

Highlights of Diocesan Council-December 4-5th, 2009 - prepared by Janet Hatt - Executive Secretary of Synod

Friday, Dec.4th -pm-

Bishop Moxley opened the Diocesan Council meeting at 7pm welcoming the members of Council and those who were substituting as regional representatives. Debra Bureson then led the Diocesan Council in worship.

Following the approval of the Agenda, Peter Flemming spoke to his report which had been previously circulated. Some of the **highlights** were as follows:

- Electronic Funds Transfer process is 80% complete
- He spoke to the 2008 Audit report - The audit was favorable
- He spoke to the budget for 2010
- Discussed briefly Pension & Payroll(receivables very strong)
- NSOM Billing - all parishes with NSOM will receive a bill

Bishop Sue introduced “**Leadership Retreat**” from a publication of the Alban Institute called “Congregations” It is a model found to be helpful in evaluating mission and goals and is based on the following questions:

- How will we know a year from now that we have accomplished something?
- How can we tell what we are trying to do?
- How will we know that we have done it?

Discussion was held on leadership, governance and mission. We were left with the question “**What are the three things this Council will have accomplished by December 2010?**”

Tory Byrne made a presentation on behalf of the **Chignecto Region** (New Region)

Some of the highlights included:

- 8 parishes with 24 churches
- Good people and good energy
- The region likes to get together, laugh and eat(Tory’s words)
- Diverse economy and geography makes “cohesion a challenge”
- Car Rally for 2010 celebration
- There are 2 after school programs in the region

Discussion re **Human Resource Planning and HR Manual** - It was asked that HR be asked to report to Council in April 2010. It was also noted that HR would be holding a consultation in the near future.

Saturday, December 5th-

The meeting reconvened with a call to worship by Bishop Ron, who chaired Saturday’s session.

Minutes of October 16-17th were approved. Business arising:

- **Property Redevelopment** - Bishop Sue reported on the ongoing struggle to move forward. HRM has officially decided to appeal URB ruling and a court date has been set for April 6th, 2010.
- **2010 Celebrations** - Diocesan Council heard from the various regions regarding 2010 celebrations. Many of the regions have plans and are in the midst of activities.

- **Bishop's Action Appeal** - Bishop Sue reported on the appeal and answered questions.

Application for the Anglican Foundation - Diocesan Council received an application for the Anglican Foundation from the Parish of Trinity, Liverpool .The application was given approval and will be forwarded to the Anglican Foundation.

Gordon Redden reported on his activities over the last few months. Several items came to Council for approval regarding amalgamations and realignments.

- Territory of St. Peter's, Birch Cove
- Territory of St Nicholas, Westwood and St. John's, Halifax
- Amalgamation of the Parish of Tusket with Parish of Yarmouth
- Amalgamation of the Parish of Bible Hill with the Parish of Truro
- Amalgamation of the Parish of Pugwash with River John
- Amalgamation of the Parish of Trenton with the Parish of new Glasgow
- Boundary change-Parish of New Glasgow, Parish of Thorburn and Parish of Stellarton

Organizational Effectiveness - Bishop Sue reported on the progress of the new model for Diocesan Structure and also shared insights into how the model is different than previous models. Bishop Sue invited questions and feedback on the model.

Report from Audit Committee was received by Diocesan Council.

Jim Slack - (Lutheran appointment to Diocesan Council) informed the Council that this was his last meeting. The Council thanked Jim for his faithful service to the Council and wished him well in his future endeavors.

COGS Report - Peter Townsend circulated and discussed his report from COGS (Council of General Synod) Next meeting of COGS is in Halifax, March 11-14, 2010. Some of his highlights were as follows:

- the funding cuts to Kairos
- National Church working hard to reduce their budget and trim deficits

Kairos -The Council discussed the funding cuts to Kairos and a motion to write the government expressing our deep concerns over the funding cuts was carried.

Other Committee Reports received

- Committee on Ministry - Carl Fraser - working on various initiatives
- National World Mission - Reid Moore - Mentioned the goal of sponsoring 50 refugee families and the funding cuts to Kairos
- Archives-reported
- Bishop Ron reported
- Youth Coordinator – Susan Naylor reported she is following through on gathering information from the people of the Diocese to determine the needs for programming for youth.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm