. The Secretary noted that a letter was received from the Rev Canon Kevin Stockall resigning as the Assistant of Secretary of Synod as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

### **Business Arising**

12. **Parish of Stanley Deanery recommendation:** The council had asked the chancellor to clarify the wording in Regulation 4-1 which had the parish of Stanley in both the deanery of Fredericton and the Deanery of York. The Chancellor reported that the parish is in the deanery of York and proposed a change to the regulation to eliminate any confusion.

*MOTION 4: David Bell / David Peer*

***Moved that paragraph (b) of section 1 of Part 6 of Regulation 4-1 (Regional Governance) be amended as follows:***

***1 The Diocesan Council fixes the names and extent of the Deaneries as the following corporations and missions, together with such chaplaincies and other ministries as the Bishop shall annex:***

...

***b) The Deanery of Fredericton, which comprises the parishes of Fredericton, Fredericton Junction, Gagetown, New Maryland, Oromocto and Maugerville. Prince William, Dumfries, Queensbury and Southampton, St. Margaret's, St. Peter, ~~Stanley~~, and the Cathedral of Christ Church;***

*MOTION : Carried.*

### **New Business**

13. **Appointment of the Assistant Secretary of Synod:** In accordance with the Constitution Sec 10(4) the Diocesan Council has the power to appoint an assistant Secretary of Synod. The Secretary of Synod, David Peer, noted that an Assistant Secretary adds flexibility for the Synod; documents that require the seal of Synod can be processed when the Secretary is not available.

*MOTION 4: Robert Taylor / David Peer*

***That Diocesan Council appoint the Ven Paul Ranson as the Assistant Secretary of Synod***

*MOTION 4: Carried.*

14. **Appointment to the AST Board of Governors:** The Chair of the AST board of Governors communicated to the bishop to request that the Diocese appoint the Rev Thomas Nisbett to a second three-year term on the Atlantic School of Theology's Board of Governors.

*MOTION 5: Robert Taylor / David Peer*

***That Diocesan Council appoint the Rev Thomas Nisbett to a second term on the AST Board of Governors.***

*MOTION 5: Carried.*

### **Reports**

15. David Edwards asked for a motion to receive all reports. The secretary noted a change in the Report on Diocesan Council Committee Structure. On the fifth line of page 75 "he" should be replaced by "the bishop."

*MOTION 6: Gerald Laskey / Trevor Fotheringham*

***Moved that Diocesan Council receive all reports as circulated and amended.***

*MOTION 6: Carried*

16. **Finance Committee Report.** Susan Jack presented the Finance Committee report and noted that the Committee is recommending that diocesan council approve the application from the Parish of Hammond River to the AFC for a grant. The AFC application for funding for an accessible

washroom is in the pre-read package.

*MOTION 7: Susan Jack / Heather Harris-Jones*

***Moved that Diocesan Council approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee for the Parish of Hammond River to apply for an Anglican Foundation Grant of \$14,325 to cover half the cost of constructing an accessible washroom.***

*MOTION 7: Carried*

17. **Treasurer's Report.** Heather Harris-Jones presented the Shared Ministry and Employment Assessment status. Parish contributions to the Diocesan Shared Ministry Budget to the end of April were at 98%, up from 92% last year and better than the last few years. The total shortfall was \$7.7K, with over half being considered uncollectable. The financials show the Synod doing worse than budgeted. The revenue shortfall is due to timing and will correct as we move through the year. We realized losses at the beginning of the year but higher expected income for the rest of the year should provide the offsetting income. Synod expenditures are less than budgeted but on track and being managed. Heather has no concerns with the Synod financial position at this point.

18. David Edwards related how Kendra Patrick, the lead reviewer from Bringloe Feeney, was full of praise for our finance staff and how our finances are being managed. David wanted to thank Heather, Ben, Justin, and Susan for their work on finances and acknowledge the advances that the Synod has made with financial reporting and accountability over the last few years.

