



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 30 November 2019

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

21 September 2019

St. Andrews Church Hall

Parish of Newcastle-Nelson-Hardwick

Miramichi, NB

### **Pre-meeting circulation**

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019)
- Attendance Chart
- Correspondence
- Greater Chapter Missional Action Reports
- Standing Committee, Teams, and Other Reports
- Representative Reports

### **Participants**

Attending: David Barrett, David Bell, Gilbert Carter, Sandra Craft, David Edwards, Geoffrey Hall, Brent Ham, Heather Harris-Jones, Chris Hayes, Mary Anne Langmaid, Siobhan Laskey, Bob LeBlanc, Coralie Losier, Keith Osborne, David Peer, Ted Quann, Paul Ranson, William Ross, Robert Taylor, and Cheryl Young.

Regrets: Kathy Asch, Lionel Hayter, Susan Jack, Roderick Black, Cathy Laskey, Rob Marsh, Joanna Saunders, Thomas Stradwick, and Wandlyn Snelgrove.

Absent: Linda Fury, Rosemarie Kingston, John Matheson, and Dylan Nicoll.

Guests Attending: Shawn Branch, Robbie Griffin, Gisele McKnight.

### **Eucharist**

1. The Bishop celebrated the opening Eucharist for the feast of St Matthew. In his meditation, the Bishop reflected on the reading from the Gospel from Matthew on the important role of Evangelists in the Church.

### **Call to Order**

2. Following a short break, Bishop David called the meeting to order at 1055. He noted the regrets of 9 council members.

3. As the Bishop introduced the Agenda for the meeting he noted that the Treasurer had family commitments and requested Council approve a change to the Agenda to bring item 6 d) and item 2 c) i) forward so that the Treasurer could provide her contribution to the meeting first.

*MOTION 1: Gilbert Carter / Sandra Craft*

***That the agenda be approved as circulated and amended.***

*MOTION 1: Carried.*

### **Finance Committee Report**

4. The Treasurer provided an update on the Shared Ministry Budget and 2019 Employment and Pension Bonus Assessments and noted that the very small variance between budget and actuals. The Treasurer noted that her concerns about the volatility of the market had caused her to reduce the anticipated return on investments in the Diocesan Consolidated Investment Fund from 5 to 4%. The Treasurer will be looking at options to improve the return on investments moving forward. The Chancellor asked if the \$43,000 bequest on the Income Statement could be publicised and given a purpose. The Special Purpose loss on the Income Statement is related to the Medley amphitheatre and the timing difference between revenue recognition (2017 -18) and expense (2019).

5. Expenditures are under budget by \$143,000, \$75,000 from targeted reductions and the rest from delayed spends. There was an overall net loss of \$100,395 at the end of August.

6. The Treasurer brought to the Council's attention the changes in the format of the 2018 Financial Statements. These changes are in line with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The large net loss and resulting lower Operating fund balance on the statements are caused by unrealized investment loss due to the market. This loss was reduced by a surplus in the operational funds where the Synod office had control.

7. The Bishop asked for a motion to receive the 2018 Financial Statements and Review Engagement Report.

*MOTION 2: Gilbert Carter / Robert Taylor*

***That Diocesan Council receive the 2018 Financial Statements and Review Engagement Report as presented.***

*MOTION 2: Carried.*

8. **Parish Investments and Diocesan Funds Rate of Interest.** The Treasurer of Synod presented the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the rate of interest for July to December for funds invested in the Diocesan Consolidated Investment Fund (DCIF) be set at 2%.

*MOTION 3: Gilbert Carter / Keith Osborne*

***That Diocesan Council approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee that an interest rate of 2% be paid on parish investments and diocesan funds in the DCIF for the six month period from July to December 2019.***

*MOTION 3: Carried*

9. **Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer noted the financial staff was working on a project to bring the e-offering capability into the Synod office. The person currently doing e-offering for the diocese wants to retire and the system being used is no longer supported. The transition will be done in waves and it will be mid-spring before the project will be complete. The change will be transparent for parishes, except the contact person will be different.

