

Past Synod Motions of Note

(other than procedural motions and those that result in legislative change)

2019

Motion 137-18 – The Rev Bonita LeBlanc/Maxine Fullarton

THAT Diocesan Council develop a policy and procedures for the perpetual care of cemeteries located within dissolved parishes.

Motion 137-19 – Shawn Branch / The Rev Christopher Hayes

THAT members of this Synod encourage parishes to continue the momentum begun through Surprise the World's challenge to lead "questionable" lives by urging fellow Anglicans to accept the Anglican Communion's invitation to enter a season of intentional discipleship, until 2025, to strengthen our identity in and mission to New Brunswick communities.

Motion 137-20 – Shawn Branch / The Rev Dr Sean Davidson

THAT this Synod request each parish to discern and develop a Mission Action Plan during 2020 that outlines its mission, discipleship and ministry focus for the season ahead (between 2-5 years as appropriate).

Motion 137-21 – The Rev Canon Leo Martin/The Rev Paul Ranson

THAT as Jesus prayed for the Church to be one, so the Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton commits itself to walk together, in the bonds of love and affection, recognizing diverse opinions on the matter of marriage in the church. We will care for one another and continue to strengthen our commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel and living and loving as Christ.

2017

Motion 136-14 - The Rev'd Thomas Nisbett / Ms Kathy Page

That Diocesan Synod urge the Government of New Brunswick to:

- a) introduce a system of Mediation Support for all cases proceeding through the New Brunswick Court of Queen's Bench - Family Division that cannot be resolved with a single hearing;
- b) give judges in the Court of Queen's Bench - Family Division the option, through legislation, of requiring parties to participate in a Mediation Program prior to any Court hearing; and,

c) establish a cadre of trained, volunteer professionals to provide Mediation Services to parties journeying through the Family Court system.

2016 None

2015 None

2013 None

2011

Motion 131-07

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

Motion 131- 09

This Synod recommends that Diocesan Council require as follows:

Whenever an Archdeaconry Greater Chapter is to be convened the following procedure shall be followed as far as practicable:

- (a) the notice of meeting shall solicit suggested agenda items;
- (b) a draft agenda shall be circulated or otherwise made available at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Motion 131-11

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

Motion 131-12 - John Cathcart / Patricia Drummond

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

1. Guidelines to assist parishes in making the decision to close a church building. These may include viability criteria and reference to 'big picture' thinking for ministry that may be provided by the Diocese in that area;
2. Information with references regarding canons, policies and guidelines already in place to deal with this issue;
3. A checklist of items that will need to be addressed (cf, the Diocese of Toronto's Church Closing Checklist);
4. Suggestions as to best practices in regard to a service of thanksgiving and deconsecration;
5. A list of available resources that offer pastoral help in such situations (eg. The Alban Institute publication *Ending with Hope: Resource for Closing Congregations*, edited by Beth Ann Gaede); and
6. Guidelines and resources available should the best option be demolition of the church building.

Establishment of this group would be subject to available funding.

2009

Motion 130-12 (amended)

That this Synod adopt, and refer to the Bishop and Diocesan Council the report and strategic direction of the Task Force on Rural and/or Struggling Parishes. That specific recommendations within the report be considered and prioritized by the Bishop and Diocesan Council for implementation subject to available funding as identified by the Bishop and Diocesan Council. That the strategic direction of the transformational change included in the report be accompanied by a change program including a comprehensive communication plan as to why change is required and what this will mean to members of our church.

Motion 130-14

That this Synod request that the Bishop and Diocesan Council establish a task group to assess the value and the effectiveness of current diocesan governance structures and processes, with a view to improving administrative efficiency and reducing costs, subject to available funding as identified by the Bishop and Diocesan Council.

Motion 130-23

That Synod take note of the resources and possibilities available in church planting as a means of evangelism and church growth, and direct Diocesan Council to explore opportunities for church planting in this diocese subject to available funding.

Motion 130-27

That this Synod:

- Recognize the importance of pastoral ministry directed towards Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered persons (LGBT), particularly in regards to that offered by Anglican clergy and Anglican organizations such as Integrity Fredericton and Zacchaeus Fellowship
- Recognize that Integrity Fredericton and Zacchaeus Fellowship are both organizations that operate pastoral ministries to the LGBT community within our Diocese, and
- Encourage the continued support of pastoral ministry towards the LGBT community.

