



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 09 November 2013

MINUTES OF THE 131st SESSION OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

28-29 October 2011

The Most Rev'd Claude W. Miller, Chair
Bicentennial Ballroom, Fredericton Inn

THEME:

Celebrating First Fruits

The 131st Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton was convened at the Fredericton Inn, Fredericton with registration of delegates from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 pm.

FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2011

At the appointed time of 2:00 p.m., the Most Reverend Dr. Claude W. Miller, Bishop of Fredericton and Metropolitan of the Province of Canada, declared the 131st Diocesan Synod of Fredericton in session.

REGISTRATION

The Chancellor, Clyde Spinney, Q.C., indicated that at 1:50 p.m., there were 160 lay and 50 active clergy delegates registered. These numbers constitute a quorum in both houses.

REGRETS

The Archbishop listed the following regrets:

The Reverend Canon John Matheson

The Venerable Harold Hazen

The Reverend Ellen Curtis (for Saturday)

The Venerable Geoffrey Hall

The Reverend Robert Salloum

Mr. Paul Kitchen, Headmaster of Rothesay Netherwood School

Mr. Kitchen is missing his first Synod after 25 years as Headmaster because of the Annual Meeting at the School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Ann Fairweather)

- By a show of hands, asked to see how many delegates present had been at the 2009 Diocesan Synod. A large number of people raised their hands.

- Registration will remain open until 5:30 p.m. Friday and again between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday.

- Attention was drawn to the evacuation procedures within the registration package.

- An invitation to view the displays in the entrance and in Salon F was extended.

- A Quiet Room (#244) is available (after 4:30 p.m.)

- Volunteers from the Hospitality Group are wearing green t-shirts

- Please turn all electronic devices off.

- Evaluation forms are included in the registration package and all members are asked to fill them out and return them to the Planning Team.
- Since the St John Ambulance was unavailable, those with First Aid Certification were asked to report to Jack Walsworth and introduce themselves in case they are needed.
- The Resolution Committee will be available until 5:30 p.m. on Friday and from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.
- When speaking, please go to the microphone, introduce yourself and limit yourself to two minutes.

APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARIES

Motion 131-01 - Ross Hebb / Brenda McKnight

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

The motion was carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Ann Fairweather, chair of the Agenda Committee presented the Orders of the Day.

131-02 - Bonita LeBlanc / Robert LeBlanc

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

The motion was carried.

ARCHBISHOP'S COMMENTS

The Archbishop offered a warm welcome to everyone on this day, the Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude. He said his prayer was that the first order of this Synod would be to fellowship in the Gospel so when we leave this Synod gathering, we may go out and share the good news of God's Kingdom.

The Archbishop added some personal comments on the recent death of the late Canon Fred Scott who will be missed by all; and, concerns for the Venerable Geoffrey Hall, Secretary of Synod and Gerry McConaghy, Chair of the Finance Committee, who are both resting at home on doctors' orders.

The Archbishop led those present in prayer.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEAD TABLE

The Archbishop proceeded to introduce those sitting at the head table:

The Right Reverend Cyrus Pitman, Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

The Right Reverend Matthias Medadues-Badohu, Bishop of Ho (Ghana)

The Very Reverend Keith Joyce, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral

Ann Fairweather, Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council and Chair of the Agenda Committee

Clyde Spinney, Q.C., Chancellor of the Diocese

The Reverend Leo Martin, Recording Secretary for this Synod

ECUMENICAL GUESTS

Robert Brittain, Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, introduced the following guests:

The Reverend Jane Johnson, United Church of Canada

The Reverend Douglas Moore, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada

The Ecumenical Guests were welcomed with applause.

GUESTS AND OBSERVERS

The Reverend Canon Elaine Hamilton introduced guests and members of the Diocesan Staff. They were:

The Right Reverend Cyrus Pitman of Goulds, Newfoundland, Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Chaplain to this Synod
The Right Reverend Matthias Medadues-Badohu of Ghana, Anglican Diocese of Ho, Companion Diocese of Fredericton
Brigadier-General Karl McLean of Ontario, Canadian Armed Forces
Mrs. Sharon Miller of Fredericton, spouse of the Most Reverend Claude Miller
The Reverend Dr. Jody Clarke of Halifax, Atlantic School of Theology
Mr. Mauritz (Moe) Erhard of Halifax, Atlantic School of Theology
Mrs. Elizabeth Harding of Westborough, Maine, Director of Camp Medley
Mrs. Phyllis Cathcart of Fredericton, Diocesan Synod Office Staff
Ms. Maureen Vail of Fredericton, Diocesan Synod office Staff
Mrs. Florence Joy Clement of Fredericton, President of Diocesan Anglican Church Women
Mrs. Victoria Hachey of Fredericton, Chair of Diocesan Human Resources Committee
Mrs. Adele Knox of Fredericton, President, Diocesan Mother's Union
Mr. Jim Morell of Fredericton, Chair, Diocesan Administration Team
The Rev'd Lisa Pacarynuk of Oromocto, Visitor, Canadian Armed Forces
Mr. Bill Turney of Fredericton, Chair, Diocesan Communications Committee
Mr. Gerald McConaghy of Rothesay, Chair, Diocesan Finance Committee
Mr. Jack Walsworth of Burtts Corner, Chair of 2011 Synod Planning Team; Chair, Diocesan Nominating Committee; Vice-Chair, Diocesan Human Resources Committee
Mrs. Ana Watts of Fredericton, Diocesan Synod Office Staff, Diocesan Communications Officer
Mr. David Wilson of Grand Bay-Westfield, Chair, Synod Sessional Technical Support
Canon Charles Ferris of Fredericton, Chancellor of Province of Canada
Mrs. Isabel Cutler of Fredericton, Cathedral Parish Nurse and Health Ministry
Mr. Robert Brittain of Saint John, Diocesan Ecumenical Officer
The Reverend Jane Johnson of New Maryland, Ecumenical-United Church of Canada
The Reverend Douglas Moore of Fredericton, Ecumenical - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada
The Reverend Jim McCorrison of Nova Scotia, Military Chaplain Base Gagetown.

