



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 22 June 2017

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

22 April 2017  
St. John's Parish Hall  
Oromocto, NB

Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (25 February 2017)
- Attendance Chart
- Team and Standing Committee Reports

Attending: Irene Adams, Kathy Asch, David Barrett, David Bell, Gilbert Carter, Sandra Craft, Patricia Drummond, David Edwards, Susan Jack, Cathy Laskey, Robert LeBlanc, Coralie Losier, Rob Marsh, Norman McLeod, Frank Morehouse, Dylan Nicoll, Keith Osborne, Edward Quann, Neville Sloane, Allen Tapley.

Regrets: Stuart Allan, Geoffrey Hall, Brent Ham, Chris Hayes, Siobhan Laskey, Bonnie LeBlanc, John Matheson, Wandlyn Snelgrove.

Absent: Rosemarie Kingston

Guests Attending: Charlene Taylor, Cheryl Jacobs, Leo Martin, Gisele McKnight, Maren McLean-Persaud, Ken Neilson, Walter Williams.

### **Call to Order**

At the appointed time, Bishop David called the meeting to order and introduced the Venerable Charlene Taylor from the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland. Charlene was in the Diocese to speak to the current 12-12-12 group about Community Engagement and Partnerships in her diocese and was invited to share the same with Council members. A summary appears below.

The Bishop then celebrated the opening Eucharist. In his meditation, the Bishop reminded everyone that is through death and resurrection that peace is possible and the Church has a role in bringing that peace to the world. Council members are to be messengers of peace and animate Christ for those who may see him or know him.

Following a small break, the meeting was called back to order and the Bishop offered prayers for the Reverend Gerry Laskey, Siobhan and their family.

### **Meeting Agenda**

MOTION 1: Neville Sloane / Rob Marsh

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

MOTION 1: Carried.

### **Adoption of minutes - 25 February 2017**

Corrections were made to the bottom of page 2 where the word 'lace' should read 'place' and on page 3 (motion 9), the seconder should read as Brent Ham not Brent Gallant.

MOTION 2: Gilbert Carter / Kathy Asch

**That the minutes of the 25 February 2017 Meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted as corrected.**

MOTION 2: Carried

### **Business Arising**

None

### **Correspondence**

The Secretary shared a letter from the Anglican Foundation which informed us that as of September 17, 2017, only parishes with membership in the Foundation will be able to apply for grants/loans. Presently 14 out of 74 parishes in the Diocese are members.

Council members were encouraged to share this news with their parishes and archdeaconries and to become members supporting others as may have been supported.

This year also marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Anglican Foundation and there is a desire to hear and share stories. To aid in this each bishop has been asked to appoint an Anglican Foundation of Canada Diocesan Representative and this appointment be approved by Diocesan Council.

A question was raised as to whether it would be feasible to add the \$50 fee to the Parish Support amount. It was felt it would be better if individual parishes made the decision to support the Foundation on their own.

### **Christian Formation**

After asking Council members to discuss what excites them about ministry, The Venerable Charlene Taylor spoke on the restructuring of Bishop and Chapter in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and how each Canon and Archdeacon is responsible for providing leadership related to a specific ministry portfolio.

Parishes can also discover their own ministries by: Getting to know their local community; Being connected to their community; Building relationships; Identifying areas of need; Partnering with groups; Showing compassion (no judgment) and Adhering to the teachings of Christ.

The Bishop offered thanks to Charlene for the very informative session.

### **Lunch**

At 12:15 pm, the Bishop offered a blessing for the meal prepared for Council members.

Following the meal, thanks was expressed to those responsible for the meal and to the parish for their ministry of hospitality.

Council reconvened at 1:00 pm.

### **Reception of Team and Standing Committee Reports**

MOTION 3: Robert LeBlanc / Gilbert Carter

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

MOTION 3: Carried.

Human Resources:

The Chair announced the appointment of Allan MacLean as Personnel and Safe Church Officer.

Canons and Constitution:

Former Parish of St James (Saint John)

MOTION 4: David Bell / Kathy Asch

**Moved that all property of the former parish of St James, or the proceeds of disposition of it, including property of which the parish corporation was trustee, be transferred to and vest in the Synod, to be held in trust for such Christian mission within within the traditional boundaries of the Anglican parishes of St James, Saint John and St Mark as the Bishop of Fredericton may direct.**

***(Background: Whereas by s.7(14) of the Anglican Church Act the Diocesan Council may dissolve parish corporations and may direct the transfer of remaining property to the Synod; and whereas, on the dissolution of parish corporations, any trusts held by the former parish corporation become impossible of performance; and whereas on 28 June 2007 the Diocesan Council dissolved the Anglican Parish of St James (Saint John) but made no disposition of its remaining property)***

The Chancellor added the practical reason for the motion is to repurpose the trust.

MOTION 4: Carried

Delegates/Alternates at Provincial and General Synods

MOTION 5: David Bell / Patricia Drummond

**Moved that the Diocesan Council approve in principle the proposed amendments to Canon Two on the timing of delegate elections to the Provincial and General Synods and recommend them to the Diocesan Synod for enactment.**

The Chancellor explained that at the last Diocesan Synod, the Canon was changed to say delegates to Provincial and General Synods would be elected at the first Synod following a General or Provincial Synods. However, a question was raised regarding the amount of time between the election of delegates and the actual Synod where the Diocese might run out of elected delegates/alternates for whatever reason. This motion answers that question. (pages 12-13 in the pre-meeting circulation)

MOTION 5: Carried.

