



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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## MINUTES OF THE 128<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

02-04 June 2005

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

The 128<sup>th</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton was convened at the Aitken Centre of the University of New Brunswick on Thursday, June 2, 2005 for regular business.

### THURSDAY, 02 JUNE 2005

At the appointed time, the Chair called on the Dean of Fredericton, the Very Rev'd Keith Joyce, to gather all Synod members for prayers and sung Doxology.

Mr. Peter Irish gave an overview of the site and explained the meal schedule. He stated the C2C group would be providing a canteen on the concourse level with free Fair Trade coffee and goods for sale. Proceeds will go to support the C2C mission to Cuba. He drew the members attention to a number of displays which are set up in the Registration area. And, a correction was made to the Convening Circular on page 6, section A, changing the date of the service of celebration to Friday, June 3, from June 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Very Rev'd Keith Joyce explained the worship schedule for the session and referred all members of Synod to the service booklet in registration packages. He offered thanks to all those who were willing to help.

Mr. Irish explained the Orders of Day for this opening day of Synod.

### REGISTRATION

The Chair called on the Secretary of the Synod to report on registration. The Venerable Geoffrey Hall reported that at 7 p.m., there were 158 out of 263 lay delegates registered, and 67 out of 131 clergy delegates, for a total of 225 out of 394. The Chair declared a quorum present and officially opened the 128<sup>th</sup> Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton.

### MINUTES

**128-01** - The Rev'd Canon David Kierstead/The Rev'd Brenda McKnight

That the minutes of the 127<sup>th</sup> session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton be accepted as circulated in the convening circular.

The motion was carried.

### APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARIES

**128-02** - The Ven. Geoffrey Hall/David Watts

That the Rev'd Leo Martin be appointed Recording Secretary and Carolyn Turney be appointed Assistant Recording Secretary for this Session of Synod.

The motion was carried.

#### APPOINTMENT OF SYNOD COMMITTEES

The Bishop announced the following committees and individuals who played key roles in the organization of this Synod. The Ven. Geoffrey Hall chaired the Synod Planning Group and Synod Committees were appointed as follows:

Arrangements	Mrs. Mary Robinson
Worship	The Very Rev'd Keith Joyce
Charge Response	Dr. Mohan Iype
Agenda	Mr. Peter Irish
Resolutions	Mr. Clyde Spinney
Credentials	Mrs. Sharon Simms
Nominating	The Ven. Malcolm Berry
Hospitality/Courtesies	The Rev'd Neville Cheeseman

#### RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURES

The Bishop called on the Vice-chancellor, Mr. Clyde Spinney, to explain the resolutions procedure. Mr. Spinney indicated the deadline for notices of motion would be Friday at Noon. Presently, there are 13 notices of motion; therefore, Mr. Spinney asked that if anyone would be posing an amendment, it would preferable to verify with the original mover and seconder first.

#### CLERGY REPORTS

The Bishop called on all clergy to place their clergy reports in the designated area.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

The Bishop announced the following significant clergy anniversaries:

As Deacon:		The Rev'd Roy Embley	45 years
The Rev'd Robert B. Barry	55 years	The Rev'd Reginald Stockall	45 years
The Rev'd Royden Ferris	40 years	The Rev'd David Jackson	40 years
The Ven. Arthur Gregg	40 years	The Rev'd David Gray	40 years
The Ven. John Sharpe	35 years	The Rev'd Leslie Petrie	35 years
The Rev'd Canon Jim Irvine	35 years	The Rev'd John Mills	35 years
The Rev'd Ronald Rippin	35 years	The Rev'd Rufus Onyewuchi	30 years
The Rev'd Donald Routledge	30 years	The Rev'd William MacMullin	30 years
The Rev'd William MacMullin	30 years	The Rev'd Richard McConnell	25 years
The Rev'd Canon Alvin Westgate	30 years	The Rev'd Douglas Barrett	25 years
The Rev'd George Eves	25 years	The Rev'd George Eves	25 years
The Rev'd Reginald MacKinnon	25 years	The Rev'd Eric Caldwell	20 years
The Rev Canon John Matheson	25 years	The Rev'd Charles Smart	20 years
The Rev'd Barry Craig	20 years		
The Rev'd Wally Collett	20 years		
The Rev'd Kevin Borthwick	20 years		
The Rev'd David Barrett	20 years		
The Rev'd Philip Pain	20 years		
The Ven. Lt. Col. Karl McLean	20 years		
The Rev'd Ross Hebb	20 years		
As Priests:			
The Rev'd Lloyd McFarlane	55 years		
The Rev'd Ted Spencer	50 years		
The Rev'd Canon T.A. Smith	50 years		
The Rev'd Robert Pratt	45 years		

Members of Synod showed their gratitude with applause.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NEW CLERGY/DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:

The Bishop made the following introductions:

- The Rev'd Robert Salloum
- The Rev'd Francene Bedell
- The Rev'd Arnold Godsoe
- The Rev'd Anthony Kwaw
- The Rev'd Steele Lazerte
- The Rev'd Valerie Hunt
- The Rev'd Karman Hunt
- The Rev'd Carol Gross
- The Rev'd Ellen Curtis
- Mrs. Elizabeth Harding

Members of Synod greeted the new clergy and the Director of Education with applause.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS

The Bishop introduced theological students, guests of the Synod:

- Paul Ransen, postulant (to be ordained as Deacon on June 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Marian Lucas-Jefferies, postulant
- Terence Chandra, postulant
- Jasmine Shantz
- Michael Amirault

Members of Synod acknowledged the students with applause.

#### GUESTS AND OBSERVERS

The Rev'd Neville Cheeseman introduced the following guests and observers:

- Mr. Sam Carriere, Director, Communications and Information Resources ACC
- Mr. Peter Blatchford, Treasurer and Director of Financial Development
- The Rev'd Canon Eric Beresford, President of Atlantic School of Theology
- The Rev'd Dr. Chris Brittain, Professor at Atlantic School of Theology
- Mr. Kevin Moynihan of Atlantic School of Theology

Members of Synod welcomed these guests with applause.

#### ECUMENICAL OBSERVERS

The Rev'd Rufus Onyewuchi introduced our ecumenical observers, who are as follows:

- The Rev'd Dr. Basil Lowery, retired, Presbyterian Church
- The Rev'd Father Joseph Arsenault, Vice-Chancellor, Diocese of Saint John
- The Rev'd Thomas Graham, Lutheran Church
- The Rev'd Catherine Gaw, United Church of Canada
- The Rev'd David DuBois, United Baptist Church

Members of Synod welcomed the Observers with applause.

#### COURTESIES OF SYNOD

**128-03** - George Connor/Margaret Ann Reid

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

The motion was carried.

#### BISHOP'S CHARGE

The Bishop offered his Charge to the 128<sup>th</sup> Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton. The Charge was greeted with applause. The Bishop's Charge is Appendix 1 of these minutes.

The Bishop proceeded to call on Dr. Mohan Iype to outline the procedures around the discussion groups for the response to the Bishop's Charge. Each member of Synod was assigned to a group at registration. Synod was divided into seven groups for discussion:

- Group One - Administration
- Group Two - Episcopal
- Group Three- Mission and Outreach
- Group Four - Parish Development and Support
- Group Five - Spiritual Formation
- Group Six - Financial Development
- Group Seven - Youth

Each group was asked to answer the following three questions:

- What are the three most important things we would like the Bishop to be aware of concerning his Charge in the area of ministry that we are discussing?
- What three recommendations do we want to make to the Bishop and the Diocesan Council that would guide them as we move forward in the area of ministry that we are discussing?
- What three recommendations do we want to make to our Parishes that would guide them as we work with the Bishop and Council in the area of ministry that we are discussing?

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Irish made the following announcements:

- Copies of the Bishop's Charge are available as members leave the meeting area.
- At the Chancellor's request, members of Synod are encouraged to familiarize themselves with Canon TWO, so that decorum and order will prevail during Friday's session.
- Delegates were reminded to review the Bishop's Charge.
- Discussion group leadership and Archdeacons were asked to meet in the Colter Room following adjournment.

#### RECESS

**128-04** - Rod Daley/David Watts

That this session of Synod recess its proceedings until Friday, June 3, 2005.

The motion was carried.

#### **FRIDAY, 03 JUNE 2005**

The 128<sup>th</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton reconvened at 8:45 a.m. with morning worship led by the Rev'd Bruce McKenna.

Peter Irish made the following announcements:

- Clergy were reminded to make photo appointments for the Clergy Directory.
- Large print copies of the Bishop's Charge were now available.

The Chair asked all youth Members of Synod to stand. These members were recognized with applause.

Mohan Iype took the floor and reminded all members of Synod of their morning task and indicated where the several meeting areas were located.

