



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 28 October 2011

MINUTES OF THE 130TH SESSION OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

04-06 June 2009

The Right Rev'd Dr. Claude W. Miller, Chair

The 130th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton was convened at Trinity Church, Saint John for the opening service of worship on Thursday, 04 June 2009 and the Trade and Convention Centre, Saint John for business on Friday and Saturday, 05-06 June 2009.

THURSDAY, 04 JUNE 2009

At the appointed time (7:30 p.m.), the Right Reverend Dr. Claude W. Miller, Bishop of Fredericton and acting Metropolitan of the Province of Canada, called on Mr. Clyde Spinney, QC, Chancellor, to declare a quorum. The Bishop declared the 130th Diocesan Synod of Fredericton in session.

Choral Evensong was led by the Reverend Dr. Ranall Ingalls, Rector of Trinity Church. He was assisted by readers Mrs. Ann Fairweather and Mr. Clyde Spinney and prayer litanist, The Reverend Jasmine Chandra. Mr. Robert Taylor and the Reverend Canon Albert Snelgrove acted as procession marshalls and the crucifer was Mr. Christopher Smith. The music was under the direction of Mr. Spencer Belyea, Organist and Choirmaster with the assistance of Mr. James McKenna, Assistant Organist and Mr. Roger Steed, Oboist. The Choir was composed of choristers from the area. The Choir performed the anthem "Saviour Lead Me in Your Truth" with the words and music composed by Mr. Michael Andrew Smith for this Synod.

The Bishop delivered his Charge to Synod at this time and a copy of the Bishop's Charge is appended (Appendix A) to these minutes.

With the close of the worship service, Synod was suspended for the day. A time of fellowship followed.

FRIDAY, 08 JUNE 2009

The members of Synod were reconvened at 7:45 am for morning led by the Rev'd Dr. Ranall Ingalls, assisted by John Hathaway and the Rev'd Rod Black. This service was followed by a time of praise music and bible study led by Michael Smith and the Rev'd George Eves. Study was on Exodus 19: 3-8a with questions:

Where is 'grace' in this passage? How is it described?
What response is called for by the Israelites? What did Israel do?
How have we been 'carried on eagles' wings"?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A prayer room is available, located in the Board Room beside the Registration Desk.
- Name badges will be required for admittance at the banquet to be held at Rothesay Netherwood School.
- Registration will remain open until 4:00 p.m. Friday and again between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Saturday.
- Two attendants from the Saint John Ambulance are present if their services are required.
- An invitation to view the displays was extended.
- Evaluation forms are included in the registration package and all members are asked to fill them out and return them to the Planning Team.
- Copies of the Bishop's Charge are available at the registration desk.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 9:00 a.m., Mrs. Ann Fairweather, chair of the Agenda Committee presented the Orders of the Day.

130-01 - Ann Fairweather/Clyde Spinney

That this Synod accepts the Orders of the Day as presented.

The motion was carried.

APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARIES

Motion 130-02 - Geoffrey Hall/Neville Cheeseman

That the Rev'd Leo Martin be appointed Recording Secretary and Ms. Maureen Vail Assistant Recording Secretary for this Session of Synod.

The motion was carried.

REGISTRATION REPORT

The Bishop called on Mr. James Chandra for the Credentials Report. At 9:00 a.m., 184 lay delegates had registered out of a possible 248; and, 79 clergy had registered out of a possible 184.

BISHOP'S OPENING REMARKS

In his brief comments, the Bishop offered a warm welcome to all those present, members of Synod, guests and observers. He gave an update on the medical situation surrounding the Reverend John Pearce. The Bishop also offered thanks to Joanne Fitzpatrick and her team from the Parish of Coldbrook and St. Mary for the display at the front of the room. And lastly, he offered a word of thanks to the chair of the Agenda Committee for her excellent work in preparation for Synod proceedings.

ORDER AND DECORUM

The Chancellor of the Diocese was invited to offer a few words on order and decorum during the proceedings of Synod. He drew attention to Circular Section A, pages 4-14, with a reminder of the responsibilities of a member of Synod. He also reminded us of Bishop Salmon's words 'to be accountable to each other.' The Chancellor then stressed the following points:

- Identify yourself at the microphone.

- Address your remarks to the Chair
- Restrict your remarks to the motion/amendment being debated.
- Members may only speak once on the motion being debated (except mover).
- There will be a three (3) minute limit.
- Applause is not appropriate.
- Keep the socializing for the refreshment breaks. Avoid unnecessary moving around during the session.

MINUTES

Motion 130-03 - Vicars Hodge/David Kierstead

That the minutes of the 129th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton be adopted as circulated.

The motion was carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Motion 130-04 - Robert LeBlanc/Gerald McConaghy

That the report on Business Arising from the minutes (C-35) be approved as circulated.

The motion was carried.

CLERGY REPORTS

Pursuant to Canon Seven, section 6(b), a call was made to all clergy to submit clergy reports.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Bishop made the following clergy introductions:

The Rev'd Dick Black	Parish of Salisbury and Havelock
The Rev'd Michael Caines	Parish of the Nerepis and St. John
The Rev'd Jasmine Chandra	Parish of Rothesay
The Rev'd Kevin Cross	Parish of McAdam
The Rev'd Deacon Eleanor Dryden	Parish of the Nerepis and St. John
The Rev'd Deacon Debbie Edmondson	Parish of Bright
The Rev'd Amanda Longmoore	Parish of the Tobique

The clergy were welcomed with applause.

GUESTS AND OBSERVERS

The Bishop called on the Rev'd Canon Neville Cheeseman to introduce our guests and members of the Diocesan Staff. The following were introduced:

Mrs. Sharon Miller	
The Most Rev'd Fred Hiltz	Primate
The Rev'd Canon Eric Beresford	Atlantic School of Theology
Mr. Mauritz Erhard	Atlantic School of Theology
Canon Geoff Jackson	General Synod
The Very Rev'd John Wright	Anglican Foundation
Mrs. Hazel MacKenzie	Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council
Mrs. Florence Joy Clement	ACW President (in-coming)
Mr. Jim Morell	Sharing Ministry Task Group

Members of Synod welcomed the guests with applause.

ECUMENICAL GUESTS

Mr. Robert Brittain, Ecumenical Officer, welcomed the following guests:

The Most Rev'd Robert Harris	Roman Catholic Church
The Rev'd Wayne Dryer	United Baptist Convention
The Rev'd Thomas Graham	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada
The Rev'd Bob Johnson	United Church of Canada

The Ecumenical Guests were welcomed with applause.

COURTESIES OF SYNOD

Motion 130-05 - Neville Cheeseman/Albert Snelgrove

That this Synod extend its courtesies to our guests and ecumenical observers.

This motion was carried

ANNIVERSARIES

The Bishop congratulated the following people on their significant anniversaries:

As Deacon

The Rev'd Lloyd McFarlane	60 years (May 22)
The Rev'd Ted Spencer	55 years (May 23)
The Rev'd Canon Tom Smith	55 years (November 30)
The Ven. Reginald Stockall	55 years (May 24)
The Rev'd Roy Embley	50 years (May 20)
The Rev'd Canon David Jackson	45 years (May 7)
The Rev'd David Gray	45 years (May 24)
The Rev'd John Mills	40 years (May 25)
The Rev'd Rufus Onyewuchi	35 years (September 18)
The Rev'd David Kierstead	35 years (September 29)
The Rev'd Keith Howlett	35 years (October 27)
The Ven. Richard McConnell	30 years (June 11)
The Rev'd Dr. Lee Whitney	30 years (December 16)
The Rev'd Douglas Barrett	30 years (December 21)

As Priest

The Rev'd Canon Basil Buckland	70 years (June 4)
The Rev'd Canon Lloyd Lake	60 years (June 5)
The Rev'd Canon Brian Campion	60 years (March 13)
The Rev'd Canon George Akerley	55 years (June 29)
The Ven. Lyman Harding	45 years (May 19)
The Rev'd James Golding	45 years (December 1)
The Rev'd Canon Wally Corey	35 years (May 19)
The Rev'd Canon Jon Lownds	35 years (August 6)
The Rev'd Paul McCracken	30 years (March 26)
The Rev'd Ellis Jagoe	30 years (June 3)
The Ven. Walter Williams	30 years (June 3)

RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURES

The Chancellor explained the procedures for notices of motion. He reminded everyone the deadline for notices is Friday, 1:00 p.m.. Notices should be submitted to the Resolutions Committee. Referring to the document, 'Getting a motion before Synod', the Chancellor indicated that motions received prior to Synod would be considered first; the order determined by the Agenda.

ELECTION PROCEDURES

Julian Dickson, Nominating Committee Chair, drew attention to page 59 of Circular Section F indicating that it was now out of date since new nominations had come forward and that further nominations would be received until Friday at 1:00 p.m.. Ballots are located in the registration package with the 'yellow' ballot for General Synod (Halifax, June 3-10, 2010) and the 'salmon' ballot for Provincial Synod (Gander, September 10-13, 2009). Ballot boxes are located beside the Resolutions Committee table and voting will be open from Friday, 1:00 p.m. to Saturday, 10:00 a.m..

