



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 26 May 2018

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

17 March 2018

St John's Anglican Church
Parish of Oromocto and Maugerville
56 Broad Rd, Oromocto, NB E2V 1C2

Pre-meeting circulation

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (27 Jan 2018)
- Draft Minutes of Executive Meeting 26 February 2018
- Attendance Chart
- Team and Standing Committee Reports
- Land Sale Agreement Protocol (Parish of St Andrews)
- Synod 2018 Draft Legislative Amendments
- Safe Harbour House Update Report

Participants

Attending: Kathy Asch, David Barrett, David Bell, Roderick Black, Gilbert Carter, Sandra Craft, David Edwards, Geoffrey Hall, Brent Ham, Chris Hayes, Lionel Hayter, Susan Jack, Cathy Laskey, Siobhan Laskey, Coralie Losier, Rob Marsh, John Matheson, Keith Osborne, Ted Quann, William Ross, Joanna Saunders, Thomas Stradwick, Robert Taylor, and Cheryl Young.

Regrets: Rosemarie Kingston, Mary Ann Langmaid, Dylan Nicoll, Christian Persaud and Wandlyn Snelgrove.

Guests Attending: Shawn Branch, Robert LeBlanc, Gisele McKnight, David Peer and Anne Walling.

Eucharist

The Bishop presided at the opening Eucharist. In his meditation, the Bishop reflected on Celtic Christianity and that their mission statement was taken from Gen 13:17 not the end of Matthew, "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."

Call to Order

Following a short break, Bishop David called the meeting to order at 1050 and received the regrets of five council members. He thanked Rosemary Kingston for her service as Diocesan ACW president. Rosemarie is stepping down as president and this would have been her last Council meeting, had she been able to attend.

The Bishop introduced the Agenda for the meeting and noted that item 7b. would be covered under item 8.

MOTION 1: David Barrett / Thomas Stradwick

That the agenda be approved as circulated and amended.

MOTION 1: Carried.

Membership

The appointment of the Ven. Rod Black as Archdeacon created a vacancy for a clergy member from the Archdeaconry of Woodstock.

MOTION 2: Rob Marsh / Robert Taylor

That Diocesan Council appoint Robert LeBlanc as the clergy representative from the Archdeaconry of Woodstock, effective immediately.

MOTION 2: Carried

Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

MOTION 3: Gilbert Carter / Ted Quann

That the minutes of the 27 January 2018 Meeting of Diocesan Council be adopted.

MOTION 3: Carried

Business Arising

Mediation Support in Family Courts. The Bishop reported that he had received a letter from the Attorney-General that indicated the Diocese was not alone in raising this issue and that the government is working to establish a better system of mediation in Family Court.

19.2 Administrative Restructure. The Bishop discussed “Shaping the Future of the Diocese” with the Diocesan Council and how his thinking has evolved since the last time he raised administrative restructuring with Diocesan Council. He shared his thoughts about separating the Bishop’s Office from the Synod Office to allow the Bishop of Fredericton to take on a more pastoral role and to reduce the potential for issues of trust in that pastoral role. The Bishop noted that his opinions are still developing and asked that they remain private to Council until he is ready to discuss it more widely.

19.4 Land Sale Agreement (Parish of St Andrews). Diocesan Council approved a protocol at the last meeting (page 34 of the pre-meeting circulation) that was not consistent with the actual recommendation of the Finance and Property committee. Council did not have the recommendation of the Committee at the meeting and no one from the Finance Committee remembered that the intent of the protocol was to allow a 4-year, not a 3-year window on forgoing Finance and Property Committee approval.

MOTION 4: David Bell / Brent Ham

That Diocesan Council approve the Land Sale Agreement protocol allowing the Parish of St. Andrews to forgo Finance and Property Committee approval on land sales of at least 90% of appraised value as presented. (Said appraisal to be no more than four years old.)

MOTION 4: Carried with one opposed

19.7 Safe Church. Cathy Laskey asked members to encourage parishes to complete the parish safe church audit. Our Safe Church Officer has recorded a presentation on Safe Church to DVD and is looking for local presenters to help with a diocese-wide training effort. It is not possible for Ben to do all the training himself.

Minutes of the Diocesan Council Executive Meeting

Diocesan Council reviewed the minutes of the last Diocesan Council Executive meeting, held for the purposes of appointing a signing officer to replace the retiring Treasurer.

MOTION 5: Susan Jack / Gilbert Carter

That the minutes of the 27 February 2018 Meeting of the Diocesan Council Executive Committee be received.

MOTION 5: Carried

Faith Formation

Chris Hayes led a prayer before a presentation by Shawn Branch, Diocesan Parish Development Officer. After Shawn's presentation, council broke up into small groups to consider two questions: What kind of sign are we, and what kind of sign do we want to become? After a time of sharing in small groups, Diocesan Council met in full and considered the results. Shawn closed the faith formation time in prayer.

