



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Approved 02 June 2005

**MINUTES OF THE
127TH SESSION OF THE
DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON**

November 8, 2003

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

The 127th session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton was convened at the Student Union Building of the University of New Brunswick on Saturday, November 8, 2003 for regular business.

The Right Reverend Claude W. Miller called the members of Synod to order at the appointed hour of 9:30 a.m. After a brief word of welcome, he invited the Very Reverend Keith Joyce to lead us in worship. Dean Joyce led us in the Office of Morning Prayer (BAS) with the assistance of the Reverend Gordon Thompson and Mrs. Marg Petrie.

REGISTRATION

Canon L.F. Scott, on behalf of the Registration Committee, reported that as of 9:30 a.m., there were 222 lay delegates (out of a possible 266) and 72 clergy delegates (out of a possible 130) registered.

The Bishop stated a quorum was present and he declared the 127th session of the Diocesan Synod opened.

EPISCOPAL CHARGE

The Bishop began by expressing his heartfelt thanks to everyone for their presence and supportive prayers during the Service of Installation which took place the previous evening.

He then proceeded to deliver his episcopal charge to all gathered. A copy of the charge is appended to the minutes. As well, an electronic copy may be accessed through our Diocesan website.

MINUTES

127-01 - Canon L.F. Scott/The Reverend Gordon Thompson

That the minutes of the 126th session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton (Electoral) be accepted as circulated in the Convening Circular.

Carried.

**APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT RECORDING SECRETARY
127-02 - Canon L.F. Scott/The Reverend Brenda McKnight**

That the Reverend Leo Martin be appointed Assistant Recording Secretary for this session of Synod.

Carried.

APPOINTMENT OF SYNOD COMMITTEES

The Bishop announced the following committees and individuals who played key roles in the organization of this Synod:

Arrangements:	Canon L.F. Scott and the Venerable Geoffrey Hall
Worship:	The Very Reverend Keith Joyce
Memorials:	Canon L.F. Scott and contributors
Registration:	Ruth Gorlick and Doreen Smith, with the people from Christ Church (Parish) Church
Scutineers:	Ernie McFadzen
Response to the Charge:	The Reverend Patricia Drummond, Chair
Agenda and Resolutions:	Chancellor Charles Ferris and Vice Chancellor Clyde Spinney
Press:	Ana Watts

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CLERGY

The Bishop made the following introductions:

The Reverend Douglas Barrett, as Rector of the Parish of Derby and Blackville
The Reverend Greg McMullin, as Rector of the Parish of Coldbrook and Saint Mary
The Reverend Bonnie LeBlanc, as Deacon in the Parish of Kingston
The Reverend Bonnie Baird, as Rector of the Parish of Musquash

INTRODUCTION: YOUTH ACTION DIRECTOR

The Bishop invited Mr. Peter Irish to make this introduction. Mr. Irish presented the Reverend Dr. George Porter as the newly appointed Diocesan Youth Action Director.

The Reverend Dr. George Porter spoke on the importance of youth ministry. He shared that youth ministry is a deliberate choice for him and he called us all to journey together.

Synod members welcomed all new clergy with applause.

COURTESIES OF SYNOD

The Bishop introduced Professor Beverley Smith, former Vice Chancellor of the Diocese, as a member of the Constitution and Canons working committee. The Bishop made a request that since Professor Smith was not a member of Synod, he be granted the courtesies of Synod.

127-03 - Chancellor Charles Ferris/Mr. Peter Irish

That this Synod extend its courtesies to Professor Beverley Smith.

Carried.

ANNIVERSARIES

The Bishop congratulated the following clergy who celebrated significant anniversaries in 2003:

As Deacon:

The Reverend Canon Basil Buckland	65 years
The Reverend Charles Blgrave	55 years
The Reverend Canon Lloyd Lake	55 years
The Venerable John Jones	55 years
The Reverend Canon George Akerley	50 years
The Reverend Montague Cutts	50 years
The Venerable Lyman Harding	40 years
The Reverend James Golding	40 years
The Reverend Canon Jon Lownds	30 years
The Reverend Richard Harris	30 years
The Venerable Walter Williams	25 years
The Reverend Ellis Jagoe	25 years
The Reverend Gerald Laskey	20 years
The Reverend William LeGrand	20 years

As Priest:

The Venerable Harold Hazen	45 years
The Right Reverend George Lemmon	40 years
The Reverend Canon Robert Smith	40 years
The Right Reverend William Hockin	40 years
The Venerable John Sharpe	30 years
The Venerable Stuart Allan	30 years
The Reverend Garth Maxwell	30 years
The Reverend David Dean	20 years
The Reverend Canon Albert Snelgrove	20 years

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following notices were given:

Mr. Keith Dow	Re: Changes to the Constitution of the Diocese.
Chancellor Charles Ferris	Re: Transitional Procedure for Establishing the Diocesan Council
Mr. Keith Dow	Re: Changes to the Canons of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton
The Rev'd Canon Jon Lownds	Re: General Synod Canon on Marriage - Matrimonial Commission

The Rev'd Gerald Laskey

Re: General Synod Canon on Marriage - Proposed Amendments

The Rev'd Alan Reynolds

Re: Same-sex blessings in the Diocese of New Westminster

UPDATED REGISTRATION

Canon L.F. Scott gave an update on the registration. As of 10:30 a.m., the number of delegates registered now stood at 228 lay and 81 clergy.

Canon Scott also took this opportunity to clarify the contents of the Convening Circular.

BUSINESS BEFORE SYNOD

127-04 - Mr. Keith Dow/The Venerable Richard McConnell

That the present Constitution of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton be repealed and the Constitution proposed by the Committee on Constitution & Canons be adopted.

Following a brief explanation on the process which led to this motion, and a brief overview of the changes made to the Constitution, the members of Synod were invited to discuss and ask questions.

The majority of questions and comments centered around the composition of Diocesan Council.