INTER-VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Captain David Boyle, Assistant at St. Luke's, Gondola Point spoke on his work with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John Campus. He indicated that even though, since the 1960s, there had been an ongoing trend to minimize conversations surrounding faith at the university level, a reversal was now taking place with students wanting to discuss their struggles with faith issues. Captain Boyle believes part of this reversal is due to the influx of students from other faiths enrolling at UNBSJ - students who are comfortable discussing their faiths. This has reopened conversations about what it means to be a Christian and IVCF seeks to develop this conversation in light of making committed followers of Christ stronger. He finds it a privilege to serve students in this way and to witness the return of young people to Christ as they build values which will follow them for the rest of their lives. In a 'global village', faith is and must remain a reality.

Motion 2009-01: PARISH DOCUMENTS TO SYNOD (Canon Five)

Motion 130-06 - Clyde Spinney/Geoffrey Hall

That Canon Five, s.7 be amended by re-lettering clauses (b) and (c) to be (c) and (d) and adding a new clause (b) as follows:

"(b) a copy of the financial statements, accounts and other information received at the annual meeting of voting members of the parish pursuant to clause 2(1)(d) of Canon Six."

This motion was carried.

Notice of Motion 2009-02: LANGUAGE OF CANON THREE

Motion 130-07 - Clyde Spinney/Geoffrey Hall

That the following amendments be made to Canon Three (Election of Bishops):

'Chair' replaces 'chairman' s.3(3), 3(6), 9

'Member of Synod' replaces 'delegate' s.4(3), 4(5)

'Or her' added after 'his'; 'or her' added after 'him' s.11

'Or her' added after 'him'; 'or herself' added after 'himself'

'Perform' replaces 'preform' s.13

'Or her' added after 'his' s.14

'Or her' added after 'his' s.15

The motion was carried.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Bishop announced the death of the Reverend John Pearce. He called for a moment of silence followed by prayer for his faithful service. The delegates from the Parish of Kent were excused as they returned home to be with the rest of the parishioners.

BREAK

PRAYER

Members were called back to order with music and a prayer led by the Rev'd Ellen Curtis.

ANGLICAN FOUNDATION

The Rev'd Canon Neville Cheeseman introduced the Very Rev'd John vanNostrand Wright as a former Dean of Christ Church Cathedral and as the Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada.

Dean Wright gave a brief overview of the Foundation. Since the Foundation was established in 1957, it has awarded over 25 millions in loans and grants to every Province and every Diocese of the Canadian Church. It also offers guidance and advice. While it is easy for us to think of ourselves as individuals, the Foundation adopts the catechism precept that we are all members of the one body. There are 38 members of the Anglican Foundation from the Diocese of Fredericton and others are encouraged to join. Over the years, 1.4 million in grants and loans has been awarded to this Diocese. A reference was made to the Anglican Foundation Yearbook included in the registration package and everyone were invited to look at the different areas of support this foundation covers. The Anglican Foundation is created to support the Anglican Church in Canada and it strives to be always ready to help and never fall in a state of complacency.

The Bishop echoed the statements made by Dean Wright.

INTRODUCTION OF BISHOP SALMON DVD

The Bishop, with the help of Gerald McConaghy, introduced this DVD by calling Bishop Salmon, former Bishop of South Carolina for 18 years, a friend of the Diocese of Fredericton and a person well grounded in the Gospel. In his years as Diocesan, Bishop Salmon saw renewal and a diocesan budget rise from 3 million to 30 million in his diocese. The DVD was part of a lenten study produced at the invitation of the Ven. Patricia Drummond. The DVD was viewed.

Notice of Motion 2009-08: BUDGET SUPPORT

Motion 130-08 - Gerald McConaghy/The Rev'd Chris VanBuskirk

That this Synod affirm, and refer to the Bishop and diocesan Council for implementation, the report and recommendations of the Task Force on Budget Support, including its values and principles.

AMENDMENT 130-08a - The Rev'd Bruce McKenna/Greg Lutes

That the following be added:

... and direct Diocesan Council to bring a resolution to the next Diocesan Synod of 2011 for a vote that 'the current system of apportionment and mission outreach be replaced with a 'one task' fair share (single allocation).

The amendment was defeated.

AMENDMENT 130-08b - The Rev'd Gerald Laskey/Captain David Boyle

That the word 'affirm' be replaced by the word 'adopt.'
When the question was called, the amendment was carried.
The amended motion:

Motion 130-08

That this Synod adopt, and refer to the Bishop and Diocesan Council for implementation, the report and recommendations of the Task Force on Budget Support, including its values and principles.

Further discussion ensued with members expressing support and concerns of both a spiritual and financial nature.

The amended motion was carried.

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The Rev'd Canon Eric Beresford, President of AST offered thanks on behalf of the School for the support of the Diocese. He reminded everyone of our historical connection to AST through King's College and stated a new mission statement had been formulated since our last Synod. That statement reads "Atlantic School of Theology, an ecumenical university serving Christ's mission, cultivates excellence in graduate-level theological education and research, creative and faithful formation for lay and ordained ministries, and understanding among communities of faith.

Canon Beresford proceeded to list five areas of nurture:

1. Excellence in teaching with the addition of Dr. David Deane and the Rev'd Dr. Susan Willhauck to the faculty; and being the only school in the country with an ATS approved distance education course.
2. Financial support to students from the Diocese of Fredericton where they receive on average 8 to 10 thousand dollars a year in scholarships and bursaries.
3. On going education for clergy with the Best Practices Institute.
4. Regional Youth Conferences which led to the development of a Diploma in Youth Ministry.
5. Outreach to the community through visual arts and sacred music series.

Dessert during lunch was provided by Atlantic School of Theology.

NOON DAY PRAYERS

Prayers and grace were offered by the Rev'd Gerry Laskey.

LUNCH

Synod recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. Mr. Jim Morell asked to meet with the Archdeacons and facilitators in order to plan for the afternoon session. Synod reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

DEADLINE FOR MOTIONS

The Chancellor offered a reminder that the deadline for notices of motions had now passed. The notices received would be made available at the morning session.

NOMINATIONS TO PROVINCIAL SYNOD

The Chair of the Nominating Committee listed the nominees on the revised ballot as follows:

Clergy: David Edwards
Patricia Drummond

Neville Cheeseman
Leo Martin

Geoffrey Hall
Vicars Hodge
John Matheson
Allen Tapley

Greg McMullin
Elaine Hamilton (addition)
Eileen Irish (addition)

Lay: Shara Golden
Pat Warner
Robert Brittain (addition)
Jane Beyea (addition)
Darlene Ketch (addition)
Captain Robert Marsh (addition)

Rebecca Ellis (addition)
Louise Whalen (addition)
Falen McNulty (addition)
Kathleen Ford (addition)
Ted Quann (addition)
Heather Carr (addition)

Youth: Christopher Ketch (addition) Emily Jacobs (addition)

The Bishop called three time for further nominations.

Motion 130-09 - Lawrence Carpenter/Ian Wetmore
That nominations for Provincial Synod cease.

The motion was carried.

NOMINATIONS TO GENERAL SYNOD

Julian Dickson listed the nominees as follows:

Clergy: David Edwards
Patricia Drummond
Geoffrey Hall
Vicars Hodge
Canon John Matheson

Allen Tapley
Leo Martin
Greg McMullin
Neville Cheeseman (addition)

Lay: Pat Warner
Ted Quann
Falen McNulty
Shara Golden
Robert Brittain (addition)

Martha Jo Hoyt (addition)
Robert Marsh (addition)
Rebecca Ellis (addition)
Heather Carr (addition)

Youth: Christopher Ketch (addition) Emily Jacobs (addition)
Marie Helene Morell (addition)

The Bishop called for further nominations three times.

Motion 130-10 - Douglas Painter/Brenda McKnight
That nominations for General Synod cease.

This motion was carried.

Notice of Motion 2009-10: GIVING AND SHARING MODEL TO GENERAL SYNOD

Motion 130-11 - Gerald McConaghy/Jackie straight
That this Synod send a memorial to General Synod requesting that the national church investigate the adoption of the 10-10-10 giving and sharing model as the standard for the Anglican Church of Canada.

A question was raised as to the definition of a Memorial to General Synod. The Bishop indicated that a memorial does get printed in the Convening Circular for the information of the delegates and that attention is drawn to it. However, General Synod does not have to act upon it. The Bishop added if we say nothing, then nothing is heard and we can expect nothing in return.

Motion 130-11 was carried.

Notice of Motion 2009- 07: RURAL AND/OR STRUGGLING PARISHES

Motion 130-12 - Patricia Drummond/John Matheson

That this Synod affirm, and refer to the Bishop and Diocesan Council for implementation, the report and recommendations of the Task Force on Rural and/or Struggling Parishes, subject to available funding as identified by the Bishop and Diocesan Council.