Members of Synod welcomed the guests with applause.

COURTESIES TO SYNOD GUESTS/OBSERVERS

Motion 131-03 - Elaine Hamilton / Maxine Fullarton

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

This motion was carried

NEW CLERGY / THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS

The Archbishop made the following introductions:

The Reverend Wendy Amos-Binks	Parish of Stanley
The Reverend Robyn Cuming	Parish of Richmond
The Reverend Cathy Laskey	Parish of Shediac
The Reverend Robert Marsh	Parish of Central Kings
The Rev'd Michael O'Hara	Parishes of Campbellton, Dalhousie, Restigouche

The Reverend Lisa Pacarynuk	Parishes of Cambridge and Waterborough and Gagetown
The Reverend Richard Robinson	Parish of New Bandon
Kent Greer	Atlantic School of Theology
Kevin McAllister	Atlantic School of Theology
Thomas Nisbett	Atlantic School of Theology
Jonathan Springthorpe	Wycliffe College
David Peer	Atlantic School of Theology

The clergy and students were welcomed with applause.

ANNIVERSARIES

The Archbishop recognised the following clergy as having significant anniversaries:

The Most Rev'd Harold Nutter	65 years Deacon (December 8)
The Rev'd Stephen McCombe	60 years Deacon (July 15)
The Ven. Thomas Crowther	55 years Deacon (May 10)
The Ven. Arthur Gregg	45 years Priest (May 29)
The Rev'd Canon Wally Corey	40 years Deacon (May 30)
The Rev'd Dr. David Mercer	40 years Deacon (July 25)
The Rev'd Canon David Kierstead	35 years Priest (January 25)
The Rev'd Keith Howlett	35 years Priest (January 25)
The Rev'd Donald Routledge	35 years Priest (October 26)
The Rev'd Canon Alvin Westgate	35 years Priest (October 26)
The Rev'd Canon David Staples	35 years Deacon (June 9)
The Rev'd Paul McCracken	35 years Deacon (September 29)
The Rev'd Barry Cohen-Thorley	35 years Deacon (November 30)
The Rev'd Dr. Lee Whitney	30 years Priest (December 14)
The Rev'd Canon John Matheson	30 years Priest (June 27)
The Rev'd William Forgrave	30 years Deacon (February 6)
The Rev'd Eric Caldwell	30 years Deacon (February 9)
The Rev'd Brenda McKnight	30 years Deacon (May 10)
The Rev'd John Cooper	30 years Deacon (August 24)
The Rev'd Canon Elaine Hamilton	30 years Deacon (September 20)

The members of Synod expressed their congratulations with applause.

WORDS OF THANKS

The Archbishop offered words of thanks to the following members for their involvement in planning this session of Diocesan Synod. He extended his apologies for any omissions.

Jack Walsworth	The Very Reverend Keith Joyce
Ann Fairweather	Dr. Willis Noble
Canon Fred Scott (posthumously)	Bishop Cyrus Pitman
Brent Theriault, Q.C.	Shara Golden
Clyde Spinney, Q.C.	The Venerable Geoffrey Hall
David Wilson	Canon Charles Ferris

ORDER AND DECORUM

The Chancellor proceeded by directing everyone to page 7, Section A of the Convening Circular where he shared a few words on the Rules of Order and Decorum during the session of Synod. The Chancellor reminded everyone to restrict their remarks to the motion and amendment being debated, to address the Chair and to observe the limit of two minutes imposed on speakers.

CLERGY REPORTS

On behalf of the Archbishop, Ann Fairweather called on all clergy to submit their reports as directed by Canon Seven, section 6(b).

MINUTES

Motion 131-04 - John Cathcart / Gordon Thompson

That the minutes of the 130th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton be adopted as circulated (Section C, pages 1-21)

The motion was carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Motion 131-05 - Patricia Drummond / Anne Walling

That the report on Business Arising from the minutes (Section C, pages 34-37) be approved as circulated.

