



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 25 February 2017

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

St. John (Stone) Church, Parish of St. Mark, Saint John

2 December 2016

Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (10 September 2016)
- Attendance Chart
- Team and Committee Reports
- Other Reports

Attending: Irene Adams, Stuart Allan, Kathy Asch, Gilbert Carter, Sandra Craft, Patricia Drummond, David Edwards, Brent Ham, Susan Jack, Rosemarie Kingston, Cathy Laskey, Bonnie LeBlanc, Robert LeBlanc, Coralie Losier, Rob Marsh, Frank Morehouse, Dylan Nicoll, Keith Osborne.

Regrets: David Barrett, David Bell, Geoffrey Hall, Chris Hayes, Siobhan Laskey, John Matheson, Norman McLeod, Edward Quann, Neville Sloane, Allen Tapley.

Guests: Cheryl Jacobs, Colin McDonald, Gisele McKnight.

Regrets: Ann Fairweather, Rick Haddad, Leo Martin, Maren McLean-Persaud, Ken Neilson, Dorothy Shephard, Jason Smith, Kelly VanBuskirk, Walter Williams.

### **Call to Order**

At the appointed time, the Diocesan Council was called to order.

Bishop David asked John Paul Westin, Rector of the Parish of St. Mark, to provide a welcome and introduction to the newly renovated Stone Church. Dr. Westin began by thanking the Council for their trust and support for the project and then discussed some of the changes. In particular, he noted the new rooms, office and kitchen under the balconies; that they had only lost 10 seats overall as balconies are now usable; that they had implemented 16 of 28 recommendations of their green audit so far; and, that anything salvageable had been sold or given away, including some of the pews being made into a new portable altar and tables for Outflow Ministries.

Bishop David then presided at the Holy Eucharist. In a brief meditation on Matthew 3:1-12, he noted that one concept of this passage is repentance – metanoia (to turn around). Advent is moving us toward the second coming of Jesus. The Church is to be a sign of this age to come; we are to be a turning people because we are members of the Kingdom. But also, the Bishop noted, this turning around needs to be empowered by the Holy Spirit who takes us beyond ourselves. He saw this in the Stone Church project. He concluded with the exhortation that we need to be intentional in the turning around but also empowered by the Spirit.

**Meeting Agenda**

MOTION 1: B. Ham / G. Carter

**That the agenda be approved as circulated.**

MOTION 1: Carried.

**Appointment of Recording Secretary**

MOTION 2: C. Laskey / S. Craft

**That Cheryl Jacobs be appointed recording secretary for this meeting.**

MOTION 2: Carried.

**Minutes of the last meeting – 10 September 2016**

MOTION 3: R. LeBlanc / C. Laskey

**That the minutes of the 10 September 2016 meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted.**

MOTION 3: Carried.

**Business Arising**

- (i) Safe Harbour: The Bishop asked the Treasurer to give an update. She reported that the Diocese had purchased the building for \$642,190 including costs related to title transfer and registration. The Diocese will pay itself back with money to be drawn from the George Bartlett trust as it comes in annually. Partners for Youth, Inc. (directed by John Sharpe, son of the Ven. John Sharpe) will manage the building and program. The Province has agreed to six years of funding of \$250,000, though 2016 is the first year and will be pro-rated December. There is also already a staff social worker working out of the building. To a question as to what this means in ten years' time? The bishop indicated that hopefully Partners for Youth or another institution will be still running the program. We will have an asset valued at \$1.1 million. The building was designed so that it can become a B&B. Inspector has said it is extremely well built.
- (ii) Property Tax Issue: The Bishop asked the Treasurer to report on follow-up to the discussion and concerns expressed at the last meeting. Irene indicated a letter has been sent to all parishes advising each corporation of their obligation to report to the tax department when a parish owned building is being used for other than church purposes.

**Christian Formation**

- (i) Interpreting Scripture: The Bishop indicated he has become concerned that people of the diocese are struggling with how to interpret Scripture and he hopes to do something about this across the diocese. In order to start the process with Council members, however, he read the passage Mark 4:1-8 (that is, the part of the parable of the sower/soil that the crowd heard from Jesus) and asked members present to break up into groups and discuss what this passage is about. After some minutes doing so, each group briefly shared key points of their discussion. The Bishop closed this time with some final thoughts, noting in particular, that biblical texts are multi-layered and understanding the context is important.

**Reception of Committee and Team Reports**

MOTION 4: S. Jack / G. Carter

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

MOTION 4: Carried.