AMENDMENT 130-12a - Brian Hudson/George Eves

- That the words 'for implementation' be removed.
- that after Struggling Parishes, these words be added " that specific recommendations within the report be considered and prioritized by the Bishop and Diocesan Council for implementation."
- that the words "that the strategic direction of the transformational change included in the report be accompanied by a change program including a comprehensive communication plan as to why change is required and what this will mean to members of our church.

The amendment was carried with 152 in favour and 86 against.

AMENDMENT 130-12b - Gerald Laskey/David Boyle

That the word 'affirm' be change to 'adopt'

The amendment was carried.

The amended Motion 130-12 read:

That this Synod adopt, and refer to the Bishop and Diocesan Council the report and strategic direction of the Task Force on Rural and/or Struggling Parishes.

That specific recommendations within the report be considered and prioritized by the Bishop and Diocesan Council for implementation subject to available funding as identified by the Bishop and Diocesan Council.

That the strategic direction of the transformational change included in the report be accompanied by a change program including a comprehensive communication plan as to why change is required and what this will mean to members of our church.

The amended motion 130-12 was carried.

Notice of Motion 2009-09: STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION

Motion 130-13 - Gordon Thompson/Gerald McConaghy

That this Synod affirm the need for a parish-based stewardship education initiative across the diocese, and refer this initiative to the

Bishop and Diocesan Council for implementation, subject to available funding as identified by the Bishop and Diocesan Council.

When the question was called, the motion was carried.

Notice of Motion 2009-11: EVALUATION OF STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

Motion 130-14 - Gil Carter/Jennifer Lister-Brown

That this Synod request that the Bishop and Diocesan Council establish a task group to assess the value and the effectiveness of current diocesan governance structures and processes, with a view to improving administrative efficiency and reducing costs, subject to available funding as identified by the Bishop and Diocesan Council.

Motion 130-14 was carried.

ARCHDEACONRY GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Jim Morell was invited to explain the process regarding these group discussions. The intent is to provide the Bishop and the Diocesan Council with feedback in prioritizing steps for the implementation of Shared Ministry Task Group resolutions.

Mr. Peter Irish directed the Archdeaconries to gather as follows:

Archdeaconry of Fredericton	Marco Polo A
Archdeaconry of Kingston/Kennebecasis	Marco Polo B
Archdeaconry of St Andrew's	Marco Polo C
Archdeaconry of Moncton	Marco Polo D
Archdeaconry of Saint John	Spencer I
Archdeaconry of Chatham	Spencer II
Archdeaconry of Woodstock	Spencer III

Archdeaconry Groups were asked to discuss the following three questions:

1. What should our near-term priorities be?
 - All parishes focus on growth
 - A New Congregational Development Fund
 - Major stewardship initiative
 - Prepare our leaders for change
 - Renew ourselves as Christians and Anglicans
 - Do more of God's work in our communities
 - New communication strategies
 - Other
2. What should Diocesan Council take into consideration as it develops an implementation plan?
3. How can we, in our Archdeaconry, help each other? And What should we do to get started?

Following these discussions, a short break was held. Synod members were called to order with music and a prayer led by the Rev'd Chris McMullen.

Notice of Motion 2009-03: EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

Notice of motion 2009-03 is withdrawn at the request of the mover and seconder.

Motion 130-15 - Sherman Bastarache/Noreen Bateman

Whereas we currently lack sufficient knowledge to make an informed choice on the issue of embryonic stem cell research.

Be it moved that, subject to available funding this Synod strike a committee to study the issue and report to the Diocesan Council at least six weeks prior to the meeting of Synod 2011.

Dr. Connie Robinson addressed Synod as a physician to recognize the discussion in the medical field is still ongoing.

The Primate added a similar committee is in existence at the national level; though he could not give a clear indication as to the current status of the work being accomplished.

Motion 130-15 was carried.

MARY NAMERIA JACOB EDUCATION FUND - SIGNING

Mr. Thomas Nesbitt spoke on the formation of vocational deacons and gave an update on the status of the program in the Diocese. He indicated this fund was to help individuals in the required education and formation of (vocational) deacons.

Mr. Nesbitt explained Mary Nameria Jacobs was the daughter of the first principal of the then Kings College, now University of New Brunswick. This woman took it upon herself to bring ministry to the poor and downtrodden. She would walk from Fredericton to Miramichi distributing alms to the needy, the epitome of servanthood.

The official documents creating the Fund were signed by the Bishop, the Secretary of Synod, and members of the Commission on the Diaconate: the Rev'd Canon Neville Cheeseman, the Rev'd Francene Bedell and Mr. Tom Nisbitt.

The Bishop echoed the importance of the work of the Commission on the Diaconate and that such an educational fund is imperative. He then announced that one-half of the offering from the Synod Service (\$1772.60) would be designated to the Fund with the other half to PWRDF.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS

The business of Synod was suspended for the evening. The Synod Banquet to begin at 6:45 p.m.. Members were reminded Synod would reconvene at 7:45 a.m. with the morning office.

Evening Prayer (BCP) was led by the Ven. Richard McConnell with the assistance of two readers, Debora Kantor and Sharon Connors.

Time 5:00 p.m.

SYNOD BANQUET

Members of Synod and other guests gathered at Rothesay Netherwood School. The Rev'd Canon Albert Snelgrove as master of ceremonies offered words of welcome and introduced the head table which consisted of Bishop Miller and Mrs. Miller, Archbishop Hiltz, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kitchen, Canon Snelgrove and Mrs. Snelgrove. Mr. Paul Kitchen, Headmaster of RNS, offered greetings and the blessing food was by Mrs. Hazel MacKenzie, Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council.

Michael and Jennifer Smith offered music during dinner and the Bishop expressed his thanks to them and to RNS for hosting this banquet.

Awards of merit

The Bishop gave a brief overview of the awards and called upon the first presenter to come forward. The Rev'd Chris Hayes introduced **Lawrence Carpenter** and commended him for his lifelong service to the Church at the parochial and diocesan levels. The Ven. David Barrett introduced **Frank Morehouse** upholding his dedication and service including his church photography project and work as Diocesan Archivist. The Bishop presented the two awards.

The Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop Miller gave a brief introduction of the Primate indicating their paths had crossed many years ago when he was a theological student training under the Primate.

The Primate, the Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, addressed those gathered with the Five Marks of Mission as his theme. He explained in the 25 dioceses he has visited, he has seen the beauty and diversity of the Anglican Church and he called on his audience to work towards regaining that beauty and diversity within the community. He went on to say the Canadian Church is known internationally for its cooperation and willingness to respond to the needs and requests of the Church.

The Five Marks, along with a soon to be added sixth which was proposed by the Canadian Church, have become the points of unity for the Church as was seen at Lambeth 2008, the Primates' Meeting last February and with the Anglican Consultative Council in Hong Kong just recently.

The same theme of Mission will be taken up at General Synod 2010 with the focus of 'looking up and looking out' - up in thanksgiving to God; out to the world in passion and courage. This General Synod will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of PWRDF where 95 million dollars has been raised by 30% of Anglicans who actually attend church services.

The Rev'd Canon Neville Cheeseman thanked the Primate with a gift on behalf of the members of Synod.

PWRDF Silent Auction

Anne Walling, Diocesan PWRDF Coordinator came forward to announce the winner of the silent auction. Prior to making the announcement, she called on Dale Cook, the artist, and the Rev'd Marian Lucas-Jeffries to join her. The winner of the auction was Greg Hiltz. Proceeds from the auction will be donated to the Canadian Food Grains Bank.

The evening was drawn to a close with the Compline (BCP) led by the Rev'd Greg McMullin.

SATURDAY, 09 JUNE 2007

The members of Synod were reconvened at 7:45 am for morning worship. A service of Morning Prayer (BCP) was led by the Rev'd Bonita LeBlanc, assisted by Wade Branscombe and Margaret Ouellette. This service was followed by a time of praise music and bible study led by Michael Smith and the Rev. George Eves. The study was on Hebrews 10:19-25 with the questions:

- To what/whom have we gained access and how was this made possible?
- How is 'grace' present in this passage?
- What is our role in helping one another respond to the challenge of v.24?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 8:55 a.m., Mrs. Ann Fairweather presented the orders of the day with a reminder to all Synod members to please submit the Synod evaluation form.

ARCHDEACONRY DISCUSSION REPORTS

The Ven. Patricia Drummond reported on behalf of the Archdeaconry of Chatham.
The Ven. Richard McConnell reported on behalf of the Archdeaconry of Moncton.
The Ven. Geoffrey Hall reported on behalf of the Archdeaconry of Fredericton.
The Ven. David Edwards reported on behalf of the Archdeaconry of Saint John.
The Ven. David Barrett reported on behalf of the Archdeaconry of Kingston/Kennebecasis
The Rev'd Chris Hayes reported on behalf of the Archdeaconry of Woodstock
The Ven. Vicars Hodge reported on behalf of the Archdeaconry of St. Andrew's

The presentations centred on three common themes:

- the theme of renewal as Christians and Anglicans
 - the theme of preparing leaders
 - the theme of mission - doing our work in the community
- a summary of which is Appendix B.