The motion was carried.

WORSHIP AND MEDITATION TIME

In preparation for worship, the Dean, with the help of Dr. Willis Noble (Organist and Choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral), led members of Synod in practising part of the *Gloria Mass* by Ruth Fazal. The Synod Service is to be celebrated at Christ Church Cathedral Friday evening.

The Dean offered an explanation of the meditation times which will include the Chaplain's message, a period of silence and music.

The Dean also indicated a Holy Eucharist (BCP) would be celebrated in the Bicentennial Ballroom at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. This service will be led by the Venerable Richard McConnell.

CHAPLAIN'S MEDITATION

Bishop Cyrus Pitman read John 3:1-17. He followed the reading by reminding members of Synod of the five goals of the previous Synod: to proclaim, to teach, to respond, to seek and to strive. He stressed that we are called to be more than CEOs and managers of the faith but rather to live out our baptismal promises. He invited us to celebrate our first fruits. In an analogy of renovation, Bishop Pitman said one first needs to learn how far back to strip the wood; and, with the work done in the Diocese in the past two years, we have been stripping back and changing the structures. The trick is now to discover whether everything was stripped back far enough in order to fulfill the goals we set upon ourselves. Like Nicodemus, we are not satisfied with the way things are. We come to our Lord and ask how can we make things better. The meditation was followed by the song 'He is Lord', a period of silence and prayer.

UPDATE ON REGISTRATION

At 3:00 p.m., the Registration Committee reported 71 clergy and 191 lay people were now registered.

RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURES

Again, the Chancellor took the floor to explain the Resolutions Procedures. He drew attention to Section D, page 2 of the Convening Circular. He stressed the importance of submitting draft resolutions to the Committee during the hours set - Friday until 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The Resolutions Committee is not there to veto proposed motions but rather to help in the preparation of motions and to make them clear.

ELECTION PROCEDURES

As the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Jack Walsworth explained the election procedures for Provincial and General Synod delegates by referring to Canon 2 (12). In the registration package, members can find the Provincial Synod Ballot (pink) and the General Synod Ballot (green). Nominations from the floor will be taken at 9:00 a.m. Saturday.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Motion 131-06 - David Edwards / Robert Marsh

That this Synod accept the Archdeaconry Greater Chapter elections of Diocesan Council members, as follows:

Woodstock - The Rev'd Robert LeBlanc and Rick Hadadd

Kingston/Kennebecasis - The Rev'd Chris Hayes and Anne Walling

Chatham - The Rev'd Richard Robinson and Rose Steeves

St. Andrews - The Rev'd Chris McMullen and Donald Adams

Saint John - The Rev'd Paul Ranson and Jim McKenna

Fredericton - The Rev'd Canon Walter Williams and Jim Knight

Moncton - The Rev'd Dick Black and Cheryl Young

This motion was carried.

VIDEO PRESENTATION: CELEBRATING FIRST FRUITS

With the help of a grant from the Federal Government, Jennifer Ferris, a 3rd year Media Studies student at UNB, was able to create a video on the Nicodemus Project. She toured the Diocese and gathered information about some of the things which are happening in parishes and around the Diocese.

After viewing the video, a warm appreciation for it was extended by applause.

PROGRESS REPORT

Ann Fairweather provided a power point presentation which informed all members of the progress being made in the Diocese in regards to the Nicodemus Project. She did caution that this 'snapshot' was created with the help of those parishes who provided information. The report is to be available through the Diocesan website.

NICODEMUS PROJECT SURVEY

Jim Morell, Chair of the Administration Team of Diocesan Council introduced this survey by reminding members information was needed from the parishes in order to get a full picture of the impact of the Nicodemus Project. Members of Synod were asked to take 10 minutes to complete the survey which will be tabulated overnight.

MOTIONS

Embryonic Stem Cell Research

WHEREAS

Recognizing that:

- (1) minimal effect can be expected (or real difference made) by further study of the issue of embryonic stem cell research at the diocesan level, and
- (2) resources for such study are limited and,
- (3) our Bishop having reminded us that the Anglican Church and this diocese have a stated position on the issue of the abortion of a human fetus, and
- (4) the Diocesan Council has accordingly recommended that the following motion be put to the Synod.

Motion 131-07 - Vicars Hodge / David Barrett

Being thankful that the important ethical issues surrounding the topic of embryonic stem cell research have been brought to the attention of the Church in the Diocese of Fredericton, and at the same time mindful of the depth of complexity of the topic, this Synod reaffirms the existing position of the Anglican Church (echoing that of the Anglican Communion) on the sacred nature of all life.

Amendment 131-07a - Sherman Bastarache / Donna Baker

That the following sentence be added "This reaffirmation expresses no opinion on the issue of research involving stem cells from embryos which have died naturally."

This amendment was carried.