127-05 - The Reverend Canon Jon Lownds/ The Reverend Canon William MacMullin

That the changes currently being proposed to the Constitution of the Diocese of Fredericton be referred to each Parish Vestry and Deanery clericus, and from them to each Greater Chapter, for further discussion, theological reflection and study between now and the 2005 Diocesan Synod.

Point of Order: on whether this motion required a separate vote from the different orders present. The Chancellor ruled that a simple majority from the whole body of Synod was required.

The question was called on the Motion to Refer and the motion was defeated.

The question was called on the original motion.

Point of order: on whether this motion referred to an addition or an amendment, as defined in Section 13 of the Old Constitution, since this would require a two-thirds vote from each order. The Chancellor ruled that the spirit of that clause did not apply to this situation; however, he would rather err on the side of caution and cooperation so he recommended that we use the separate vote for this motion.

A vote was taken in each order and the motion was carried in both orders. The Bishop gave his assent.

127-06 - Chancellor Charles Ferris/The Venerable Richard McConnell

That, the following transitional steps be taken in order to establish the membership in The Diocesan Council as per section 11 of the Constitution:

1. The Archdeaconery Greater Chapters be instructed to elect their respective membership to the Council as per Sections 11 (1)(g) & (h) of the Constitution, and that the results of those elections be reported to the Secretary of Synod no later than December 31, 2003.
2. That the Secretary of Synod, with the assistance of the Nominating Committee, seek nominations of qualified persons to be appointed to the Diocesan Council as per Sections 11 (1)(i) and (j) of the Constitution.
3. That the existing membership in the Diocesan Council remain in office until the first meeting of the newly formed Diocesan Council is held.

The Reverend Canon Jon Lownds suggested the word ‘Archdeaconery’ be removed since they were not in existence at this moment. This suggestion was agreeable to the mover and seconder.

The question was called and the motion carried.

127-07 - Mr. Keith Dow/The Venerable Richard McConnell

That, pursuant to Canons ONE to EIGHT proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Canons be adopted and all existing Canons be repealed.

Mr. Dow explained this was a reorganization of the current twenty four canons into eight new ones. He stressed that this was a consolidation rather than a revision.

Chancellor Ferris explained that feedback was received on specific points and he thanked all those who participated in that feedback.

The Bishop ruled that, in order to facilitate the task, debate on this motion would take each canon separately.

Canon ONE

127-08 - The Reverend Ross Hebb/The Reverend Canon Jon Lownds

An amendment was moved on the definition of ‘incumbent’ which should read ‘includes the member of the clergy appointed to a parish as such under Canon Seven to the charge of a parish.’

The amendment was carried.

The time being 12:00 Noon, the Bishop suspended discussion on this motion so that announcements regarding nominations and elections could be made. Canon L.F. Scott gave the explanations. He asked the members of Synod to remove from their ballot the sheets coloured yellow and green, pertaining to elections to Diocesan Council, because under the New Constitution, these elections would be invalid. Canon Scott also reminded members of Synod that General Synod would be held in St. Catherine's, Ontario from May 27 to June 4, 2004 and we would elect four clergy, four laity and one youth member to join the Bishop at General Synod.

The call for nominations was put forward:

General Synod Representation - Clergy nominees:

The Venerable Stuart Allan
The Reverend Canon John Matheson
The Reverend Neville Cheeseman
The Reverend Bruce McKenna
The Reverend Robyn Cuming
The Reverend Greg McMullen
The Reverend Captain David Edwards
The Venerable John Sharpe
The Venerable Geoffrey Hall
The Reverend Canon Albert Snelgrove
The Reverend Eileen Irish
The Reverend Gordon Thompson
The Very Reverend Keith Joyce
The Venerable Walter Williams
The Reverend Canon William MacMullin

One nomination was added from the floor

The Reverend Vicars Hodge

General Synod Representation - Lay nominees:

Mr. Murry Arnott
Mr. Keith Dow
Mr. James McKenna
Mrs. Shara Golden
Mr. David Watts
Mr. Peter Irish

Four nominations were added from the floor

Mrs. Heather Carr
Captain Rob Marsh
Ms. Catherine McKay
Mr. Robert Walsh

General Synod Youth Representation:
Mr. Christopher Ketch

One nomination was added from the floor
Mr. Jamie Morrell

For Board of Kings College:
The Reverend Canon Alvin Westgate

One nomination was added from the floor
The Reverend Ross Hebb

Nominations were closed and Canon Scott reminded everyone that ballot boxes would close at 1:15 p.m.

A break from the proceedings was taken for lunch. Bishop Miller offered a blessing over the lunch.

Synod was reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

Canon L.F. Scott gave an overview of the afternoon proceedings. He also took this time to mention that the delegates from the Parish of Restigouche had left their homes at 3:30 a.m. in order to be at Synod. This comment was greeted with applause.

Canon TWO

The Reverend Chris Van Buskirk, referring to Section 12(2)(3) & (6), asked whether a person who holds office within General Synod and is an automatic delegate to General Synod should vote as a member of his or her Diocese.

No answer to this question was available at the time.

Canon THREE

As a result of pre-Synod discussions, no changes to the former Electoral Canon (Canon II) were made.

Canon FOUR

No discussion

Canon FIVE

Incorporates the final provisions of the Anglican Church of Canada Act, 2003.

Canon SIX

It was reported that sections 2(1)(d) and 4(1)(k) were inconsistent with each other.

127-09 - Vice Chancellor Clyde Spinney/Mr. Milton Pratt

An amendment was moved to delete the following words in section 4(1)(k): "...by a person having recognized accounting experience ..." and replacing them with "by a professional accountant or two competent persons."

The amendment was carried.

There was a question asked on section 1(3) as to whether this would affect interim priests serving as incumbents.

127-10 - The Reverend Canon Jon Lownds/ The Reverend Canon William MacMullin

That the changes currently being proposed to the Canons of the Diocese of Fredericton be referred to each Parish Vestry and Deanery clericus, and from them to each Greater Chapter, for further discussion, theological reflection and study between now and the 2005 Diocesan Synod.

This Motion to Refer was defeated in both orders.

