

**MINUTES OF THE 129th SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA
HELD ON NOVEMBER 14 AND 15, 2003 IN HAMILTON**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2003

CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL, HAMILTON

The Synod Eucharist was held in the Cathedral. The Bishop delivered his Charge to Synod. The Venerable Lynne Corfield was collated as Archdeacon of Brock. Ms. Christyn Perkons was installed as Licensed Layworker.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2003

CHEDOKE HALL, HAMILTON CONVENTION CENTRE

Registration began at 8:00 a.m. The Synod began with opening worship. Seated at the head table were Bishop Ralph Spence, Chancellor Rob Welch, and Archdeacon Marion Vincett. Bishop Spence called Synod to order.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Chancellor Rob Welch reported that, as of 9:00 a.m., November 14, 2003, 205 out of 282 eligible lay delegates had registered, representing 73% of all eligible delegates in the order of laity, and 74 out of 123 eligible clergy delegates had registered, representing 60% of all eligible delegates in the order of clergy.

**MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch/The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins
'that the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted.'
CARRIED.**

WELCOME BACK

The Bishop welcomed back the Reverends Kristine Swire and Gale Macaulay-Newcombe; both have recovered well from back surgery.

NEW MEMBERS OF SYNOD

The Bishop welcomed:

Rev. Owen Ash, Assistant Curate, St.Simon's, Oakville
Rev. Pamela Guyatt, Assistant Curate, St.John's, Ancaster
Rev. Patricia Lucy, Assistant Curate, St.Mark's, Orangeville
Rev. Lincoln McKoen, Assistant Curate, St.John's, Elora
Rev. Stephen Murray, Assistant Curate, St.James, Dundas & Camp
Coordinator, Canterbury Hills, Ancaster
Rev. Susan Wilson, Deacon in Charge, St.Alban's, Grand Valley
Ms. Christyn Perkons, Licensed Layworker, Program Consultant in Youth
Ministry

DIVINITY STUDENTS (acting as General Synod election scrutineers)

The Bishop welcomed Kevin Block, Nigel Bunce, Rob Hurkmans, Valerie Kerr, Nancy Moffett, Ronda Ploughman, Martha Tatarnic

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Privileges of the House were extended to:

Archbishop Terence Finlay, Metropolitan of Ontario
Bev Groombridge, Judy Connor, and Ken Cardwell (Partners in Mission)
Kathryn Davies (Auditor)
Christopher Grabiec and John Janisse (Web Management Team)
Charles Stirling and Pamela Claridge (Communications Committee)
Valerie Kerr, Donna Bomberry, Tracie Loffhagen, and Martha Tatarnic
(Educational Event on Aboriginal Issues)
Di Hardacre and John Marshall (Skit)
Sharon King (Strategic Plan)

ELECTION OF SYNOD SECRETARIES

MOTION: The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins/Mr. Rob Welch
`that the Reverend Ian Chadwick and Mrs. Carol Summers be the
Honorary Secretaries of Synod at the Sessions of this Synod.'
CARRIED.

MINUTES OF THE 1st AND 2nd SESSIONS OF THE 2002 SYNOD

MOTION: The Reverend Ian Chadwick/Mrs. Carol Summers
`that the minutes of the 1st and 2nd sessions of the 128th Session of
Synod, as found on pages 9 through 18 of this Convening Circular,
be now approved.' CARRIED.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Chancellor Rob Welch advised members that motions could be found on pages 6 through 7 of the Convening Circular.

NOTICE OF CANONICAL CHANGES

Chancellor Rob Welch advised members that the proposed Canonical changes could be found on page 8 of the Convening Circular.