All members of Synod broke into their respective groups. Following the discussions, Noon Day prayers were offered in the separate groups.

Synod broke for lunch.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

The Bishop opened the afternoon session by indicating his pleasure at being appointed Episcopal Visitor to the Church Army, especially since Taylor College is located in this Diocese. All Church Army Captains were asked to stand and were recognized with applause.

Mr. Irish introduced Betty McNamara, Diocesan PWRDF Representative. Mrs. McNamara offered an explanation of the Ribbon of Hope located in the registration area. The Ribbon of Hope is 600 squares of silk screened denim patches woven together with a single ribbon. The ribbon is 40 feet long and each patch contains a concern or a memorial and links us together in our common fight against HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Irish introduced a couple of members from the C2C group who informed Synod 14 people were going to Cuba as missionary workers and that they would be offering help in agricultural projects.

The Bishop announced a free will offering at this evening's service would be donated to the C2C Mission.

#### CAMPS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As the chair of this campaign, Peter Irish introduced the video "Building Faith for a Lifetime." He then gave members of Synod an overview of the work that has been completed and what still needs to be done. He invited Caryn Crowe to speak on the work and ministry of Camp Medley, and Gray Gillies to speak on the work and ministry of Camp Brookwood. Mr. Irish indicated the goal of Phase 2 is to raise one million dollars. So far, \$63,000 has been raised in Phase 2 in pledges and donations. He asked for the support of all Synod members.

#### COUNCIL REPORT

The Chair called on Dr. Mohan Iype to present this report. Dr. Iype explained Diocesan Council is the governing body of the Diocese between meetings of Synod. The Report is listed on pages 1 to 28, section D of the Convening Circular. A note of clarification was offered on page 4 (1<sup>st</sup> bullet) listing motions of Council referring to a 'canon change.' This is actually a recommendation for a canon change and appears otherwise out of context..

#### **128-05** - Mohan Iype/David Watts

That the Report of Diocesan Council be accepted as circulated.

The motion was carried.

#### REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The Rev'd Canon Tom Smith presented this report as found on pages 1 to 9, section E of the Convening Circular.

**128-06** - The Rev'd Canon Tom Smith/The Rev'd Brenda McKnight

That the Report of the Diocesan Registrar be accepted as circulated.

The motion was carried.

**SECRETARY OF SYNOD REPORT**

The Ven. Geoffrey Hall presented this report as found on pages 9 to 13, section E of the Convening Circular.

**128-07** - The Ven. Geoffrey Hall/The Ven. Vicars Hodge

That the Report of the Secretary of Synod be accepted as circulated.

The motion was carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Canon Fred Scott presented this report as found on pages 13 to 15, section E of the Convening Circular. A question regarding a drop in parish support was answered by referring Synod Members to Appendix 7 of the Convening Circular.

**128-08** - Canon Fred Scott/The Ven. John Sharpe

That the Report of the Diocesan Treasurer be accepted as circulated.

The motion was carried.

**PRESENTATION**

Mr. Sam Carriere, Director of Communications for General Synod gave a short presentation on his work. He stated he was going to the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Nottingham as an observer. As a 15 year veteran of General Synod, he invited anyone to come up to him and ask questions about General Synod.

**NOMINATIONS**

The Ven. Malcolm Berry explained the balloting procedures. He reminded all members of Synod that all youth delegates and alternates must be under the age of 26 at the time of the Provincial and General Synods.

Archdeacon Berry called the attention of Synod to the page entitled "Representation on Diocesan Council Elected at Meetings of the Archdeaconery Greater Chapters" in the registration packet. The names listed are as follows:

Archdeaconery of St. Andrews:	Clergy: The Rev'd Keith Osborne
	Lay: George Connor
Archdeaconery of Fredericton:	Clergy: The Rev'd John Cathcart
	Lay: Captain Bonnie Hunt
Archdeaconery of Chatham:	Clergy: The Rev'd Donald Hamilton
	Lay: Donald Thompson
Archdeaconery of Saint John:	Clergy: The Rev'd Robyn Cuming
	Lay: Cecil VanBuskirk
Archdeaconery of Moncton:	Clergy: The Rev'd Robert Salloum
	Lay: Elizabeth Belyea
Archdeaconery of Woodstock:	Clergy: The Rev'd David Perks

Archdeaconery of Kingston/  
Kennebecasis

Lay: Murry Arnott  
Clergy: No election  
Lay: Elizabeth Reid

**128-09** - The Ven. Malcolm Berry/The Rev'd Canon David Kierstead

That the list of Archdeaconery Representation to Diocesan Council be accepted as circulated.

The motion was carried.

**GENERAL SYNOD BALLOT - CLERGY**

The following nominees asked to be removed from the ballot: The Rev'd Greg McMullin; the Rev'd Ian Wetmore; the Rev'd Allen Tapley; the Rev'd Bruce McKenna; the Rev'd Canon Douglas Patstone; the Rev'd Donald Hamilton.

Archdeacon Berry called for further nominations from the floor three times.

**128-10** - The Ven. Malcolm Berry/The Rev'd Bill Morton

That Ballot # 1, General Synod Clergy (Yellow) be accepted with the following nominees:

The Rev'd John Cathcart; the Rev'd Canon John Matheson; the Rev'd Neville Cheeseman; the Rev'd Canon William MacMullin; the Rev'd Capt David Edwards; The Rev'd Brenda McKnight; the Ven. Vicars Hodge; the Rev'd Robert Salloum; tThe Rev'd Keith Howlett; the Ven John Sharpe; the Rev'd Ranall Ingalls; the Rev'd Canon Albert Snelgrove; the Very Rev'd Keith Joyce; the Rev'd Canon Alvin Westgate; the Rev'd Canon Jon Lownds; the Ven. Walter Williams.

The motion was carried.

**GENERAL SYNOD BALLOT - LAITY**

The nominee asked for the removal from the ballot: Sue Daley

Archdeacon Berry called for further nominations from the floor three times.

Captain Robert Marsh was nominated.

**128-11** - The Ven. Malcolm Berry/George Cooper

That Ballot # 2, General Synod Laity (Blue) be accepted with the following nominees:

Heather Carr; Captain Robert Marsh; Nancy Cook; Gale McKinnon; Mary Dillon; Milton Pratt; John Edwards; Roger Ruddock; Shara Golden; Richard Walsh; Jean Hamilton; David Watts; Peter Irish; John Williamson; Darlene Ketch; Cecil VanBuskirk; Hazel MacKenzie.

The motion was carried.

**GENERAL SYNOD BALLOT - YOUTH**

Archdeacon Berry called for further nominations from the floor three times.

Janine Thompson and Kalem Thomson were nominated.

**128-12** - The Ven. Malcolm Berry/Margaret Ann Reid

That Ballot # 3, General Synod Youth (Salmon) be accepted with the following names:  
Colin Berry; Richard Lownds; Elizabeth Cook; Falen McNulty; Caryn Crowe; Janine Thompson; David Fleming; Kalem Thomson; Christopher Ketch.

The motion was carried.

#### PROVINCIAL SYNOD BALLOT - CLERGY

The following nominee asked to be removed: The Rev'd Greg McMullin  
Archdeacon Berry called for further nominations from the floor three times:  
The Rev'd Robert Salloum, The Rev'd Nevill Cheeseman and the Ven. John Sharpe were nominated.

#### **128-13** - The Ven. Malcolm Berry/The Rev'd Peter Mills

That Ballot # 4, Provincial Synod Clergy (Green) be accepted with the following names:  
The Rev'd Douglas Barrett; the Rev'd Canon William MacMullin; the Rev'd Neville Cheeseman; the Rev'd Rufus Onyewuchi; the Rev'd Capt David Edwards; the Rev'd Canon Douglas Patstone; the Ven Vicars Hodge; the Rev'd Robert Salloum; the Very Rev'd Keith Joyce; the Ven John Sharpe; the Rev'd Canon Jon Lownds; the Rev'd Canon Albert Snelgrove; the Rev'd Leo Martin; the Rev'd Canon Alvin Westgate.

The motion was carried.

#### PROVINCIAL SYNOD BALLOT - LAITY

The following people asked for the removal of their names: Sue Daley; Murray Gillies.  
Archdeacon Berry called for further nominations from the floor three times.

#### **128-14** - The Ven. Malcolm Berry/David Watts

That Ballot # 5, Provincial Synod Laity (Gray) be accepted with the following names:  
Murry Arnott; Robert Lockwood; Helen Bateman; Jim McKenna; Heather Carr;  
Roger Ruddock; George Cooper; David Watts; Shara Golden; John Williamson; Jean Hamilton; Cecil VanBuskirk; Darlene Ketch.