The amended motion now reads:

Motion 131-07

It is moved that being thankful that the important ethical issues surrounding the topic of embryonic stem cell research have been brought to the attention of the Church in the Diocese of Fredericton, and at the same time mindful of the depth of complexity of the topic, this Synod reaffirms the existing position of the Anglican Church (echoing that of the Anglican Communion) on the sacred nature of all life. This reaffirmation expresses no opinion on the issue of research involving stem cells from embryos which have died naturally.

The amended Motion 131-07 was carried.

The Anglican Covenant

WHEREAS

The Anglican Covenant has been drafted and placed before the Provinces and Dioceses of the Anglican Communion in the hope of strengthening the ties that bind us together in Christ. The Archbishop of Canterbury is among the many Communion leaders who are convinced that what is decided with respect to the Covenant will have important long-term consequences for the whole Communion. Furthermore, it is clear that Synod will make a decision with respect to this Covenant, either by acting or by refraining from acting. Since we will make a decision one way or another, the question is whether it will be an informed one, therefore,

Motion 131-08 - Ranall Ingalls / Shara Golden

In order that our response as a Diocese to the Anglican Covenant be an informed one, this Synod asks the clergy, synod delegates and Parishes to study carefully and systematically the Draft Anglican Covenant with the best aids and commentary that can be found in preparation for the next Synod.

This motion was carried.

Greater Chapter Effectiveness

WHEREAS

Diocesan Council is obliged by Part 4: Archdeaconry Greater Chapters of Regulation 4-1: Regional Governance to review the effectiveness of Archdeaconry Greater Chapters annually,

AND WHEREAS

the effectiveness of Archdeaconry Greater Chapters in transforming the church and in serving "as a vehicle for communication among parishes, among deaneries and Archdeaconries, between parish and Diocese as well as among all baptized Christians" would be strengthened by greater procedural accessibility,

Motion 131- 09 - David Bell / Lawrence Carpenter

**This Synod recommends that Diocesan Council require as follows:
Whenever an Archdeaconry Greater Chapter is to be convened the following procedure shall be followed as far as practicable:
(a) the notice of meeting shall solicit suggested agenda items;
(b) a draft agenda shall be circulated or otherwise made available at least seven days prior to the meeting.**

This motion was carried.

PRAYERS

Bishop Pitman closed the afternoon session with prayers. The business of the day being completed, Synod adjourned to Christ Church Cathedral for the Synod Service at 7:00 p.m.

SYNOD SERVICE

Synod reconvened at the Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. for a Sung Eucharist. The Service of Worship was led by the Most Reverend Claude Miller, assisted by the Very Reverend Keith Joyce. Guest Bishops in attendance were the Right Reverend Matthias Medadues-Badohu of Ho (Ghana) and the Right Reverend Cyrus Pitman of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. Retired Bishops in attendance were the Right Reverend George Lemmon and the Right Reverend William Hockin. Others who assisted in this service were Barb Haire (first reading), the Reverend Michael O'Hara (gospel reading) and Betty Kennett (prayers of the people). The music was led by Dr. Willis Noble, the Christ Church Cathedral Choir and the 11:45 Music Group.

The Archbishop delivered his Charge to Synod at this time. Copies were made available at the Cathedral Hall during the reception. A copy is appended (Appendix A) to these minutes.

During the Synod Service, the Archbishop led the installation the Reverend Michael Caines as Chaplain for the Diocesan Mothers' Union, the installation of Brent Theriault, Q.C. as Vice-Chancellor and the installation of the Venerable David Edwards as Parish Development Officer.

Award of Merit

The Archbishop, assisted by the Right Reverend William Hockin and the Right Reverend George Lemmon, presented Phyllis Cathcart with the Bishop's Award of Merit. Phyllis has ably served four bishops as Executive Secretary. She has always showed grace and dignity in her work and has blessed the Diocesan Bishop with clarity and focus, her excellent knowledge, her faithfulness and her gift of friendship. This honour recognizes her dedication to her work for the Bishop and for the whole Diocese. A note was also received from the Most Reverend Harold Nutter which echoed the sentiments of the three Bishops present.

Those in attendance expressed their thanks to Phyllis with a resounding standing ovation.

The worship service was followed with a time of fellowship at the Cathedral Hall.

SATURDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2011

HOLY EUCHARIST

A Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Venerable Richard McConnell in the Bicentennial Ballroom at 7:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At 8:45 a.m., Ann Fairweather called all members of Synod to order and made the following announcements.

- All purchases made at the Anglican House display will be tax free today.
- A reminder to please turn off electronic devices
- A reminder to fill out the evaluation forms
- Please leave your name tag on the table before leaving Synod
- Please use the microphones when addressing Synod.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Ann Fairweather presented the Orders of the Day.

Motion 131-10 Marshall Fanjoy / Gordon Thompson

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

This motion was carried.