Notice of Motion: 2009-04 CLERGY QUORUM

Motion 130-16 - Mr. Clyde Spinney, QC / The Ven. Vicars Hodge
That under paragraph 4(2)(e) of the Anglican Church Act, 2003 and paragraph 15(1)(b) of Canon Two, that this Diocesan Synod amend section 7 of the Constitution of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton by adding after subsection (2) thereof, the following subsection:

"7(2.1) For the sole purpose of determining a quorum of the members of the clergy qualified to attend a meeting of the Synod under subsection (2), only those members of the clergy who are either the Rector or the incumbent of a parish, or are otherwise appointed the charge of a parish, chaplaincy or other position of pastoral responsibility by virtue of an appointment from the Bishop, shall be counted for the purpose of determining a quorum."

The Chancellor clarified this motion was not to remove the rights of Synod to retired clergy, but rather intended to eliminate the need to have elderly clergy from being present in order to achieve quorum.

AMENDMENT 130-16a - Thomas Nisbitt/Brent Ham

That the following words be added after 'Bishop':
... including Priests and Deacons who are fully engaged in the work of the ordained ministry.

The amendment was carried in both houses.

The amended motion read:

Motion 130-16

That under paragraph 4(2)(e) of the Anglican Church Act, 2003 and paragraph 15(1)(b) of Canon Two, that this Diocesan Synod amend section 7 of the Constitution of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton by adding after subsection (2) thereof, the following subsection:

"7(2.1) For the sole purpose of determining a quorum of the members of the clergy qualified to attend a meeting of the Synod under subsection (2), only those members of the clergy who are either the Rector or the incumbent of a parish, or are otherwise appointed the charge of a parish, chaplaincy or other position of pastoral responsibility by virtue of an appointment from the Bishop, including Priests and Deacons who are fully engaged in the work of the ordained ministry, shall be counted for the purpose of determining a quorum."

The amended Motion 130-16 carried in a vote by houses.

The Rev'd John Pearce

The Ven. Richard McConnell announced the funeral service for the late Mr. Pearce would be held at St. George's Church in Moncton on Thursday, June 11th at 1:00 pm. The Eucharist will be celebrated by the Bishop and clergy are asked to vest.

BREAK

Synod reconvened at 10:15 am with music. A prayer was led by the Rev'd Robert LeBlanc.

Notice of Motion 2009-05: MARRIAGE

Motion 130-17 - Bruce McKenna /Rebecca Ellis

That this Diocesan Synod affirms and upholds the teaching of the Holy Scriptures and the Church:

- (1) that marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others; and
- (2) that no clergy person may bless any union or marriage of persons of the same sex; and calls on the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada to affirm and uphold this teaching. This Synod directs the Secretary of the Synod to memorialize this motion to the meeting of the General Synod of 2010.

Motion to table 130-17 - Patricia Drummond/Leo Martin

At our last Synod, Motion 129-12 on marriage and sexuality was passed. Part of this motion stated that:

We urge the General Synod to take seriously the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury, made in his Presidential Address to the General Synod of the Church of England (Feb 26, 2007) to the effect that the worldwide Anglican Communion should lay aside the currently divisive matters around human sexuality and address the more difficult issue of how the Anglican Communion becomes "a body attempting to live in more than one intellectual and cultural setting and committed to addressing major problems in a global way...."

and

In light of the above, the Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton does not intend to return to this matter unless the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada takes precipitant action concerning the contentious issues around human sexuality. We have made a definitive statement and it is our intention to move ahead with other important matters in the areas of mission and ministry.

In view of this motion passed at our last Synod, and in view of our Bishop's continued commitment to facilitating conversations in our diocese with

respect to issues of human sexuality and with the realization that there are now more resources available to us to assist in these conversations, and because, in the past, such motions have been highly divisive, I move that this motion be tabled until our next Synod.

The Motion to table 130-17 was carried.

Notice of motion 2009-06: BLESSING OF SAME-SEX UNIONS

Motion 130-18 - Ranall Ingalls /Deborah Ritchie

In recent months, several Canadian dioceses have declared their intention to proceed with the blessing of same-sex unions with or without the assent of General Synod. Others have invoked the Bishops' Pastoral Statement of May 2007 in order to proceed in the same direction, but without the pronouncement of a nuptial blessing. This Synod desires to bring to the attention of the Canadian Church and the House of Bishops that these actions must further divide the Anglican Church of Canada and distance us from the greater part of the Anglican Communion. These attempts to force a resolution of theological questions by political means will have serious and far-reaching consequences for our life together as a Church, and for those who look to the Church for guidance in the midst of the sexual revolution of the past fifty years. As a Church we have not answered the important questions about marriage, friendship, and the sanctification of sexual relationships raised by the St. Michael Report. Be it moved, therefore, that this motion and its preamble be sent to each Canadian Diocese care of each Diocesan Bishop and Diocesan Synod lay chairs, so asking our brothers and sisters in Christ to refrain from actions that will be deeply destructive of our common life and witness and making known the resolve of this Synod to refrain from actions which may carry our Church out of the Anglican Communion.

Discussion centred around the precipitous actions being taken around the different dioceses. The motion is not intended to foreclose debate but to ask other dioceses to give the discussion a chance.

The Bishop indicated the need for conversation is very much on the agenda. And that with the new reports that have come on the table since Synod 2007, we can now have a frank and open dialogue.

Motion to table 130-18 - Marian Lucas-Jefferies/Francene Bedell
That the motion be tabled.

The motion to table was defeated.

Debate on the original motion continued.

Motion 130-18 was carried.

Notice of motion 2009-12: FUND FOR RURAL AND/OR STRUGGLING PARISHES

130-19 - Ross Hebb/Richard Spacek

That this Synod direct Diocesan Council to roll back expenditures and/or transfers of income with the goal of developing a fund of \$100,000.00 within the next three years. This fund will be used to stabilization, maintenance, and expansion of resident clerical ministry in rural and struggling parishes of our diocese, and will be maintained and disbursed at the discretion of the Diocese Council. Funds sent to our fellow Anglicans in the Canadian North will be exempt from the roll-backs necessary to create this fund.

When the question was called, Motion 130-19 was defeated.

Notice of motion 2009-13: INTEGRITY FREDERICTON

Motion 130-20 - Neville Cheeseman/Robert Brittain

That this Synod:

- recognize the pastoral ministry of Integrity Fredericton
- recognize that this ministry is the work of Anglicans within our Diocese.
- encourage Integrity Fredericton to continue this ministry.

Motion to table 130-20 - Chris McMullen/Eleanor Dryden

That motion 2009-13 be tabled until such a time as the "Listening process around the Diocese" offered by the Bishop in response to the defeated motion 129-16 (Minutes of 2007 Synod Page 16, Convening Circular page C-16) has taken place.

Motion 130-20 was tabled.

2009-15 INTEGRITY FREDERICTON

The notice of motion was withdrawn.

Notice of motion 2009-16: COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

130-22 - Chris Hayes/Darlene Ketch

That as part of this Synod's commitment to children and youth, this Synod affirm that the positions of Youth Action Director, Christian Education Director, and Camp Medley Director are vital to the ministry of this Diocese, and must be given a high priority when considering possible financial restructuring, and the uncertainty this can bring.

During the debate, Synod members were reminded that intentionally raising the number of youth members of Synod had been an emphasis of the Bishop in the past. Availability of youth membership needs to be noted when scheduling events and the Synod itself.

Motion 130-22 was carried.

Notice of motion 2009-17: CHURCH PLANTING

130-23 - Anna Caines/Brenda McKnight

That Synod take note of the resources and possibilities available in church planting as a means of evangelism and church growth, and direct Diocesan Council to explore opportunities for church planting in this diocese subject to available funding.

The intent of the motion is not to restructure parishes or existing ministries but rather the creation of a ministry where a need is being felt and unfilled.

Motion 130-23 was carried.

INTRODUCTION OF DIOCESAN FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Treasurer, Canon L. Fred Scott, gave a brief explanation on the financial documents. He also indicated an Information Session would take place during lunch with the Diocesan Treasurer and Janice Leahy from Grant Thornton where a detailed presentation on the reports will be given. All Synod members are invited to this pre-session at 1:00 pm.

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Eucharist (BAS) was celebrated by the Bishop, assisted by the Rev'd Constance Souliakis, Mrs. Joanne Fitzpatrick and Captain Rob Marsh.

Synod members were called to order at 1:50 p.m. with music and a prayer led by the Rev'd Canon Alvin Westgate.

DIOCESAN FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion 130-24 - Gerald McConaghy/David Kierstead
That the Diocesan Financial Statements (following Appendix 3 in the Convening Circular) be received.

Questions were answered by Canon Scott. He noted Synod 2009 cost \$42,000 without the cost of accommodation. Approximate cost of the last Synod was \$37,000.

Motion 130-24 was carried.