Lunch Break

The Bishop offered grace for the meal and adjourned the meeting for lunch. On calling the meeting back to order, the Bishop thanked those members of St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church who prepared such an excellent meal.

Committee and Team Reports

The Bishop noted the reports from committees and teams that came with the pre-meeting package.

MOTION 6: Rob Marsh / Robert LeBlanc

That Diocesan Council receive the Committee and Team reports in the pre-meeting package.

MOTION 6: Carried

PWRDF. Ann Walling, PWRDF representative presented her report. She noted that PWRDF has sent correspondence to parishes on resources available to promote PWRDF programs and initiatives. She reviewed a number of them during her report. She requested parishes wanting promotional resources to place an order by the end of March; the resources are free.

Finance. Gilbert Carter reviewed the Financial Committee report sent with the pre-meeting package and noted two errors: item 3, should read \$5.7 million, and item 4, should read *the Parish of Portland*.

Nominating Committee. The Bishop summarized the Nominating Committee's report and asked for motions to implement their recommendation. Robert Taylor noted that his name was inadvertently left off the list of members of the Nominating Committee.

MOTION 7: Robert Taylor / Chris Hayes

That Robert LeBlanc be appointed the Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, effective immediately.

MOTION 7: Carried

MOTION 8: Susan Jack / Kathy Asch

That David Alston be appointed Mediator, effective immediately.

MOTION 8: Carried

Robert Taylor noted that his name was left off the Nominating Committee's report; he is a member. Siobhan Laskey asked a question about the Curacy in the Parish of Portland that is in the Financial Report. The Bishop noted that the generous Gift of Dorothy Wilkes has allowed the Diocese to provide support for a Curate when he is willing to support a request to appoint a cleric.

Synod 2018 Draft Legislation

The Chancellor, David Bell, provided background on the Synod and the roles and responsibilities of the Chancellor and vice-Chancellor and reviewed the process for amendments to Canons. He noted that a background memo in the addenda to the pre-reading package explains the intent of the proposals.

Amendment of the Synod Constitution. This change proposal resolves an anomaly resulting from term limits for Lay Delegates approved at the 2016 Synod. Term Limits might prevent some lay members from continuing on Diocesan Council thus affecting the stability of lay membership to Council from Greater Chapters.

MOTION 9: David Bell / Coralie Losier

That the proposed amendment to the Synod Constitution be recommended to the Synod for enactment.

MOTION 9: Carried.

Amendment of Canon Three – Election and Appointment of Bishops. This proposed change to Canon Three would remove misunderstanding that could exist that the results of an Electoral Synod are final. Before a bishop is enthroned Requirements of the Province of Canada must be met.

MOTION 10: David Bell / Kathy Asch

That the proposed amendment to Canon Three: Election and Appointment of Bishops be recommended to the Synod for enactment.

MOTION 10: Carried.

Amendment of Canon Four – Diocesan Governance. This proposed change to Canon Four would regularize current practice, and give the Diocesan Bishop express authority to take executive decisions that a chief executive officer of an organization would normally take.

MOTION 11: David Bell / Ted Quann

That the proposed amendment to Canon Four – Diocesan Governance be recommended to the Synod for enactment.

Discussion on the question suggested that the members would not be able to come to a substantial agreement on the way forward at the current meeting and Siobhan Laskey suggested that the motion be tabled for the next meeting for members to have time to consider it in more detail and for the Chancellor to have an opportunity to consider the discussion so far and prepare a response.

MOTION 12: Siobhan Laskey / Lionel Hayter

That Motion 12 on the proposed amendment to Canon Four – Diocesan Governance be tabled and reconsidered at the next Diocesan Council meeting.

MOTION 12: Carried.

Amendment to Canon Six: Parish Governance. This proposed change removes a pointless distinction in the possible role of a non-incumbent chairing the annual meeting of parishioners or chairing the parish corporation. Siobhan Laskey suggested a change in wording to increase clarity in the proposed amendment by replacing “annual meeting” with “annual meeting of parishioners.” The Chancellor agreed with the revised wording.

MOTION 13: David Bell / Tom Stradwick

That the proposed amendment to Canon Six: Parish Governance, as amended, be recommended to the Synod for enactment.

MOTION 13: Carried.

Safe Harbour Update Report

The Bishop brought to the Diocesan Council’s attention that in Safe Harbour had addressed some maintenance issues.

Other Items

No other items were presented.

Next Meeting

The next Diocesan Council meeting is Saturday, 26 May 2018 at Camp Brookwood.

Adjournment

The Bishop asked for a motion to Adjourn.

MOTION 14: John Matheson

Moved that this meeting of Diocesan Council be adjourned.

The Bishop closed the meeting at 1445 and council members and invited guests said “the Grace” together.

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Rev'd David Edwards
Bishop and Chair

The Ven Cathy Laskey
Secretary of Synod

The Rev'd David Peer
Recording Secretary