127-11 - Vice Chancellor Clyde Spinney/Chancellor Charles Ferris

An amendment was moved stating that the words "at the request of the Corporation" be removed from section 1(3).

The amendment was carried.

127-12 - The Reverend Gerald Laskey/Mr. Wilson Gilmore

An amendment was moved asking for the removal of the words "as the leadership team" from the first line of section 7.

The amendment was carried.

127-13 - The Reverend Canon Philip Ward/The Reverend Vicars Hodge

An amendment was moved on section 8(2)(c) that after the words Parish Corporation, the following be added "not including the registers referred to in Canon 5, section 5(2)".

The amendment was carried.

Canon SEVEN

127-14 - Vice Chancellor Clyde Spinney/The Reverend Canon Philip Ward

An amendment was moved to section 6(a) to change the reference of ‘section 7 of Canon FIVE’ to read ‘section 6 of Canon FIVE’

The amendment was carried.

127-15 - Mr. John Williamson/The Reverend Canon John Matheson

An amendment was moved asking that Canon SEVEN, section 5, be amended to require that Rectors at their inductions or installations shall take the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign.

The amendment was carried.

127-16 - Mr. John Williamson/ Ms. Nancy Janet Perry

An amendment was moved in reference to section 5(c). The amendment asked that the words “I, N., do solemnly swear” be added before 5(c) and that the words ‘so help me God’ be added at the end of this subsection.

The amendment was carried.

This amendment led to a lengthy discussion on the difference between oaths and declarations.

127-17 - Mr. John Williamson/The Venerable Richard McConnell

An amendment was moved regarding the formatting of section 5. It was moved that:

- the title of this section be amended to read Oaths and Declarations Required of Clergy
- that the first line be changed to read ‘subscribe the following oaths and declarations:’
- that section 5(a)(b) & (d) be renumbered as 5(1)(a)(b) & (c)
- that a new subsection be added to read 5(2)(a)...oath to the Bishop and 5(2)(b) ... oath to the Sovereign.

The amendment was carried.

127-18 - Mr. John Williamson/The Reverend Canon John Matheson

An amendment was proposed that section 5 (1)(a) be amended by adding immediately after the words ‘in the Ordinal’ the following words: ‘and in the Articles of the said Church.’

The amendment was defeated.

Canon EIGHT

No discussion

Question was called on the original motion (127-07).

The motion was carried by a majority of three-fourths in both orders. The Bishop gave his assent.

127-19 - The Reverend Canon John Lownds/The Reverend Canon William MacMullin

That this Synod recommend to the Bishop that following passage of amendments to the General Synod Canon XXI 'On Marriage in the Church,' the Bishop establish an Advisory Commission on Marriage to which parish priests could have recourse, on a voluntary basis, for advice with regard to marriages, not just, but including, the re-marriage of divorced persons. Also that a revision of the current forms be considered to be a tool for clergy to use in marriage preparation.

The motion was carried.

127-20 - The Reverend Gerald Laskey/The Reverend Neville Cheeseman

That our Diocesan Synod place on the agenda, consideration of the proposed amendments to General Synod Canon XXI 'On Marriage in the Church' which will be considered at General Synod 2004.

The Bishop requested that this motion be referred to the Bishop's Task Force for study and that the findings be reported to the General Synod delegates.

This seemed acceptable to the mover and seconded, so the motion was withdrawn.

ELECTIONS RESULTS

Canon L.F. Scott reported the final results from our election of representatives to General Synod and the Board of King's College:

Clergy Representation to General Synod:

The Very Reverend Keith Joyce
The Reverend Canon William MacMullin
The Venerable John Sharpe
The Reverend Canon Albert Snelgrove

Alternates:

The Reverend Captain David Edwards
The Venerable Stuart Allan

The Reverend Canon John Matheson
The Reverend Eileen Irish

Lay Representation to General Synod:

Mr. Keith Dow
Mrs. Shara Golden
Mr. Peter Irish
Captain Rob Marsh

Alternates:

Mr. Murry Arnott
Mr. David Watts
Mrs. Heather Carr
Ms. Catherine McKay

Youth Representation to General Synod:

Mr. Jamie Morrell

Alternate:

Mr. Christopher Ketch

Representation on the Board of King's College:

The Reverend Canon Alvin Westgate

127-21 - Canon L.F. Scott/The Reverend Canon Alvin Westgate

That the electoral ballots be destroyed.

The motion was carried.

127-22 - The Reverend Neville Cheeseman/The Reverend Canon Alvin Westgate

That the Bishop be asked to form a Task Force to hold hearings on the proposed amendments to the Marriage Canon (Canon XXI) throughout the Diocese and report back by the end of April 2004.

The motion was carried.

127-23 - Mr. Joe Fletcher/Ms. Elizabeth White

That a vote of confidence and grateful thanks be given to the Committee for their arduous task on the revision of the Constitution and Canons.

The motion was carried.

The Reverend Alan Reynolds came forward with his willingness to withdraw his motion (re:same-sex unions in the Diocese of New Westminster) on the commitment of the Bishop to call a Synod to discuss how we, as a Diocese, would proceed before any action be taken.

Synod members greeted Mr. Reynolds with applause and a standing ovation.

127-24 - The Reverend Gerald Laskey/The Reverend Canon Philip Ward

That this Diocesan Synod of Fredericton express its gratitude to the Almighty for the godly work being carried on by faithful Anglicans in the territory of New Westminster Diocese who stand in Christian conscience opposed to the recent actions of their own Diocesan Bishop and Synod. We fully support and uphold before God the honest and sacrificial efforts that have been made to minister to those congregations, by both Bishop William Hockin, among those parishes remaining within the Diocesan Synod, and by Bishop Terry Buckle, among those parishes who have separated themselves from their Diocesan Synod, commonly known as, ‘The Anglican Communion in New Westminster’.

We hereby declare that we stand in fraternal solidarity with those congregations witnessing faithfully for the Gospel, and with these two bishops ministering to them, and assure them of our continuing prayerful support and encouragement.

The Chancellor and the Bishop expressed reservation in mentioning specific individuals, especially at a time when the stoppage in litigation is very fragile.

