

**Minutes of the 125<sup>th</sup> session of The Diocesan Synod of Fredericton**  
**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003**  
**Christ Church (Parish) Church, Fredericton**  
**The Rt. Reverend William J. Hockin Presiding**

The 125<sup>th</sup> Synod began with a prayer by Bishop William J. Hockin.

**Registration Committee**

The Committee reported that there were 67 of 130 Clergy, and 198 of 267 lay delegates registered for Synod. The Bishop declared that a quorum was present. (Final registration report showed 73 of 130 clergy and 219 of 267 laity registered.)

**Appointment of Recording Secretary**

125-1 Canon Fred Scott/The Rev Rufus Onyewuchi THAT the Rev. Bentley Steers be appointed Recording Secretary for the Session. Carried.

The Bishop introduced and thanked all who organized this Synod: Arrangements - Canon Fred Scott; Registration - Ruth Gorlick, Doreen Smith and committee; Agenda - Charles Ferris, Press - Ana and David Watts.

The Bishop our newest ordinand to this Diocese, The Rev. Chris Hayes.  
Postulant Bonita Leblanc, who will be ordained later this year, was also introduced.

The Bishop introduced the items on our agenda and offered general remarks with regard to the issues being faced.

**Presentations**

The Bishop introduced Canon Stevenson, Chancellor of General Synod, who gave a brief history and overview of residential schools and the litigation that arose from them. He mentioned that 28 of 30 dioceses had already ratified the agreement that our Synod is called to consider. He spent time outlining the terms of the residential schools litigation settlement and addressed some of the specific questions that were raised at the regional consultations held prior to the Synod.

Canon Stevenson noted the effect of the settlement and the impact it will have on ministry and relationships with indigenous peoples. He stated the three goals which served as guiding principals in the negotiation process and depicted the consequences of the failure of the Church to ratify the agreement.

Mr. Charles Ferris, Diocesan Chancellor, was then introduced and he outlined the various documents our Diocese is being asked to sign as witness to its participation in the settlement agreement. He discussed the legal obligations that arise from our decision and addressed the matter of why we should be considering this. Mr. Ferris spoke at length about the documents that we will sign namely the Promissory Note, the Contribution and Cooperation Agreement and the General Synod Support Agreement. He explained these documents and what they mean to us and to the settlement agreement itself.

The Promissory Note states that the Diocese will provide the amount requested which is \$762,000 and shows the schedule of quarterly payments over the five year term of the agreement.

The Contribution and Cooperation Agreement outlines the terms of this commitment in terms of the corporation established to oversee and manage the settlement fund.

The General Synod Support Agreement represents our ongoing commitment to do our best to ensure that the General Synod can continue in its ministry and to provide financial support for their budget in that respect.

## **Notices of Motion**

### **Motions coming before the Synod**

#### **Regarding this Synod's participation in the Residential Schools settlement agreement**

124-2 Mr. Keith Dow/The Ven. Stuart Allan.

THAT this Synod agree to participate, along with the General Synod and the other Dioceses across the Anglican Church of Canada, in the settlement agreement in the Residential Schools Litigation, and in that respect, authorize the signing of the Contribution and Cooperation Agreement, the Promissory Note in furtherance of the Agreement, and the General Synod Support Agreement.

The Bishop invited those gathered to speak to the motion.

Several speakers expressed their views. One of them, an individual who had served and supported the Residential Schools, expressed concern over the impact that litigation is having on those former workers and on those who supported the Schools out of a sense of Christian Mission. Others agreed and expressed similar concern that the good work done at the schools was being overshadowed by the litigation.

Still others spoke of the need to mend the errors and to move forward with ministry.

#### **AMENDMENT**

124-3 The Rev. Canon Philip Ward/The Rev. William MacMullin

Moved that the following words be added to the Motion: "such agreement to participate to be conditional both on a prior apology being given publicly by the Primate, and also on a full report of

such apology being printed on page 1 of *The Anglican Journal*; such apology to be both to the many Anglicans who served faithfully and honourably in the Residential Schools; and also to the members of the *Anglican Church Women*. “

There was concern that this amendment could delay the ratification process and also expressed was some reservation as to whether the Synod could compel the Primate to offer the requested apology or the Anglican Journal to print such an item on the front page as noted in the motion.