### **Business Arising**

10. **Financial Requests for infrastructure needs process.** The Treasurer reported that parishes now have one common form for funding requests and deadlines have been set so that applications are reviewed and prioritized together.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

11. Diocesan Council reviewed the minutes of the last Diocesan Council meeting.

*MOTION 4: Chris Hayes / Ted Quann*

***That the minutes of the June 1st, 2019 Meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted.***

*MOTION 4: Carried*

### **Minutes of the July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Diocesan Council Executive Meeting**

12. Diocesan Council received the minutes of the Diocesan Council Executive meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

*MOTION 5: David Barrett / Mary Anne Langmaid*

***That the minutes of the July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting of the Diocesan Council Executive be received as presented.***

*MOTION 5: Carried*

### **Business Arising**

13. **Letter of Thanks.** The Secretary of Synod sent the letter of thanks to the Rev. Ann Fairweather requested at the last meeting of council.

### **New Business**

14. **Synod delegates – Westside Anglican Mission.** The Secretary of Synod reminded council that a motion is required for Delegates from the Westside Anglican Mission to attend Synod.

*MOTION 6: Siobhan Laskey / Geoffery Hall*

***Moved that Diocesan Council extend an invitation to the Westside Anglican Mission to send their two identified delegates, Ann Stone and Margaret Ann Reid, or their alternate Judy May Gallant if one of their Delegates is unable to attend, to the November 2, 2019 meeting of Diocesan Synod***

*MOTION 6: Carried*

### **Faith Formation**

15. Shawn Branch led the meeting on a discussion on how the Diocese might invite and empower leaders with gifts as Apostles, Prophets, and Evangelists as a way to become a Diocese on mission. Members broke into teams to consider the question and then shared the results of group discussion. Shawn closed the session with prayer.

### **Lunch**

16. At 1205 the Bishop offered a blessing for the meal the Parish of Newcastle-Nelson-Hardwick prepared for Council members and paused the meeting for lunch.

17. The Bishop thanked the parish team for the excellent meal and refreshments and for their ministry of hospitality. The Bishop reconvened the meeting at 1300.

### **Greater Chapter Missional Action reports and Committee and Team Reports**

18. The Bishop requested a motion to receive the Missional Action and Committee and Team Reports contained in the Diocesan Council information package and the Missional Action reports provided by the Archdeacons of Fredericton and Chatham at the meeting.

*MOTION 7: Rob LeBlanc / Paul Ranson*

***That the reports be received.***

*MOTION 7: Carried*

19. **Companion Diocese Team.** Robbie Griffin, chair of the Companion Diocese Team, provided a live report to Council. He covered his recent visit to the Diocese of Ho and a potential project with Rotary and Rotary International to provide a mobile medical clinic for the diocese. Working with Rotary offers the potential to significantly multiply diocesan funds dedicated to this project; a \$25,000 initial contribution could become \$200,000 and the link with Rotary will provide a local agency to manage the project and provide accountability. Rotary requires that the project also be sustainable before a project received funding. Robbie needs to get all the pieces together before a project can start.

20. **Constitution and Canons.** David Bell reviewed proposed amendments to parish governance on page 18 of 79 of the meeting package and provided context. The changes will provide accountability for parish trusts. It will be more work at first, but after trusts and trust conditions are identified it will be less work moving forward. The term special trusts refers to any money left to a parish that has special conditions.

*MOTION 8: David Bell / Sandra Craft*

***That Diocesan Council recommend to Synod that Canon Six – Parish Governance be amended as proposed.***

*MOTION 8: Carried*

21. David Bell reviewed proposed changes to Regulation 4-1 on Regional governance on pages 19-22 of the meeting package. The regulations have been simplified to reflect the reality of regional governance in the diocese.

*MOTION 9: David Bell / Siobhan Laskey*

***That Diocesan Council approve Regulation 4-1 – Regional Governance as circulated.***

*MOTION 9: Carried*

22. **Nomination Committee.** Robert Taylor noted that this year Synod would be electing delegates to Provincial and General Synod. And Rev Ann Fairweather has agreed to help.

### **Representative Reports**

23. The Bishop requested a motion to receive the Representative Reports contained in the Diocesan Council information package.