127-25 - The Reverend Canon John Matheson/The Reverend Gerald Laskey

An amendment was moved requesting that all specific references to individuals and groups be removed from the original motion.

The amendment was carried.

The motion then read as follows:

That this Diocesan Synod of Fredericton express its gratitude to the Almighty for the godly work being carried on by faithful Anglicans in the territory of New Westminster Diocese who stand in Christian conscience opposed to the blessing of same-sex unions. We fully support and uphold before God the honest and sacrificial efforts that have been made to minister to those congregations, parishes remaining within the Diocesan Synod, and among those parishes who have separated themselves from their Diocesan Synod.

We hereby declare that we stand in fraternal solidarity with those congregations witnessing faithfully for the Gospel and assure them of our continuing prayerful support and encouragement.

The original motion as amended was carried.

127-26 - The Venerable Stuart Alan/Mrs. Shara Golden

That this Diocesan Synod affirms and upholds the teaching of the Church, and call on the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada to affirm and uphold, 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 that the Synod directs the Secretary of Synod to memorialize this motion to the meeting of the General Synod of 2004.

The motion was carried.

127-27 - Canon L.F. Scott/The Reverend Peter Gillies

That all reports in sections F, G, H, and I published in the Convening Circular be accepted.

The motion was carried.

127-28 - Canon L.F. Scott/Mr. Gene Moore

That the financial reports (section J) of the Convening Circular be accepted as published.

The motion was carried.

RESPONSE TO THE BISHOP'S CHARGE

The Reverend Patricia Drummond delivered the response on behalf of the members of her committee which was comprised of:

- Mrs. Hazel Mackenzie, Parish of Minto and Chipman
- Mr. Trevor Holder, Parish of Portland
- The Reverend Canon Albert Snelgrove, Parish of Riverview

A copy of the Response is appended to these minutes.

COURTESIES REPORT

127-29 - The Reverend Robyn Cuming/Mr. Robert Cormier

That this Synod present to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, through her representative in Canada, Her Excellency the Governor General, the customary expression of its loyalty and affection.

That this Synod send greetings to our former Diocesan Bishops, the Most Reverend Harold L Nutter, the Right Reverend George C. Lemon, and the Right Reverend William J. Hockin and to their spouses, Mrs. Edith Nutter, Mrs. Lois Lemon and Mrs. Isabelle Hockin.

That this Synod extend greetings to those of our clergy who are celebrating significant anniversaries of their ordination.

That this Synod express its gratitude to Bishop Claude Miller for his challenging Charge to this Synod and for his capable presiding over these Synod deliberations, especially in guiding us through the controversial and emotional issues faced by our Church. We note this is the first Synod over which Bishop Miller has presided as Diocesan. We further extend warm greetings to Mrs. Sharon Miller.

That the gratitude and appreciation of Synod be extended to our Chancellor Mr. Charles Ferris and to the other members of the Committee responsible for the tremendous work in re-writing our Constitution and Canons for our consideration today.

That our thanks be extended to our Metropolitan, Andrew Hutchison for his leadership and support.

That the thanks of Synod be expressed to the following persons and groups who played such an important role in the planning and running of this event:

- to the Very Reverend Keith Joyce, Dean of the Cathedral, for the worship
- to the Committee responding to the Bishop's Charge, under the leadership of the Reverend Patricia Drummond.
- to Canon Fred Scott and Archdeacon Geoffrey Hall for their work in planning for the Synod and to Doreen Smith and Phyllis Cathcart for their work in support and in preparation of the Synod material.
- to Mrs. Ruth Gorlick and the other members of the congregation of the Parish Church who looked after registering the Synod delegates
- to Mr. Ernie McFadzen and his team of scrutineers who counted our ballots
- to the Reverend Leo Martin who served as recording Secretary for Synod
- to the staff of the University of New Brunswick, especially the staff of the Student Union building for their assistance

- to those who provided information and displays, especially Mrs. Gwen McKnight and Mrs. Cathy Ramey of Anglican House
- to Mrs. Ana Watts who acted as press secretary for the Synod
- and to all those who prepared and presented reports for the information of Synod members

And finally that the thanks of Synod be expressed to all of the clergy and lay delegates for their attendance and participation in the 127th Diocesan Synod of Fredericton.

The motion was carried.

The Venerable Malcolm Berry, as Senior Chaplain to the 37th Brigade Group in Atlantic Canada, expressed his gratitude on behalf of the soldiers who are very grateful to our church for its many chaplains in legions, and its many visits to veterans and their families. He asked for the continued support in prayer to all those who serve their country in the military.

The Bishop offered his personal thanks to everyone, especially to the members of the Diocesan Staff.

127-30 - The Reverend Canon Alvin Westgate/The Reverend Canon Jon Lownds

That the 127th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton be adjourned.

The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Leo Martin, Assistant Recording Secretary

The Ven. Geoffrey Hall, Secretary of Synod

revised 24 March 2005

APPENDIX A

Bishop Miller's Charge

to the 127th Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton

08 November 2003

Introduction

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Dear Friends,

To quote our Diocesan Profile "There is a renewed sense of unity and purpose in our Diocese, primarily as the result of the Bishop's [Hockin's] charges to the 2000 and 2001 synods." These synods began a process of reflection, re-evaluation and priority setting for the ministry we share in our diocese.

The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church describes The Bishop's Charge as "an address at a visitation of the clergy under his jurisdiction. A charge is usually more of the nature of a admonitory exhortation than a definite command, though the latter could quite properly be conveyed through a charge." By tradition, our definition has been somewhat expanded to include a Bishop's address to the Diocesan Synod under his jurisdiction. I'll let you be the judge as to admonitions and commands.

During the process leading up to our two most recent visioning synods, I believe that God the Holy Spirit, did in fact admonish, command, and direct His church in this place to set priorities that would reflect our Lord's Great Commission given to His church on earth as recorded in Matthew 28.

Our mandate to go forth to all the world, and to make disciples of all people, is a command of our Lord and Saviour that is wrapped in a message of hope. Our ministry is to be as Jesus' own ministry, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord ... Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and die and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations beginning with Jerusalem.'