The motion was carried.

#### PROVINCIAL SYNOD - YOUTH

Archdeacon Berry called for further nominations from the floor three times.  
Murray Gillies, Janine Thompson, Kalem Thomson were nominated.

#### **128-15** - The Ven. Malcolm Berry/The Rev'd Canon David Kierstead

That Ballot # 2, Provincial Synod Youth (Pink) be accepted with the following names:  
Caryn Crowe; Richard Lownds; Tim Frazer; Falen McNulty; Murray Gillies; Janine Thompson; Christopher Ketch; Kalem Thomson.

The motion was carried.

Archdeacom Berry reminded all voting members of Synod that ballot boxes would be opened until Saturday at 9:15 a.m..

The Chair called for a short break.  
Synod reconvened at 3:05 p.m..

The Chair reminded all clergy of the upcoming Clergy Conference on August 29-31 and asked all clergy to get in touch with the Registrar, the Rev'd Canon David Kierstead.

The Secretary of Synod reminded everyone of the Rules of Order and Procedure as found in Canon TWO and part of the Convening Circular. Portions of Canon TWO were read by the Secretary.

## BUSINESS

### INSURANCE

**128-16** - Murry Arnott /The Ven. Stuart Allan

That this Diocesan Synod authorize and direct the Diocesan Council to investigate and, if feasible, to implement specific diocesan policies requiring mandatory minimum levels of coverage for property insurance for all Diocesan and Parish-owned buildings as well as minimum levels, forms, and terms of coverage for general broad-form liability insurance, and to investigate the practicality and financial viability of a single group property and liability insurance plan with mandatory parish participation.

### AMENDMENT

**128-17** - The Rev'd David Barrett/John Grant

That there be a period after 'liability insurance plan' and that 'with mandatory participation' be removed.  
Amendment defeated.

When put to a vote, the original motion was carried.

### GAMBLING

**128-17** - Donald Thompson/The Ven. Geoffrey Hall (Presented by the Ven Patricia Drummond)

That this Diocesan Synod reiterate its official position on the detrimental effects of gambling and lotteries, both inside the Church and in wider society. These activities often bring harm to the less fortunate and seldom prove to enhance the lives of those more fortunate who experience financial gain by them. In the interest of keeping our moral house in order, this Synod affirms that such means of fund-raising are against the tradition and teaching upheld by the Diocese of Fredericton and parishes are to be encouraged to promote good stewardship and direct giving as the highest method of Church support.

The motion was carried.

### HOMOPHOBIA

**128-18** - Heather Carr/The Rev'd Canon William MacMullin

That this Diocesan Synod renounce homophobia and all forms of sexual hypocrisy and abuse as evils against which Christians must always be on guard and affirm all peoples as precious in God's sight.

The motion was carried.

The Chair reminded all Synod members to refrain from depositing live cigarettes on the grounds of the Aitken Centre since it caused a fire.

#### SAME-SEX MORATORIUM

**128-19** - The Rev'd Bruce McKenna/Cheryl Jacobs

That this Diocesan Synod affirm the moratorium as proposed by the Primates on public Rites of Blessing for same-sex unions and affirm the moratorium as proposed on the consecration of any bishop living in a sexual relationship outside Christian marriage and direct that this affirmation be communicated in writing to the Archbishop of Canterbury and our Primate before the Anglican Consultative Council meets in June 2005.

The motion was carried.

#### SEXUAL SINS

The motion as printed in the Convening Circular was changed with the permission of the original mover and seconder (Cathy McKay and the Rev'd Keith Osborne).

**128-20** - Edith Chilton/The Rev'd Keith Osborne)

Because some of the media are promoting sexual practices that are in fact destructive of human fulfilment and true intimacy, this Diocesan Synod affirm the traditional teaching of the Church and Scripture that fornication, adultery and sodomy, no less than other sins, are contrary to our Creator's will, and inappropriate for a fulfilled and faithful human life in the service of Jesus Christ.

#### MOTION TO TABLE

**128-21** - The Rev'd William Morton/The Rev'd Neville Cheeseman

That this notice of motion be tabled.

The motion to table was defeated.

#### AMENDMENT

**128-22** - The Rev'd Canon George Eves/The Rev'd Richard Steeves

That 'some of the media' be replaced with 'many authorities in our wider society.'

The amendment was carried.

The amended motion was carried. Some asked that abstentions be recorded.

#### ANGLICAN COMMUNION

**128-23** - The Ven. Vicars Hodge/Mrs. Shara Golden

That this Diocesan Synod memorialize General Synod as follows:

- That this Diocesan Synod of Fredericton affirms that it regards being in full and visible communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion throughout the world as essential and vital, and
- That any consideration of the Anglican Church of Canada 'walking apart' from the rest of the Anglican Communion is unacceptable and indeed contrary to the Solemn Declaration of 1893, and would thus seriously jeopardize the relationship between this Diocese and General Synod.

#### AMENDMENT

**128-24** - The Rev'd William Morton/The Rev'd Neville Cheeseman

That the words after '1893' be removed.

The amendment was defeated.

The motion was carried. There was a request for the recording of abstentions.

The Chair advised all members of Synod to refrain from applause following those speaking to a motion and after a motion is carried or defeated.

#### REGISTERS

**128-25** - Shara Golden/The Ven. Stuart Allan

That this Diocesan Synod repeal section 5 of Canon Five of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton, and substitute therefore the following provision, as proposed by the Diocesan Council Administration Committee and the Diocesan Archives Committee:

##### Registers

5(1) The Rector or incumbent of each parish shall keep registers of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals and burials and services held (vestry book).

5(2) A register of baptisms shall contain the name of the parish corporation, the church, the date of the baptism, the baptized person's Christian names and surname, the baptized person's address, date and place of birth, sex, the birth names and occupations of the baptized person's parents, the church or other location where the baptism was performed, and the names of the sponsors and of the officiant.

5(3) A register of confirmations shall contain the name of the parish corporation, the church, the date of the confirmation, the candidate's Christian names and surname, sex, date and place of birth, date and place of baptism and the officiant at baptism, where confirmed and by what Bishop, and date and place of first communion (whether before or following confirmation).

5(4) A register of marriages shall contain the name of the parish corporation, the church, the date, the full Christian names and surnames, addresses, occupations, marital status, dates of birth and baptism, religious affiliation of both parties, the place and date of the marriage, names and birth places of parents, the signature of the officiant, the signatures of both parties and of witnesses, and the number and date of the license.

5(5) A register of funerals and burials shall contain the name of the parish corporation, the church, the date, the full name of the deceased person, the person's last address,

sex, name of next of kin or contact person and relationship to the deceased person, date and place of birth and death, whether or not there was cremation, date and place of funeral, date and place of committal, and the name and signature of the officiant.

5(6) A register of services (vestry book) shall contain the name of the parish corporation, the church, the date, the day of the Christian year, the hour, type of service, name of the officiant and of the preacher, number in the congregation, number of communicants, the amount of collection (open, envelopes, special and e-offering), and the initials of the persons completing the count.

5(7) The Diocesan Council may by regulation prescribe forms for parish registers and for certifying information from a register.

Ms. Golden reported that as per Canon TWO, s.8(3), the cost implications will be absorbed by the Diocese. The initial cost will be covered out of operating funds as a non-budgeted expense while the annual costs will be incorporated into the Diocesan Budget for Archives maintenance.

The motion was carried. As required by Canon Law, a majority of two-thirds was achieved in both houses. The Bishop gave his assent.

#### RURAL COMMUNITIES

**128-26** - The Rev'd Canon Jon Lownds/The Rev'd Canon Bill MacMullin

That this Diocesan Synod re-affirm its historic commitment to rural communities and respectfully petition the Bishop to consult widely with rural people and parishes, in order (in preparation for another Synod) to draw up proposals with respect to the practical forms this commitment might take.

A lengthy discussion followed on the importance of rural ministry.

The motion was carried.

#### SYNOD MINUTES

**128-27** - The Rev'd David Barrett/Cecil VanBuskirk

That this Diocesan Synod direct that the Secretary of this Synod make available (or cause to be made available) to every parish and mission in this Diocese, the minutes of this Synod meeting (and all subsequent Synod meetings of this Diocese) within one month of its adjournment.

The Bishop offered clarification that these would be the 'draft minutes.'

The motion was carried.

#### EDITORIAL POLICY

**128-28** - The Rev'd Chris VanBuskirk/Debbie Ritchie

That this Diocesan Synod direct that Diocesan Council (or a committee of its appointing) present a motion to the next regular session of this Diocesan Synod on the

purpose, mission and editorial policy of the New Brunswick Anglican and our Diocesan E-News (and all other modes of public communication by our Diocese).