CHAPLAIN'S MEDITATION

Acts 1:6-8

This Scripture speaks to the mission we are all engaged in. It speaks to the shape of the mission. It reminds us of the universal mission. Jerusalem was the centre of teaching, of gathering - a place where many things happened. Ministry comes from the centre and is carried out of the centre to its outer edges with the help of the Holy Spirit. Samaria reminds us of the difficult places, the challenging areas of ministry - places we sometimes want to avoid. One of the goals of the Nicodemus Project is to relearn what it means to be a Christian and an Anglican. Anglicanism is not the only way, but it is the way we are called, within the Church, to exercise our Christian ministry. As Anglicans, we are known for walking with people; we do not leave those on the outer edges alone to fend for themselves. In relearning who we are, we celebrate what we have to offer. A sign in one of the original communities in Labrador says it all: "Before the children go to sleep, we the grandparents tell the stories - places where we have been and all the spiritual things." The Chaplain closed with a reminder that the centre is not just the See City of the Diocese, the centre is in all areas of ministry. The meditation was followed with the song 'O Lord My God' and a period of silence, concluded with prayer.

NOMINATIONS: PROVINCIAL/GENERAL SYNODS

After calling three times for further nominations for both Provincial and General Synods, Jack Walsworth declared the ballot as follows:

Provincial Synod:

- Clergy: The Ven. Patricia Drummond
The Ven. Vicars Hodge
The Rev'd Cathy Laskey
The Rev'd Leo Martin
The Rev'd Robert Marsh
The Rev'd Canon Albert Snelgrove
The Rev'd Douglas Painter
The Ven Richard Steeves
The Rev'd Canon Walter Williams
- Lay: Mr. Bob Brittain
Mr. Rick Hadadd
Mr. Jim McKenna
Ms. Falen McNulty
Mr. Ted Quann
- Youth: Mr. Joshua Marsh

General Synod

Clergy: The Rev'd Robyn Cuming
The Ven. Patricia Drummond
The Ven. David Edwards
The Ven. Vicars Hodge
The Rev'd Eileen Irish
The Rev'd Leo Martin
The Rev'd Douglas Painter
The Rev'd Canon Albert Snelgrove
The Ven Richard Steeves
The Rev'd Canon Walter Williams

Lay: Mr. Bob Brittain
Mr. Rick Hadadd
Mr. Stephen Hamlin
Mr. Falen McNulty
Mr. Ted Quann

Youth: Mr. Joshua Marsh

Voting will be opened until 12:30 p.m. Members were asked to place their marked ballots in the envelope provided at each table for this purpose. Envelopes were collected at the appropriate time.

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The Reverend Dr Jody Clarke, Academic Dean and Chair of the Anglican Faculty at Atlantic School of Theology, thanked Synod for the opportunity to speak. He mentioned his appreciation for what the Diocese was trying to achieve with the Nicodemus Project.

Dr. Clarke indicated there are two degree programs being offered at AST - the Master of Divinity and the Master of Arts in Theology. He stressed the following points:

- The Diocese of Fredericton is one of the founding parties of AST and holds seats on the Senate and the Board of Governors of the School.
- In August 2011, the Reverend Debra Burleson was appointed Anglican Formation Director. She makes sure a balance of both worship books are used, studied and experienced.
- The theological students from the Diocese of Fredericton are doing very well, one being the president of the Student Union.
- AST does not teach Parish Palliative Care; but rather teaches how to get parishes to thrive in a modern world. Studies show the first reason people attend church is that they are asked and the reason they stay is the need to belong to a community.
- If the Church is to flourish, AST needs the best students. He explained this meant that members of Synod should look at who has a passion for ministry in their parishes and to seek/test whether these people are called to ordained ministry. If so, encourage them to enroll at AST.
- The recent Association of Theological Schools report shows AST and its students scored higher than the average in terms of positive experiences at the School.
- Lastly, he invited members of Synod to watch a video presentation on the School which was created with the help of Mauritz Erhard, Director of Advancement.

CHAPLAIN GENERAL

Brigadier-General Karl McLean brought the greetings of the Chief of Defence and of the Right Reverend Peter Coffin (Anglican Bishop Ordinary). He spoke on his 24 years of service to ministry in the military and how he enjoys working in this ecumenical setting. He put

forward a request that reserve chaplains are always needed on a part time basis. His challenge to Synod was that the Canadian Population is not going down; therefore the need to share the optimism of the Gospel is stronger than ever.

NICODEMUS SURVEY RESULTS

Jim Morell explained this survey completed the review process alongside the video and the power point presentation on the Nicodemus. The questions asked provided important information. He felt the results were generally optimistic. A word of thanks was extended to his son, James for his help in tabulating the results.

Synod was then invited to have a table discussion looking at two questions.

1. From the three presentations, what jumps out at you regarding our progress?
2. What should be our shared action priorities 2011-2013?
 - at the parish level
 - at the Diocesan level

The Nutrition Break was rolled into these discussions (20 minutes).

Following the discussions, a small number of tables reported to Synod. However, Mr. Morell gathered all the table reports in order to get an overview of what Synod members had shared.

CAMPS

Elizabeth Harding gave an update on both Diocesan Camps, Brookwood and Medley. She reiterated her passion for this ministry even after 39 years and stated the challenges are always exciting. She shared her encouragement in the increasing number of campers and that together with an able staff, she continues to work towards the mission of the camps. A big vote of thanks was extended for the help and support Camp Ministry receives from the whole Diocese.