Our mandate is to be exercised by preaching a Gospel message of hope to a world that continues to separate itself from our loving God. If Jesus' words are true, our priorities as a diocese must reflect the gospel command. How are we doing? Is our focus on Christ's ministry?

PRIORITIES

The synods of 2000 and 2001 set four (4) ministry priorities in our diocese.

- Youth Ministry

- Education and Development of Our Clergy and Lay Leaders
- Stewardship and Financial Development
- Strengthening Struggling Parishes

These four areas of priority have offered both a great challenge and a great opportunity. We have discovered that in order to develop a reasonable response to the needs in these four areas, enormous amounts of energy and resources are required. We want to give thanks to those who have contributed so much to this development process thus far. However, notice must be given that sustaining new developments will require new strategies management and administration.

In meeting with a number of parishes recently I shared with them some statistics, and then I posed a question. Statistics Canada report that there are approximately 70,000 Anglicans in the Diocese of Fredericton; our Diocesan records show that approximately 30,000 are registered on our parish lists; and, that approximately 9000 Anglicans attend church on a regular Sunday. Now the question, it may sound a little ridiculous, but here goes “What if all 70,000 showed up on Sunday morning?” What would you do...what would we do? With God all things are possible. Looking at it another way, perhaps God knows what He is doing. Perhaps he knows and understands our capability. But our Lord’s command stands. God desires that all people should know Him in the context of His body, the church of His Son Jesus Christ. Our mandate is not maintenance, our mandate is mission - to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the whole world. Over the past four years we have exercised a deliberate attempt to be responsible in addressing our renewed vision, while at the same time responding to a number of wider issues in the church.

SO, HOW ARE WE DOING?

Youth Ministry

This year, 2003 was declared “The Year of the Youth.” A 14 point Youth Action Plan was created and in response a new Diocesan Youth Director has been appointed to take up duties as at November 1, 2003. The Rev. Dr. George Porter will lead this action plan. The process leading to Dr. Porters appointment has taken two years of intensive planning under the leadership of Peter Irish. I’am grateful for this work and now appeal to the Clergy and the Parishes to uphold George in this ministry by working closely with him, his support team, and the youth of each congregation to create a new spiritually focused, youth friendly environment in our churches. Our children must know that we take their spiritual development seriously.

The Rev. Pat Drummond our (part-time) Christian Education Director continues in this ministry with a focus to increase the importance and visibility of Christian Education programs for our children, and to train those who teach and those who lead. I thank Pat on your behalf and know that this ministry has made a significant difference in our diocese.

Under Bishop Hockin’s guidance New Guidelines have been developed for clergy to help prepare candidates for Confirmation and are in place.

The Bishop's Dinner this year was focused on youth and the proceeds from that event will be used for development of youth initiatives. At the request of Camp Medley, I met recently with a professional fund raising company who have been given the mandate to study the feasibility of raising \$1,250,000.00 for the renewal of the Camp. The vision of the camp is to improve it so that it will have wide diocesan appeal, while maintaining the integrity of summer camp for our youth. A renewed facility will provide a gathering place for other ministries both on a parish and diocesan scale. It is agreed that the camp is in urgent need of redevelopment. Part of the funding will come from the Bishop's dinner in the Fall of 2004. If a campaign is to be launched it will include capital funds for Camp Brookwood. You will be hearing more details on this initiative soon. I know you agree that our diocesan camps are our most effective youth outreach ministries.

Youth ministry, Christian education and the development of the resources needed cannot be done in a vacuum. Each must share the baptismal commitment to nurture our youth on their faith journey.

Education and Development of Our Clergy and Lay Leaders

Spiritual formation, education and development that enables each one of us to take our part in proclamation takes many forms, and plays a significant foundational role if our overall vision is to be realized. From Synod 2001, "The [Synod] believed that Lay Education and Spiritual Growth are the most important issues facing the Church and undergird everything we do. We cannot disciple our youth, for example, without adult members receiving training and resources. We need a full range of programs that encompass all church members. Outreach was not specifically mentioned in the charge, but it was felt this would be a consequence of spiritual growth. This also relates to the whole question of motivating persons to be involved in education for spiritual growth."

Planning is in place for the continuance of the highly successful annual Clergy College. Funding in the past was made possible by the Bishop's Dinner, however these funds have been expended and new sources of funding will have to be identified. The annual Clergy conference at RNS in late August 2004 will have as its main focus clergy self-care. I am currently seeking facilitators for this event. Bishop Hiltz and I have been working together to see how we might cooperate in the area of Clergy Development. Given the proximity of our dioceses cooperation should demonstrate improved stewardship at many levels.

We have been able to double our financial support for our Divinity Students. While our support is significant, increasing costs for undergrad and graduate studies is a factor in considering a call to ministry. Repayment of education costs is a great burden on the newly ordained. Developing a strategy for financial support is a priority.

The Vocational Chaplains have been of great assistance in the discernment process for possible candidates to ordained ministry and have sponsored Post Ordination Training. I am grateful for their ministry, however supervised training in curacy settings is required. Parishes must be supported and encouraged to partner with the diocese in this critical area of training for the newly ordained.

The establishment of a new Diocesan Resource Centre in 2002 is a diocesan sponsored ministry that has given parishes and individuals resources that enable more effective programming and training at the parish level. We are grateful to Pat Drummond and the Anglican House staff and Summer Student for this good work.

Other ongoing and new initiatives in spiritual formation and development include: A Diocesan Men's Conference designed to encourage personal spiritual growth (we should note: that a number of women from throughout the diocese annually attend a similar conference, which is sponsored by the Christ Church Cathedral ACW)

A new Definitely Not Synod (DNS) lay leadership weekend, and a Wardens Development Day have made significant contributions to the strengthening of lay leadership at the parish level. Wardens have found that the new handbook for parish officers has been a welcomed resource in assisting their leadership role.