It was noted the NB Anglican already has a Mission and Guidelines document which includes statements of mission, policy, production, news reporting, finances and circulation.

The motion was carried.

#### GENERAL SYNOD DELEGATES

**128-29** - The Rev'd Canon Bill MacMullin/Cecil VanBuskirk

That this Diocesan Synod ensure that delegates at our Synod be provided with a brief curriculum vitae of each nominee for Provincial Synod and each nominee for General Synod stating their current stand on relevant issues.

#### AMENDMENT

**128-30** - The Rev'd Rufus Onyewuchi/The Rev'd Canon Albert Snelgrove

That the words 'stating their current stand on relevant issues' be removed.

The amendment was defeated.

After a lengthy debate, the Bishop reminded everyone that all Synod members are faithful Christians who believe the Creed and trust the work of the Holy Spirit. He indicated he would not support this motion since he believed it involved censuring those nominated to be delegates.

The motion was defeated. A count was requested with the following result: 120 in favour; 144 against.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Canon Fred Scott reminded those staying in residences that their keys must be returned before the close of Synod.
- The Dean gave the list of those who would be helping in the Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving.
- Peter Irish requested all youth delegates meet the Rev'd Dr. George Porter during the evening meal.

The 128<sup>th</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton was suspended for dinner and the Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving.

#### SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING

The Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving took place at the Aitken Centre on Friday evening. The service was the Holy Eucharist with the Bishop of the Diocese, the Right Rev'd Dr. Claude Miller as presider. The Bishop was assisted by youth in the capacity of readers, leaders in the litany and acolytes. The message was offered by the Rev'd Dr. George Porter, Diocesan Youth Director and Mrs. Elizabeth Harding, Diocesan Christian Education Director. The free-will offering was designated to the C2C Mission.

#### **SATURDAY, 04 JUNE 2005**

The 128<sup>th</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton reconvened at 8:45 a.m. with morning worship led by the Rev'd Elaine Hamilton.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Rev'd Chris McMullen spoke on the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer and noted the information booklet on the tables where the deanery representatives of AFP were listed. He informed all present that AFP had organized a 30 hour prayer vigil where at least 10 people were praying for Synod at all time during these deliberations.
- Peter Irish reminded members that ballot boxes would close at 9:15 a.m.
- Evaluation forms were made available and completed forms were asked to be returned in the proper box.
- A Camps Capital Campaign update indicated a further \$3250 had been received during Synod.
- A word of thanks was extended to Mr. Doug Barresto and Mr. Andrew Hodge for their technical help during these proceedings.

#### RESPONSE TO THE BISHOP'S CHARGE

Dr. Mohan Iype, Vice-chair of Diocesan Council introduced the Response to the Bishop's Charge and introduced the different people who would be reporting from the groups of seven areas of ministry. The Response is Appendix 2 of these minutes.

The response addressed the following three questions:

- What are the 3 most important things we would like the Bishop to be aware of concerning his charge in the area of ministry that we are discussing?
- What 3 recommendations do we want to make to the Bishop and the Diocesan Council that would guide them as we move forward in the area of ministry that we are discussing?
- What 3 recommendations do we want to make to our Parishes that would guide them as we work with the Bishop and Council in the area of ministry that we are discussing?

Dr. Iype acknowledged the work of all Synod members in the production of this response.

#### **128-31** - Mohan Iype/The Rev'd John Cathcart

That this Diocesan Synod refer the detailed responses to the Bishop's Charge to the Diocesan Council for consideration and action.

The motion was carried.

The Bishop offered the following comments for the work done in the Response to the Charge:

- expressed appreciation and thanks to everyone for their work
- stated the vision of the Diocese is one of evangelism
- the realization of this vision is dependent on everyone. We all have a responsibility to carry it to the parishes
- take the time to reflect on our frustrations of slow results
- ask for prayers that as we enter our busy lives, we do not forget our responsibilities as members of Synod
- reiterated the importance of the Camps Capital Campaign
- will indeed bring this work to Diocesan Council.

The Bishop's comments were received with applause.

A short break was called for.  
Synod reconvened ten minutes later.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Murry Arnott presented the financial reports as found in the last section of the Convening Circular.

#### **128-32** - Murry Arnott/The Ven. Vicars Hodge

That the Financial statements of the Diocese be accepted as circulated.

The motion was carried.

Canon Fred Scott offered a number of explanations pertaining to different parts of the financial statements. He reminded everyone to take the time to review the notes as indicated on the report since they form an important link to these reports.

Canon Scott was pleased to announce that our Diocesan commitment to the Residential Schools settlement (\$762,000) would be paid by the end of 2005.

Canon Scott introduced Mr. Peter Powell, representative from Grant Thornton as auditor to these statements.

#### **128-33** - Murry Arnott/The Rev'd Canon David Kierstead

That this Diocesan Synod express its thanks to Canon Fred Scott for his work as Diocesan Treasurer.

The motion was carried with applause.

#### C2C MISSION

The Chair invited the Rev'd Dr. George Porter to speak on the upcoming C2C Mission. Dr. Porter explained the goal of \$21,000 had now been surpassed. The money would be used to build bridges with the youth of Cuba. The mission will include some agricultural work which consists in helping to raise herbs and medicinal plants to help in the area of senior health. Any extra money will go towards farm implements and equipment. A note of thanks was expressed to all those who helped and supported this mission.

#### LETTING DOWN THE NETS

Mr. Peter Blachford was invited to speak on this pilot project. He explained this was a new plan in stewardship to support ministry at all levels – from the parish to the national church. The Diocese of Fredericton is seen in a favourable light in their dedication to this new program. Mr. Blachford extended the Primate's greetings to the members of Synod.

#### ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The President of AST, the Rev'd Canon Eric Beresford was invited to speak on the School. President Beresford spoke on four points, namely the strength of the faculty, the renewed curriculum, the School as an asset in the Atlantic Provinces and the challenges facing the School. He offered his thanks for the opportunity to speak.

The Chair also recognized the Rev'd Dr. Christopher Brittain, Professor of Systematic Theology at AST and Mr. Kevin Moynihan, Development Officer who accompanied President Beresford.

Noon Day prayers were offered and led by Captain Rose Steeves.

Synod broke for lunch.

Synod reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

#### ROTHESAY NETHERWOOD SCHOOL

The Chair called on Mr. Paul Kitchen, Head of School, to offer his report. Mr. Kitchen drew attention to his report on page 16 and 17, section D of the Convening Circular. He also reminded everyone that the Diocesan School of Church Music would be held at RNS from July 3 - 10.

The Bishop did ask everyone to remember the work of RNS in their prayers, noting that while this is an academic school, the Diocese of Fredericton continues its interest and that there is a wonderful expression of faith among the students.

#### ECUMENICAL OBSERVERS

The Rev'd Joseph Arsenault of the Roman Catholic Church offered this report on behalf of all ecumenical observers. He offered his thanks for the privilege of being present and being able to speak at Synod while at the same time reminding everyone of the three B's principle - Be brilliant, be brief, be gone! Father Arsenault stated all observers felt a warm welcome and they were impressed with the openness, the respect, the focus with which synod members seek to do God's work. The observers witnessed the pain and the struggle of the Church and he reminded members of synod that they also share in that pain and struggle. Father Arsenault offered God's blessing on all synod members.

#### ELECTION RESULTS

The Ven. Malcolm Berry reported 1764 ballots had been cast from 294 voters. There were 30 spoiled ballots.

Archdeacon Berry offered his personal thanks to his team of scrutineers:

Ernie McFadzen; Mabel Jeffries; Diane Harris; Darrell Jones; Olive Harris; Judy Jones; Eva Jeffries; John Baldwin; Walter Schwartz; Susan Baldwin.

The results are as follows:

#### General Synod Clergy

Delegates: The Rev'd Captain David Edwards  
The Ven. Vicars Hodge  
The Rev'd Canon William MacMullin  
The Very Rev'd Keith Joyce

Alternates: The Rev'd Canon John Matheson  
The Rev'd Canon Albert Snelgrove  
The Ven John Sharpe  
The Rev'd Brenda McKnight

#### General Synod Laity

Delegates: Shara Golden  
Peter Irish  
Captain Robert Marsh  
Cecil VanBuskirk

Alternates: Heather Carr  
Jean Hamilton  
David Watts  
Darlene Ketch

#### General Synod Youth

Delegate: Caryn Crowe

Alternate: Falen McNulty

Provincial Synod Clergy

Delegate: The Rev'd Capt David Edwards  
The Very Rev'd Keith Joyce  
The Ven Vicars Hodge  
The Rev'd Canon William MacMullin

Alternate: The Rev'd Canon Albert Snelgrove  
The Rev'd Canon Douglas Patstone  
The Rev'd Leo Martin  
The Ven. John Sharpe

Provincial Synod Laity

Delegate: Heather Carr  
Shara Golden  
Jean Hamilton  
Cecil VanBuskirk

Alternate: David Watts  
Murry Arnott  
Helen Bateman  
Darlene Ketch

Provincial Synod Youth

Delegate: Christopher Ketch

Alternate: Falen McNulty

**128-34** - The Ven Malcolm Berry/James McKenna

That the ballots for the election of Provincial and General Synods be destroyed.

