



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 1 December 2018

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

22 September 2018

St John the Evangelist

Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis

Fredericton, NB

### **Pre-meeting circulation**

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (May 26, 2018)
- Attendance Chart
- Correspondence from the Parish of Shediac
- Team and Standing Committee Reports
- Canonical Motions for Synod 2018
- Document for the in-Camera Session

### **Participants**

Attending: Kathy Asch, David Bell, Roderick Black, Gilbert Carter, Sandra Craft, David Edwards, Geoffrey Hall, Brent Ham, Heather Harris-Jones, Chris Hayes, Lionel Hayter, Susan Jack, Siobhan Laskey, Coralie Losier, Sandy MacPherson, Rob Marsh, Dylan Nicoll, Keith Osborne, William Ross, Joanna Saunders, Wandlyn Snelgrove, Robert Taylor and Cheryl Young.

Regrets: David Barrett, Linda Fury, Mary Anne Langmaid, Cathy Laskey, Bob LeBlanc, John Matheson, Christian Persaud, Ted Quann and Thomas Stradwick.

Guests Attending: Shawn Branch, Cheryl Jacobs, Gisele McKnight and David Peer.

### **Eucharist**

1. The Bishop celebrated the opening Eucharist. In his reflection on Mark 9:30-37, the Bishop noted that this reading marks a hinge in Mark's Gospel story where Jesus begins "the way" to the Cross and we all need to remember that, as servants of each other and the people around us, we too will need to walk "the way" to our own cross.

### **Call to Order**

2. Following a short break, Bishop David called the meeting to order at 1050, welcomed Council members, thanked Cheryl Young for providing music for worship, and noted the regrets of nine council members.

3. The Bishop introduced the Agenda for the meeting.

*MOTION 1: Rob Marsh / Keith Osborne*

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

*MOTION 1: Carried.*

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

4. Diocesan Council reviewed the minutes of the last Diocesan Council meeting and David Bell requested that the first sentence of the second paragraph on the Update on Parish of Shediac (Land Sale and Lease Agreement) be amended to read "... however, the Parish of Shediac believes the process is inefficient and is not following the process adequately."

*MOTION 2: Gil Carter / Wandlyn Snelgrove*

***That the minutes of the May 26, 2018 Meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted as amended.***

*MOTION 2: Carried*

### **Business Arising**

5. **Correspondence – Parish of Shediac.** The Bishop asked Brent Ham to read the letter from the Parish of Shediac (included in the meeting package) and then Council discussed the Parish's desire for a more user-friendly Schedule D process. Brent Ham reported that the parish is trying to be more transparent and sees the timeliness of approvals getting better. Brent Ham also noted that the Chancellor has been very helpful with this issue.

6. **In Camera Session** The Bishop requested a motion to move the meeting In Camera and guests left the meeting.

*MOTION 3: Robert Taylor / Joanna Saunders*

***That the meeting of Diocesan Council begin an In Camera session.***

*MOTION 3: Carried*

### **Lunch Break**

7. The Bishop adjourned the meeting for lunch at 1210 and Brent Ham offered grace for the meal. The Bishop called the meeting back to order at 1245 with prayer and then thanked John Galbraith for organizing the meal and refreshments.

8. The Bishop requested a motion to close the In Camera session.

*MOTION 4: Robert Taylor / Kathy Asch*

***That the Diocesan Council close the In Camera session.***

*MOTION 4: Carried*

### **Faith Formation**

9. Shawn Branch related his experience with the town hall meetings over the past week and his realization of the power and importance of stories. Shawn reminded us of the importance of knowing peoples' faith stories as a prelude to working together, of the need to take time to know

the stories of our diocesan community to more fully represent them during council meetings, and of the value of knowing our own story to understand how each of us fit into God's story for his creation. He then proceeded to share an aspect of his faith story before requesting that Diocesan Council members break into small groups and share a small part of his or her faith story with another person.

### **Missional Actions Greater Chapter Reports**

10. Territorial Archdeacons submitted reports on the missional actions taken by parishes and groups of parishes in their Greater Chapter as requested in Synod 2017 Missional People Motion Part d.

*MOTION 5: Brent Ham / Gil Carter*

***That the Diocesan Council receive the Greater Chapter Reports.***

*MOTION 5: Carried*

11. The Territorial Archdeacons summarized highlights from their reports and the Bishop informed the Council about an initiative led by a couple living in Rome with Saint John connections who are sponsoring a joint Diocese of Saint John (RC) – Diocese of Fredericton initiative to help fathers learn to play with and read to their pre-school children. This program will be established under the auspices of the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM) and would be the second of a new set of global practical initiatives of IARCCUM. Bishop Harris and Bishop Edwards will sign an understanding in early October establishing a joint program operating out of Outflow Ministries' Fitzpatrick building on Waterloo Street.

### **Committee and Team Reports**

12. The Bishop asked for a motion to receive the committee and team reports.

*MOTION 6: Chris Hayes / Coralie Losier*

***That the Diocesan Council receive the Committee and Team Reports.***

*MOTION 6: Carried*

13. **Spiritual Development Team.** Cheryl Jacobs, Spiritual Development chair, reviewed the responsibilities of the team and announced that next June the Diocese will hold one major Ministries Conference and Michael Frost will be the keynote speaker. She hopes all parishes will have people who will attend.