I have asked Bishop Hockin if he would continue the Video-Taped Lenten Bible study program for 2004, a resource for bible study at the parish level, and he has agreed. We thank him for graciously sharing this gift.

In 2004 the diocese intends to respond to a renewed focus on layreader training. It is hoped that there will be opportunity for all lay readers to spend a day with the Bishop, plus, one major training event per year. Our diocese is greatly indebted to all our lay readers for their dedicated service at the parish level. Several services are led by both parochial and diocesan lay readers each Sunday.

Our diocese must continue to support spiritual formation initiatives at the parish and diocesan level: The Alpha Program has been a great resource at the parish level and has also been shared in an ecumenical context. Alpha by its name recognizes that it is only a beginning. Many are asking for opportunity to build on this foundational base. Cursillo is one such faith sharing program that can continue the formation process. The diocesan faith formation program must be ordered in such a way as to respond to the needs of those desiring a more intimate walk with God through Jesus Christ.

In response to our synods challenging us to be more intentional in faith formation, a new initiative has been undertaken in the area of intentional spiritual growth. The Companioned Spiritual Formation Team will offer opportunities for spiritual growth through training and participation in individual and corporate retreats focused in the areas of spiritual direction, companionship, and mentoring. These opportunities will be presented regionally and diocesan wide with a view to encouraging groups and individuals to seek out companionship on their spiritual journey.

It is hoped through an enhanced Communication Network, the ministry of faith formation can be coordinated more effectively throughout the diocese. The newly formed Companioned Spiritual

Formation Team sees their ministry as largely communicative in nature by encouraging and enabling spiritual formation at a multitude of levels.

Stewardship and Financial Development

In matters of Stewardship and Financial Development our diocese has been proactive by supporting the work of the Stewardship Education and Action Team. Three annual conferences have been held with a high degree of response. A parish program for the development of parish ministry and stewardship has been offered and presented to many parishes throughout the diocese by the team. Many of the parishes who have taken part in these conferences and workshops have returned to their parishes understanding the importance of good stewardship at it pertains to effective ministry. The synod of 2000 was asked to consider creating a diocesan stewardship development officer position. This was not given a “green light” at that time. It may have been premature, however given the scope of our vision and how it has been developing we have outgrown what can be reasonable expected from a volunteer team. Again, education, development and communication must continue to be priority in this regard. I would encourage this Synod to direct our Diocesan Council to develop a strategic plan that addresses more intentionally the financial requirements for our vision and the merits of a Financial Development Officer for this necessary work.

Financial support for the work of the diocese comes largely from the parishes through the mission assessment portion of our diocesan budget. Expectations have been raised to new heights through consultation and encouragement to participate in the wider vision. It is hoped that our diocese can develop more fully the recommended narrative budgeting process. Narrative budgeting is a financial template that tells the story of how God is doing his redemptive work in our midst. This narrative template is an accountability and evaluation tool that will reflect good or poor stewardship practices of the diocese and similarly could be instituted at the parish level.

If our vision is to be realized then it must be a collective effort. In Acts 2:44 we read “All the believers were together and had everything in common...and the Lord added to their number daily” And in Acts 4:32, “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions were their own, but they shared everything they had.” We are warned of what befalls us if we fail in this regard. How do we apply this stewardship lesson in our context?

Strengthening Struggling Parishes

I recognize the continuing issue of Struggling Parishes and the prayer, reflection and consultation required to seriously address this ongoing concern. I quote from the response to the Bishop’s charge of Synod 2001: “There is a sense that parishes need to understand the value and importance of sacrifice, to think beyond themselves and to take the risks required for change.

Fear often accompanies risk, but there is much to be gained by working through our fear. During times of change and uncertainty, education and information is crucial. Part of this education is becoming aware of other struggles within parishes, and of the reality that "united we stand, divided we fall."

In response to Synod 2001 Archdeaconry Commissions were formed to study the concerns at the parish level with respect to their future viability. These findings were shared with the Bishop. In one case a process of reflection began that eventually led to the formation of a new parish by the amalgamation of four parishes in the Lower Saint John River Valley. A major part of that work evolved as a redefining of what it means to be community - a community now concerned with ministry instead of maintenance. New facilities are then planned to facilitate the ministry vision. This redefinition is a major pastoral work and takes time and a heightened level of commitment both by the new parish and the diocese. These realignment initiatives cannot happen without the diocese partnering with the new parish. To this end I will be seeking direction from our Board of Finance as to how parishes can benefit from a strategic interim and long term financing plan for new construction projects.

The Archdeaconry Commissions, chaired by the Archdeacons will continue their work in advising the Bishop as to how other concerned parishes might address their ministry needs. This may result in further amalgamations, partnering and shared ministry with adjoining parishes. Addressing these concerns are critical in some cases as some parishes have reported that their future is in real jeopardy. I would encourage the Diocesan Council, working with the Archdeacons, to develop a ministry strategy for the future of our diocese. Synod 2001's recommendation was that the "Diocese establish standards to determine the viability of a parish – a kind of liability – viability analysis tool." Is there a better way to meet the needs and more effectively proclaim the Gospel.

The sharing of our successes and failures should be a resource of support and learning and we need to continue to be open about identifying parishes that we consider to be "struggling."

Parishes need to be willing to accept the challenge of reassessing themselves, starting with the question Why are we here? What is God calling us to be and become? What is our ministry in the context of our community and the wider church?

If the parishes are "the engine of Christian mission" they must be strong and healthy in order to meet the pastoral needs of the community they serve, to be formative in matters of faith, and to seek out opportunities for bringing others to Christ. This cannot happen if our energies and resources are for building and clergy maintenance only. The role of the Bishop and the Diocesan Council/Synod Office Staff is to provide leadership, evaluation, coordination and support.

