

Minutes of a Meeting of Diocesan Council
Thursday, 15 September 2005
1:00 to 5:00 PM
ADC, Binney Hall

002-01-11-05

Welcome: Bishop Hiltz welcomed members of Council and called the meeting to order.

Present:

Lay members: Sandy Evans, Roy Newcombe, Judith Beaver, Ken Turner, Patrick McWade, Elaine Young, Ruth Kingsbury, Karen Wood, Jonni Turner, Elizabeth Pooley, Donna Mosher, Barbara Trecartin, Reg Beaver, Kees Zwanenburg.

Clerical members: The Revs. Cathy Lee Cunningham, Stacey Renouf, Mark Kingsbury, David Reid, Dianne Parker, Gloria McClure Fraser, Fred Rhymes, Heather Hamlin Gravells.

Lutheran Partner: The Rev. Jim Slack.

Ex officio members: Bishop Fred Hiltz, Bishop Susan Moxley, the Chancellor, John Arnold, the Executive Secretary, Fred Krieger, the Dean, Glen Burgomaster.

Staff: Executive Assistant to the Bishops, the Rev. Canon Gordon Redden, Peter Flemming.

Guests: Helen Ryding, Margy Withrow, Leslie Jeager, Ted Johnson, the Revs. Liz Earley, Trevor Lightfoot, Duanne Tanswell

Regrets: The Revs. Pam Bishop, Katie Tait, Tom Vaughan

Common Prayer: Led by Elaine Young.

Minutes of the previous meeting (002-01-09-05). Approved as circulated.

Agenda of this meeting (001-01-09-05): With the addition of the Archivist's Report (046-01-09-05) and the Resource Centre Report (036-01-09-05) the Agenda was accepted as circulated.

Notices and business from the Executive Secretary of Synod:

Council remembered the following persons who had died since the last meeting of Council: The Very Reverend J. Austin Munroe, Mrs. Gerry Walker, and the Reverend John Erb.

Please note the revised meeting dates for the Fall 2006 meetings: October 19 and December 7. Council is scheduled later so that standing committees can meet before Council. Those elected at the 2004 Synod will serve until replaced at the October meeting of Synod.

The Anglican Foundation Screening Committee was announced: Ken Turner, chair, Patrick McWade and Reg Beaver.

Please note the document circulated that gives due dates for Anglican Foundation Applications **(019-01-09-05).**

Please note the document **'Possible Ways to Reduce the Size of Synod Membership in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island (005-01-09-05).** Council will discuss the document at the November meeting using the following suggested questions: (1) Do we desire to reduce the size of synod membership? (2) Are the suggestions made for reducing the size of synod ones that should be investigated? (3) If Council believes or decides that the membership of synod should be reduced then what standing committee, task group or persons should make draft proposals to come before Council and then on to the October 2006 synod?

Report on a Consultation with Alice Mann on Cooperating Congregations (050-01-09-05), submitted and discussed by the Revs. Dianne Parker and Fred Rhymes. Highlights: A successful and stimulating consultation. The purpose of amalgamation is effective ministry. Congregational cooperation/amalgamation is a heuristic process, i.e. a process of discovery.

Progress Report from the Bishop's Task Force on Property Redevelopment, presented by Helen Ryding, Duanne Tanswell and Margy Withrow. A substantial report dated June 23, 2005, was given to the Executive Secretary but not circulated to members. The report to Council is part of a process of reporting progress to date to stakeholders. Highlights: The matter of land ownership is complex. Land will not be

sold. There is no definite proposal or time line for development now. Development criteria have been set out and circulated to interested developers. Development may help reduce costs.

It was moved and seconded (Burgomaster/J. Beaver)

‘that Council thank the Task Force for its work and invite it to continue exploring redevelopment possibilities.’ Carried.

Report of the Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, presented by the Rev. Liz Earley. She circulated and spoke to a written report that recounted her activities and suggested resources on ecumenism and interfaith relations. Discussion centred on the health of the Atlantic Ecumenical Council and interfaith efforts opposing video lottery terminals. The Rev. Jim Slack offered to report information on eucharistic sharing between Lutherans and Methodists in the United States.

Report on lowering the age of eucharistic ministers, presented by Bishop Hiltz. Bishop Hiltz and Bishop Moxley, in consultation with the chair of the Doctrine and Worship Committee, recommend that the guidelines on eucharistic ministers be revised omitting reference to the age of eucharistic ministers. Parish Councils determine their eucharistic ministers.

Report of Bishop Hiltz to Council (003-01-09-05). Bishop Hiltz circulated and spoke to his written report. Highlights: He met with the United Church of Canada on church revitalization. He took part in meetings on the project ‘Letting Down the Nets’ as our Diocese makes its case to become a pilot diocese for that stewardship project of the National Church. The Bishop placed before Council the revised covenant between the Bishops and Synod, and had representative members of Council sign it (appended to master minutes).

