



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

115 CHURCH STREET, FREDERICTON NB E3B 4C8

(506) 459 1801 [o] (506) 460 0520 [f]

Approved 04 October 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

10 June 2006

St. Luke's Church Hall

Parish of Woodstock

Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (15 March 2006)
- Attendance Report
- Team Reports
- Finance Committee Report
- Team Priority Item Summary
- B-18 Rules of Court (draft)
- Code of Pastoral Conduct Exec. Summary
- May 2006 Greater Chapter Summary
- Shared Ministry Plan Draft 4.0
- Iqaluit - Arctic Letter of Request
- Rural Church Summit
- Nominating Committee R&R Draft

Meeting circulation:

- B-17 The Ministry of Vocational Deacons
- B-17 Appendix B Celebration of New Ministry
- Code of Pastoral Conduct (Draft 4)
- Council Membership (25 May 2006)
- Residential Schools Agreement in Brief
- Information - AST Campaign
- Camps Campaign Report
- Spiritual Development Team Report
- Council Membership (09 June 2006)

In attendance:

Stuart Allan, Murry Arnott, Elizabeth Belyea, John Cathcart, Robyn Cuming, Patricia Drummond, Charles Ferris, Vicars Hodge, Mohan Iype, Mary MacDonald, Hazel MacKenzie, Richard McConnell, Claude Miller, Douglas Painter, Elizabeth Reid, Robert Salloum, Fred Scott, Donald Thompson, Cecil VanBuskirk, Walter Williams.

Regrets: E. Belyea, K. Osborne, C. Crowe, K. Dow, B. Hunt, P. Gillies, D. Hamilton, G. Connor, R. Cuming, J. Sharpe, L. Martin, G. Porter

Guests:

Ana Watts, Phyllis Cathcart, Bev Smith, Kim Montieth.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:04 a.m..
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed Mary MacDonald as the new ACW President and representative on Diocesan Council.
- 1.3 Resignation of Bonnie Hunt. The Bishop read a letter of resignation form Diocesan Council from Captain Bonnie Hunt who will be moving the Red Deer AB during the summer.
- 1.4 The Bishop offered opening reflection and a reading from Luke 5:1-11. In his comments he made reference to the difficulties within which we function and the need for the recognition that in the midst of it we are abundantly blessed and need to continually give thanks to God.
- 1.5 Bishop's Report and comments: Recent events have included: Shediac and Fredericton Archdeaconry visits (100 confirmed); Warden's, Layreader's and Treasurer's Days; ACW Annual; ordination of Marian Lucas-Jefferies in Halifax; General Synod Financial Development Committee and House of Bishops; sod turning in the Parish of the Nerepis and St. John; deconsecration of St. James', SJ and St. Barnabas, SJ; 2 meetings of Bishop's Counsel. The Bishop's Walk for AIDS Relief is developing and response is very good – posters available for distribution through the archdeaconries. Up-coming events include youth camping, Choir School, ordination of two vocational deacons and one priest and commissioning of Church Army officers.
- 1.6 MOTION 1: J. Cathcart / D. Thompson. **That the Agenda be accepted as circulated.**
MOTION 1: Carried unanimously.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting: 15 March 2006

- 2.1 MOTION 2: W. Williams / R. Salloum. **That the draft minutes of the last meeting be accepted as circulated.** When the question was called,
MOTION 2: Carried unanimously.
- 2.2 Business Arising.
 - 2.2.1 Signing authority Canon change (Constitution and Canons Committee) By Synod 2007.
 - 2.2.2 Nominating Committee (Agenda Item 4.7)
 - 2.2.3 Iqualuit Cathedral (Agenda Item 4.8)
 - 2.2.4 Shared Ministry Plan - Final Draft for adoption (Agenda Item 4.3)

3. Reports

- 3.1 Council Team Reports. Reports as circulated were reviewed.