DIOCESAN OFFICER REPORTS

Motion 130-25 - David Edwards/Vicars Hodge
That this Synod receive the Diocesan Officers Reports (Circular Section E).

The motion was carried.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT

Motion 130-26 - Jon Lownds/Robert Salloum
That this Synod receive the reports of Diocesan Council and its Teams (Section F1-F57) as circulated in the Convening Circular.

The motion was carried.

Notice of motion 2009-18: INTEGRITY FREDERICTON/ZACCHAEUS FELLOWSHIP

Motion 130-27 - David Boyle/Terence Chandra
That this Synod:
-Recognize the importance of pastoral ministry directed towards Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered persons (LGBT),

**particularly in regards to that offered by Anglican clergy and Anglican organizations such as Integrity Fredericton and Zacchaeus Fellowship
-Recognize that Integrity Fredericton and Zacchaeus Fellowship are both organizations that operate pastoral ministries to the LGBT community within our Diocese, and
-Encourage the continued support of pastoral ministry towards the LGBT community.**

When put to a vote, the motion was carried.

Presentation of Painting

Mr. Greg Hiltz was presented with the painting he won by way of the PWRDF Silent Auction.

ELECTION RESULTS

Mr. Julian Dickson thanked the scrutineers, namely Belle Thompson, Elizabeth Spinney, Robert Taylor, Pauline Long, Elizabeth Reid, Kathleen Robinson and Lois Kingston. The results were announced as follows:

Provincial Synod Clergy:	David Edwards Pat Drummond Geoffrey Hall Vicars Hodge
Alternates:	Eileen Irish Allen Tapley John Matheson Greg McMullin
Provincial Synod Laity:	Shara Golden Robert Brittain Captain Robert Marsh Ted Quann
Alternates:	Rebecca Ellis Heather Carr Pat Warner Darlene Ketch
Provincial Synod Youth:	Emily Jacobs
Alternate:	Christopher Ketch
General Synod Clergy:	David Edwards Pat Drummond Geoffrey Hall Vicars Hodge
Alternates:	Allen Tapley Greg McMullin John Matheson Leo Martin
General Synod Laity:	Ted Quann Shara Golden

Alternates: Robert Brittain
Robert Marsh
Rebecca Ellis
Heather Carr
Falen McNulty
Pat Warner

General Synod Youth: Emily Jacobs
Alternate: Christopher Ketch

DISPOSAL OF BALLOTS

130-28 - Douglas Painter/Dick Black
That the ballots for these elections be destroyed.

The motion was carried.

APPOINTMENT TO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Motion 130-29 - Frank Morehouse/John Hatheway
That this Synod accept the Archdeaconry Greater Chapter elections of Diocesan Council members. (Section F, page 58)

A correction was noted as reported in the Convening Circular Errata: lay member of the Archdeaconry of Woodstock is "Eric" (Rick) Haddad.

Motion 130-29 was carried.

The new members of Diocesan Council were reminded of first meeting Tuesday, June 23rd at 1:30 p.m. at Christ Church (Parish) Church in Fredericton.

ECUMENICAL GUEST REPORT

The Rev'd Bob Johnson from the United Church of Canada presented the report on behalf of all ecumenical guests. He offered the following observations:

- The problems facing the Anglican Church as the same as the rest of the Christian community and the Archdeaconry discussions are very similar to what is being discussed in other churches.
- He reminded everyone that if the question is centred around survival, we won't. If the focus is internal, we will become irrelevant. Others within the Christian community are struggling along-side Anglicans. Christ's kingdom should always be served first.
- His pearl of advice was: "Stewardship will naturally follow a clear vision in the same way that investments will follow a clear business plan."

COURTESIES

1. That this Synod present to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, through her representative in Canada, Her Excellency, the Governor-General, the customary expression of its loyalty and affection.
2. That this Synod sends greetings to our former Diocesan Bishops, the Most Rev'd Harold Nutter, the Rt. Rev'd George Lemmon, the Rt. Rev'd William Hockin and to their spouses, Mrs. Edith Nutter, Mrs. Lois Lemmon and Mrs. Isabelle Hockin.
3. That this Synod send greetings to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev'd Rowan Williams.

4. That this Synod extends greetings to those of our clergy who are celebrating significant anniversaries of their ordination, especially the Rev'd Canon Basil Buckland celebrating the 70th anniversary on June 4th.
5. That this Synod expresses its gratitude to Bishop Claude Miller for his charge to synod and his capable presiding over these Synod deliberations.
6. That our thanks be extended to our Primate, the Most Rev'd Fred Hiltz for his presence with us and his presentation at the banquet.
7. That we extend our best wishes to our Metropolitan, the Most Rev'd Bruce Stavert on his retirement, giving thanks for his leadership.
8. That our thanks be extended to the following persons and groups who made this Synod run smoothly:
 - the Rev'd Dr. Ranall Ingalls and Trinity Church for hosting the opening service of Synod.
 - the members of Synod Planning and Synod Committee chairs under the chair, the Ven. Geoffrey Hall, for the planning of the Synod.
 - Mrs. Elizabeth Reid (Arrangements Committee)
 - the Rev'd Canon Neville Cheeseman (Hospitality Committee) and Mr. Bob Brittain (Diocesan Ecumenical Officer)
 - Mr. Clyde Spinney, Q.C. (Resolutions Committee)
 - Mr. James Chandra (Credentials Committee) and his team of volunteers who looked after registration
 - the Rev'd Greg McMullin (Worship Committee)
 - Ann Fairweather (Agenda Committee)
 - Mr. David Wilson (Technical Support Committee)
 - Mr. Julian Dickson, Q.C. (Nominating Committee)
 - Mrs. Ana Watts, Ms. Maureen Vail, Mrs. Phyllis Cathcart, Mrs. Carolyn Turney, and Canon Fred Scott for Synod staff support.
 - The staff of the Trade and Convention Centre for their assistance.
 - Rothesay Netherwood School for hosting the banquet.
 - those who provided displays for Synod.
 - the Rev'd Canon Eric Beresford, President of Atlantic School of Theology, for his presentation on behalf of the School.
 - Atlantic School of Theology for providing dessert at lunch on Friday.
 - the Very Rev'd John VanNostrand Wright for his presentation on the Anglican Foundation.
 - the Rev'd Leo Martin who served as recording secretary and to Ms. Maureen Vail who assisted him.
 - our ecumenical guests, the Most Rev'd Robert Harris (Roman Catholic Church), the Rev'd Wayne Dryer (United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces), the Rev'd Thomas Graham (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada) and the Rev'd Bob Johnson (United Church of Canada) who gave comments on their behalf.
 - guests - Canon Geoff Jackson, Mrs. Hazel Mackenzie, Mr. Moe Erhard, Mrs. Florence Joy Clement and Mr. Jim Morell.
9. That this Synod express thanks to the St. John Ambulance for their attendance during Synod.

Motion 130-30 - Neville Cheeseman/Deborah Edmondson
That the courtesies be extended.

The motion was carried.

Evening Prayer (BCP) was led by the Rev'd Canon Albert Snelgrove, assisted by David Wilson and Sharon Miller.

BISHOP'S CLOSING COMMENTS

The Bishop offered his personal thanks to his wife, Sharon, for her continued support. He also recognized the support of the staff of Synod (Geoffrey, Phyllis, Fred, Maureen, George, Ana and Liz) and thanked them for their work. He offered warm words for the ecumenical observers, to Ann Fairweather for her excellent leadership on the Agenda and to the Rev'd Leo Martin for his work on the minutes.

The Bishop reminded all Synod members we continue in the apostles' teaching, fellowship and the breaking of bread. We recognize our brokenness; but also know we have been forgiven. We should celebrate.

As members return home, the Bishop asked for reflection on how we can share the good news to our parishes. In personal reflection, how can we show Christ to others. He asked members to look after themselves physically, spiritually and emotionally. He called for prayers for justice and peace among all people and for everyone to set agendas and differences aside so that we do not end up serving ourselves. It is not about us. It is about God and his world.

Our work is ahead of us. There is no need to get overwhelmed if we work together. With God's wisdom, we can undertake the work that lies before us.

The Bishop concluded his closing remarks by thanking everyone for a wonderful Synod. He called for a singing of the Doxology and pronounced a blessing upon all gathered.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion 130-31 - Jon Lownds

That the 130th Session of the Diocesan of Fredericton be adjourned.

Time: 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Leo Martin
Recording Secretary

Ms. Maureen Vail
Assistant Recording Secretary

The Ven. Geoffrey Hall
Secretary of Synod

The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Claude W. Miller
Bishop of Fredericton

20 July 2009

Celebrating God's Grace - Responding to God's Challenge
Bishop's Charge to
the 130th Synod of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton
June 4th 2009

Prayer for Synod 2009

Almighty and ever-living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us, we who take counsel at this Diocesan Synod for the renewal and mission of our Parishes, Diocese and your Church in this place and beyond. As your disciples, teach us in all things to seek first your kingdom to your honour and glory. Guide us to what is right, and grant us both the courage and patience to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

In the name of the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Introduction

"He looked up and saw the rich putting gifts into the treasury; and he saw a poor widow put in two copper coins. And he said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living she had." (Luke 21.1-4)

Over the past two years a great deal of work has been done in response to the directives of our Synod of 2007. We left our last Synod with high expectations that the questions raised at that time might be answered fully and that the problems and concerns of the day would be closer to resolution. As a result of the motions of 2007 and the work that has been done since then, we gather this weekend with a much clearer picture of where we are and what we need to do to become the church God expects us to be.