BIBLE STUDY

The Venerable David Edwards read John 15:1-8. From this, he spoke on the concept of fruitfulness where we are called to bring the best gifts to God - from our first fruits - and we are to do so with love. The following questions were offered for discussion at the tables:

- What are the signs of the Year of the Lord's favour in your congregation/community?
- What does fruitfulness mean in your life/congregation/community?
- What are the implications of verse 5?
- Why is love central to the life of the vine?
- How do we show love in our congregation/community?
- What does fruitfulness in your life/congregation/community look like? How is it bringing glory to God?
- What are the implications of not remaining in the vine (verses 2 and 6)?

The discussion was brought to a close with prayer.

NOON DAY PRAYERS

The Synod Chaplain offered prayers and a blessing for the meal.

CHAPLAIN'S MEDITATION

Synod was brought back to order with the Chaplain's final meditation which began with the song "In Christ Alone". The Chaplain continued to draw on John 15 where he said it is impossible to be fruitful if we are not connected to the vine and that sometimes pruning is

essential in order to promote growth. Bishop Pitman supported this point using an analogy of growing tomato plants. He said there are 'Good Shepherd Churches' and 'Little Bo Beep Churches' - one cares for the sheep, the other loses sheep. The Diocese of Fredericton is serious about growing Good Shepherd Churches - churches that remain under construction, renewing themselves.

The Chaplain then used John 20 as a reference to remind members that we have to leave this place and go to our own 'Galilee' to see and to find Jesus. A pilot focusses on the instruments of the aeroplane and listens to the instructions of the tower. Likewise, a Christian focusses on the instruments of the faith (Cross, Bible, Sacraments) and also listens for the voice of God. The meditation was followed by silence and prayer.

Expression of thanks

The Archbishop offered thanks to Bishop Pitman on behalf of all Synod members for his presence and wise words and presented him with a gift of appreciation.

PARISH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The Venerable David Edwards spoke on his new role as Parish Development Officer. He will tackle three questions: Where are we? How are we responding? Where does the Parish Development Officer fit in? These are three questions which each parish can ask themselves. We must begin by knowing who we are. The position is not to provide all the answers to the issues; rather the position is to help parishes think through the process and come up with answers.

MOTIONS

Church Planting

131-11 - Vicars Hodge / Michael Caines

That this Synod affirm, and refer to the Bishop and Diocesan Council for implementation, the report and recommendations of the "Church Planting Report" of the Diocesan Council Mission Outreach Committee, subject to available funding as identified by the Bishop and Diocesan Council.

(Convening Circular Section G, pages 1-11)

Motion carried.

Church Building Closure Resource

WHEREAS

There have been a number of church building deconsecrations in recent years and guidelines/assistance for parishes seeking guidance in such cases are limited and a deconsecration and the subsequent disposal of the building is a stressful, emotional and difficult time for all involved.

131-12 - John Cathcart / Patricia Drummond

The Bishop authorize establishment of a team of people that will produce, by the next regular diocesan synod, a document that will assist incumbents and church wardens with the process of church building closure from the beginning of the process to its conclusion. Such a document should include:

- 1. Guidelines to assist parishes in making the decision to close a church building. These may include viability criteria and reference to 'big picture' thinking for ministry that may be provided by the Diocese in that area;**
- 2. Information with references regarding canons, policies and guidelines already in place to deal with this issue;**

3. **A checklist of items that will need to be addressed (cf, the Diocese of Toronto's Church Closing Checklist);**
 4. **Suggestions as to best practices in regard to a service of thanksgiving and deconsecration;**
 5. **A list of available resources that offer pastoral help in such situations (eg. The Alban Institute publication *Ending with Hope: Resource for Closing Congregations*, edited by Beth Ann Gaede); and**
 6. **Guidelines and resources available should the best option be demolition of the church building.**
- Establishment of this group would be subject to available funding.**
This motion was carried.

Scheduling of Synods

WHEREAS

The cost of hosting a Synod is a significant expenditure to the Diocese. Notice is hereby given that at Synod 2013, it will be moved:

131-13 - Rod Langis / Betty Kennett

That section 5 of the Constitution be amended by adding immediately after subsection 5(1) the following:

5(1.1) Notwithstanding subsection (1), The Diocesan Council may, with the approval of the Bishop, extend the time for holding a meeting of Synod to the third year following the last meeting of the Synod.

The Chancellor explained this notice in non debatable and serves as a notice of motion for the next Synod where it will be listed as the first one in the Convening Circular.

PARISH RETURNS

WHEREAS

The Diocesan Information Management System (DIMS) is in place to effectively maintain accurate real-time profile information for clergy and lay people, and to provide a method for capturing and reporting annual statistical information,
AND WHEREAS

Parishes are required to complete an annual statistical return, per Canon 5.7, Record Management Functions.

131-14 - Ann Fairweather / Chris Hayes

The issue of incomplete data in DIMS be referred to Diocesan Council for review and corrective action, subject to available funding as identified by the Bishop and Diocesan Council.