3.1.1 Stewardship and Financial Development.

MOTION 3: D. Thompson / M. Arnott. **That Diocesan Council offer a vote of thanks to Jim Morell for his commitment to leadership of the Rejuvenating the Parish Workshops.**

MOTION 3: Carried unanimously.

3.1.2 Spiritual Formation.

R. McConnell offered some commentary at the request of the Chair, J. Cathcart, who circulated a report. Information creates dependency; communication creates community. Frustration is common when trying to keep track of so many independent programming initiatives throughout the Diocese. So much time is being spent on controversial issues that regular program and ministry is often not a top priority and not well supported. Over-scheduling of events seems to take place between April and June. There is need to tighten up the budgeting process as most program groups continue to do end runs directly to the Treasurer for that which is perceived to be historically funded program.

3.1.3 Parish Support and Development.

The Chair added to the circulated report that Gwen McKnight will be officially retiring with a celebration at Anglican House on Tuesday, 29 August 2006. The Resource Centre has a student for this summer once again. Many do not seem to purchase from Anglican House. We need to support our bookstore.

3.1.4 Mission / Outreach. As circulated.

3.1.5 Episcopal.

The Chair pointed out that estimated deadlines were updated on the Priority Item Summary as circulated.

3.1.6 Administration.

Report as circulated. Several current priority items will be addressed under Business. A question was raised about the item of Volunteer Screening processes. The pro tem chair suggested that it is under consideration but that time has not permitted much progress to date.

3.1.6.1 Finance Committee.

The report, as circulated, was briefly discussed. Some discussion at length regarding the difference between a "review engagement" and a "financial audit." Because of the charitable nature of our organization, a financial audit does not lend itself to the results one might expect. The review engagement will produce adequate information for our purposes while being slightly less exhaustive and less costly.

MOTION 4: M. Iype / K. Joyce. **That Diocesan Council endorse the recent decision made by the Finance Committee to perform a review engagement as opposed to a financial audit for the year 2005.**

MOTION 4: Carried unanimously.

In the context of discussion on the financial report, J. Cathcart expressed some frustration with what he had interpreted to be a past response of Diocesan Council to change the name of the Spiritual Formation Team.

MOTION 5: J. Cathcart / V. Hodge. **That Diocesan Council change the name of the Spiritual Formation Team to the “Spiritual Development Team.”** When put to the vote,
MOTION 5: Carried unanimously.

E. Reid raised a question about 2006 funding to Atlantic School of Theology. The Treasurer indicated that no funds have yet been sent. There was clarification that the amount of \$4000 is sent on a quarterly basis to King’s College who use those funds toward its commitment to the one-third amount of Anglican financial support of the institution.

M. Iype questioned how we should deal with a \$70,000 + deficit. There are questions regarding the parish formula for calculating diocesan support. Should we be investigating the budgeted items in the 2006 to see if some cost control might be implemented. It was suggested that this be referred to the Finance Committee.

The problem of the deficit is due to the lack of translation of the vision of the Diocese and it is not being taken seriously. The question was raised: Do parishes see the fall budget meetings as consultation or information? Although we are living within the budget, our deficit is occurring exactly as predicted early in the year. The problem is not expense overage but being short on the projected income side.

MOTION 5: D. Thompson / V. Hodge. **That Team reports to Diocesan Council be accepted.**
MOTION 5: Carried unanimously.

3.2 Other Reports

3.2.1 Archdeaconry Greater Chapter May Meeting Summary

C. VanBuskirk made comment on the report as circulated. Three specific points were made:

- a) Education on Letting Down the Nets is needed.
- b) There is strong support for the foundational values, strategic initiatives, vision and mission of the Shared Ministry Plan.
- c) Communication is an important issue.

MOTION 6: C. VanBuskirk / R. McConnell. **That the summary and report from the meetings of Archdeaconry Greater Chapters be accepted.**

MOTION 6: Carried unanimously.