2007

Motion 129-12

This Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton resolves:

a. This Synod reaffirms the Diocese of Fredericton's commitment to the Godly care and pastoral support of people of all sexual orientations. This Diocese along with the whole Church is challenged (as the Archbishop of Canterbury stated on March 28, 2007) to ensure that our Churches are "truly (a) safe place(s) for people to be honest and where they may be confident that they will have their human dignity respected, whatever serious disagreements about ethics may remain." In keeping with Lambeth 1998 -- Resolution 1.10 we commit ourselves to ongoing listening to the experience of homosexual persons and assure them that "they are loved by God and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ." We encourage the Bishop and Diocese to initiate and engage in a sustained Biblical and theological conversation about human sexuality using the listening process requested in preparation for the 2008 Lambeth conference.

b. In accordance with the teaching of Lambeth Conference 1998 Resolution 1.10, this Synod reaffirms the position taken at our 127th and 128th Synods that:

1. Marriage (as understood by the Church) 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 the same sex

c. In line with the St. Michael Report we regard the blessing of same-sex unions as a matter of doctrine, with implications that are integral to the doctrines of salvation, incarnation, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, theological anthropology, sanctification and holy matrimony. Given that any change in Christian teaching on this doctrinally serious matter has significant implications for the unity of the Church we believe that any change ought to require wide consultation and no less than a two-thirds majority in each house of the General Synod over two successive General Synods in order to be regarded as canonical.

d. This diocese is determined to remain an integral part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, thus we reaffirm the decision of Synod 2005 and make clear to the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada that, should it decide not to follow the doctrine and discipline of the Communion this will cause a tear in the fabric of our relationship with the General Synod.

e. This Synod, recognizing that catholicity is one of the marks of the Anglican Church, and recognizing that each of the Instruments of Unity (the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference, the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates Meeting) have affirmed that the worldwide Communion should take no action concerning authorization of the blessing of same sex unions unless a new consensus emerges, we therefore urge

General Synod to do all in its power to preserve the “bonds of affection” within our Communion.

f. We urge the General Synod to take seriously the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury, made in his Presidential Address to the General Synod of the Church of England (Feb 26, 2007) to the effect that the worldwide Anglican Communion should lay aside the currently divisive matters around human sexuality and address the more difficult issue of how the Anglican Communion becomes “a body attempting to live in more than one intellectual and cultural setting and committed to addressing major problems in a global way...”

g. In light of the above, the Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton does not intend to return to this matter unless the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada takes precipitant action concerning the contentious issues around human sexuality. We have made a definitive statement and it is our intention to move ahead with other important matters in the areas of mission and ministry.

The Secretary of Synod is directed to send a copy of this entire motion to the Archbishop of Canterbury and to memorialize the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada 2007 with the same.

Motion 129-19 (as amended)

That this Synod direct Diocesan Council to continue to develop the Diocesan Group Property and Liability Insurance Program and that specific steps be taken to ensure parishes not able to comply with the established minimum standards (A-19) for coverage by other means be required to comply by participating in the group program.

Motion 129-20 (as amended)

Be it resolved that this Synod recognize and affirm that:

- Water is a sacred gift that connects all life.
- Access to clean water is a basic human right.
- The value of Earth's fresh water to the common good takes priority over any possible commercial value.
- Fresh water is a sacred legacy, a public trust, and a collective responsibility.

Be it further resolved that the Diocese will explore potential options for action in the promotion of clean water projects.

2005

Motion 128-17

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.

Motion 128-18

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.

Motion 128-20

Because many authorities in our wider society 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 128-23

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.

Motion 128-26

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.

Motion 128-27

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.

Motion 128-35

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 128-37

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.”

2003

Motion 127-19

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

Motion 127-24 (as amended)

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

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

Motion 127-26

That this Diocesan Synod affirms and upholds the teaching of the Church, and call on the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada to affirm and uphold, the teaching of the Holy Scriptures and the Church:

(1) that marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others; and

(2) that no clergy person may bless any union or marriage of persons of the same sex; And that the Synod directs the Secretary of Synod to memorialize this motion to the meeting of the General Synod of 2004.