*MOTION 10: Mary Anne Langmaid / Chris Hayes*

***That Diocesan Council receive the Representative reports as circulated.***

*MOTION 10: Carried*

24. **Parish Development Officer.** Shawn Branch noted the good feedback on the Deep Roots Conference and that he was planning for another big gathering in 2021.

### **Other Items**

25. **Synod Office Building Update.** The Secretary of Synod reviewed the action being taken to find new office space for the Synod Office.

26. **Synod Planning Update.** The Secretary of Synod announced that the Synod would be held at Journey Wesleyan Church in Fredericton and that the Agenda was still in development.

27. **Pre Synod Greater Chapter Meetings.** The Secretary of Synod reminded members that the agenda for their upcoming Greater Chapter meeting must include time to review Canonical changes, the election of members for Diocesan Council, and time for the Bishop or the Parish Development officer to speak. The Synod officer is developing content for the Greater Chapter meetings.

### **Meeting Schedule**

28. The Bishop noted the proposed meeting schedule for the next five meetings of Council on page 3 of the meeting package.

### **Next Meeting**

29. The next Diocesan Council meeting is the two-day session at Villa Madonna with the new Council from Friday November 29<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### **Adjournment**

30. The Bishop asked for a motion to Adjourn.

*MOTION 15: Mary Anne Langmaid*

***That this meeting of Diocesan Council be adjourned.***

31. The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer at 1425 and council members and invited guests said "the Grace" together.

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Rev'd David Edwards  
Bishop and Chair

The Rev'd David Peer  
Secretary of Synod & Recording Secretary

**"Good news"**

**Parish of New Bandon:**

They had a very successful vacation Bible School this summer. There was on average 7 children present each day along with volunteers from the parish. All had a great week.

The annual Strawberry Social was held and was enjoyed by all who attended.

We also had a very successful summer student program again this year benefiting both the students and the Parish.

**Parish of Restigouche:**

Sale of St. Mary's rectory in Dalhousie completed in early July.

Food safety course was organized by the ministerial association. Three members from the Parish plus the rector took part in this and they received their certification.

**Parish of Bathurst:**

With the ever increasing cost of heating our building, we at St. George's have been blessed this summer. We had a parishioner come forward and what they called this was a gift from God to purchase 6 heat pumps for our buildings. 4 Heat Pumps have been installed in the church and 2 in the church hall.

**Parish of Chatham:**

**Parish of Derby/Blackville:**

**Parish of Newcastle/Nelson/Hardwick:**

The parish received a donation from a parishioner for the amount of \$44,000.00. The parish is looking at what they could do to support families, activities at Miramichi Valley High School and to extend their ministry to the new senior's facilities in the community.

This year marks 140 years of ministry in Nelson. There will be a series of activities and worship services at the end of September and early October at St. Mark's in Nelson

We held our Summer Social in July which was hosted by Rev. Ann Fairweather and her husband Scott in the Parish of Restigouche and held was at the rectory. Bishop Edwards attended. All Active and retired clergy were invited and those in attendance had a fun filled night.

Our Deanery meetings will start up again in September and the attendance is good for these meetings.

Attendance in the churches throughout the summer have been good.

We continue to pray for the arrival of Rev. Paul Gwese in the Parish of New Bandon.

**One "most challenging" item:**

**Other:**

Form revision 24-01-2011

**Respectfully submitted by** Archdeacon Sandy MacPherson  
**On behalf of** Archdeaconry of Chatham

## **Missional Actions Update September 2019 Archdeaconry of Fredericton**

- Participation in the "Buy a Stud" fundraising activity by Habitat for Humanity for the first accessible home built in Fredericton
- Community Blessing of the Bikes (and other land-roving vehicles)
- Monthly commitment to pack food in schoolbags for the school lunch program
- Community Summer BBQ and Games Evening
- Community Summer BBQ
- Community Corn Boil
- Alpha Course for Parenting Young Children – open to community
- Alpha Course for Parenting Teenagers – open to community
- Summer "Author's Time" for Children
- Participation in Tidal Impact