Our Convening Circular and ensuing reports bear witness, by the grace of God, to the work of your Bishop, our Diocesan Council, our Greater Chapters and the Task Forces that were struck to enable the work of our last Synod. For the most part, the recommendations of the reporting have been put in resolution form and these motions will be debated, and if it is the will of this body a new stage of work will be mandated for our newly elected Diocesan Council, our Archdeaconries, our parishes, and of course your Bishop.

We are in the season of Pentecost, and as we greet this gift of work that is set before us, our prayer this night ought to recognize God's hand in all that has led us to this place and by God's grace the work that is set before us will be in accordance with God's will.

Let us rise and sing: Thy Hand, O God Has Guided ... Thank you!

Celebrating God Grace

During the work of the Sharing Ministry Task Group a theme and logo for this Synod evolved: "Celebrating God's Grace...Responding to God's Challenge." A powerful and just theme for any gathering of Church members. To celebrate means "to show happiness that something good or special has happened." As people of faith, to celebrate God's grace is to celebrate God's infinite love, God's mercy, God's goodwill and abundant generosity. How can we not celebrate God's divine favor.

We begin by thanking God for the gift of his Word, Christ's Body our Church, our World Wide Communion and the Saints who surround us with such a rich tradition and faith. A faith expressed in the Church's liturgy and teaching and our beautiful places of worship like Trinity Church.

As a body we thank God for one another, our clergy and people, and the great privilege that is ours in fellowship over the next couple of days. We thank God for our honored Guests and Visitors, our Friends, namely: Our Primate, Archbishop Fred ; Bishop Harris of the Archdiocese of Saint John; Revs. Thomas Graham, the ELCIC; Wayne Dryer, representing the United Baptist Convention; Bob Johnson, United Church of Canada; the Rev. Canon Eric Beresford, President, and Moe Erhard of the Atlantic School of Theology, The Very Rev. John Wright of the Anglican Foundation, Canon Geoff Jackson of our General Synod; Mrs. Joan Randall, President of our ACW, and so many others.

We thank the Archdeaconry of Saint John and Archdeacon David Edwards and the Deanery Clericus, Trinity Church and their newly appointed Rector, the Rev. Ranall Ingalls for their gracious hospitality. We thank the Chair of Synod Planning, Archdeacon Geoffrey Hall and all of the Synod Committees, Mr. Jim Morell organizing the discussion tomorrow; the Synod Office Staff; Michael and Jennifer Smith our Synod Music Leaders, and the countless volunteers, and all of you who have made our Synod event possible.

We consider ourselves part of the Anglican family in our diocese and each of us by our presence has taken seriously our part in the leadership of our Church and in our parishes and diocese. And when I use the word “family,” my prayer is that our Guests and Friends might return home and say “those Anglicans must have had wonderful parents.”

Our Primate references our Anglican community as “our beloved Church,” our dearest gift of God, the Body of Christ. It could be argued that our “Beloved Church” unfortunately at times expressed a high degree of negativity restricting our desire for true thanksgiving and celebration. So, over the next few days let us take this negativity to task and truly celebrate our blessings and offer them up to meet the mission challenge that is set before us.

Further, I want to say a personal thank you! To my fellow Bishops, Clergy and people of the Diocese for your prayers and support of me and Sharon; particularly, for you prayers for me in my recent convalescence. They worked! Your patience and understanding is a cherished gift. A sincere thank you! to Sharon for her prayers and partnership in this wonderful gift of service we share.

Responding to God’s Challenge

So how do we answer to God’s favor individually and corporately as God’s Church in this place? Knowing who we are both individually and corporately as members of the Anglican Church might be a place of beginning.

So let us begin ... first, we are members of an Episcopal Church, in communion with a world-wide Anglican family. We share familial responsibility for one another. We are Parish, we are Diocese, we are National Church, we are the Anglican Communion. Secondly, we are siblings in a very large family; we are inter and co-dependent and we share responsibility for one another. Third, we are both faithful and we are prodigal like most children in our quest and response as members of the family.” As brothers and sisters we are struggling to find our place within the fold. Our work of Synod gives witness to that inherited struggle.

The task force reports on “Budget Support” and “Rural and Struggling Parishes” that you have had opportunity to study and discuss during Archdeaconry Greater Chapter meetings, together make twenty nine recommendations that attempt to set out how we might, as a diocese, respond to our collective

concerns. I'm grateful to Mr. Gerald McConaghy and Archdeacon Patricia Drummond for their leadership in this work.

In addition, through our Diocesan Council, we partnered with our National Church in a "Planning Study" and I am grateful for the work of Canon Geoff Jackson and the Rev. Rob Waller and our National Church support. Many from around the diocese had input as to the Planning Study's findings and recommendations and I thank you for that. The Planning Study too, makes an additional twelve recommendations.

It is evident that Bishop Salmon's visit has made an impact and his work and thoughts are reflected in the reports. The differences in our contexts, that is the Diocese of Fredericton and the Diocese of South Carolina, are major and significant. Demographics and culture of the east coast of Canada and the east coast the United States are difficult to compare. However, as believers in the Gospel of Christ, our individual and collective response should share the same principles.

Last fall, I asked the Diocesan Council to strike, yet another group. The "Sharing Ministry Task Group" with the following mandate:

"The Task Group, charged by the Diocesan Executive Committee, as delegated by the Diocesan Council in September 2008, will work with the [Bishop, and the Diocesan] Council, The General Synod Consultant Team and other groups to coordinate and implement the significant current initiatives of the Synod and the Diocese of Fredericton including: Task Force on Rural and struggling Parishes; Task Force on Diocesan Budget Support; Partnership with General Synod (2007 Shared Ministry Plan, 2008 Planning Study and the 2009 Stewardship and Congregational Development Plan); [and the] potentially transforming teaching of Bishop Edward Salmon from August 2008."

I believe that the Task Group has been true to their mandate and their work. I'm grateful for the leadership of Jim Morell and the members of the Task Group for this good work. My suspicion is that given the detail that is found in each report and the number of recommendations that are made, one could be left with a sense of confusion, bewilderment and yes, even fear. Where do we start?

If the Holy Spirit was indeed present in our deliberations and work, and we believe God's guiding hand is before us, then we ought to "fear not." God will not ask of us more than we can give and as we are reminded we cannot "out give" God.

Our Mission is set against a backdrop of Anglican tradition and ecclesial polity that should serve us well and enable our response to God's honor and glory. Knowing who we are as Anglicans and Christians is the underlying statement that expresses our essential nature.

The essential nature of God is "love." (1 John 4.16) "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him...There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear...he who fears is not perfected in love." This passage prompts the question, "Is our essential nature as members of God's family founded in God's love? Are we abiding in that love or have we moved away?" God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. God's essential nature is a transformational love, without qualification for the whole world.

The five notices of motion brought forth by the Sharing Ministry Task Group, if passed by this Synod, will set on a journey of change and transformation, enabling a response in love for our mission as a Church, at home, and at a national and world-wide level.

In our transformational quest, we cannot possibly do what is required on our own. If we are to be true to God's mission we are called to a life of repentance, regular daily prayer and worship in humility. We are called to set aside our pride and selfish interests, for the sake of the Gospel. Every member of the family must be considered in our decision making, not just within our parish and diocesan bounds but provincially, nationally, and world-wide. No Diocese holds exclusively the definitive truth for the whole Church. We are part of a much larger whole which includes other Christian faith traditions, particularly our ecumenical partners. Leaders from other mainline traditions have shared with me their struggle to be faithful to the teachings of their traditions while being faced with the rapidly changing culture that we are all part of. We need each other.

The faith of our Fathers has always been put to the test. There is a need to partner in our discernment. The collective is always greater than the sum of the individual parts. And we must be constantly reminded that our mission is Christ's mission as prophesied by Isaiah and taught in the synagogue by Jesus.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

So when we are moved by the Holy Spirit to a full encounter with our cultural reality that directly or indirectly challenges the Church's traditional teaching on issues of justice, human rights and Christian ethics, because of the breath of our diversity, we are called first to exhibit the essential nature of God. That is, we are called to respond to the challenge in LOVE.

Questions on Stem Cell Research, Marriage and Human Sexuality, to name just a few, are broad and complex and if these issues are to be resolved to God's glory, in patience, a much wider discourse is required.

The Reports

I'm going to spend a few minutes on the reports and highlight my some of my observations. It is not my desire to preempt tomorrow's discussion on the motions. However, my several readings of this good work reveal that what we have in large part is a description of our diocese drawn from many contexts and perspectives. The reports provide a great deal of information demonstrating the complex reality of our nature. These reports leave us with a great deal of questions. I offer just a couple: How do we endeavor to be true to our calling in an ever changing culture? How might we structure our diocesan life so that we might be enabled to support each other and our life in the Gospel?