19. Heather presented the results of the review engagement report.

- The Financial Statements were completed in accordance with general accepted standards for review engagements related to the information provided.
- Nothing caused Bringloe Feeney to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all respects, the financial position of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton as of December 31, 2022.
- Bringloe Feeney concluded that the results of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton's operations and cash flows for the year are in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

20. The Financial Statements were reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee on May 18<sup>th</sup>, after being presented by Bringloe Feeney.

*MOTION 8: Susan Jack / Heather Harris-Jones*

***Moved that Diocesan Council receive the 2022 financial statements and Review Engagement Report as presented.***

*MOTION 8: Carried*

21. Brent Ham thanked the Finance Committee for their work on the grants and asked how the grant results would be published. After hearing from Heather that the applicants are informed directly, Brent suggested a more widespread announcement might be useful to inform people of what is happening in the Diocese.

### **Other Items**

22. Before dealing with Other Items the bishop noted that Motion I and following motions were

included to facilitate the discussion.

23. When the meeting turned to examination of item 7, “Other items”, before the discussion proceeded, a Point-of-Order was raised by Gerry Laskey. He noted that the full agenda items submitted by six Council members prior to the meeting (7 (a) (i) and 7 (b) (ii)) were not on the agenda as submitted. The circulated agenda had item 7 (a) (i) as “Review and discussion of the nomination process to be used in forming the Council’s teams and/or committees, including a full review of the process used at the beginning of the Council’s term.” What was submitted as an agenda item was “A review and discussion by the whole Diocesan Council of the nomination process to be used in forming Council’s teams and/or committees. This would include a full review of the process used at the beginning of our term and a move towards an agreed upon transparent process with full member participation going forward. This could suggest new elections in the fall. This in no way indicates our dissatisfaction with those previously nominated or currently appointed/elected, but only with the process. The process used at the beginning of our term was very different than the one used by the past few terms of Council and left many of us feeling disenfranchised as a corporate body. The goal would be to have a new agreed process of nomination and election in place.” It was suggested that the full items be read into the record as originally submitted. The bishop responded by reading the original full agenda items to the meeting, including the second item raised by the six Council members, “A review by the full Diocesan Council of all the previous Teams and Committees, their mandates, and activities of recent years. This will permit an opportunity for the current Council (a good number of whom are new members) to become more familiar and conversant with what has existed in the past, what is mandated by Diocesan legislation, what work they have focused on and which of them we may want to continue with, amend, amalgamate, or discontinue. We believe that it is only the prerogative of the Council itself to determine its own committees/teams apart from those mandated by Diocesan Synod.” The bishop also quoted the correspondence to Council which said, we realize there may not be time for a full discussion of number 2 at the June meeting, but believe it is important to at least have information to begin and inform our discussion. Perhaps materials relating to this review could be shared with Council members prior to our meeting.” Gerry Laskey thanked the Chair for reading this into the record and onto the agenda.

24. **Review and Discussion of the Nomination Process:** Six members of the council suggested that the whole Diocesan Council review and discussion the nomination process for selecting members for Council teams and/or committees. This review should include a full examination of the process used at the beginning of the Diocesan Council’s mandate with the goal of agreeing on a transparent process with full member participation going forward. The process used at the beginning of Council’s term left some members feeling disenfranchised as a corporate body. The review could suggest new elections in the fall. The dissatisfaction with the process in no way indicates dissatisfaction with the people previously nominated or currently appointed/elected.

25. David Edwards asked David Peer to explain the nomination process used at the beginning of the Council’s term. David Peer explained that he thought it was the Secretary’s responsibility to manage the nominations, particularly for the first meeting of Diocesan Council. David Peer stated that he did the work of the nominating committee between the end of the Synod Session and the Diocesan Council meeting. David Peer found the members for the committees presented at the meeting in December and March. David now understands that this is a council responsibility, not

the responsibility of the Secretary. David has prepared a proposal for a roles and responsibility document for the nominating committee to inform the council's discussion.

