



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 10 November 2010

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

18 September 2010

St. Andrews Church, Parish of Newcastle

Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda 18 September 2010
- Draft Minutes (19 May 2010)
- Team and Standing Committee Reports

Meeting circulation

- Study - Luke 16:1-13 "The Parable of the Dishonest Manager"

Attending: Anna Caines, William Chilton, Patricia Drummond, Ann Fairweather, Geoffrey Hall,, Martha Jo Hoyt, Brian Hudson, Emily Jacobs, Keith Joyce (a.m.), William MacMullin,, John Matheson, Gerald McConaghy, Richard McConnell, Claude Miller, Ted Quann, Fred Scott, Richard Steeves, Gordon Thompson, Walter Williams.

Guests: Jim Morell, Wallace Turnbull (10:55 - 11:40 a.m.), Ana Watts, David Wilson.

Regrets: David Barrett, Florence Joy Clement, David Edwards, Joanne Fitzpatrick, Rick Haddad, Vicars Hodge, Robert LeBlanc, Leo Martin, Gregory McMullin, Clyde Spinney, Michael Tower.

Guest Regrets: George Porter, Elizabeth Harding

Lunch was served by the Parish at 12:15 p.m. Hospitality was greatly appreciated and specifically members Carolyn, Jean and Janet were thanked following.

OPEN

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Vice-Chair Ann Fairweather at about 10:09 a.m.. Archbishop Miller opened with prayer and the Chair welcomed members and guests and noted member and guests regrets. Thanks were offered to Archdeacon Steeves and the Parish of Newcastle for the gift of hospitality.
2. The Agenda
The Agenda was accepted by consensus recognizing two motions sent by the Nominating Committee would normally be Bishop's appointments and will not be made.
3. Study
Luke 16:1-13 was read and smaller groups were invited to consider the passage for about 20 minutes using the questions provided. Each group briefly shared insights from their discussions.
4. Minutes of Last Meeting
A correction to page 1, Call to Order - 3 "talking often"

MOTION 1: B. Hudson / T. Quann

That minutes of 19 May 2010 be adopted as corrected.

MOTION 2 was carried unanimously.

FINISHED AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

As reported:

Finished 1. The to the Parish of Fredericton re parish to parish loan
2. Thanks to the Parish of Sussex re parish to parish loan
3. Episcopal Ministries Team Roles and Responsibilities posted

Unfinished 1. Embryonic Stem Cell Research
2. Evaluation of Diocesan "Structures"
3. Stewardship Education and Programming
4. Support of the Diocesan Budget
5. Church Planting
6. Rural and/or Struggling Parishes
7. Parish Every-member Visitations
8. Review of Retiree Benefits
9. Rothesay Netherwood School Governance

A discussion followed on the issue of the Synod 2009 motion regarding embryonic stem cell research. It was decided by consensus that the Episcopal Team would be asked to consider possible action and report to the next meeting with a recommendation.

PRESENTATIONS

Rothesay Netherwood School

Mr. Wallace Turnbull addressed the Council offering history of his involvement with RNS and the Diocese. He made the following comments with an attempt to bring the current questions regarding draft legislation before the Council for consideration.

- School incorporated 1930
- Before 1963, the Bishop of Fredericton was the chair of the RCS Board
- Significant changes over the years, Netherwood School and Rothesay Collegiate School and name change to Rothesay Netherwood School.
- New governance structure being considered under the new name
- Operating under a 99 year lease which "states promises of the School to the Diocese about how it will be run"
- Bishop as "visitor" one of those promises
- The role of Visitor does not inhibit the Bishop's role and interest in the property
- Current draft sets up to 40 members on the Board, maximum of six appointed by the Bishop
- Chaplain (preferably a teaching member of staff) appointed in consultation with the Bishop

C. Miller pointed out the importance of a good working relationship between the Head and the Bishop. A question was raised about reference to the Chaplain as "he" in the lease. Current Chaplain is part-time and non-teaching.

MOTION 2: R. McConnell / B. Hudson

That the Motion 10 (19 May 2010) be lifted from the table for consideration.