The information and suggestions in these reports were gleaned from the experiences, perceptions and study by a great many faithful and dedicated clergy and lay folk from our eighty plus parishes. These reports are truly a corporate response about our present situation and suggestions as to how we might approach our future together. If these resolutions created from these findings pass, your Bishop, Diocesan Council and Greater Chapters will be handed a great responsibility in carrying out the wishes of this Synod.

The implementation process may well fall to the Bishop and Diocesan Council however, if I read the reports correctly, the responsibility for the success or failure belongs to the whole diocese beginning with the individual in the pew as each individual enthusiastically embraces or rejects this work as a starting point for the next step of the building of God's kingdom in this place.

As I said earlier, we might well be overwhelmed with the high expectations these reports envision. However, we have to begin somewhere and the motions give us a starting point. Priorities must be named and the labor and costs to carry out our vision must be identified against a time line that is realistic. One report suggested it could take years for our vision to be realized but we must start now.

Continuing with my observations: there is a great deal of inter-connectedness of information and ideas between the reports. The same information and ideas are expressed differently and with different emphasis. However, all reports imply that we are at a point of “crisis” and that “intervention” is required or our future is in jeopardy. It is also recognized that there is a great deal of work to do and our resources are limited, particularly financial resources. It is further suggested within the reports that our mission response is hampered by our governance and administration, models that require too much of our time and resources for an effective and timely response.

There is a strong call for intentional evaluation of all ministries at the parish and diocesan levels. Training and education is named as needed so that leadership might respond to the changing context and priorities. There is encouragement to seek every opportunity to improve parish and diocesan communication. There is also a great desire to build inter-personal and inter-parish relationships so that a culture of “caring and support” might evolve for the betterment of the whole.

In summary, I see a definitive call for not just “change” but, as was said earlier, “transformation” across the whole diocese.

Youth

The Bishops and our Synods have sought parish input as to the naming of ministry priorities since 2000. Your Bishop and Diocesan Council have been conscientious for the past nine years in endeavoring to be true to investing in these priority areas. One of the highest priorities set several years ago was “Ministry with our Youth.” We celebrate what has been accomplished and need to keep this priority alive with effective faith formation as our youth continue their faith journey. Our youth want full engagement in church life. They want to be known and accepted as individuals by us – the adults – and many of them want to be church leaders someday.

When we speak to the future of our church presence in ten or twenty years we are not speaking about everyone who is here, with respect, we are speaking about those who follow us. If we have not addressed the spiritual needs of our youth today, again, with respect, the problem of our struggling parishes will not be an issue. The problem will have taken care of itself when there is no one to lead. So, what is the legacy that we desire to leave? There is very little that is standing still these days. A major challenge for all parishes today is to answer the question: what changes do we have to make so that personal faith and our church are relevant to young people and their families in today’s world? And, are we prepared to meet this challenge?

I received this recent letter from a young lady desiring Confirmation. And I quote:

Dear Bishop Miller,

How are you? Confirmation classes are going great. [Our Rector] is awesome at teaching us this stuff. Now I know what the altar, font, lectern and the rood screen is.

I know the Nicene Creed off by heart. I think that the Nicene Creed is telling us that Jesus Christ died on the Cross and descended into hell and ascended into heaven on the third day. I believe that he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I had to read Psalm 23 out of the Book Alternative Services. This is my grandmother's favorite Psalm. I used to think that the bible was boring but now that I know what it means it's quite fascinating.

I think confirmation makes me closer to God and it's the beginning of my new relationship with God. I believe this is the right way to go in life. It makes you take a bigger role in life. Being confirmed makes me feel happy, but happy is too simple of a word. When someone is sad you can talk to them and tell them that God is with them. It is good to have God with you.

Take Care...Emily (Name Changed)

Emily's letter is but one of a thousand letters I received from our youth across the diocese who say the same thing in their own words. Their letters and friendship confirm a message of hope for the present and future. We must be vigilant in keeping these youthful folk nourished and involved which is our baptismal promise.

I'm grateful to our clergy, parents, Sunday School Teachers, Parish Youth Leaders, Camp Leaders, Canon George Porter our Youth Action Director and Liz Harding our Christian Education and Camp Medley Director, not only for doing their utmost to help at the parish level, but also the advice and counsel.

Stewardship

Over the last nine years we have had several stewardship conferences and training events facilitated by experts in the field. I'm grateful for the work that was done by conscientious volunteers. There is no effective way of evaluating these efforts, but in fairness, if I were asked I would be hard pressed to call this well intentioned and time consuming work successful. There is little evidence that our asset management and giving patterns have changed.

Our National Church has endeavored and continues to support us in this regard and we are grateful for their expertise and support. There is resident suspicion that when others lend a hand, there must be an ulterior motive. It is disheartening when levels of misgiving about one another reside in the hearts of the faithful. As people of faith, would we not see, that what we hold in common is God's mission to the world, and that the collective knowledge, wisdom and experience on the subject of stewardship if shared, could serve to benefit the whole at every level

Again the reports emphasize the need for transformation in the area of stewardship and parish development with a parish based stewardship program. Again this concern is calling for intentional investment with trained leadership equal to the task. This is not simply a challenge. To tackle the idol of "money" is an enormous challenge. Transformed thinking would make money a tool of mission instead of an idol. Are we prepared to meet this challenge?

The budget formula that seems to resonate for us after Bishop Salmon's visit is known as the 10-10-10 model based on the ten percent tithe at every level of giving. My understanding is that if the first ten, the tithes of the person in the pew, does not materialize then the whole principle fails.

I support this principle, but it could be argued that by our very nature we "play it safe." Jesus has something to say about playing it safe in the Gospel of Luke 21.

"He looked up and saw the rich putting gifts into the treasury; and he saw a poor widow put in two copper coins. And he said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living she had." (Luke 21.1-4)

Our reports speak to the Biblical standard of tithing or contributing in accordance with our means as part of our Rule of Life for the mission and maintenance of our Church. I will make a bold suggestion at this point as I reflect on the passage from Luke. My suspicion is that if “tithing” is our standard and rule, and if it were followed, we would be wondering what we might do with the abundance.

On a recent edition of CBC’s Radio show “*As it Happens*,” a young pastor from an independent community church in Texas was interviewed because his church was doing something very different in response to the economic crisis in his community. After much prayer it was decided that instead of asking for money as a response to the financial crisis they would invite members of the congregation to take money off the offering plate if they were in need of living essentials. This was a radical change and an extreme departure from the traditional expectation.

The end result reported that this community of faith has given out more than half a million dollars since February. Even those in need were finding a way to give instead of desiring more.

Like the widow, this faith community is, by generosity and love in their outreach to the community, giving their very living in response to need and being blessed in return.

I long for the day when Jesus might say of me “but Claude, out of his poverty, put in all the living he had.” Even as a tither, I’m afraid I sometimes feel I only give out of my abundance and could be found guilty of “playing it safe.”

As believers we ought not to be surprised by this. The teachings of Jesus are counter to any culturally safe position. The Gospel message is based not on safety and security but on “risk.” Again to quote Bishop Salmon, “Jesus, was God’s greatest risk, for the redemption of the world.”

Assessing Ourselves

An intentional self-assessment or self-evaluation should be an ongoing part of the process of our Church’s organizational and spiritual life. When I meet with parish corporations and Bishop’s Advisory Committees, I ask them to be clear about a number of things before they make decisions about their future. I believe it to be a simple and practical starting point:

1. Be clear about your Mission in the parish and beyond and your Vision as to how God’s purpose might be accomplished in the parish’s context..
2. Be honest about assets ... present and potential resources (not only financial), land, buildings are they really an asset or liability? How might they help or hinder the mission and vision?
3. Be honest about liabilities ... present and potential. How might they divest themselves of such liabilities so that their parish balance sheet exhibits a realistic picture of the support for mission?
4. Then, being clear about your Mission and Vision, they are better equipped to seek the kinds of leaders they need for the journey - both clergy and lay.

As a Diocese, we retain for a fee, professional help to manage our trust funds – our parishes and diocesan financial asset base, and we take a certain amount of pride in our successes in this regard.

On the other hand, collectively, we have a real estate asset base far greater than our financial assets and at best we are poor managers of that asset.

Part of our asset or liability base is our management skill. I believe we have a great deal of work to do in this regard. To evaluate our administration and governance systems will produce little for our shared mission and vision if the whole of God's divine favor is not managed to his glory.

God may not honor our request for more if we are mismanaging what has already been given. An accountable evaluation process is called for at every level of our individual and corporate work.

The biblical warrant for properly managed provision for God's mission, I believe, holds true. Let's substitute a few words in the passage from Acts, Chapter 4.

