

Highlights from Diocesan Council Meeting held October 17-18, 2008
Compiled by The Rev. Janet Hatt-Executive Secretary of Synod

The Friday evening portion of the meeting was chaired by Bishop Sue. During the opening moments a welcome was extended and introductions of new members took place. Archdeacon Lynn Uzans led worship for both Friday evening and Saturday morning.

2010 Update- The Rev. Glen Kent was present on behalf of the 2010 Celebrations Committee and gave an update on the Committee's work. He noted that the newly designed vestments are available for use, the Gospel Book is travelling throughout the Diocese, and that he would be attending the Regional Deans' and Archdeacons' meeting to promote the celebrations. He also noted that parish histories can be submitted up until Jan 2010.

Correspondence- The Executive Secretary reported that there were a number of pieces of correspondence received.

Included were:

- Information received from General Synod as requested by Diocesan Council at its last meeting regarding the 26% apportionment rate to National Church/General Synod
- A letter from the Warden of King's College Chapel
- Correspondence from Archives Committee
- Correspondence related to Diocesan Times

These items of correspondence were addressed by Bishop Sue.

Budget 2009- Peter Fleming was in attendance to present the 2009 budget. A motion to approve the Budget for 2009 was passed.

Topics raised in the discussion included

- 1/ the funding cuts for ministry at King's College
- 2/funding for Diocesan Archives
- 3/closure of the Diocesan Book Room stores
- 4/Diocesan Times funding
- 5/reduction of monies to General Synod.

During Friday and Saturday's meeting three key concerns continued to come to the table. They were: 1/the consultation process
2/communications process 3/implications of continuing reductions in the allotment rate.

The process of budget consultations and the communication process will continue to be evaluated on an ongoing basis.

In response to concern #3- a motion was passed requesting that A& F undertake a forecasting project to examine the implications of the continuing reductions in allotment and budget.

It was also noted that an expression of thanks go to Peter Flemming, Christine and others for all the work they did in the preparation of the budget in the absence of a budget sub-committee. The Council concurred with a round of applause.

Bishop Sue and Bishop Ron reported on their trip to Lambeth Conference in July. Comments included such items as: the diversity of culture present in the gathering, the “amazing worship”, the engagement of scripture from different perspectives, and the learning experience of “the indaba” process. Both Bishops commented on their belief that trust was established and that hope was evidenced for the future of the Anglican Communion.

The Covenant in Ministry between Bishop Sue and Bishop Ron was signed on Saturday morning.

Archdeacon Lynn Uzans reported on behalf of “Organizational Effectiveness”. It was noted that there was a need to focus on 1 or 2 items at a time. A meeting with Janet Marshall is planned to discuss and focus on “Regional Development”.

Update on Youth Ministry Co-Coordinator- The job description is being reviewed and will go to the Human Resource Advisory Subcommittee. The position is presently vacant.

Harold Irving gave an extensive report on Property Redevelopment- They reported they are working co-operatively with Shannex to develop a retirement living complex on the site. Anthony Chapman spoke to the “Letter of Intent” which was submitted for Council’s approval. Council approved the letter of intent.

Sustainability of Synod-Bishop Sue is continuing to work on forming a Task Group.

Bishop Sue spoke to a request from General Synod. General Synod has requested each Diocese to submit a response to issues of governance. This would include the structures of Diocesan Synod, General Synod, Canons and Constitutions, a review of how mission is carried out and examine a sharing of resources. A formation of a group was recommended to formulate a response to the primate's request.

Bishop Sue and Canon Gordon Redden reported on the Launching of an annual Diocesan appeal.

Presentation from the Cape Breton Region-In a request from Bishop Sue the region of C.B. spoke on "ministry in the region". They were asked to share how the region works together to accomplish, encourage and support ministry in their region. Selma Doucet and The Rev. Val Rhymes reported for the C.B region.

In December we will hear from another region on the same topic.

Reports from Standing Committees were presented and received. They were Ministry from Carl Fraser, National and World Mission from Reid Moore, A&F from Allan Turner as presented by Canon Redden.

Reports from Staff were given by Bishop Sue, Bishop Ron, and Canon Gordon Redden, Executive Director.

Next meeting Date: December 12-13th, 2008