

Minutes of a Meeting of Diocesan Council
Friday and Saturday, 20 and 21 October 2006
October 20, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
October 21, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM
ADC, Binney Hall

002-01-12-06

Friday, 20 October

Welcome: Bishop Hiltz welcomed members and especially new members of Council.

Present

Lay members of Council: Ruth Kingsbury, Donna Mosher, Reg Beaver, Kees Zwanenburg, Jonni Turner, Patrick McWade, Judy Carpenter, Darlene Fleet, Sylvia Wicks, Marie Nickerson, Brittany George, Patrick Harrington

Clerical members of Council: Heather Hamlin Gravells, Katie Tait, Fred Rhymes, Robert Richmond, Lynn Uzans

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

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

Guests: Janet Marshall

Regrets: Selma Doucet, the Rev'ds Jim McCorrison, Val Rhymes, Jim Slack, Mark Kingsbury

Minutes of the previous meetings were deferred to the Saturday session.

Agenda of this meeting (001-01-10-06): Was previously circulated to members.

Realignment of Parish Boundaries: Gordon Redden explained why this matter was urgent, gave the rationale for and invited Council's concurrence in a realignment of parish boundaries. It was moved by Fred Krieger, seconded by Reg Beaver,

“that Diocesan Council, in accord with the Anglican Church Act (Nova Scotia) Section 9(4)(b) and 9(6), concurs with Bishop Hiltz in realigning the boundaries of the Parish of Trinity, [Halifax] and the Parish of St. John [Halifax] as set out in his written notice.” Carried.

Orientation:

Anglican Communion etc.

Bishop Moxley. Using posters, maps and other handouts, Bishop Moxley introduced the Anglican Communion and its constituent parts, the Anglican Church of Canada, its General Synod and various Councils, and our own Diocese.

Getting to know one another

The Rev'd Fred Rhymes led Council in exercises that illustrated the diversity of Council membership and invited and received diverse answers to the following questions: What would you change with yourself? Critical matters you would change in your parish? What would you change in the Diocese? Council members introduced themselves.

Organization, Staff, Finances

Gordon Redden circulated and spoke to the following documents: The organization chart of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, Diocesan staff positions, and the Financial Responsibilities in the Diocese.

Authority of Synod, Council and Bishop

The Chancellor, John Arnold, circulated and spoke to a document entitled “Authority of Synod, Council and Bishop”. The Chancellor advised Council members that “Although the synod has the authority to set the overall framework for diocesan governance, by adopting a constitution and canons, the council is more than just synod between sessions of synod. It is the governing body of the diocese in a very practical and real sense. It receives reports from most of the other standing committees and approves or rejects them.

Approving the annual budget is one of its major functions, and that has an impact on all of the work of the church in our diocese.”

How Council works, important documents, Highlights

The Executive Secretary, Fred Krieger, circulated documents on how Council goes about its business, and how Council intends to keep the visioning goals before it as it conducts its business. He noted some changes in the Agenda and invited volunteers to help with the Saturday morning Eucharist in the Cathedral.

CPR

Bishop Hiltz urged Council members to COME PREPARED, PARTICIPATE FULLY and REPORT BACK to parishes and regions on the work of Council.

Organization Effectiveness Proposal: Janet Marshall circulated and spoke to a document, “Diocese of NS & PEI, Organizational Effectiveness Proposal, July 18, 2006.” The Diocese has a vision but an inchoate strategic plan. The challenge is to develop a strategic plan, to establish an effective structure to implement it, and to build healthy relationships with parishes and parish leadership by providing resources for ministry. A holistic review will be conducted, a way forward was outlined and costs and timeline were estimated.

Bishop Hiltz advised Council that two or three members of Council would probably go on the team proposed.

Wine and cheese time: This social occasion was moved to Binney Hall from the Bishop’s Lodge because of family reasons.

Members were advised that the Council meeting continues on Saturday morning, 8:30 AM, in the Cathedral with a celebration of Eucharist.

Saturday, 21 October

8:30 AM. Eucharist, Cathedral. Bishop Hiltz presided.

Regular meeting of Council in Binney Hall

Present

Lay members of Council: Ruth Kingsbury, Donna Mosher, Reg Beaver, Jonni Turner, Judy Carpenter, Darlene Fleet, Sylvia Wicks, Marie Nickerson, Brittany George, Patrick Harrington

Clerical members of Council: Heather Hamlin Gravells, Katie Tait, Fred Rhymes, Robert Richmond, Lynn Uzans, Mark Kingsbury

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

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

Guests: Ted Johnson, Trevor Lightfoot

Regrets: Selma Doucet, the Rev’ds Jim McCorriston, Val Rhymes, Jim Slack, Mark Kingsbury

Minutes: Regular meeting of 15 June 2006. It was moved by Heather Hamlin Gravells, seconded by Donna Mosher, that **‘these minutes be accepted as circulated.’ Carried.**

Special meeting of Council, 13 September 2006. It was moved by Fred Rhymes, seconded by Reg Beaver, that **‘these minutes be accepted.’ Carried.**

Agenda: Circulated prior to the meeting.

Executive Secretary

In memory: Council members remembered the life and work of Florence Trynor.

Correspondence: From 'Ask and Imagine' project, thanks for donation. Discussion: We should put support for this in our budget. Response: Lilly Foundation has suggested reapplication. Financing looks all right for 2007.

From 'Letting Down the Nets Project', thanks for the donation.