32 Now [all the parishes] who believed, were of one heart and soul, and no one [parish] claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the [Church] gave testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon all [parishes].. 34 There was not a needy [parish] among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the [Church's] feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

We know the story of Ananias and his wife Sapphira in the verses that follow "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!"

Ananias, giving from abundance and playing it safe brought his death. The sharing of the faithful brought life and sustain ability to the early Church.

My Charge to this 130th Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton

God in his infinite patience and mercy has brought us to this day. His hand has been guiding us and by the power of the Holy Spirit we are charged to respond to God's call to be sent into the world to bring Good News – God's mission of redemption in love.

We ask God to call us to a re-commitment of intentional daily personal prayer and weekly corporate worship. To celebrate his grace and divine favor and to seek his guidance for our part of God's mission in the world.

We ask God to call us to repentance and reconciliation with the whole body of faithful at every level of mission response - drawing on the collective voice and wisdom for the up-building of God's kingdom of love in a broken and hurting world.

We ask God to call us to be faithful to our baptismal promises in continuing to nurture our children in the faith so that they might be given opportunity to exercise their leadership in due time.

We ask God to call us to individual and corporate evaluation and assessment of our governance, administration and asset base. Our stewardship must be all encompassing and will require intentionality and a commitment to invest time, talent and treasure as we deepen our understanding of God's call to mission.

We ask God to call us to rediscover our rich heritage of Prayer, Proclamation and Mission - to reach out in Spirit enabled confidence as Anglicans in servant-hood at home and beyond.

The specifics as to our individual and corporate response to God's call will not be found in a patented or *one size fits all for action* template. Playing it safe will not enable God's kingdom and mission. God's mission, that is, to reveal his love in the world must begin at the local level in community. A community that recognizes that we are part of a larger whole and that our responsibility is beyond our parish bounds. Our accountability is to one another in love, we are family in mission. God's mission is God's mission, and in the enormity of that task, we are called as family faithful and prodigal to do our part for the betterment of the whole.

I believe our structures permit us to move beyond our parish bounds and to begin to take seriously the opportunities for sharing within our archdeaconries. Being strong at the local level will enhance our corporate efforts and beyond. Our work tomorrow will begin to enable our thinking for our action in God's mission.

But let us remember, God's call is not a call to rely solely on material blessings and the world's best management techniques and strategies. We are called to respond in the faith we hold dear in Jesus Christ.

Again from the witness of the early Church: *When [the lame man] saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said 'Look at us.' And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, 'I have no silver of gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk. (Acts 3.3-6)*

It is only our faith in Jesus Christ enables us to stand, enables us to walk, enables us to dance and celebrate, enables us to journey together as family in our local contexts and as a world wide communion. Thanks be to God!

AMEN.

Claude Miller, Bishop of the Diocese of Fredericton

Archdeaconry Discussions at Diocesan Synod – June 5, 2009

1. WHAT SHOULD OUR NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES BE? (see list below)
2. WHAT SHOULD DIOCESAN COUNCIL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION AS IT DEVELOPS AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN?
3. HOW CAN WE, IN OUR ARCHDEACONRY, HELP EACH OTHER? and WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO GET STARTED?

Possible Priorities Arising from the Reports and Motions

(Note: it is recognized that each of the following areas is important and several overlap. They are listed this way to prompt our thinking and to help focus our discussion of what is important in the near term.)

1. All Parishes Focus on Growth

Each parish conducts a thorough self-assessment. Follow-up initiatives emphasize spiritual, numerical and financial growth. Shared ministry possibilities are discussed.

2. A New Congregational Development Fund

Establish a new diocesan Congregational Development Fund. Our healthier parishes support our struggling parishes – those willing to ‘take risks’ in their plans to grow.

3. Major Stewardship Initiative

Launch a parish-based stewardship initiative that will help parishes develop and implement a year-round stewardship education program that includes teaching about proportional giving/tithing.

4. Prepare Our Leaders For Change

Develop a dynamic leadership education program to prepare our clergy and lay leaders for the challenges of change as we seek to grow spiritually, numerically and financially.

5. Renew Ourselves as Christians and Anglicans

Reclaim, renew and relearn what it means to be both Christian and Anglican, using dynamic parish-based teaching, with a special emphasis on the ‘rule of life’ (Page 555 of the BCP).

6. Do More of God’s Work in Our Communities

Renew our emphasis on parish-based mission, outreach and evangelism, especially by reaching into our own communities to help those in need.

7. New Communication Strategies

Develop new communication strategies aimed at a broader sharing of information, gathering input prior to decision-making, ‘speaking the truth in love’ and increasing our support of one another. In this, steadily increase our use of technology as much as we can.

8. Other _____

SUMMARY - ARCHDEACONRY REPORTS TO SYNOD – JUNE 6, 2009

(Following discussions of the above questions/possible priorities on June 5, 2009)

Archdeaconry of Chatham

- Our priorities are renewal as Christians and Anglicans, Leadership for Change and Stewardship/Congregational Development Fund
- Next priorities were God's mission in our communities, communications (with a special onus on recipients) and growth
- We have to be prepared to share our Christian faith joyously
- We need to ensure that, when people come to worship on Sundays, that they have a positive experience

Archdeaconry of Moncton

- All identified priorities are important and inter-related
- Those favoured as priorities were: 'Renewal as Christians & Anglicans' and 'Empowering our leaders'
- We also need to shake off the bonds that restrict us – start afresh and help each other more
- We need to reach into our communities to live out our faith and God's call to us as Christians
- We need to have a clear vision of why we exist as a church, and why we are not living up to God's expectations of us
- We need to work together more often and more readily
- Messages for Diocesan Council: watch the costs, keep us informed, provide quality direction, research and use 'best practices' to guide us, keep a local focus on the proposed Congregational Development Fund
- Let's be kind and generous to each other!

Archdeaconry of Fredericton

- All 7 are important and inter-related
- Use the Greater Chapters more, especially when the time comes for developing detailed plans
- Priority 1 – Renewed as Christian and Anglicans
- Priority 2 – Prepare Our Leaders
- Priority 3 – Communication
- Use Greater Chapter meetings and networks more often – this will lead to mutual accountability and a helpful, welcoming approach to our support of each other
- We must keep trying and not give up, even if we run into difficulties – it's the right thing to do
- As an archdeaconry at least once a year we need to share an 'archdeaconry action Sunday' when we all do something significant together

Archdeaconry of Saint John

- The 'fire' of the Holy Spirit has caught us – we are ready for a new phase of our life together. We've started... we're already producing small, green shoots of new growth
Our priorities are: Renewed as Christians and Anglicans, Preparing Our Leaders for Change and an Improved Communications system
- Advice to Council: it will be local and archdeaconry initiatives that will have the longest-lasting impact on the change process, 'one size does not fit all', trained/ skilled people are needed to achieve transformational change, increased cooperation within the Greater Chapters is essential, we must teach 'discipleship', rural and struggling parishes need to feel a sense of hope, the whole diocese needs to provide financial and other

support for struggling parishes, we must retain our focus on youth ministry, and let's develop/retain a shared approach to 'mission'

- Note: a series of archdeaconry events for this fall is already in the planning stages

Archdeaconry of Kingston-Kennebecasis

- Our three most important priorities are: renewed as Christians and Anglicans, preparing our leaders for change and stewardship
- We also need to ensure good communication between parishes and archdeaconries, which means that the DIMS needs to be kept up to date by rectors
- We need to learn how to initiate and manage change, and our leaders need to be ready when the 'nay-sayers' question us
- Let's use a 'best practices' approach and use existing resources (no need to reinvent the wheel)
- Our archdeaconry is planning at least 3 non-meeting events this coming year
- "Are we all on the bandwagon?"

Archdeaconry of Woodstock

- Our 3 priorities are 'Renewed as Christians and Anglicans', 'Doing God's Work in Our Communities' and 'Growth'
- To accomplish all of this we must share/help each other within our archdeaconry especially for programs - not just hold meetings
- We need to realize 'it's not about us'
- We also need to be accountable to someone for the changes we are to make, and communication is very important
- Prayer undergirds all of our efforts, and we need to be 'Easter morning Christians' (we may now be more like 'Holy Week Christians')
- Regarding growth, let's concentrate on lapsed Anglicans first, and promote the concept of 'every members has a ministry' (not just the priest and the vestry members)
- Overall, let's 'Just Do It!'
- Let's not forget youth ministry and ecumenical (shared) ministry

Archdeaconry of St Andrews

- Transformational change must be 'bottom-up' change
- Members of the Greater Chapters (the archdeaconry) have to be change-agents
- Let's be task oriented and get on with it
- Let's develop a plan/process to change church culture – it has to be done first
- Our 4 priorities are: Preparing our leaders for change, new communication strategies, renewing ourselves as Christians and Anglicans (but really it is God who renews us!) and stewardship
- Let's remember that this is about renewing the Kingdom and encouraging people to have a personal relationship with Jesus – it's not about organizational change
- One size does not fit all – let's allow local/archdeaconry adaptations to diocesan directions
- We've already started, and we plan to meet again in September to focus on renewal and evangelism