The motion was carried.

BUSINESS (cont'd)

MARRIAGE

**128-35** - Shara Golden/The Rev'd Canon William MacMullin

That further to its motion carried at the 127th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton, this 128th session reaffirms and continues to uphold the teaching of the Church and again calls 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 the Synod to memorialize this motion to the meeting of the General Synod of 2007.

MOTION TO TABLE

**128-36** - The Rev'd Neville Cheeseman/The Rev'd William Morton

That this notice of motion be tabled until a full review of St. Michael's Report and that the Bishop call a Diocesan Synod prior to the next General Synod.

The motion to table was defeated.

A number of comments were made regarding different aspects of the motion.

The original motion (128-35) was carried.

RESOLUTION A134(5)

**128-37** - Alan MacGowan/The Rev'd Alan Reynolds

That this Diocesan Synod repudiate resolution [A134 (5)] of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada (2004) to "affirm the integrity and sanctity of committed adult same-sex relations."

#### MOTION TO REFER

**128-38** - Ian Bowen/The Rev'd Carol Gross

That this notice of motion be referred to the Bishop for the purpose of seeking his direction on the matter within a year since this notice seems to be going against General Synod and the Primate.

The motion was defeated.

A discussion followed on the word 'repudiate.'

#### AMENDMENT

**128-39** - The Rev'd George Eves/The Ven Stuart Allan

That the word 'repudiate' be replaced with 'register its disagreement with.'

The amendment was defeated.

Further discussion followed and the Chair called for the question.

The original motion (128-37) was carried.

#### COURTESIES

**128-40** - The Rev'd Neville Cheeseman/Caryn Crowe

- That this Synod present to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, through her representative in Canada Her Excellency, the Governor-General, the customary expression of its loyalty and affection.
- 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.
- That this Synod extends 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 charge to this Synod and for his capable presiding over these Synod deliberations especially guiding us through the controversial and emotional issues faced by our Church.
- That our thanks be extended to our Primate, the Most Rev'd Andrew Hutchison, for his leadership during a difficult first year in his primacy.
- That our thanks be extended to our Metropolitan, the Most Rev'd Bruce Stavert, for his leadership and support.
- That our thanks be expressed to the following persons and groups who made this Synod run smoothly:
  - to the Very Rev'd Keith Joyce for the worship.
  - to the National and Provincial Councils of the Mothers' Union, under the leadership of Mrs. Kathleen Snow and Mrs. Elaine Robichaud, the respective Presidents for hosting the reception following the Friday evening Eucharist.
  - to the Planning Committee under the Chair, the Ven. Geoffrey Hall for all their hard work planning this Synod.

- to Mrs. Doreen Smith, Mrs. Phyllis Cathcart and Mrs. Carolyn Turney for their work in support and in preparation of the Synod material.
- to Mrs. Sharon Simms and her many volunteers who looked after the registration and who acted as greeters.
- to the Rev'd Leo Martin who served as recording secretary and to Mrs. Carolyn Turney who served as assistant recording secretary.
- to the staff of the Aitken University Centre and the University of New Brunswick for all their assistance.
- to all those who provided displays for Synod.
- to our Ecumenical Observers for their input into this Synod and to Father Joseph Arsenault for his presentation.
- to Mr. Sam Carriere and Mr. Peter Blachford for their presentations.
- to the Rev'd Canon Eric Beresford and Mr. Paul Kitchen for their presentations.
- to Mrs. Mary Robinson and Canon Fred Scott for the arrangements of the facility for this Synod.
- to Archdeacon Malcolm Berry, chair of the Nominations Committee and his team of scrutineers.
- to youth of C2C for providing the Canteen.

The motion was carried.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Peter Irish announced that resolutions and the Response to the Bishop's Charge would be posted on the Diocesan website this evening.
- The Very Rev'd Keith Joyce offered thanks to his committee members who helped with all aspects of worship during the Synod.

Closing prayers were led by the Dean.

The Bishop closed the 128<sup>th</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton with his blessing and prayer for safe journey to all members of the Synod.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**128-41** - The Ven Stuart Allan

That this 128<sup>th</sup> Session of the Diocesan of Fredericton be adjourned.

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Leo Martin  
Recording Secretary

Carolyn Turney  
Assistant Recording Secretary

The Ven. Geoffrey Hall  
Secretary of Synod

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

20 April 2007

# Appendix 1

**Diocesan Synod of Fredericton**  
**BISHOP'S CHARGE**  
**June 2, 2005**

## BIBLICAL REFERENCE

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." NRSV

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen

## INTRODUCTION

Finding the words to introduce my second charge presented a challenge. It has been nineteen months since our last Diocesan Synod and much has happened in the life of our Diocese, our National Church, and the Anglican Communion. Being a living breathing Anglican in the early twenty-first century is not only challenging but wonderfully exciting. It is within this life and reality that I welcome you to the 128th Synod of our diocese

As we prayerfully engage in the business of this Synod we are called by God to be faithful to the covenant we share in baptism and to show forth God's love to a broken world. The Church present, within this social context, finds that its traditional understandings and conventional norms are challenged by progressive thought and action in the midst of a deep longing and hunger for intimacy with God. Discerning God's will for our personal and corporate response in the midst of this tension-filled reality is no easy feat. God is calling for a deep commitment to repentance, prayer, spirit-filled knowledgeable leadership and the fruit of the Spirit manifested in time, talent, treasure and testimony. Our prayerful response ought always to be a commitment to the challenge of our baptismal covenant in our present context. Let's be frank - as God's church, we find ourselves in an uncomfortable place these days.

Morris and Olsen in a little book titled "Discerning God's Will Together" remind us that "Today is an in-between time for the church, between the past, when the church was firmly established in Christendom, and an unclear future for the church. Today is the time for redefinition; it is a time for the church to listen to its stories, to talk about its direction and identity, and to patiently discern the shape of its future life and ministry. Yet people are weary from church business as usual, from church gatherings that do not connect with the deeper meanings of their life and faith. The church must draw on its best traditions in faith and practice in order to find new ways of interacting and deciding. The process of prayerful spiritual discernment draws on the best of the church's practices and offers a depth of faith and life uncommon in the church today."

A new social structure, that is yet to be defined, or its impact measured, will have its way, because it is driven largely by a new ideology that, as Walter Brueggemann suggests "is at

least indifferent if not hostile to every social structure and institution that is indispensable for a functioning human community." "Hope For The World "

The Church in our Anglican context and reality is challenged during the 'in-between' time, and at the same time all indications are that 'the faithful' understand our presence as Brueggemann would suggest as 'indispensable.' If this be the case then, in the midst of chaos, confusion and bewilderment, we are called to transformation. Our church has been slow to respond to the needs generated by this rapid change and at the same time being true to God's mission in the world. This change can be labeled as 'evil incarnate' and we react by waging a battle that seeks "winners and losers" or to respond by demonstrating God's love and compassion in a spirit of obedience and faithfulness to God's mission in Jesus Christ.

The tension between the world's agenda and God's mission is intensified and driven largely by artificial images and a culture of immediacy. Many people of faith have admitted that there is a major downside to technology in that we all, to a greater or lesser extent, are "technologically bound." Our response has been to give our hopes and desires over to this artificiality. Jean Baudrillard in response to this cultural phenomena writes "Nowadays one no longer says: You've got a soul and you must save it," but: You've got a sexual nature, and you must find out how to use it well." "You've got an unconscious, and you must learn to liberate it." "You've got a body, and you must know how to enjoy it." "You've got a libido, and you must know how to spend it." "Forget Foucault" There may not be a verse in Scripture that we can quote as to the sinful nature of technology, but there is much said about the sinful nature of idolatry in culture.

As directed by our visioning synods of 2000 and 2001 your council has taken deliberate steps to make our collective vision a reality. I see this vision as a call and mandate for change as a positive step to equip the leadership and the parishes to meet the challenge of ministry in a rapidly changing context. This is very much a work in progress and I am delighted with the work that has been accomplished thus far. At the parish level there are wonderful signs of growth in many areas, yet at the same time there are many areas that will require prayerful imagination to address the concerns for the future. Bishop, Synod Staff and Diocesan Council are focused in their endeavors to facilitate the call of the Gospel in every task undertaken on your behalf.