MOTION 2 was carried unanimously.

Restated, the motion read:

That the Diocesan Council approve in principle, the draft legislation relating to the Rothesay Netherwood School appearing as Appendix A [19 May 2010 report of the Constitution and Canons Committee], subject to any additional changes which the Chancellor may judge advisable or necessary to ensure the intent thereof.

On the discussion, W. McMullin expressed concern that members of the Council voicing specific concerns at the last meeting are not present. It was suggested that the motion does not prevent members of the Council communicating with the Chancellor before final "arrangements" take place. Several members spoke in favour of the motion. When the question was called, MOTION 2 was carried. 18 in favour; 1 opposed.

G. Hall noted that the original motion was in two parts and that "Part B" would be necessary to complete the business as proposed by C. Spinney on 19 May 2010.

MOTION 3: B. Hudson / MJ. Hoyt

That this Council authorize the Chancellor to proceed together with counsel for the School to arrange for the adoption of such legislation.

MOTION 3 was carried unanimously.

Ecumenical Officer

Robert Brittain delivered his report to the Council and received thanks for being attentive to the important work of maintaining a Diocese of Fredericton presence and participation at many denominational meetings over the time of his appointment.

Evaluation Task Force

Task Force member David Wilson, at the invitation of the Council, delivered the report. Four recommendations suggested. Significant discussion followed. Some of the points raised were:

- perceptions need to be backed by data
- "self-resourcing" language may be considered misleading?
- may be in a different direction than the Synod intended although probably what is needed
- the report names the real issues including the gap between parish perceptions and what the Diocese is doing as a unit
- structures and governance still need to be examined
- "mission unit" does not necessarily mean "mission focused"
- cannot "accept" the report but willing to "receive" it
- many agree with the diocesan mission (proclaiming and making) but are unable to do it

It was noted that the content of the Report is not regarded as final or in a form to be reported to the wider diocese. The intention of the interim report is to determine from the Council if this is the direction in which it recommends the Task Force continue. A motion was made to that effect.

MOTION 4: P. Drummond / B. Hudson

That the Council express thanks to the Evaluation Task Force for their work, receive the interim report and encourages it to continue to the next steps as to how the recommendations might be implemented.

MOTION 4 was carried unanimously.

2011 Budget Preparation

F. Scott on the 2011 budget process. Specific information points:

- need for narrative budget for communication purposes
- false economy when meeting budget commitments facilitated by cutting personnel costs
- all teams are asked to have ministry plan and corresponding budget needs to the Finance Committee by 22 October 2011 for inclusion.

Information

To promote the leadership conference and mission in the Parish of Coldbrook and St. Mary from 29 October – 1 November and the Every Member Visitation Workshop in Sussex on 22 November, a brochure, and information sheet, containing registration details were circulated.

REPORTS

MOTION 5: W. Williams / W. McMullin

That reports of standing committees and Diocesan Council teams be received.

MOTION 5 carried unanimously.

1. Finance Committee

G. McConaghy presented the report as circulated. Two motions resulting:

MOTION 6: G. McConaghy/ MJ. Hoyt

That the renewal of the Group Property and Liability Insurance Plan include a provision for a self insured \$1,500, subject to financial viability, i.e., rate reduction in recognition of the added deductible.

MOTION 6 was carried unanimously.

MOTION 7: G. McConaghy / MJ. Hoyt

That the Parish of Fredericton be given permission to apply to the Anglican Foundation for funding in support of the restoration of St. Anne's Chapel and that the Parish be permitted to apply in this 2010 calendar year, or barring that possibility, in 2011.

MOTION 7 was carried unanimously.

2. Nominating Committee

The report was considered noting that the Medley Committee chairs have been appointments of the Bishop. Two motions:

MOTION 8: G. Hall / G. McConaghy

That Ms. Hazel MacKenzie and the Rev'd Bob LeBlanc be appointed to the Nominating Committee for another one-year term.

MOTION 8 carried unanimously.

MOTION 9: G. Hall / T. Quann

That the Ven. Walter Williams and the Rev'd Bonita LeBlanc be appointed to the Sexual Misconduct Committee for another one-year term.

MOTION 9 carried unanimously.

3. Human Resources Committee

The report was considered noting the request for a working session at the November 2010 meeting of the Council.

MOTION 10: W. Williams / W. Chilton

That the Human Resources Committee have a working session with Diocesan Council at the November meeting to review their projects underway, to obtain Council's input on their relative priority and the direction the projects should take.

MOTION 10 was carried unanimously.

4. Stewardship and Financial Development Team

MJ. Hoyt presented the report, speaking specifically about the Every Member Visitation Workshop scheduled for November and; the research and development of a job description for a potential diocesan position in congregational development and stewardship including consultation with the Bishop and archdeacons. Details of a budget for such a position are in

process. It would now seem that there is good potential for assistance from General Synod for implementation. There is need to clarify definitions of gift planning, stewardship, congregational development, philanthropy. A lengthy discussion followed.

MOTION 11: MJ. Hoyt / B. Hudson

That the Council agree in principle with research by the Stewardship Team on details of a potential diocesan staff position and encourage continued development in consultation with the Administration Team and Finance Committee, reporting back at the November meeting.

MOTION 11 was carried with 14 in favour and 2 opposed.

5. Administration Team

J. Morell presented the Report making particular reference to progress on the Nicodemus Project and a recent report of the Communications Committee. Part of the challenge of tracking progress is the absence of statistical data. Several barriers to the collection of statistics were raised. It was suggested that disciplinary action should be avoided. In response to the questions raised in the Report, members were asked to e-mail their suggestions and comments to J. Morell. A brief discussion was invited regarding difficulties in finding accommodation to support an early June 2011 Synod. Possibilities include a Synod held in October, for which Council generally supported further exploration.

6. Youth Ministries Team

The report was considered. A question was raised about the position of Christian Education Director being vacant since late 2009.

7. Parish Support and Development Team

Reference to the Congregational Development Workshop hosted by the Parish of Coldbrook and St. Mary in October and the launch of "A Foundation for Life" (congregational development fund). J. Morell expressed concern that this programme not get lost with less than necessary communication.

8. Episcopal Ministries Team

Presented by G. Hall highlighting one of its items: the need for all Teams, including the Episcopal Team, to be conscious of the need to make connections with those fulfilling roles and the groups under their purview to facilitate communication and prevent isolation. Reference was made to the summary of Committees, Groups and Organizations included as part of the Report.

9. Spiritual Development Team

Visit of Michael Harvey (Back to Church Sunday) on 19 October 2010 and the anticipated Lenten activity re Anglicanism were highlighted.

10. Mission / Outreach Team

A. Caines spoke of success with the Team recently connecting with purview groups. Some membership challenges.

KEY MESSAGES

The Chair facilitated a discussion on key messages. The Council:

- was pleased to hear about progress on the "A Foundation for Life" congregational development fund and the letter from the Bishop to facilitate its launch in early October.
- recognizes accountability as a theme among specific diocesan needs to be addressed
- noted continuing progress on the Nicodemus Project and that it is challenging not only to parishes but for the Diocesan Council

- should give consideration to the potential of inspiring spiritual components to future Synods
- is pleased that approval for the draft Act of legislation for Rothesay Netherwood School was given and looks forward to hearing from the Chancellor on future progress

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Thanks

Expressed to the Parish of Newcastle, guests of the meeting, members of the Council and to A. Fairweather in her role as chair.

2. Diocesan Council Meetings

Wednesday, 10 November 2010 (Fredericton, location TBA)

Saturday, 22 January 2011 (Fredericton, location TBA)

Wednesday, 23 March 2011 (TBA)

Saturday, 14 May 2011 (TBA)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 15: J. Mattheson

That the meeting be adjourned.

The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer at 3:57 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Ann Fairweather
Vice-Chair and Meeting Chair

The Ven. Geoffrey Hall
Secretary of Synod

13 November 2010