Motion carried.

BISHOP MATTHIAS MEDADUES-BADOHU

The Right Reverend Matthias Bedadues-Badohu began by offering greetings from the Diocese of Ho (Ghana). He offered thanks for the wonderful companionship that is building between Ho and Fredericton and his prayer is that the relationship and friendship would continue beyond the 5 years (which concludes next year). Again, he offered his personal gratitude for the support the Diocese showed in providing funds for the grinders; and, on behalf of his daughter Angela, he thanked the families who opened their homes and hearts to her while she was in Canada.

In the Nicodemus Project, Bishop Matthias offered the challenge to look beyond the borders of the Diocese, to set differences aside and to work together in bringing the message of the Kingdom forward.

As always, he invited anyone to visit the Diocese of Ho and remarked on the similarities between himself and Archbishop Miller - except for their ages. (This comment drew laughter from all members present).

Expression of thanks

The Archbishop responded with warm words of affection about the relationship. He said there are plans to hold an International Camp at Camp Medley and he hoped this camp would bring some young people from Ghana as well as other places which have been visited by different mission groups around the Diocese. The Archbishop presented Bishop Matthias with a gift of appreciation.

VISION 2019

The Archbishop introduced a video on the 'buzz' about Vision 2019 and the Marks of Mission.

DRAW

The Archbishop invited everyone to stand up and look under their chairs for the picture of a blimp. He indicated everyone was involved in a draw without even knowing it. The person producing the picture would receive a copy of the book "Anglican Churches in the Diocese of Fredericton" by Frank Morehouse. The lucky recipient was the Reverend Chris McMullen.

PARISH NURSING

Isabel Cutler, Parish Nurse at Christ Church Cathedral for 6 years, supported by Nancy Wiggins, Parish Nurse at St Margaret's Church for 13 years, thanked the Archbishop for enabling their presentation. With the help of a power point presentation, Mrs Cutler explained this ministry stems out of our relationship with God and with each other as Parish Nurse Ministry seeks healing in body, mind and spirit. It is to complement, not replace the health care system. A Parish Nurse functions as a health educator, a health counsellor, a referral source and liaison, a health advocate, and a facilitator of support and self help groups. The vision for the future is that every parish in the Diocese will have a Health Ministry and access to a Parish Nurse.

The Archbishop offered his support and encouragement to Parish Nursing and Health Ministry.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Archbishop introduced the Reverend Canon David Keirstead, Acting Treasurer and Mr. Norman McLeod, CMA, Acting Assistant Treasurer. He thanked them for their willingness to serve in these roles and applauded them for their efficiency.

DIOCESAN FINANCIAL REPORTS

131-15 - Gil Carter / Rick Haddad

That this Synod receive the Diocesan Financial Report and Statements as presented in the Convening Circular (Section E, pages 9-10; Appendices 2-7).

When put to a vote, Motion 131-15 was carried.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT

131-16 - Vicars Hodge / Brenda McKnight

That this Synod receive the Diocesan Council Report (Section F, pages 1-57).

Motion carried.

DIOCESAN OFFICERS REPORTS

131-17 - Shara Golden / Wally Corey

That this Synod accept the Diocesan Officers' Reports (Section E, pages 1-8).

This motion was carried.

ELECTION RESULTS

Jack Walsworth announced the results for delegates to Provincial Synod (2012) and General Synod (2013) as follows:

General Synod

Clergy:	The Rev'd Eileen Irish The Ven. Pat Drummond The Ven. David Edwards The Rev'd Canon Albert Snelgrove
Alternates:	The Ven. Vicars Hodge The Rev'd Leo Martin The Rev'd Douglas Painter The Ven. Richard Steeves
Lay:	Mr. Ted Quann Ms. Falen McNulty Mr. Rick Hadadd Mr. Bob Brittain
Alternate:	Mr. Stephen Hamlin
Youth:	Mr. Joshua Marsh
Alternate:	None

Provincial Synod

Clergy:	The Ven. Pat Drummond The Rev'd Albert Snelgrove The Ven. Vicars Hodge The Rev'd Cathy Laskey
Alternates:	The Rev'd Leo Martin The Rev'd Robert Marsh The Rev'd Douglas Painter The Ven. Richard Steeves
Lay:	Mr. Ted Quann Ms. Falen McNulty Mr. Jim McKenna Mr. Rick Hadadd
Alternate:	Mr. Bob Brittain
Youth:	Mr. Joshua Marsh
Alternate:	None

Destruction of ballots

131-18 - Jim McKenna / Gordon Thompson

That the ballots for these elections be destroyed.

The motion was carried.

ECUMENICAL OBSERVERS' REPORT

The Ecumenical Officer, Bob Brittain, read the following report on behalf of the Reverend Jane Johnson of the United Church of Canada:

"An observation from the church across the street. Your joys and struggles have a familiar ring - Appreciated Bishop Pitman's challenge 'Are we stripping away enough?' I hear the

tension between your desire to 'relearn Anglicanism' as a 'going back to core values', and a re-defining who you need to be to be equipped for ministry in today's and tomorrow's world. I personally believe that we are in this together, and while we have different practises and policies, we encounter similar summits and potholes, and can benefit from listening to each other's stories. Thank you for letting me listen in."