The Bishop opened the floor for highlights from reports other than those on the agenda with motions. The following were offered:

- The recommended 2017 Lent study book is Noticing God by Richard Peace. The bishop's secretary is checking into a bulk discount and will coordinate ordering books.
- The national ACW will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. There will be a national gathering open to all Anglican women (whether members of ACW or not) in Ancaster in the summer. Registration is expected to start the 1<sup>st</sup> of February.
- Camp Brookwood is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. They have raised over \$10,000 of the target \$16,000 fund to cover camper costs. Appreciation for the offering taken at Synod was offered.
- The Chair of the Synod Planning Committee reported that the wrap-up meeting had just been held. The committee was pleased with the engagement of members and feedback was generally very positive. Appreciation was offered to the Chancellor for attending every Greater Chapter meeting, for which there was also a positive response. There was some question as to why synods are now always held at the Parish Church to which the response needs to be that this is due to logistics: the meeting area size and location, and where many volunteers are available. There were a number of disappointing, and disconcerting, evaluation comments suggesting there was no need for both Morning and Evening Prayer Offices.
- The Communications Committee is recommending the diocese consider holding annual or bi-annual gathering days comprised of workshops covering a wide overview of topics.

The Bishop suggested that, at future meetings of Council, one committee or team, in turn, present a detailed verbal report so that the Council members get some insight into the work and ministry of the committees and teams. The membership agreed with this idea.

### **Break for lunch**

The meeting adjourned for lunch at noon.

Following lunch, words of thanks were expressed to Ruby and Marilyn and others from the parish for the delicious lunch.

Council was called to order at 12:40 by the Bishop. The Bishop asked the Treasurer and the Chair of the Finance Committee to present their reports and associated motions.

### **Motion re: 2017 Shared Ministry Contributions**

The Treasurer noted that parish support receipts are at 98% of budget this year.

MOTION 5: I. Adams / G. Carter

**That Council approve the 2017 Shared Ministry Contributions as recommended by the Finance Committee.**

MOTION 5: Carried.

Comment:

It was noted that it would be helpful to have a column with the current year contribution request amounts in order to see the changes. The Treasurer noted that there had only been small changes but would take the request under advisement for next year.

**Motion re: 2017 Diocesan Shared Ministry Budget**

The Treasurer presented the 2017 Shared Ministry Budget, noting that both the narrative and numerical reports include revised ministry area categories, including the new Ministry Development and Education area, with the associated administrative and governance portions incorporated into each category. She also highlighted the summary of costs of each area of ministry report which separates direct costs, grants and contributions, and leadership and support amounts; and noted there is more delineation throughout the budget, separating money to/from operating funds versus external funds.

MOTION 6: I. Adams / B. LeBlanc

**That Council approve the 2017 Diocesan Shared Ministry Budget showing a projected deficit of \$130,588 as recommended by the Finance Committee.**

MOTION 6: Carried.

Comments:

Irene was commended for her work on the budget.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented her report with statements up to the end of September, noting there had been a recent receipt against the Employment and Pension Bonus shortfalls. She also commented that numbers are comparable with last year at this time and that a significant portion of the income is reported at the end of the year.

**Motion re: Increase to Clergy Compensation**

The Bishop asked members of the Human Resources Committee to speak to the proposed motion. It was reported that the increase last year was 1.5% and the year before that was 3% because there had not been an increase the three years previous. It was also noted that the proposed increase is based on the cost of living index and parishes who pay their clergy beyond the minimum scale are recommended to increase by 2% as well. There is no proposed change to mileage reimbursement rates.

MOTION 7: K. Asch / R. LeBlanc

**That Council approve a 2.0% increase, effective January 1, 2017, to the Diocesan clergy compensation as governed by *Schedule A, Regulation 7 - 2: Scale of Minimum Stipends.***

MOTION 7: Carried.

Comments:

There was a question as to how many clergy are governed by the minimum scale to which the Treasurer suggested this is roughly 75%.

**Motion re: Stewardship Team appointments**

The Bishop asked someone to move the following as there were no members of the Stewardship Team present, other than the Treasurer.

MOTION 8: B. Ham / G. Carter

**That Council approve the appointment of Don Adams and Neil Osiowy to the membership of the Stewardship Team.**

MOTION 8: Carried.

**Motion to Receive Other Reports**

MOTION 9: K. Asch / D. Nicoll

**That Council receive the other reports as submitted.**

MOTION 9: Carried.

**Other Items**

- (i) Cathedral – Synod Office Development: The Bishop stated that, as a result of the ending of the Cathedral Hall development proposal, he offered to think about other options and pulled together a small group to discuss this resulting in the proposal report included in the meeting package. The Bishop explained that the idea, and current common practice, is to invest in the upfront planning (scope of work, building design) then tender the project so that the diocese does not have the capital outlay. He noted he has already received support from the City of Fredericton and from the Cathedral congregation. He asked for feedback on how to best engage the diocesan constituency.

**Meeting Schedule**

Saturday, February 25, 2017

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Thursday, September 14, 2017

It was noted that the June meeting conflicts with the new dates for Clergy College so this date will be considered further.

**Adjournment**

MOTION 10: F. Morehouse

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

The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer and the Grace.

Time: 1:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Rev'd David Edwards  
Bishop and Chair

The Ven. Cathy Laskey  
Secretary of Synod

Cheryl Jacobs  
Recording Secretary (interim)