Taskforce on Episcopal Elections

MOTION 6: Sandra Craft / David Barrett

**Moved that the Diocesan Council approve in principle the proposed amendments to Canon Three to implement recommendations of the episcopal elections taskforce and recommend them to the Diocesan Synod for enactment.**

The Vice Chair explained the taskforce created to look at episcopal elections had concluded their work with 9 recommendations:

Recommendation 1: That all nominations of clergy for election as bishop must be submitted and received at Synod office at least thirty days before the time for commencement of the electoral Synod.

Recommendation 2: That Canon Three be amended to provide that the Metropolitan shall "normally" preside at electoral Synods (or employ words of like effect), retaining the other options currently provided for in Canon Three if the Metropolitan is unable to do so.

Recommendation 3: That the names and parishes of nominators and seconders for each nominee be published in the Synod Journal, or alternately that the completed Forms of Nomination themselves be published in the Synod Journal.

Recommendation 4: That Form 3-C be amended to include limited word responses to pre-formatted statements or questions regarding the nature and focus of the nominee's ministry including why the nominee allowed their name to be placed in nomination; and that these completed Forms continue to be published in the Synod Journal.

Recommendation 5: That the organizers of future electoral Synods be urged to consider providing an appropriate initial gathering of the community which all nominees are expected to attend.

Recommendation 6: That the electoral requirement of a two thirds majority vote of each order be retained, in order to elect a Bishop.

Recommendation 7: That the Diocese prepare and distribute a short course of reading, prayer and instruction to be offered to all lay delegates to electoral Synods at either the parish or Greater Chapter level, with all lay delegates encouraged to participate.

Recommendation 8: That the Diocesan Council undertake the development and continued publication of a standing vision statement or ideal profile of those qualities that are either necessary or desirable in a bishop, and distinguishing the necessary from the desirable.

Recommendation 9: That the Secondary Recommendations contained in the Consultation Paper be referred to the appropriate Diocesan Council Teams for study and possible future implementation, as appropriate.

A question was raised on whether there is enough time allowed. A further comment was made on allowing nominators to speak at the electoral Synod.

MOTION 6: Carried

Proposed Amendments to Legislation

MOTION 7: David Bell / Neville Sloane

**Moved that the Diocesan Council approve in principle the proposed amendments to the Constitution and to Canons One, Five, Six and Seven and recommend them to the Diocesan Synod for enactment.**

With reference to pages 19-31 in the pre-meeting package, the Chancellor indicated the changes in the Anglican Church Act would take effect November 15, 2017. This proposal would make sure changes made at Synod 2016 would be enacted on the same date.

MOTION 7: Carried

Finance:

The Chair indicated two parishes whose Parish Support shortfalls were recently written off, decided to make up the shortfalls anyway. He also indicated the Shared Ministry financial requests are doing very well with only one parish in arrears on payroll.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer highlighted points in her report which was distributed to all members of Council before the meeting. The first quarter is mostly on line with the budget projections. She is also pleased to have Allan MacLean on the team and he is ready to assume most of the duties associated with Safe Church.

A word of thanks was expressed to the Treasurer for all the extra work she has been doing. Council showed its appreciation with applause.

**Camp Medley Director**

The Director shared stories of two campers on how the ministry at our Diocesan Camps affect the youth of this Diocese (and beyond) in many positive ways.

### **Parish Development Officer**

He reiterated the importance of Charlene's message at the beginning of the meeting stressing it focuses on ministry groups to empower people.

### **Diocesan Privacy Officer**

The Secretary indicated the report was on page 58 of the pre-meeting package with two recommendations, namely the audit and the appointment of Allan MacLean as the Diocesan Privacy Officer.

MOTION 8: Cathy Laskey / Neville Sloane

**That two Diocesan Council Members, namely Susan Jack and Robert LeBlanc work with our Diocesan Privacy Officer to complete an audit of the policy and report back to Diocesan Council at its December 2017 meeting.**

MOTION 8: Carried

MOTION 9: Cathy Laskey / Coralie Losier

**That Mr. Allan MacLean be appointed as the Diocesan Privacy Officer effective April 22, 2017.**

MOTION 9: Carried

### **Other items**

#### New Book

Frank Morehouse introduced a book he is presently working on. The book is to include as many living and deceased clergy who have served in the Diocese of Fredericton. He is seeking help in gathering pictures of clergy. If members are able to help, they are asked to contact him at 459-3637 or by email [frankm@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:frankm@nbnet.nb.ca). He hopes to have the book ready for sale in the fall at a cost of somewhere between 5 and 10 dollars.

#### Parish Officers' Day

Members of Council were asked to bring posters advertising this day to their parishes. The treasurer said there was a full agenda with numerous speakers. The day is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> with approximately 50 people registered so far. All wardens, treasurers, vestry clerks and clergy are invited to attend.

#### Recording Secretary

The Bishop reported he had received a letter from the Recording Secretary indicating his resignation from the position after being in this role for many years. This is the Recording Secretary's last meeting. Council offered its thanks with applause.

### **Future Meetings**

Thursday, Jun 22, 2017 - Camp Brookwood, if possible; otherwise, Miramichi

Thursday, September 14, 2017 - Miramichi, if Council did not meet there in June

### **Adjournment**

MOTION 10: Neville Sloane

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

The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer and Council recited "The Grace" together.

Time: 2:05 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