26. Gerry Laskey asked if the council could wait until the second meeting after Synod to appoint members required by Canon. The chancellor said that some such appointments are to occur at the first meeting.

27. The bishop asked for volunteers to sit on an Ad Hoc group to develop a proposal on a Nominating Committee Process for the next meeting. He committed the Executive officer to provide administrative support. Gerry Laskey, Brent Ham, Tony Munn, and Robert Taylor agreed to volunteer.

*MOTION 9: John Matheson / David Peer*

***Moved that Diocesan Council appoint Gerry Laskey, Brent Ham, Tony Munn, and Robert Taylor as an Ad Hoc committee to produce a new nomination process and report to the next meeting.***

*MOTION 9: Carried*

28. **Report on Diocesan Council Committee Structure:** Council reviewed the report on Diocesan Council committee structure. Nancy Stephens was positive about the report and related to the members of the council that some of the team chairs from the old council structure met in 2017 and recommend council review the committee and team structure. David Bell noted that the proposed structure makes it clear that the bishop's committees pertain to the spiritual function, and the Synod/Council Committees to the temporal.

29. Six members of the council had asked for review by the full Diocesan Council of all the previous Teams and Committees, their mandates and activities of recent years as an item for discussion at the meeting. They realize there may not be time for a full discussion of at the meeting, but believe it is important to at least have information to begin and inform a discussion. This will permit an opportunity for the current Council (a good number of whom are new members) to become more familiar and conversant with what has existed in the past, what is mandated by Diocesan legislation, what work teams and committees have focused on and which of them we may want to continue with, amend, amalgamate, or discontinue. They believe that it is the prerogative of the Council itself to determine its own committees/teams apart from those mandated by Diocesan Synod.

30. David Peer noted that this was the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee and asked that the council consider accepting the report and its recommendations without the recommended motions as the Ad Hoc Committee has completed its work.

*MOTION 10: Laura McNulty / Paul Ranson*

***Moved that Diocesan Council accept the Report on Diocesan Council Structure without recommended motions.***

*MOTION 10: Carried*

31. A review by the full Diocesan Council of all the previous teams and committees, their mandates, and activities of recent years was not fully discussed.

32. Robert Taylor, the Sessional Nominating Committee Chair and a member of the council, informed the diocesan council that he is not willing to be the chair of a nominating committee with a broad mandate beyond Synod. He is willing to participate as a member.

**Constitutions and Canons Committee Appointments** Chancellor David Bell updated members on the progress on the new motion by reading out the following names of those nominated.

Kenneth Brien  
Perry Cooper  
Charles Ferris  
Brent Ham  
Robert Marsh  
Leo Martin

John Matheson  
Kirsten McKnight  
David Peer  
Raul Ranson  
Clyde Spinney  
Kevin Stockall

Marilyn Wilson raised the concern that only one female was being nominated. The Chancellor agreed and noted that the names put forward at the previous meeting would have had more of a balance.

*MOTION 11: David Bell / David Peer*

***Moved that Diocesan Council appoint Kenneth Brien, Perry Cooper, Charles Ferris, Brent Ham, Robert Marsh, Leo Martin, John Matheson, Kirsten McKnight, David Peer, Raul Ranson, Clyde Spinney, and Kevin Stockall as members of the Constitution and Canons Committee.***

*MOTION 11: Carried*



### **Rolling Meeting Schedule**

33. Our next meeting is planned for September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

<b>2023-2024</b>
Thursday September 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 (Virtual)
Friday December 1 <sup>st</sup> to Saturday December 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2023 (in-person retreat)
Thursday March 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 (Virtual)
Saturday, June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024

### **Adjournment**

34. David Edwards asked for a motion to adjourn at 2:50 pm and closed the meeting with a prayer and the Grace.

*MOTION 9: David Peer/Susan Jack*

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

Respectfully submitted,



The Most Rev David Edwards  
Archbishop and Chair

The Rev David Peer  
Secretary of Synod