3.3 Items for Information

3.3.1 Bishop’s Directive B-17 “The Ministry of Vocational Deacons” was distributed.

3.3.2 AST Future Growth Campaign. The Diocesan contribution amounts to 4% of the expected support. Direct appeal to parishes of the Diocese has yielded no return.

4. Business

4.1 Ecclesiastical Rules of Court.

MOTION 7: C. Ferris / G. Hall. **That Policy B-18 Ecclesiastical Rules of Court be adopted as presented.**

Ms. Kim Monteith was introduced and welcomed to the meeting offering a brief introduction on the draft of B-18. The Court is not called often. The Rules assist with the detail of the function of the Court. There was a question about 4(d) regarding competency of the person providing representation. It was noted that this would probably not be an issue but the reference gives direction if needed. One correction in B-18 - 12 (a) “that” to “than” was noted.

MOTION 7: Carried unanimously.

The Chair thanked Ms. Monteith for her work and her presence.

4.2 Code of Pastoral Conduct.

MOTION 8: C. Ferris / G. Hall. That the Code of Pastoral Conduct (Draft 4) be tabled for consideration and that discussion and adoption be scheduled at the next meeting of Diocesan Council.

Professor Bev Smith was introduced and made introductory comments on the Code. The Code is intended as a guide for professional conduct, should promote collegiality and support and if adopted will serve as a reference point for clergy conduct. It is based on the foundational concept of the relationship of love of the Triune God.

Why do we need a code? a) It is a written guide. b) It can be a tool with which to measure conduct. c) It can be a teaching tool for those entering the ordered life of the Anglican cleric. Not meant to be primarily a disciplinary tool and does not replace the Ordinal, rather the theological basis of the text is the Ordinal. The Code would probably not apply as credible in a secular court of law but would be a document consulted should questions of professional conduct be considered.

The following points were made by members of Council: a) "Counseling" may not be the same as giving advice. b) There is often an overlap between accountability and responsibility. c) The issue of the seal of the confessional must be considered. d) Who applies the code? – Bishop on behalf of the Diocese. e) What is the role of the Diocesan Council in applying the Code? – None.

Relationship between Bishop and clergy remains the same. f) Is the Code based on scriptural principles? – The Ordinal is based in Scripture. g) The current draft indicates one day off per week for the professional cleric. h) Obligations to family seem to be missing.

MOTION 8: Carried unanimously.

Professor Smith was thanked for his work on this document. He assured Council that their comments, thus far, are valued and will be taken into consideration. The ethics of the professional cleric will be the topic of the August Clergy Conference.

4.3 Shared Ministry Plan

MOTION 9: C. VanBuskirk / D. Thompson. That Diocesan Council approve the mission, vision, directions and foundational values of the Shared Ministry Plan Draft 4.0 and refer the action items to the Parish Support and Development Team of Council for further development and report the same to the September meeting of Council and seek to present again to Archdeaconry Greater Chapter meetings in the Fall of 2006.

On the discussion, there was some question as to why the Parish Support Team would be charged with revising the action items proposed by the entire Council. C. VanBuskirk indicated that a few assigned the work would be more likely to get the job done.

MOTION to Amend 9a: C. VanBuskirk / W. Williams. That we include the words "as broadly supported by Council and the parishes of the Diocese."

MOTION 9a: Carried unanimously.

MOTION to Amend 9b: M. Iype / J. Cathcart. That the motion contain the words "referred to the Parish Support and Development Team and others to lead further development and presentation to the September meeting of Diocesan Council."

MOTION to Amend 9b-1: P. Drummond / R. Salloum. That the amendment also read "adding other members of Diocesan Council as needed." When put to the vote,

MOTION 9b-1: Carried unanimously.

When the Amendment 9b was put to the vote,

MOTION 9b: Carried with two opposing votes.

When the vote was called on the amended Motion 9 which read:

That Diocesan Council approve the mission, vision, directions and foundational values of the Shared Ministry Plan Draft 4.0 as broadly supported by Council and the parishes of the Diocese and refer the action items to the Parish Support and Development Team of Council, adding other members of as needed for further development and report the same to the September meeting of Council and seek to present again to Archdeaconry Greater Chapter meetings in the Fall of 2006.