From the Primate, also thanking us for our donation to the 'Letting Down the Nets Project'

Report of Bishop Hiltz: Bishop Hiltz circulated a report and highlighted items in it -- the service of thanksgiving and blessing for the Lieutenant Governor designate. The meeting of the Allotment Task Group. Two motions submitted to synod on allotment (by Sandra Fyfe and John Clarke) were referred to this Task Group. 5/3 Meetings will go forward in November. Some good conversations underway. Pastoral visit to the Parish of Sydney. Some churches were closed. (Fred Rhymes noted the Bishop's homiletical and pastoral skills during that visit.) Ministry of Reconciliation Advocates – there is an attempt to restore this group and to support them in their ministry in conflicted situations. Persons felt good about and uplifted by our recent synod.

Report of Bishop Moxley: Bishop Moxley spoke to a circulated report on her activities. Highlights: Speed Leas coming to speak on conciliation. She attended a CMHA 'Champions' meeting addressed by Senator Michael Kirby speaking on his report on mental health, "Out of the Shadows." She recommended two books that will be found in our Resource Centre: 'Growing up Generous' and 'Lending Your Leadership'.

Report of the Diocesan Executive Director: Gordon Redden circulated a report and spoke to it. Highlights. Human Resources: clergy leaves, deaths, appointments, changes, appointment of a task group to review Diocesan chaplaincy, benchmarking study; Support to Parishes: consultations with parishes, sales of parish property, meeting of the 5/3 Visit Strategy Task Group, computers and projectors for Fresh Start leaders, consultations on legal amalgamations; Diocesan administration: allocations from capital campaign, consultation on continuing need for position in the financial development area, and his continuing work with various committees and projects.

Letting Down the Nets Project: Bishop Moxley reported. Highlights: Lay leaders job description has been prepared. Working on a theology of stewardship and a bible study process. Pilot regions are being sought. Some have applied and offered.

Discussion highlights: Bruce Rockwell's talks at synod were found helpful. Why can't we institute every member canvass system? No pledge system seems to be in place in the Diocese. We need to share our stories of witness and giving. Many do not like pledge cards. What is tithing? 10%? 5% to church, 5% to community? An offering is what you make after you have given 10%. Let parishes choose the approach they think best.

Report of the Controller: The Controller, Peter Flemming, prefers questions. Auto-debit system needs cooperation of parish treasurers. Only 12 responses received from 100 letters. 2004 audited statements now on website. 2005 statement will soon be done. Some problems remain with receivables. Will make individual visits to parishes. Probably some middle ground can be agreed upon. In part, problem arose when accounting moved from cash to accrual. Agreement is needed on numbers.

Discussion centred on how long it takes for payments from the Consolidated Trust Fund to reach parishes and the reasons for this. Problems in knowing which church and which account is to be credited. Continuing questions about 'receivables'. Why there is little provision for pre-authorized payment of offering. Parishes who refuse to pay allotment seem to 'get off'. The need for training for parish treasurers. Estimated success or failure of the 5/3 program. Some attitude problems remain.

Break

Listening Task Group, Sexuality: Bishop Hiltz reported that Eric Beresford has agreed to convene this group. Potential members are being contacted. Some Gay and Lesbian persons have agreed to take part in the process. This is a breakthrough.

Property Development, Phase II: Bishop Hiltz reported that Phase II includes the Diocesan Centre and houses currently on the property. Options have been outlined. Some plans for keeping Tower Road houses. Redevelopment on rest of property. The committee has met with developers. Stakeholders have been consulted. Plans appear to be imminent. Council may see some report at the December meeting.

Report of the Program Planning Committee: A written report of the work of the Committee prepared by the chair, Gloria McClure-Fraser, was received by Council.

Report of the Ministry Committee: A written report of the work of the Committee prepared by the chair, Carl Fraser, was received by Council.

Report of the Resource Centre: Jonni Turner had circulated and spoke to a written report of the work of the Centre. It was suggested that we invite Lorraine Slopek to arrange to open the Centre at the next meeting of Council (December 7) so that Council members can acquaint themselves with it.

Report of the Archivist : A report prepared by the Archivist, Lorraine Slopek was received by Council.

Patrick McWade spoke of a project in his area to prepare a photographic record of churches scheduled for demolition when amalgamation proceeds. Others may wish to prepare such records.

Budget 2007: The Budget 2007 had been circulated to Council members. Trevor Lightfoot spoke in general about the Budget. It is meant to reflect how money is spent. He circulated the 'Timetable for Preparation of the 2007 Budget'. Ted Johnson, Chair of the Budget Subcommittee introduced the proposed budget. A budget is required by Canon 16. This budget focuses on the priorities of the Visioning process. Estimated revenue is based on expectations from 104 pastoral units. Assessable income has grown modestly over the years, about 1 or 1 and ½ % per year. Compliance rate is set at 87.5%. Some of the income comes from Diocesan investments. Many persons contributed to the preparation of the budget. The Bishops put much energy into it. Trevor Lightfoot advised Council that this was the 6th draft, fewer than usual because of the work of Ted Johnson.

Discussion: Question: What is Coverdale Centre? Have amalgamations been considered in the process?
Answers: Coverdale works with women in difficulty with the law. The center is in Fredericton.
Amalgamations and their impact on the budget are monitored closely.

It was moved by Mark Kingsbury and seconded by Judy Carpenter, that

'the Budget 2007, including allotment rate, be approved.' Carried.

Information on Fresh Start Project was requested. Bishop Moxley said that she would circulate the website address which will answer this question.

Council members shared in a lunch prepared by the Ladies Guild of St. Peter's, Birch Cove.

Fred Krieger, Executive Secretary of Synod

Date