

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Diocesan Council
Wednesday, 13 September 2006
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
ADC, Binney Hall

002-01-10-06

Purpose of the Special Meeting: To Consider the Letting Down the Nets Planning Study Report

Those invited to the meeting:

Members of Diocesan Council
Standing Committee Chairs
Members of the Stewardship Resource Development Group

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

Present

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

Clerical members of Council: The Rev'ds Mark Kingsbury, Heather Hamlin Gravells, Dianne Parker, Jim McCorrison, Gloria McClure-Fraser, Katie Tait, Fred Rhymes, David Reid

Ex officio members of Council: Bishop Fred Hiltz, Bishop Susan Moxley, the Executive Secretary, Fred Krieger

Staff: Diocesan Executive Director, the Rev'd Canon Gordon Redden, Diocesan Controller, Peter Flemming

Guests - Committee Chairs, Members of the Stewardship Resource Development Group, Letting Down the Nets Consultants: Mauritz Erhard, Charlotte Cochran, Bernie Hart, Charles O'Neil, the Rev'ds Trevor Lightfoot, Jane Reid, Carl Fraser, Leonard Bednar, and consultants, Geoff Jackson and Rob Waller
Regrets: Ken Turner, Karen Wood, John Arnold, the Rev'ds Cathy Lee Cunningham, Jim Slack

Minutes of the previous meeting were not considered.

Agenda of this meeting (001-01-09-06): Was previously circulated to members.

Business of Council conducted at the meeting:

1. Dealing with Barriers identified in the Letting Down the Nets Report

Bishop Hiltz advised Council that steps had been taken since the June 2006 meeting of Council to address the barriers to Diocesan health identified in the Letting Down the Nets Report, namely communications, organizational structure and the allotment system.

Communications: A communication task group has been formed to investigate our communications and propose an effective communications strategy, to make a final report to Council in June 2007.

Organizational structure: Following up on the work already done by the Strategy Planning Committee, Janet Marshall, working with a small group of Council members, has been asked to help the Diocese develop a structure that will serve the implementation of the Diocesan vision.

Allotment: A task group has been formed to seek a fresh approach to our allotment system that will be simple, fair, equitable, understood and accepted. It is desirable that a new system be in place for the 2008 budget.

Council endorses the initiatives taken to address the barriers

It was moved and seconded (Elizabeth Pooley/Heather Hamlin Gravells)

“that Diocesan Council endorse the initiatives described by the Bishop to address the barriers of communications, organizational structure and allotment.” Carried.

These groups will report directly to Diocesan Council.

2. Additional Co-options to Synod:

Bishop Hiltz advised Council that the following persons would receive the Faithful Service Award at our forthcoming Synod and that he proposed co-opting them as members of synod: Selma Doucet and David Olding.

It was moved and seconded (Dianne Parker/Katie Tait)

”that Council ratify the Bishop’s co-option of Selma Doucet and David Olding to the forthcoming Synod.” Carried.

The following notes are brief highlights of the presentations at the special meeting of Council and are not minutes of Council business. Minutes of discussion feedback were kept by the presenters.

Review of Letting Down the Nets Program and the Planning Study Report

Geoff Jackson and Rob Waller made presentations and led discussion.

-National Church developed the Letting Down the Nets Program in response to budget constraints that eliminated leadership in stewardship and church growth at the National level. The wider program has four tracks: (1) Stewardship education and congregational development, (2) Proportional giving, (3) Annual appeal, and (4) Major gifts and planned giving.

-a theology underlies the stewardship venture, namely healthy congregations and healthy stewardship grow out of relationships which give birth to a community’s identity, which yields a vision, which gives way to clarity of mission which generates work towards goals and strategies, etc.

-the planning study in the Diocese of NSPEI was generated from interviews and focus groups with persons in various regions and with various histories with the church.

-three principal barriers to healthy stewardship and growth were identified: communications, organizational structure and our allotment system. These mitigate against trust.

-those present were invited to discuss and name three additional barriers.

-Some Council members expressed concern over the Report’s high focus on money and its financial and attendance criteria for a viable parish.

Stewardship Liturgy

Canon David Reid led members in a stewardship liturgy that included quotations about stewardship, ‘Stewardship Prayers of the People’ and offertory and other prayers.

Lunch was prepared and served by the Ladies Guild of St. Peter’s, Birch Cove.

The Event

Charles O’Neil led members in an exercise of six parts: (1) private reflection and group discussion of ‘what do I now believe and do about Christian stewardship, and how do I feel about what I believe and do?, (2) earliest memories of money, (3) a bible study in two versions that invited reflection on barriers to stewardship, (4) developing strategies to overcome barriers, and (5) closing prayers.

Presentation of Program Plan and Resources available to date

Bishop Moxley summarized plans and resources.

-work on trust and relationship building

-work regionally, share resources

-focus on healthy congregations. A healthy congregation engenders healthy stewardship

-stewardship begins with faithful persons

-challenge persons to discover and offer their gifts; we all have something to offer

Goals

- by 2010 have a Diocese of Anglicans who have a theology of abundance and who live counter-cultural lives
- have healthy and viable congregations because of this challenge
- have a stewardship movement within the Diocese adaptable to regions and parishes
- work regionally
 - we need three pilot regions in which, ideally, all parishes participate
- so work that by 2010 we can celebrate our successes

What Council members can do now

- Council is a leadership centre in the Diocese
- We need Diocesan Council to be committed to this project
- Speak about today's special meeting in your parish and region
- Don't grumble in the parking lot; grumble to the Stewardship Resource Development Group
- Stewardship is not a financial but a spiritual matter

Evaluation

Council members were invited to complete an evaluation form prepared by Tanya Moxley

The meeting concluded with prayer and at 4:00 PM.

Date: _____

Signed, Executive Secretary of Synod: _____
The Rev'd Canon Fred Krieger