The discussion that ensued seemed to indicate that the intent of the motion was sound, but to add it as a condition of participation is somewhat negative.

After some further discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

The original motion was then put carried unanimously.

### **Presentation - Financial Implications**

Canon Fred Scott, Diocesan Treasurer, offered a presentation dealing with the financial aspect of the agreement and the manner in the Diocese of Fredericton would meet its financial and legal obligations that follow our acceptance.

One key component of the financial plan provided to delegates prior to the Synod is a recommendation that the obligation be paid over a three year period, instead of the five years envisioned. This would serve to put the matter to rest more expediently and will also benefit General Synod in terms of the cash flow of the Settlement Fund.

The Treasurer explained for the Synod that the funding for the payment would come from a combination of three sources:

The first of these is unencumbered Diocesan Funds totaling \$160,000. Second would be through donations invited from individuals and parishes, the goal of which would be \$87,500. The remaining \$515,000 would come from the Diocesan Consolidated Investment Fund Retained Earnings Reserve.

Mr Scott detailed these three sources and informed the Synod that the financial plan was being amended in order to place clear limitations as to the use of the Retained earnings Reserve.

Members of the Synod were given an information sheet which showed calculations of the Retained Reserve as it is attributed to Diocesan and Parish Funds. The use of the reserve will be limited to that amount attributed to Diocesan Funds, and Parish attributions will not be used.

Further, the use of the Diocesan portion of the reserve will be limited to that part which is attributable to funds and trusts where the use of income is general in nature and not tied to specific restrictions.

These steps were seen as necessary in order to ensure that the use of the Retained Reserve is in keeping with generally accepted Trust regulations and is done in a manner that honours the historical relationship of trust that exists between parish and Diocese in respect of the Diocesan Consolidated Investment Fund.

The Treasurer also announced that this issue has highlighted a need for work and study to be undertaken with a view to establishing a more formal framework for the operation of the Diocesan Consolidated Investment Fund. This issue will be dealt with in the months ahead by the Board of Finance and Diocesan Council.

### **Motion coming before Synod**

#### **Regarding this Synod's intention to provide funding in support of the negotiated Residential Schools Litigation Settlement**

125-4 Mr. Gene Moore/Mr. Tom Crowther

THAT this Synod agree to provide funding in the amount of \$762,000 in support of the negotiated Residential Schools Litigation Settlement, utilizing the funding sources and following the financial plan as recommended by the Diocesan Council, on the condition that any use of the Funds held in the Consolidated Investment Fund Retained Reserve be limited to that portion of the Reserve that is directly attributable to the Diocesan portion of the Investment Fund.

Amendment:

125-5 The Rev. Neville Cheeseman/Mrs. Shara Golden

THAT the motion 125-4 be amended so as to end after the words "Residential Schools Litigation Settlement."

Discussion of this amendment followed, during which it was ruled by the Chancellor that the motion is, in effect, a tabling motion.

Following further discussion the amending motion was withdrawn.

The original motion 125-4 was then put and carried unanimously.

### **Motion from the floor:**

Regarding a request that the Primate address the issue of the manner in which this litigation has affected the former workers of the Residential Schools and those who supported the ministry

125.6 The Rev. Canon Philip Ward/The Rev. William MacMullin

THAT this Synod invite the Primate to make a public apology, and that The Anglican Journal be encouraged to report such apology prominently, such apology to be offered both to the many Anglicans who served faithfully and honorably in the Residential Schools, and also to the members

of the Anglican Church Women, for any previous statements that implied that their support of the ministry through the Residential Schools was inappropriate or unappreciated.

The motion was carried.

The Rt. Rev. William J. Hockin, Bishop of the Diocese of Fredericton, closed the afternoon with prayer and announced that this 125<sup>th</sup> Session of Synod was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Bentley Steers, Recording Secretary,

Canon L.F. Scott, Diocesan Treasurer, on Behalf of the Canonical Secretary