Work of the Constitution and Canons Committee

I am grateful for the work of the Constitution and Canons Committee having completed the work of a revised Church of England Act and the redrafting of our Constitution and Canons. The redraft of the Constitution and Canons are before us at this Synod. The Diocesan Council has directed this work so that our Constitution and Canons might more readily reflect our present ministry vision. The passing of this revised document requires three quarters majority in the house of clergy and the house of laity. You have been given notice of motion to defer passing these revisions until the Synod of 2005. If this motion is passed three other documents that flow directly from the canons, will have to be delayed: Diocesan Policies, Diocesan Guidelines and

Diocesan Directives. These documents provide the practical application of the intent of the Act, Constitution, and Canons. The present policies, guidelines and directives are dated and require redrafting immediately following the passing of the Constitution and Canons so that these tools will be available to enable our vision of ministry. I would recommend that this synod accept the revisions as offered and if required bring revisions to the synod of 2005. This would demonstrate more effective stewardship of time and resources and enable the Bishop and Council to move forward.

Summary and Challenge

When you return to your home you should commend your respective parishes for a job well done. But there is much more to do. During the last four years, in addition to responding to the synods of 2000 and 2001, we have been challenged by issues related to the wider church: The issues of our Marriage Canon, Residential Schools, the Blessing of Same Sex Unions and our desire to more effectively communicate with each other.

Marriage Canon

Amendments to the General Synod Canon on Marriage will be given second reading at the 2004 General Synod. The amendments propose to disband the Diocesan Matrimonial Commissions. It is my intent to continue this process under Diocesan Guidelines as developed with the help of the Dean and Archdeacons. I consider this process as a major pastoral tool, particularly in the re-marriage of divorced persons. Further, I intend to seek counsel on behalf of the diocese from the present Matrimonial Commission, Dean, Archdeacons and others as required to review the aforementioned amendments and report to the Bishop prior to General Synod in 2004.

Residential Schools

The issue of Residential School Settlement is in the first year of a five year plan to raise 25 million dollars which is the Anglican Church's contribution to the Settlement Fund. The Fund is being administered by the Federal Government. To date 7 million dollars is in the fund. Our diocese has paid to date \$254,000 of a \$762,000 commitment. It is hoped that through the ADR process that all cases will be settled within seven years. We all understand that this commitment has an affect on the other ministry priorities that we have defined. However, we are challenged to manage our ministry priorities, once again, in light of financial concerns.

Blessing of Same Sex Unions

The debate surrounding the blessing of same-sex unions and homosexuality in general in the Anglican Church of Canada continues to dominate the landscape. As Bishop of the diocese of Fredericton I want to ask for your prayers through listening hearts as together we struggle with this major biblical/doctrinal and pastoral concern for God's people.

I have just returned from The House of Bishops Meeting in Toronto this past week. Much time was taken to debate this issue. The House of Bishops continues to reaffirm the position taken in the Fall of 2002, and the 1997 Guidelines on Human Sexuality. These guidelines require that no individual decisions will be made in any additional dioceses before General Synod in 2004. In the Fall of 2002 the bishops agreed that they refer the matter to General Synod "for discussion

and, if possible, resolution.” The statement also said that until the matter is resolved, “all bishops are asked to uphold the 1997 guidelines of the house of bishops on human sexuality.” The guidelines state that bishops “do not accept the blessing of homosexual unions.”

As the Bishop of the Diocese, and an agent of unity in the Church, I will continue to uphold and to be in concert with this understanding and agreement.

The House of Bishops, also see the need for continuing dialogue and pastoral care, “That in response to the “Statement by the Primates of the Anglican Communion” (October 16, 2003) the Primate be asked to establish a task force of the House of Bishops to draw up terms and conditions for “adequate Episcopal oversight of dissenting minorities” in the Anglican Church of Canada, to consult through the Primate “with the Archbishop of Canterbury on behalf of the Primates,” and to report to the April 2004 meeting of the House of Bishops.”

On the issue of marriage and same sex blessings, I would strongly recommend that a motion from this Synod, such as the following would be helpful in restating the position of this diocese. That this Diocesan Synod affirms and upholds the teaching of 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, As a diocese we accept the report on human sexuality as agreed to by the Lambeth Conference of 1998: “to listen to the experience of homosexual persons, and ...to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptized, believing and faithful person, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ.”

I would support this Synod’s action to memorialize a motion expressing this position and direct the Secretary of Synod to forward the same to the meeting of the General Synod in 2004.

I intend to form a Bishop’s representative task force to study the issue of human sexuality as it pertains to the issue presently before the Anglican Church of Canada. The task force would report back to the Bishop before General Synod 2004. This issue, while debated in the context of the Church’s tradition and Scriptural teaching, must fairly consider the present pastoral reality around and within us.

The Primates concluded their statement with these words “It is clear that recent controversies have opened debates within the life of our Communion which will not be resolved until there has been a lengthy process of prayer, reflection and substantial work in and alongside the Commission which we have recommended. We pray that God will equip our Communion to be equal to the task and challenges which lie before it.”

Our diocese will continue as full members of the world-wide Anglican Communion and prayerfully respond to each development in keeping with the constitution of our Church.

Communications

The visioning synods of 2000 and 2001 stressed the need for improved communication throughout the diocese, particularly in the area electronic communication. We are thankful for the volunteer efforts that allows us visibility on the web and e-mail communication. This has

demonstrated that there are many more benefits to be had from this medium of communication. To realize these benefits we must be intentional, beginning with a proper needs assessment. The budget for 2004 will reflect our ongoing response to better communicate with Rectors, Diocesan Leadership, Parishes and our diocesan youth. We are most proud of our award winning NB Anglican and we are happy to report that there are cooperative efforts ongoing between the NB Anglican Board and the Electronic Communications Team.

Conclusion

Prior to our Lord's death on the Cross, He prayed. His prayer recognized that His work on earth was finished. It took roughly three years to develop a band of faithful followers commissioned to continue His work so that all might be one, and come to the knowledge of God's love in a very real way. It was an incredible step in faith to believe that the infant Church could survive against such odds. But we should not be surprised that it did. After all it is God's creation completed by Jesus' death on the Cross. God responding in love to His people, a people so in need of compassion, care, repentance and restoration. Our question as we enter into the business of this Synod is this: As a result of our work, our prayer, our planning, and our actions, will we and the church we represent more fully understand the depth of God's love by our efforts? God has taken the initiative to redeem his world, our response is required, a response that calls each one of us to assume an attitude of prayer and repentance, these are the first steps to God's kingdom and eternal life.

