

Minutes of a Meeting of Diocesan Council
Thursday, 17 February 2005
1:00 to 4:55 PM
ADC, Binney Hall

002-01-04-05

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

Present:

Lay members: Mary Scott, Sandy Evans, Karen Wood, Roy Newcombe, Judith Beaver, Marilyn Hamlin, Ken Turner, Peter Townsend, Selma Doucet, LeRoy Peach, Elaine Young;

Clerical members: The Rev'ds Randy Townsend, Cathy Lee Cunningham, Evelyn Knorr, David Reid, Pam Bishop, Stacey Renouf, Valeria Rhymes, Tory Byrne, Irving Letto (2:15 PM), Katie Tait

Ex officio members: Bishop Fred Hiltz, Bishop Susan Moxley, the Executive Secretary, Fred Krieger, the Dean, Glen Burgomaster;

Staff: Executive Assistant to the Bishops, the Rev'd Canon Gordon Redden, Controller, Peter Flemming;

Guests: Ray Carter and the Rev'ds Trevor Lightfoot, Austin Munroe, and Rod Gillis.

Regrets: The Chancellor, John Arnold, Peter Anthony, Patrick McWade

Common Prayer: Led by the Rev'd Randy Townsend

Minutes of the previous meeting (002-01-02-05).

Approved as circulated.

Agenda of this meeting(001-01-02-05):

Note additional written reports. There is no Anglican Foundation report. Change 'Consideration of Persons Proposed for Co-option to Synod' to the report of the Executive Secretary of Synod.

Notices and business from the Executive Secretary of Synod:

Those who have died:

Ruth Hudson, Beverley Ann McCann, the Rev'ds Whitley Trueman and Cal Pretty.

Notices:

Letter sent to the Honourable Anne McClellan, regarding high administrative costs of residential schools settlement claims. Expected guests at this meeting: Ray Carter, and the Rev'ds Austin Munroe, Trevor Lightfoot, and Rod Gillis. The Bishops have waived their normal reporting time so that a review of the Covenant between them and the Diocese may be reviewed.

Co-options to Synod:

Council ratified the following persons for possible co-option to synod: Penny Lockhart (Companion Dioceses), Selma Doucet (Capital Campaign, etc), Carolyn Chenhall (Capital Campaign), Ann Kilby (PWRDF), Melissa Kane (Youth ministry) and Peter McCreath (Strategy Planning).

Five will probably be selected. Co-opted persons have not yet been notified.

Discussion and Review of the Covenant between our Bishops and the Diocese (005-01-02-05):

The Rev'd Canon Rod Gillis facilitated a discussion of the covenant. Council members were invited to consider certain sections of the Covenant and to assess it as a 'living document'. Highlights of the discussion:

- Bishops' reflections on the document: gives good guidance on job sharing and planning; encourages and models team-work; a valuable resource, especially in knowing what to expect of each bishop; a living and lively document; some additions are needed, e.g. assignments in budget process; no major changes needed.
- a living document and a good model
- encourages and enhances open communication
- encourage more dialogue between bishops and people
- extend clergy wellness emphasis to lay readers
- bishops not supported adequately in travel. Cars should be supplied
- are the bishops getting their days off?
- persons direct questions to bishops that should go to others
- bishops should ensure that they utilize 'chain of command'

Preparations for 2010 (050-02-02-05):

The Rev'd Austin Munroe circulated and spoke to a document entitled '300th Anniversary Committee'. The Committee is proposing a series of celebrations over the next few years, with special emphasis on celebrations in the year 2010. 2006, focus on the 150th anniversary of Diocesan Synod. 2010, focus on Diocesan celebrations: end of Leap for Faith capital campaign, 300th anniversary of continuous Anglican worship in the Diocese. Actions have already been undertaken or initiated, among them: invited General Synod to meet here in 2010, booked the Metro Centre, and invited the Archbishop of Canterbury to preach at the service in the Metro Centre.

It was moved and seconded (the Rev'd Fred Krieger/the Rev'd Glen Burgomaster)

“that Diocesan Council establish the 300th Anniversary Committee as a committee of the Diocesan Council.” Carried.

It was moved and seconded (the Rev'd Fred Krieger/the Rev'd Randy Townsend)

“that the 300th Anniversary Committee set up a committee to make arrangements for the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Diocesan Synod as a subcommittee of the 300th Anniversary Committee. Carried.

Suggestions were offered: Include youth on planning committee; revise sexist title of play 'Other Men Labored'.

Report of the Executive Assistant to the Bishops (026-01-02-05):

The Rev'd Canon Gordon Redden presented and spoke to his report. Much time has been spent on parish reconfigurations and amalgamations. He noted two parish name changes. He and the two bishops have collaborated on a draft document on cooperating and amalgamating parishes. He has, with Parish Relations, addressed the matter of allotment arrears. He reported on allotment adjustments and appeals, records management and a screening process that includes a Criminal Records Check for youth workers and possibly others. The report proposed three motions:

The mover and seconder of the next three motions, duly moved and seconded, were the Rev'd Fred Krieger and Ms. Mary Scott,

“that pursuant to Section 9 (5) of the Anglican Church Act (Nova Scotia)

(1) Diocesan Council concurs with the Bishop dividing the Parish of Rosette into two parts, to be determined by him in consultation with the Parishes, and the addition of one part of the Parish of Bridgetown and the other part to the Parish of Annapolis-Granville. (Carried)

(2) Diocesan Council concurs with the Bishop amalgamating the Parish of Guysborough with the Parish of Canso-Half-way Cove to form the amalgamated parish to be known as the Parish of Canso-Half-way Cove. (Carried)

(3) Diocesan Council concurs with the Bishop amalgamating the Parish of St. James, Melford and the Parish of St. John, Arichat, to form the amalgamated parish to be known as the Parish of Strait-Chedabucto.” (Carried)

Report of the Administration and Finance Committee (010-01-02-05):

The Rev'd Trevor Lightfoot presented and spoke to his report. Balance in the voluntary youth ministry fund - \$20,215.00. New rates for Blue Cross medical coverage. The Committee is considering proposals to amend the allotment system. Allotment arrears now total \$1.9 million.