Report of Bishop Moxley to Council (003-02-09-05). Bishop Moxley circulated and spoke to her written report. Highlights: The Rev. Kiersten Wells has been hired as hospital chaplain. A university chaplain is under consideration. The Rev. Brian Spence will serve as acting director of the Anglican Formation Program at Atlantic School of Theology. Advertisement for youth coordinator will go out soon for hiring in January 2006. Bishop Moxley reported especially on the recent meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Nottingham, England. At that meeting there were important discussions on ecumenical and interfaith relations, justice, peace, and refugees. Misinformation has been intentionally and unintentionally circulated about the meeting. Most members of the communion want to maintain unity. We must listen carefully to one another. There is no monolithic and single-minded ‘global south.’ There was no resolution of censure of the American or Canadian Churches. Both churches remain in the Communion. There was a special meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury. Bishop Moxley identified some important resources.

Report of the Executive Assistants to the Bishops (026-01-09-05). Canon Gordon Redden circulated and spoke to his written report. Highlights: The 2004 audit is beginning. Assistance is being given to help the Bookroom bring its financial records up-to-date. Continuation of half-time Administrative Assistant in Program/Formation/Discernment) in 2006 has been recommended and approved. Bishop Moxley and Kathy Saunders will handle Vocation matters. Parishes have been supported by efforts to arrange loans and mortgages, urging and helping parishes to submit Parochial Returns, attempting to arrange an efficient and inexpensive means of conference calling, and sending some office staff to a workshop on the digital storage of records. Highlights of discussion arising from this report: The half-time administrative assistant is provided for in the 2006 budget. Arrangements for conference calling does not prejudice any recommendations that might come regarding a Diocesan Communications System. Timely preparation and submission of Parochial Returns is the responsibility of parish rectors, treasurers and wardens.

Report of the Controller. Peter Flemming, Diocesan Controller, reported that ‘Balances brought forward’ for 2000 continue to cause problems. These are being slowly reconciled. There is no need to resubmit information again. Parish ledgers will provide sufficient documentation if needed. Current quarterly statements are being issued. Please report inaccuracies.

2006 Draft Budget (re-numbered to 010-01-09-05). Ted Johnson circulated and spoke to the draft 2006 budget (appended to master minutes) that included explanatory notes and commentary. Highlights: The failure of some parishes to submit parochial returns complicates the budget process. The budget is now organized according to the established visioning goals. Certain revenue is to come from anticipated campaign monies according to the amount pledged in the campaign by 31 December 2005. The anticipated allotment rate is 21.5%. The anticipated compliance rate is 87.5%. Total of anticipated revenue/expenditures: \$2,549,132.00. Canon David Reid believes that by 31 December 2005 the Capital Campaign will have sufficient monies pledged so that the anticipated revenue from the campaign can be included in the budget. Highlights of some questions and comments: the bishops have reduced budgeted amounts for their hospitality, the money already donated by parishes for the youth coordinator should be shown in the budget, no contingency built into this budget, and remarks on funding for Coverdale and university chaplaincy programs. Rates for clergy travel in light of rising gas prices will be considered by the Administration and Finance Committee. Canon 16 covers what parish income is subject to allotment. The budget is meant to be shared by members of Council with parishes and regions.

It was moved and seconded (Burgomaster/M. Kingsbury)

**‘that Council receive the draft budget for circulation and discussion throughout the Diocese.’
Carried.**

Report of the Administration and Finance Committee (the report was not but will be circulated to Council members). Highlights: Trevor Lightfoot reported that Administration and Finance recommends the reception of the 2006 Draft Budget. He reported the response of his committee to the document **‘Proposal to Diocesan Council Regarding Administration and Accounting Procedures for the Leap for Faith Capital Campaign’ (029-02-06-05)** referred by Council. The Committee proposes that the second paragraph of section 3. (p. 2 of 2) be amended to state membership by office rather than by name.

It was moved and seconded (Parker/Evans)

‘that the second paragraph of section 3 (found on page 2 of 2) should be amended to include the Diocesan position of each individual, excluding Mr. Conrod and Dr. Jeager, in order to indicate that the majority of the membership on this committee is determined by ‘diocesan position’ rather than by appointment or solicitation.’ Carried.

Discussion of the Housing Policy, 2.2.11 was deferred to the November meeting of Council.

Capital Campaign Update (029-01-09-05). Canon David Reid circulated and spoke to a written report. A DVD on the Campaign for use by each parish has been prepared with the help of Atlantic School of Theology. The Campaign is now in the Every Member Phase which will be celebrated on October 16, with ‘Leap for Faith Sunday.’

Report of the Program Planning Committee (009-01-09-05). The Rev. Gloria McClure-Fraser circulated and spoke to a written report. Highlights: hosted a budget consultation for committees on the new budget outline, held a Program Planning Committee visioning day in August, prepared a list of reflections regarding the role of Diocesan Council that it wants discussed by Council, plans to host another budget consultation early in 2006 for committees, and is working with Tanya Moxley on a presentation to Diocesan Council on an IT Communication System. Bishop Hiltz noted that Council would discuss the reflections on Diocesan Council at the November meeting, as well as hear the scheduled presentation on an IT Communications System.

Conclusion of meeting: The meeting concluded at 5:05 PM.

The Rev’d Canon Fred Krieger, Executive Secretary of Synod

Signed: _____

Date _____