I am grateful to the Committees of Council for their willingness to embrace our new model of governance. The seven areas of ministry serve as umbrella structures enabling transparency, accountability, evaluation and budgeting. While these several areas are treated separately they are linked and dovetailed in their overall vision of mission to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for the making of disciples. These Committees and Ministry areas are listed in your journal and their work will serve as a starting point for your small group discussions tomorrow. The results of your time together will form the basis of Synod's response to the Bishop's Charge.

It is not my intent to restate that which is already in your possession by way of the Council's Report to Synod. I will report only in so far as this good work serves to guide and direct our way forward. As you may well appreciate since my installation the learning curve have been very steep. But your prayers and support have been a wonderful blessing to Sharon and me. My sincere intent for the episcopal administration of our diocese over the past nineteen months has been guided by a prayerful discernment process that seeks to respond to the need of our diocese and the wider Church with pastoral sensitivity. I have discovered in my travels to the archdeaonries that this diocesan community is a community reflecting God's

love in a very real way. We are called to grow together as the inter-and co-dependent Body of Christ. We are called to listen not only to God and each other but to the very words that come from our own lips. It is these words that others hear and to which they respond. It is our own words that are capable to building up or tearing down.

The strength of our relationships depends on the health of our prayer life and our obedience to God's word as manifested in the person Jesus Christ. Our reaction to fear, real or imagined, in our present cultural context to a very large degree serves as our motivation. Jesus understands this human trait. Fear motivated the disciples to seek safety and security behind closed doors. In spite of locked doors and solid walls Jesus appears in their midst and the disciples are overjoyed. It is the same Jesus that is in our midst by the presence of his Holy Spirit.

The fear that motivates our culture has invaded the Church on many fronts and in many places we have endeavored to build our security at the expense of others. As fellow brothers and sisters in Christ we have not sought out the Christ in others, rather we have taken the easy road of judgement. Fear must be put in perspective. If perfect love casts our fear then it is faith cast in this perfect love that must serve as our motivation. We have souls worth saving and life everlasting is what is desired for us by a loving God.

Our changing social context driven largely by technology and avarice seems to promise a better life, perhaps even eternal life. In spite of our embracing the promise there is little evidence that our fears have dissipated.

Many years ago, just after Mother Teresa had been awarded the Nobel Prize, she was on a Canadian interview show with a biologist who had just won a Nobel Prize. During the discussion, the biologist began to speak of the possibility of creating everlasting life through DNA research. To stir things up, the host asked Mother Teresa what she thought of the possibility of "real" everlasting life as opposed to the Church "fiction." Mother Teresa replied "I believe in love and compassion." It prompts the question "Would everlasting life matter if one lived in a world without love and compassion?"

I encourage this Synod to see this introduction as a backdrop against which our vision and work in faith may move our diocese forward in response to the Gospel. Hiding behind closed doors because of fear is not the call of the Gospel. Jesus calls us to "go" "go into all the world. And "fear not" for I am with you until the close of the age".

#### CHARGE

It is with much gratitude that I accept on your behalf the reports of the Diocesan Council and its Teams and Committees. These presentations to Synod reflect thousands of hours of prayer and work to enable God's mission among us. Tomorrow evening we will gather to give thanks and praise to God for his abundant blessings. The vision of this diocese is focused on the "Proclamation of the Gospel for the Making of Disciples" - bringing God's much needed love to a broken and hurting world, our families, and our community. Our response ought to be motivated by our love and obedience to our Lord's commission. We witness God's love as it is returned by our neighbor in response to the love we demonstrate to them.

The work of Diocesan Council, its Teams and Committees has been undertaken in a spirit of generosity. Our governance model is much less hierarchical (top down) and more horizontal. A horizontal model requires consultation and broader participation drawing on all talents, gifts and imagination and the sharing of concerns in a process demonstrating prayerful

mutual respect for one another. An example of this is your participation tomorrow morning as you participate fully in the response to this Charge. We know that the road to the kingdom begins with repentance and acts of sacrificial love that demonstrate God's love for us in the giving of his Son Jesus Christ. God loves us and understands fully our disobedient and prodigal ways, yet he patiently waits for our return.

Your Bishop and Diocesan Council through the work of the Teams have been very busy since the November 2003 Synod. The cooperative prayerful support of our parishes and all the faithful have enabled much to be done. I sense however that we are just getting started. In the midst of this new beginning for our diocese, Church life locally continues to be challenged by wider issues that require additional resources and energy. Globalization is driven by a culture of immediacy and we are driven to react instead of taking time to reflect and seek God's direction. We must seek God's Spirit to enable God's agenda, not our spirit enabling our agenda.

Our governance and administrative model opens up opportunity for all voices to be heard. A new Diocesan Council will be elected at this Synod. I thank all members of Diocesan Council and Chairs and members for their good work and look forward to our new Council continuing that which has begun.

#### ADMINISTRATION

The reports submitted under Administration are found in Section (D) pages 6-11. The work of Council with respect to administration is extensive. Diocesan administration personnel are stretched to the limit in response to council's directives. As our vision for ministry is developed, it only stands to reason that as expectations rise, management and administration increases. To meet the challenges we have looked to the benefits of technological tools to assist with the day to day information and communication that is required to keep each Anglican in New Brunswick informed as to the life and work of the diocese.

The new Diocesan Information Management System has had much to do with the production of the statistical returns that are included in the convening circular. This new system in a few weeks will be interactive with all parishes who have internet access. For those few parishes who do not, I encourage you to seek ways of participation. Your synod staff is there for your assistance. This system when fully functional will eliminate many time consuming manual tasks that diverts resources and talents from more meaningful efforts. Even the Sabbath rest gets compromised when the work load is untenable.

In a spirit of good stewardship our diocese has responded to the requirements of government and other agencies that seek to serve and protect all those entrusted to our care in the life of the church. The Constitutions and Canons Committee under the care of our Chancellors and their Committee members have worked countless hours drafting policies and procedures and still have much to do. In positions of trust, transparency and accountability are a top priority for institutional governance. Your prayers and cooperation are encouraged for their good work.

The work of the Diocesan Archives has been extensive, and through an extended consultation process are proposing a new Combined Parish Register. I encourage you to support this initiative that is in keeping with our policy to preserve and protect the heritage of Anglicanism in this place. I thank you for your response to place parish records in safe keeping in the Archives. If there are any who have not I encourage you to attend to this as soon as possible. Our records are invaluable and should be protected.

The Finance Committee summarizes the broad mandate of this good work under several sub-committees. Your support of the diocesan budget is that which funds the ministry of our diocese and our mission contribution to the wider church. I thank you for your support. Parishes share with me on an ongoing basis their struggle to meet local commitments and at the same time respond to diocesan requests. This is a chicken and egg situation - without the parishes there is no diocese, and without the diocese there are no parishes. We are one in Christ's Body - the Church. As St. Paul says "If all were a single organ where would the body be?"

I thank you on behalf of the whole body for your response to the budget. The story of the good work that we are about is told in the narrative budget that was shared diocesan-wide prior to Diocesan's Council approval. There seems little let up as to the increasing costs for ministry and infra-structure maintenance and ministry. Many of our church and hall facilities, and rectory buildings require upgrading or replacing. Bishop's Court and the Synod Office require much needed capital expenditures. Our aging facilities have inhibited in many ways our effectiveness in the wider mission of the church. Clergy positions are threatened in some parishes because of the inability of parishes to meet regular stipend costs. We have central payroll but the diocese depends fully on the parishes for payment of clergy remuneration and benefits. There is no pool of diocesan funding to cover stipend shortfall.

There are many encouraging plans and initiatives at the parish level - from renovation projects, new churches and parish re-alignments. All must be undertaken with conscious thought as to the financial impact not only in the parish, but the diocese and the wider Church. Tradeoffs are a commitment to standing still, not moving forward. Increased financial and leadership commitment at every level are required to further the proclamation of the gospel at the parish, diocesan and national levels. We are called to "Let down Our Nets" in faith.

I must commend however those parishes that are working diligently under part-time clergy with a view to returning to full time or seeking creative models of cooperative ministries with adjoining parishes. This is but one way in which imaginative strategies must be employed in a changing context. The sharing of resources at every level of ministry is part of the vision of our National Church in developing a framework "for a common journey in Christ." The initiative of "letting down the nets" places our common task as developing a strategy that will resource and sustain our shared ministry in the gospel. However, any vision of ministry must see itself first as a response to God's mission to the world, to bring God's people back to him, while showing his compassion and mercy to the faithful.

Our capital campaign, "Building Faith For a Lifetime" is a stewardship initiative that will add greatly to the faith formation of our younger folk. Our young folk are our greatest resource and Jesus said "help the little to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." I encourage everyone present to prayerfully consider signing your pledge before you leave. The seven Bishop's Dinners at the Archdeaconry level offer an opportunity for you to encourage others to be involved. This wonderful opportunity to share in God's mission to our children and the children of our communities depends on your prayers and leadership.

#### EPISCOPAL MINISTRIES

As your Bishop there are many ongoing tasks and responsibilities that require daily episcopal attention. These ministries are not more or less important than any other, however, they exist because of our polity and tradition. They include: the appointment and support of Clergy; Retired Clergy; Staff; Seminaries and Seminary Training; Vocational Discernment;

Chaplaincies; Matrimonial Commission; Lay Reading; Faith and Worship; Provincial and General Synod; House of Bishops; Episcopal Visitor to the Church Army; and, National Church Committees to name a few. Many of these ministries are shared with ministry teams and I am grateful for their support and encouragement.

The two ongoing major issues in the life of our Canadian Church have to do with Residential Schools and the Blessing of Same Sex Relationships.

With respect to Residential Schools, I thank God for our assuming part of the collective responsibility for our Church's commitment to the funding of the partnered settlement with the federal government. At the beginning many in our diocese thought it someone else's problem. But in true Anglican fashion the Anglican Church responded with a unanimous decision to embrace the opportunity to repent and seek forgiveness and reconciliation, so that those wronged by a well intentioned educational program for aboriginal youth might see the love of God in action.

Seven of our thirteen notices of motion that we will be considering at this Synod have their genesis in the "blessings of same sex relationships" debate. This debate has been ongoing for many years but has been intensified by the unilateral actions of the ECUSA and the Diocese of New Westminster. The results of these actions have strained relationships at the Parish, Diocesan, National Church and the world-wide Anglican Communion levels. The Body of Christ is hurting and the cries that express this hurt are largely mono logical. Many on both sides of the issue long to be heard, long to be listened to, but see their cries as futile in the midst of the present din.

I am grateful for the leadership of the Primates of the Communion, our own Primate and the House of Bishops. As Bishops we are willing to wait on the process of prayerful discernment that will culminate at our General Synod in 2007. And we call upon our constituency as represented by our Synods to support this willingness to cooperate. Political strategies may serve to deliver up an outcome in keeping with the desires of some, but as the Church we desire unity in the Body of Christ, a unity that flows from our Lord's desire for his people in John 17. The Gospel desires the inertia of God's Spirit, not the inertia of fear. Motivation by fear demonstrates a profound lack of faith. We must depend on God and God alone - anything less will fall short. We must place our confidence in the theocracy of the Cross and recognize the limitations of our democratic structures.

I am somewhat disappointed that there are no motions that expressly call us to action in support of our collective mission. A number of the notices I consider redundant in light of scripture, our previously stated position, our canonical process and our Bishop's statements. I pray that your response to this Charge will consider more carefully my appeal to resource and sustain those ministries that have a direct bearing on the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

#### MISSION AND OUTREACH

The Diocesan Council, while having a separate Team for administration purposes, realizes that all committees are dedicated to Mission and Outreach. Mission and Outreach reflects the loving heart of God in the world. The mission of the Church is undergirded in prayer and desires of the Church a mature Theology of Mission.

I believe the definition offered by David Bosch is helpful. "Mission has its origin in God. God is a missionary God, a God who crosses frontiers towards the world. In creation God was already the God of Mission, with his Word and his Spirit as missionaries. God likewise sent

his incarnate Son into the world. And he has sent his Spirit at Pentecost. Mission is God giving up himself, his becoming human, his laying aside of his divine prerogatives [power] and taking our humanity, his moving into the world, in his Son and Spirit." Cray Lecture

Further Jurgen Moltmann writes; "it is not the Church that has a mission of salvation to fulfill in the world: it is the mission of the Son and the Spirit through the Father [and] that includes the Church." Cray Lecture

David Bosch continues; "Mission has its origin in the heart of God. God is a fountain of sending love. This is the deepest source of mission...there is mission because God loves people." And to respond in a spirit of servant-hood "is about finding out what God is doing and joining in." Cray Lecture

The mission and outreach committee is challenged to find the balance between mission at home and abroad. A great portion of our recent initiatives are led by our youth. They want to make a difference and in doing so have shown us how we can partner with them. There is more detail provided in the Youth report of Council.

I have been approached by a number of dioceses from around the world for Companion Relationships. At the present time we do not have an official companion relationship but thank God for the prayers and companionship with the Diocese of Recife, our former companion diocese. A new companion relationship is under consideration.

There is a call from the committee for the support of this Synod in the area of refugee sponsorship. A coordinating individual or body is required to develop and resource this ministry. The appointment of a new PWRDF Diocesan coordinator has given this ministry new life. Workshops are planned for the fall, and much help is needed from the parishes to promote this work. I am encouraged that our diocesan camps will be considering "mission" as part of the program for campers at our camps. This Synod should embrace the opportunity to make a difference by finding creative ways to partner in this ministry.

#### PARISH SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Diocesan Council through the work of the Parish Support and Development Committee has a broad mandate which is both practical and philosophical. Practical in the sense of providing resources and opportunities for parish support in the areas of training and resources for parish lay leadership, and philosophical in the sense of providing encouragement to parishes when distressed by concerns for their future.

The Bishop and Council are seeking direction from this Synod in regard to several areas of our diocese that are facing an uncertain future because of rapidly changing demographics and aging infra-structure. Many parishes are threatened by this inevitability. This reality is found in both the rural and urban settings. I believe a diocesan-wide long-term strategy is required to prepare, and, at the same time, sustain in the midst of this foreseeable change. A pastoral consultative and participatory approach will be required.

#### SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The words "spiritual formation" are code words that are used to describe a conscious effort to sustain and deepen our relationship with God. The seventeen ministries listed in the Report have this mandate. A mandate to offer every opportunity to our diocese to take part in planned study, training and fellowship activities that draw us closer to God and to encourage us to go forth into the world with a spiritual confidence that God wants others to join in. Our spiritual welfare is primary.

Synod's guidance as to how these ministries may be promoted and enhanced would be welcome encouragement. Again, so much of the success for these worthwhile ministries is dependent on the support of the parishes and willingness to participate.

#### STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

This committee has been busy for a number of years sponsoring annual stewardship workshops and assisting the budget process in the development of our diocesan narrative budget. This model of telling our ministry story and the many benefits to God's mission locally and abroad is a good news story. But it is not only a collective story, it is a personal story. The response to the call of God's mission in the world begins in the individual heart and the depth of the relationship we have with God. God's heart is a heart of abundant love. We cannot experience or respond with a spirit of generosity if we do not accept his call to love others as he loves. Stewardship is seen as a negative word because we perceive it as a word that is going to ask something of us that we are ill prepared to give. Giving should always be in response to the Giver. "God so loved the world that he gave". His mission is to love us. Our mission ought to be to show him love in return. God never hoards what we give him and we ought not to hoard for ourselves or on his behalf. Every blessing in God's world is to his honor and glory and is to be shared for the benefit of every creature great and small.

Our greatest asset is the relationship we have with God. And to help us understand this important truth the Council has directed the Bishop to pursue the opportunity to partner with our national church for a full-time stewardship and parish development officer for our diocese. I have submitted an expression of interest under their invitation to the diocese for a pilot project in stewardship development. I am encouraged by their early response. This pilot project is designed not simply for our benefit but for the benefit of the whole church. Under the terms of the partnership on-going resources and learnings would be shared with parishes, other dioceses and our national church.

If this grass roots initiative titled "Letting Down The Nets" under the guidance of our national church is to succeed it will require the full support of this diocese and the support of each and every Anglican across the Canadian Church. I am excited about the possibility that God's mission will be advanced in this part of the kingdom and beyond by these efforts. Your thoughts and concerns are welcomed by the Team. Our commitment must reflect that of sacrificial love. With anything less, we will not see our vision for mission realized.

I sit as a member of the Financial Management Team of the National Church and as a member of the Financial Development sub-committee. I am privileged to be part of this exciting work. The membership of this committee is a wonderful group of highly skilled and knowledgeable folk that seek to do God's will on behalf of the whole Church. Please keep this good work in your prayers.

#### YOUTH MINISTRIES

The extensive work completed and in progress by the youth committee and the diocesan youth director is reported on pages (D) 25-28. Our new Christian Education Director is working in close concert with the Bishop and the Youth Director. Youth leader training, youth ministry development, and parish youth support are a top priority for this ministry. I am excited about the number of parishes that have hired full or part-time youth leadership personnel, while others have entered into partnerships for shared youth leadership.