Report on Phase Two of Development Plans:

Ray Carter, Chair, reported plans to Council. The committee identified stakeholders. The land in question is owned by different groups. A cost analysis of the current buildings was undertaken. The buildings do

not meet our needs. Our needs are being discerned – for clergy housing, synod office and Cathedral congregation. A draft document of requirements has been prepared. The document, when completed, will be presented to developers for proposals. The committee completes its mandate when it has prepared options. He expects the options will be prepared by this Spring.

Report of the Controller:

Peter Flemming reported on the following items: The 2003 audit is almost complete. Materials are mostly ready for the 2004 audit. Tax receipts will be sent out shortly. 2005 allotment statements have been mailed. The office needs to look at when changes occur in payroll and pension in order to implement changes in a timely manner. The Finance Office is working towards quarterly financial statements. Monthly statements are currently beyond the capacity of the office. Consolidated Trust Fund interest will be mailed shortly.

Report on Synod Arrangements:

The Rev'd Randy Townsend, Chair of Synod Arrangements, highlighted some aspects of Synod. Notices have gone out that include reservation forms for residence, a kitchen party and a fiesta. There are two resolutions coming before Synod. There are a number of presentations, including one on the Windsor Report.

Capital Campaign Update (029-01-02-05):

The Rev'd David Reid added comments to a written report that gave a twelve month overview of the Campaign. Clergy visitations are underway. The 'Bishop's Men' will visit one another. The Committee hopes that the 'quiet' phase of the campaign will be complete by the time of Synod. Parishes were sent a Lenten Stewardship program. Momentum is building. They anticipate a pep rally in June.

Amendments to the Growth for Ministry Fund (047-01-02-05):

Bishop Moxley spoke to a document that set out changes to the Growth for Ministry Governing Regulations and By-Laws. (Appended to these minutes). Changes were made to Article One, Article Three of the Governing Regulations and Article One, Two, Three, and Four of the By-Laws.

It was moved and seconded (The Rt. Rev'd Sue Moxley/the Rev'd Valeria Rhymes)

“that the deletions and additions noted in the submitted document be accepted.” Carried.

Intranet Communications System proposal (009-01-02-05):

Council received a written report from the Program Planning Committee that outlined proposals about an intranet communications system. Following discussion, it was moved and seconded (the Rev'd Valeria Rhymes/Mary Scott)

“that this Diocese continue the search for an intranet communications system that will improve communication between parishes, committees, and the Diocesan office. Features evaluated should include: provision of web sites for parishes and committees in addition to the Diocesan office, ease of updating central and distributed web sites for people with limited technical skills, effective use of existing Internet services, low or no-cost software and low system requirements for parishes and committee member computers, ability for parishes to submit parochial returns and receive/review financial statements online in a password-protected area, and a security model that is simple to understand and modify, that can be but does not have to be centrally controlled.

That Diocesan Council authorize the Program Planning Committee to take on this search, creating a sub-group with additional members if necessary.

That the Program Planning Committee report to Council with recommendations by October 2005 at the latest.” Carried.

Bishop Hiltz reported on two matters:

(1) There will be a consultation on April 9, 2005 for clergy and laity on the Windsor Report. There will be presentations (Eric Beresford, Jim Boyles) and focused conversation. (2) He proposes to explore having a

Lutheran partner on Diocesan Council with voice but no vote. This position would come into effect in June 2005. The partner may be the Rev'd Jim Slack, Dean of the Eastern Conference, ELCC.

Report on the Recent Meeting of the Council of General Synod:

Bishop Moxley reported that COGS heard or considered the following: talk by the Primate – urged members to see work on the Council as a ministry; facilitating communication within and beyond Canada; youth network using email so youth can communicate among themselves; consideration of the Framework (work to be done at the National level)- youth have been added to it; proposals for youth 'justice camps'; Letting Down the Nets financial campaign; pilot tests of stewardship work; partnerships; the Ask and Imagine Conference (Diocese of Huron) – our Diocese has sent representatives to this; planning for an Ask and Imagine Conference for an older age group, 19-25 years old - some of our persons have been asked to work on this; the Windsor Report - Alyson Barnett-Cowan spoke about the Report – it is about divisions and communion.

Report of Strategy Planning Committee (008-01-02-05):

The Rev'd Evelyn Knorr reported on behalf of the Committee. She circulated and spoke to a 'template' the committee is preparing for circulation to key stakeholders about 'Elements of a Healthy Congregation'. Some members wondered about the purpose or need of such a template. She referred Council to the Program Planning Committee for a report on the December consultation with Alice Mann.

The meeting concluded at 4:55 PM.

The Rev'd Canon Fred Krieger
Executive Secretary of Synod

Signed: _____

Date: _____