MOTION 9: Carried with 2 nay votes.

4.4 Rural Church Summit - July 27-30, 2006

MOTION 10: V. Hodge / R. Salloum. **That we send two diocesan representatives to the Small Rural Church Summit in London ON (with a report to the September meeting of Council through the Parish Support Team) at an approximate cost of \$1000 using funds budgeted for the implementation of the Letting Down the Nets Pilot Project.**

When question was called,

MOTION 10: Carried unanimously.

The question was raised as to who would determine the individuals to attend and it was suggested and agreed by consensus that the Bishop would do so.

4.5 Privacy Policy (B-14) amendment.

MOTION 11: C. Ferris / G. Hall. **That s. 1 of Appendix 'C' of the Diocesan Privacy Policy (B-14) which reads:**

1. Effective immediately, records of baptism, marriage and confirmation which occurred after 1975 and funerals and burials occurring after 1985 will not be open to the public.

be amended to read:

1. Effective immediately, records of baptism and marriage which occurred after 1955 and funerals, burials and confirmations occurring after 1985 will not be open to the public.

MOTION 11: Carried unanimously.

4.6 Panel of Investigators.

MOTION 12: C. Ferris / G. Hall. **That Professor John McEvoy be appointed to the Panel of Investigators under the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure (B-12).**

MOTION 12: Carried unanimously.

4.7 Nominating Committee.

MOTION 13: G. Hall / M. Arnott. **That the nominating committee be established as a standing committee of Diocesan Council according to the proposed Roles and Responsibilities as circulated.**

MOTION 13: Carried unanimously.

The Bishop asked for nominations to the two Council positions which would establish that Committee. M. Iype and R. Salloum were nominated. J. Cathcart moved that nominations cease. The two members of Council were declared elected. It was decided by consensus that the three current members of the Nominating Committee nominate two additional members-at-large for appointment by the Bishop and that the Committee report to Diocesan Council through the Administration Team.

4.8 Iqaluit Cathedral.

MOTION 14: G. Hall / V. Hodge. Receiving the appeal from the Diocese of the Arctic that we send \$1000 in support of the re-building of St. Jude's Cathedral with our prayers and grant permission, as requested, for the Diocese of the Arctic to appeal to parishes of our dioceses directly.

On the discussion, the question was raised as to from where in the current operating budget the donation should be recorded. The Bishop recommended that it be the Mission/Outreach portion of the budget even though it may represent an over-expenditure for 2006.

MOTION 14: Carried unanimously.

4.9 Events Calendar.

MOTION 15: M. Iype / C. Ferris. A task force of 5 individuals be established, to examine the timing of all diocesan-sponsored events and to, if possible, establish a fixed-time each year for such events.

On the discussion it was questioned that a new task force is necessary to consider this question. There was general agreement among members of Council that this is an issue and its resolution will not be easily found. "The Diocese" is composed of many and various groups all with their own schedules and agendas. Co-ordination is always a struggle.

MOTION to Refer 15a: V. Hodge / R. Salloum. That Motion 15 and the issue of events scheduling be referred to the Diocesan Council Administration Team. When put to the vote, MOTION 15a: Carried unanimously.

5. Meeting Schedule.

Future meetings currently scheduled:

- Wednesday, 20 September - Rothesay
- Saturday, 04 November - Fredericton

Other meeting dates generally agreed upon were:

- Wednesday, 17 January 2007 (location?)
- Saturday, 17 March 2007 (location?)
- Wednesday, 16 May 2007 (location?) – pre-Synod –

A post-Diocesan Synod meeting will need to be considered but will be difficult to schedule due to the timing of General Synod 14-21 June 2007.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Hall (The Ven.)
Secretary of Synod

Claude W. Miller (The Rt. Rev. Dr.)
Chair

15 September 2006