Since our last synod I have confirmed 283 youth and have started a data base where it will be possible for the Bishop, Christian Education and Youth Director to keep in contact for prayerful encouragement, and to extend invitations for common events that will serve to strengthen post-confirmation relationships within the diocese.

The leadership in parish-based youth mission initiatives is very encouraging. Youth teams with diocesan assistance are putting their creative ideas into action by visiting Belize, Cuba, and one parish planning a trip to Honduras.

Music and ministry camps continue to be highly successful, and leadership continues to be strong. A statement of encouragement from this Synod supporting the continuation of these initiatives would be extremely important. God's children deserve nothing less. The work of Council and the capable leadership of our directors speaks for itself.

#### CONCLUSION

I thank God every day for your prayers and encouragement. I have enjoyed getting to know you better while traveling around the diocese and meeting many faithful volunteers at every level. On behalf of Diocesan Council I respectfully submit this work and charge you with the responsibility to encourage the whole diocese to engage in a process of prayer and support for the vision and ministry we share in God's mission to the world. Fear ought not to inhibit us from moving forward in faith.

To the clergy, both active and retired, and our retired bishops, I thank you for your faithfulness in your calling to serve. May God bless each member of Synod as we partner in his service. May this Synod be a blessing to all and that you may witness his abundant love over the next three days and always. AMEN.

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

## Appendix 2

### Response to the Bishop's Charge

to the 128th Session of Diocesan Synod

02-04 June 2005

Summary of responses to the following questions in seven areas of discussion:

1. What are the 3 most important things we would like the Bishop to be aware of concerning his charge in the area of ministry that we are discussing?
2. What 3 recommendations do we want to make to the Bishop and the Diocesan Council that would guide them as we move forward in the area of ministry that we are discussing?
3. What 3 recommendations do we want to make to our Parishes that would guide them as we work with the Bishop and Council in the area of ministry that we are discussing?

### Administration

Question 1:

- Do not spend time creating new positions, new administrations. Too focused on survival. Seek to provide voluntary positions. Reconsideration of hiring Stewardship and Parish Development Officer
- Heavy handedness campaign. Although ministry is necessary.
- Bishop to visit any vestry requesting during his deanery visit over eighteen month period.

Question 2:

- Stewardship: diocese to be more proactive at parish level especially developing spiritual aspects of stewardship.
- Diocese take more in depth study of communities where churches may close re economics.
- If resources are required for diocese, it means less emphasis on parish needs.

Question 3:

- Parishes should be resolute in developing local mission and style of ministry.
- Encourage at parish level enhanced giving - stewardship.
- Clergy need to be educated on stewardship and teach it at parish level.

### Episcopal

Question 1:

- Residential schools- repentance and forgiveness is needed in the church.
- Need for timely response from bishop to parish communications.
- How will we pay for new ministries.
- Bishop must recognize and value Church Army & Taylor College.
- Matrimonial Commission should be revised concerning "sensitivity issue."
- Need clearly articulated view concerning same-sex and other divisive issues.
- Recruitment of clergy must be a priority.
- Layreader training should be a priority.
- Unity of the church is vital, and bishop must promote across diocese.
- Better use of executive assistant.
- Why is there an intentional shift to promote AST? Stand for Christ and his word, not the politics of the world. Consistent attention should be given to discipline and accountability at all levels.

Question 2:

- Council should work toward maintaining unity.
- Better time management of bishop's schedule.
- Love is blessed but union is not "marriage."
- Need revision of matrimonial commission.

Question 3:

- Parish should report by personal reflection the various episcopal ministries

- Parish should reflect and celebrate the diversity of “mission.”
- Parishes should provide welcome and ministry to gays and lesbians without compromising scripture.
- Bishop should visit deaneries for 24-hour missions.
- Common prayer should be celebrated and strengthened.
- Parish priest should be trained in regard to matrimonial commission revision.

### **Mission Outreach**

#### Question 1:

- Increase awareness of youth, regardless of any Church affiliation. More youth involvement in ministry and adequate funding.
- Mission needs a balance between local and overseas projects; 9 of 14 ministries within the Diocese Mission needs to be clearly defined – what is it? Diocese needs a clear Mission Statement.
- Need to support our Companion Diocese. The Church grows as it looks outward rather than inward – need to share this with parishes.

#### Question 2:

- Communication needs to be improved. Rectors need to use discernment as to what to support in his/her parish.
- Bishop could appoint a refugee coordinator.
- Have inter-generational projects for all ages.
- Have companion parishes within Diocese.
- Encourage the Bishop to develop projects to reach the poor in our communities.

#### Question 3:

- We ought to engage in missions now and not wait until things get better.
- Seek more amalgamations to develop more shared ministry.
- Rectors to encourage laity to develop their gifts for ministry and provide means to put them into use.
- To identify key people for leadership roles.

### **Stewardship and Financial Development**

#### Question 1:

- Thankful for work done by s & f comm. Encourage rectors and parishes to make use of the information available.
- Give more information and promote “letting down the nets” initiative
- Narrative budget is an important step.
- Bishop to urge high attendance at stewardship workshops and encourage training teams in each parish.
- Affirm that good stewardship is a result of good relationship with god
- Give good reasons for giving money, time and talent. However, people are concerned about costs involved in hiring full-time persons
- Promote good stewardship of all Creation, since spiritual vitality and maturity are connected to stewardship and giving.

#### Question 2:

- Promote lay visitation in each parish, focused on people’s needs.
- Promote evangelism at personal and parish level through the appointment of evangelistic teams in each parish.
- Encourage personal/family testimonies about spiritual growth through good stewardship.
- Encourage the sharing of stewardship ideas that work such as by producing videos of successful stewardship stories which could be shared in general parishes.
- Stewardship officer? More bureaucracy or will pay for itself. Some are in favour; others are not.

#### Question 3:

- Parishes should inform the diocese about local problems and needs, and should be more proactive in communicating with the diocese.
- Parishes need to be more receptive to information disseminated by the diocese, and to promote the same.
- Encourage parishioners to take part in church activities, especially the youth
- Encourage parishes to support synod in their mission endeavours.
- Encourage parishioners to see the church as part of that extended family.
- Challenge parishioners to compare individual/family monthly expenses with the monthly amount given to god's work \ mission.

## **Youth**

Question 1:

- Fundamental importance of Diocesan Youth Ministries.
- We must put keep our own house in order.
- Recognize the tensions between youth cultures and the traditions, and work with them.

Question 2:

- Resource the ministry by intentional prayer and identifying financial resources.
- Enable youth focused worship styles to flourish.
- Expand and deepen our youth ministries

Question 3:

- Communication
- Participation
- Partnerships

## **Spiritual Formation**

Question 1:

- Communication – Information to all at every level (keep everybody in the loop)
- Website?
- Promotion of groups in bulletins, N.B. Anglican etc.
- Evangelism/Mission – Increased emphasis on Christian Education.
- Realize the value of the 19 groups in our cluster.
- Emphasis on youth.
- Bishop's Vision – Is dependent on Bishop looking after his health. We appreciate your vision and leadership. We want you to continue looking after your health.

Question 2:

- Communication – Better communication of information. Use technology (all parishes on-line)
- Video – (perhaps for Lent). Showcasing all 19 groups.
- Missioner – Full-time visitor to parishes.
- Consultant who listens.
- Spreads message of formation and development

Question 3

- Each parish wrestle with question.
- How do we make vision more manageable?
- How do we do "more" teamwork?
- What is next step at the parish level
- Better communication at parish level.
- Better communication at outside community level.
- Develop Lay reader ministry? Bring lay readers under Spiritual Development Team umbrella.

## **Parish Development and Support**

#### Question 1

- Communications – Important in prospering parish support & development.
- Made great progress in this regard.
- Need to evaluate what we have and continue to utilize and improve communication
- Resource Package – Excited about its arrival.
- Make its production a top priority.
- Important to identify who we are and where we should be going as a parish.
- Clearly identify our challenges, celebrate our success
- Be open “willing to think outside the box”.
- Lay people – Identify spiritual gifts, train individuals and empower them in their ministries.
- Clerical leadership to encourage and facilitate lay ministry.

#### Question 2

- Human Resource Directory focused on Ministries – to be for diocesan-wide distribution.
- Willingness to explore and engage ecumenical resources.
- Current training programs good start but need more.
- Acknowledge differences of individual parishes.
- Intentional follow-up of Visionary Process.

#### Question 3

- Seek God’s vision for Parish and articulate clear goals and objectives.
- Parish linking process emphasizing interdependency as encouraged by Bishop’s Charge.
- Encourage deliberate follow-ups of inactive Anglicans.

Dr. Mohan Iype  
Vice-chair of Diocesan Council  
04 June 2005