COURTESIES OF SYNOD

131-19 - Elaine Hamilton / Marilyn Lyons

That the courtesies of the 131st Diocesan Synod be extended to:

1. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, through her representative in Canada, His 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 send greetings to our Primate, the Most Rev'd Fred Hiltz.
5. That our thanks be extended to the Right Rev'd Cyrus Pitman, Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador for his presence and ministry as our Synod Chaplain.
6. That our thanks be extended to Bishop Matthias, Bishop of our Companion Diocese for his presence and many greetings to our Synod.
7. That this Synod extends greetings to those of our clergy who are celebrating significant anniversaries of their ordination.
8. That this Synod expresses gratitude to Archbishop Claude Miller for his charge to Synod and his capable presiding over these Synod deliberations.
9. That our thanks be extended to the following persons and groups who made this Synod run smoothly:
 - the members of Synod Planning and Synod Committee Chairs under the chair, Mr. Jack Walsworth, for the planning of this Synod.
 - Mr. William Turney (Communications Committee)
 - Mrs. Shara Golden and her team of volunteers (Hospitality Committee) and Mr. Bob Brittain (Diocesan Ecumenical Officer)
 - Mr. Jack Walsworth and his team of volunteers (Arrangements Committee and Nominating Committee)
 - Mr. Clyde Spinney, Q.C. (Resolutions Committee)
 - Mr. Brent Theriault, Q.C. (Credentials Committee) and his team of volunteers
 - The Very Rev'd Keith Joyce (Worship and Music Committee)
 - Mrs. Ann Fairweather (Agenda Committee)
 - Mr. David Wilson (Technical Support Committee)
 - Mrs. Carolyn Turney (Billet Co-ordinator)
 - Mrs. Ana Watts, Ms. Maureen Vail, Mrs. Phyllis Cathcart, and Mrs. Carolyn Turney for Diocesan Synod staff support.
 - the Management and Staff of the Fredericton Inn for their assistance.
 - those who provided displays for Synod.
 - the Rev'd Dr. Jody Clarke of Atlantic School of Theology, for his presentation on behalf of the School.
 - Brigadier-General Karl McLean for his brief report on Canadian Military Chaplaincy.
 - Isabel Cutler for her presentation on Parish Nursing.
 - the Rev'd Leo Martin who served as recording secretary and to Ms. Maureen Vail who assisted.

- our ecumenical guests, the Rev'd Jane Johnson of the United Church of Canada and the Rev'd Douglas Moore of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.
- guests - Mr. Mauritz Erhard, Mrs. Florence Joy Clement, Mr. Jim Morell, Mrs. Sharon Miller, Mrs. Elizabeth Harding, the Rev'd Lisa Pacarynuk.

10. That this Synod express its thanks to Jody Clarke, Shara Golden, Isabel Cutler RN, Laura McNulty RN, Stephen Hamlin and Robert Smith who were on hand for First Aid as Medical Responders.

Motion 131-19 was carried.

ARCHBISHOP'S CLOSING COMMENTS

The Archbishop began by expressing his gratitude to all Synod members and to the Diocese as a whole for what has been a difficult year - starting with his own illness in the spring and continuing with Fred Scott's unexpected death in the fall. He offered thanks for the grace and support offered to the Diocesan Staff. The Archbishop recognized the commitment and support of his wife, Sharon and his family, as together we all work in this small part of our Saviour's Kingdom.

The Archbishop is encouraged by the new faces which will be serving on Diocesan Council and encourages them to ask questions. At the same time, he is thankful for the hard work of outgoing members after 2 years of working hard on the mission of the Church. He encouraged the new Council, and all parishes, to work on a Pastoral Plan - a schematic that allows us to check in from time to time in order to see how we are doing. This will be useful when welcoming the Parish Development Officer into the parishes.

The Archbishop expressed his appreciation for the clergy of the Diocese who sometimes feel they are facing insurmountable obstacles in their ministry. He invited people to walk alongside the clergy - even in times of challenges. He called on everyone to pray, work and be with one another even when we have differences. He leaves this Synod feeling encouraged with the work that has been completed and with the work that continues throughout the Diocese. It is his hope that at the next Synod, younger members of the Diocese will play a major role.

The Archbishop offered his personal thanks to Phyllis, Maureen and Geoff for their talents, dedication, friendship and support. Those same feelings are expressed to Fred Scott, posthumously.

As a closing comment, the Archbishop said: "Don't be afraid to look behind you to see who is following."

The doxology was sung and the Archbishop closed the 131st Diocesan Synod with prayers and blessing. Time: 4:20 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 Most Rev'd Dr. Claude W. Miller
Bishop of Fredericton
Metropolitan of the Province of Canada

30 September 2013