APPENDIX B

The Response to the Bishop's Charge

08 November 2003

Bishop Miller, Synod Delegates and Observers,

First, your committee, Hazel MacKenzie, Trevor Holder, the Rev'd Canon Albert Snelgrove and myself, would like to thank you for this opportunity to respond to this first charge of your episcopacy.

We have been very impressed with the strong goal oriented focus of the charge, which continually keeps before us our Lord's great commission, that, with renewed vision, our focus and goal is to go forth into all the world and make disciples, and that, therefore, what we should be about as a diocese, should reflect that sense of mission, and go part of the way towards realizing it.

We are aware that the pace of the last three years has been hectic for all concerned. We sense a need to give the many, many new initiatives of this period roots and strong foundations before moving too much further. We believe that this charge gives us that time for consolidation and firming up the new things we have begun. It still, however, contains some new initiatives which will keep us challenged and take us yet another step further towards achieving our goals, so that when the wonderful day arrives that all 70,000 Anglicans show up on a Sunday, and others also, we will be able to cope with the challenge.

Youth Ministry

You have outlined an incredible challenge to us - that we may "create a new spiritually focused, youth friendly environment." This is the goal. However, it is a goal backed up by a 14 point action plan with concrete suggestions as to how we obtain that goal. The suggestion that perhaps God knows and understands our capabilities better than we do is certainly applicable here. The fact that Camp Medley is in such need of great renewal is a clear indication that we are not presently properly equipped to receive our youth.

The decision to enlist the support of a professional fund raiser is a logical and tangible step towards building on the efforts of our previous synods.

We are also reminded in this charge that the Christian education of our youth cannot be 'done in a vacuum.' Their education cannot be something they leave behind at church, but is rather a preparation for the outside world, that as youth they reflect the word of God in their communities.

Education and Development of Our Clergy and Lay Leaders

With the acknowledgment that education undergirds everything we do, we hear with satisfaction of the success of the ministries begun following Synod 2001. You have identified that when planning Clergy college for 2004, new sources of funding will have to be identified. We hope

your working relationship with Bishop Hiltz, will lead to a new relationship between our dioceses, which will result in shared stewardship of resources and opportunities.

You are obviously concerned with the health and welfare of your priests, and we see you as a role model for parishes which need to be supportive of their clergy as they perform difficult and demanding parish ministries.

In addressing the problem of fewer candidates seeking ordination your challenge to parishes to be supportive and to partner with the diocese to develop curacy settings is one of reason and practicality.

The ministries established which have helped the laity to be part of the great commission are to be celebrated. A beginning has been made. However, time is needed to root these ministries to enable them to grow and bear fruit.

Bishop Claude, in your praise, thanks and encouragement for special ministries in our diocese, and your recognition of the gifts of others, you encourage us in the belief that we are all part of a royal priesthood. Your focus of more attention on layreader training is a positive step in addressing the very real fact that many parishes in our diocese will be facing tremendous challenges in the future, either financial or due to a shortage of clergy.

Another indication of your concern for your people is your pastoral concern that such groups as the retired clergy and/or wives have their needs met.

While you are pro-actively meeting the spiritual needs of those in your care through ministries such as the Alpha programme, we are excited to hear that a new initiative has been undertaken in the Companioned Spiritual Formation Team, which it is hoped will provide new and deeper opportunities in spiritual growth.

Stewardship and Financial Development

Bishop Claude, you have reaffirmed to us the diocesan support that is available to us as a result of the work of the Stewardship Education and Action Team. We need to encourage more of our parishes to take part in the annual conferences available to them. Much has been started in this regard and we need to keep the momentum going. We believe that Narrative Budgeting is a very effective tool in educating or reminding our parishioners how their money is being put to work. It is important to note that narrative budgeting is not a change in accounting practices, but simply a better way of describing how our budget is working to minister to our community.

Strengthening Struggling Parishes

In the coming months and years we shall follow the progress of the newly-formed parish of the Nerepis and St. John with great interest. Our interest in this amalgamation is in both the opportunities offered for expanded ministry in this specific area of the Diocese, and also in the example it provides of bringing parishes together to discuss shared ministries in a common region.

We believe that the recently-formed Archdeaconry Commissions can provide a most valuable forum to discuss and assess the needs and opportunities for partnerships in ministry between neighboring parishes.

Constitution and Canons

We appreciate the work of the Constitution and Canons Committee, which has endeavoured to consolidate and redraft the additions to the same made over many years to make them easier for all to follow and understand.

Blessing of same-sex unions

We recognize the serious issues that are before our Communion at this very moment with respect to the place of members of the Church who are homosexual. Recent events in the Diocese of New Westminster, the Diocese of Reading in the U.K. and in the Diocese of New Hampshire in the USA have already caused some division in the communion and bring the potential of greater rupture.

We acknowledge that as a Bishop of the Church you are under great pressure, and that perhaps this will be your greatest challenge. We promise to pray for you. Your Charge included a motion which this Synod will debate and will vote upon. Therefore we do not wish to respond to this area of your charge specifically. Nevertheless, we support whole-heartedly your desire to be an “agent of unity in the Church.” We treasure greatly the unity of our beloved world-wide Anglican Communion, our National Church and the unity of the Diocese of Fredericton. We trust by God’s grace we shall go forward together as members of the body of Christ.

Diocesan Communications

We see improved Diocesan communication as essential, and it seems obvious that electronic communication is the way we need to go. We would welcome diocesan help to bring parishes up to speed in this area. We believe effective communication is two way, however, and would encourage parishes to communicate with the Diocese as to what is going on and important in their lives, as well as expecting the diocese to communicate well with them.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we appreciate the strong direction given, bishop. We believe it represents the will of God for this Diocese, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and guide you in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Hazel MacKenzie

Mr. Trevor Holder

The Rev’d Canon Albert Snelgrove

The Rev’d Patricia Drummond, Chair

Bishop’s Charge Response Committee