14. **Constitution and Canons.** David Bell summarized the context and explained the purpose of three proposed canonical amendments for Synod 2018.

15. Our current Safe Church policy allows Parish Corporations to require clerics to obtain a police records check but it does not oblige them to. Recognizing that police record checks are a matter of importance, this proposed amendment would require and empower the Bishop to ensure all licence-holders (clerics, layreaders) have vulnerable sector checks. It would also require licence-holders to report criminal charges.

*MOTION 7: David Bell / Kathy Asch*

***That Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend Canon Four – Diocesan Governance by adding as follows:***

***1(7) In furtherance of the Safe Church regime, the Bishop shall require persons holding the Bishop's licence for ministry to obtain and file with the Bishop and with any relevant parish corporation, mission or the Cathedral of Christ Church a police records check satisfactory to the Bishop that is directed at work with children, youth or vulnerable adults and to renew it at least every third year, and the Bishop may suspend or revoke the licence in the event of non-compliance.***

***1(8) Anyone holding the Bishop's licence for ministry who is charged with an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada shall notify the Bishop immediately.***

*MOTION 7: Carried*

16. Parish vacancies can be lengthy. The following amendment would authorize an Archdeacon to become involved in parish governance where desirable but without becoming a member of the Parish Corporation.

*MOTION 8: David Bell / Rob Marsh*

***That Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend Canon Four – Diocesan Governance and Canon Six – Parish Governance as follows:***

***Canon Four—Diocesan Governance***

***6(1) The Bishop shall appoint Archdeacons to assist the Bishop's ministry of episcopal oversight by exercising territorial or Diocesan supervisory functions.***

***Canon Six – Parish Governance***

***4.1(1) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Canon, when an incumbency is open or an Incumbent is on leave, the territorial archdeacon may call and chair meetings of the Parish Corporation, its committees and annual or other meetings of voting members and may inspect any Parish Corporation record.***

***4.1(2) An archdeacon acting under subsection (1) does not thereby become a member of the Parish Corporation.***

(Note: underlined text is added; doubled out text is deleted.)

*MOTION 8: Carried*

17. Canon Four allows the Diocesan Council to appoint an Assistant Secretary of the Synod, which would be useful for transacting Synod business if the Secretary were on leave (vacation, medical, etc.). However an Assistant appointed under Canon Four, could not perform some of the Secretary's important duties without the change proposed to subsection 3(1) of Canon Five. The deleted words in subsection 3(1) remove the requirement for the Bishop and the Secretary of the Synod to assent to all financial transactions; there are so many routine transactions now that it is no longer realistic.

18. Canon Four allows the Diocesan Council to appoint an Assistant Treasurer, which it has done on occasion. However, without the following amendment proposed to Canon Five, an Assistant Treasurer could not sign cheques.

*MOTION 9: David Bell / Edward Quann*

***That Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend Canon Five – Diocesan Business as follows:***

***3(1) The Bishop and the Secretary of the Synod shall sign all documents that are required to be executed under the seal of the Diocesan Synod ~~or which may subject the Diocese or the Synod to financial or other liability~~ but at the Bishop's direction the Bishop's Commissary may sign in ~~his/her~~ place of the Bishop and the Assistant Secretary of the Synod may sign in place of the Secretary.***

***3(2) Cheques and other money instruments issued by ~~the Diocese or the Synod~~ shall be signed by any two of the Bishop, the Treasurer of the Synod, the Assistant Treasurer of the Synod, the Secretary of the Synod, the Assistant Secretary of the Synod, the Bishop's Commissary and a diocesan officer or member of the Synod Diocesan staff designated by the Diocesan Council.***

(Note: underlined text is added; doubled out text is deleted.)

*MOTION 9: Carried*

19. **Finance Committee.** Gil Carter summarized the committee report and then Heather Harris-Jones presented the audited financial statements and the 2017 Review Engagement by our auditors, Grant Thornton.

*MOTION 10: Gil Carter / Heather Harris-Jones*

***That the Diocesan Council accept the audited financial statements for 2017 as presented.***

*MOTION 10: Carried*

### **Other Items**

20. **Nominating Committee.** Robert Taylor, speaking for the nominating committee, reminded council members that Synod 2018 would be electing lay, cleric, and youth delegates for Provincial Synod. He reminded council members of the opportunity to nominate delegates for these positions at the Greater Chapter meetings being held before Synod.

21. **Fredericton Shooting.** Diocesan Council commended the Bishop for his leadership and visibility during the crisis in Fredericton.

**Next Meeting**

22. The next Diocesan Council meeting will occur as a retreat at the Villa Madonna starting Friday night 30 Nov and ending Saturday afternoon 1 Dec 18.

23. **Meeting Schedule.** The Bishop asked that Diocesan Council members note the meeting schedule for 2019.

Saturday, February 23  
Saturday, June 1

Saturday, September 21  
Saturday, November 30

**Adjournment**

24. The Bishop asked for a motion to Adjourn.

*MOTION 11: Dylan Nicoll*

***Moved that this meeting of Diocesan Council be adjourned.***

25. The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer at 1445 and council members and invited guests said “the Grace” together.

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Rev’d David Edwards  
Bishop and Chair

The Ven Cathy Laskey  
Secretary of Synod

The Rev’d David Peer  
Recording Secretary