REPORT OF THE AGENDA AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Reverend Mark Tiller, Chair of the Synod Planning Committee, gave his report and outlined procedures. A mover and a seconder to a resolution or motion will be allowed a total of six minutes to speak. Speakers to a motion will be allowed two minutes each. A "warning" bell will be sounded when 20 seconds are remaining in the speaker's allotted time; and a bell will be sounded to indicate the end of the allotted time. New motions not included with the Convening Circular package or handed out at registration are to be delivered to the chair or honorary secretaries as soon as possible and prior to 10:00 am on Saturday. Motions from the floor, which can be dealt with at this Synod session, will be presented on the screens.

MOTION: The Reverend Mark Tiller/The Reverend Dr. Steve Hopkins
`that the agenda as presented and revised by the Agenda Committee
be adopted.' CARRIED.

RECEPTION OF REPORTS

MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch/The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins
`that all reports found in the Convening Circular and obtained at
registration, including the Synod Council report, be received.'
CARRIED.

DIOCESAN COURT

The Bishop announced his appointment of three lay and three clergy members of Synod:

Mrs. Susan Little, Mr. Ian Smith, Ms. Gill Tucker, The Reverend Kevin Bothwell, The Venerable Bruce McPetrie, and The Reverend Lynne Thackwray.
The Diocesan Chancellor is automatically a member of Diocesan Court.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Mark Tiller made announcements regarding the Lutheran Life Insurance Society of Canada, the clergy photo directory, Survive & Thrive newsletters, and Niagara Anglican envelopes.

TRINITY COLLEGE CORPORATION

MOTION: The Venerable Marion Vincett/The Rev. Dr. Stephen Hopkins
`that the representatives from the Diocese of Niagara to the
Corporation of Trinity College be Mrs. Norma Neudeorffer (lay) and
the Reverend Canon Keith Whittingham (clergy) for a term of two
years.' **CARRIED.**

(Please note: Mr. Gordon Askwith and Mrs. Joan Dunn (lay), and the Reverend Gordon Kinkley and the Venerable Tom Greene (clergy) are presently serving the second of their two-year terms.)

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

General Synod will be held at Brock University in St. Catharines from May 28 to June 4, 2004. The Chancellor informed members of the rules for balloting.

MOTION: The Very Reverend Peter Wall/Mrs. Susan Little
`that we accept the report of the General Synod Nominations
Committee.' **CARRIED.**

Ballot boxes were opened. Clergy nominees were introduced. The Bishop called for further nominations to the clergy ballot.

MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch/The Reverend Mark Tiller
`that the nominations for clergy members to General Synod be
closed.' **CARRIED.**

Lay nominees were introduced. The Bishop called for further nominations to the lay ballot.

MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch/The Reverend Mark Tiller
`that the nominations for lay members to General Synod be closed.'
CARRIED.

Members were informed that the ballot boxes would close at 4:00 pm.

The Reverend Christine McMaster introduced “Bob in a bag”, an inflatable snowman, which is being used to promote the 165th anniversary of St.Paul’s Church, Caledonia.

2002 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION: Mr. David Watson/Mr. Robert McKinnell
`that the audited financial statements for 2002, as found on pages 57 through 66, be accepted.’ CARRIED.

AUDITOR’S REPORT

Ms. Kathryn Davies, Auditor, outlined her firm’s report.

MOTION: Mr. David Watson/Mr. Robert McKinnell
`that the Auditor's Report, as found on page 56, be accepted.’
CARRIED.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

MOTION: Mr. David Watson/Mr. Robert McKinnell
`that KPMG be appointed as auditors for fiscal year 2002.’ CARRIED.

SURVIVE & THRIVE FINANCES

Mr. Peter Swire, Chair of the Survive & Thrive Spending Review Committee, gave delegates an update.

ENTERTAINMENT

Ms. Di Hardacre and Mr. John Marshall performed a comedic skit.

CANONICAL CHANGES

Canon 1.9 - Synod Council

MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch/The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins
`that the words “Director of Program, the Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee” be deleted from Canon 1.9, section 8.’
CARRIED.

New Canon 3.5 – College of Deacons

MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch/The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins
`that a new Canon 3.5 be established as follows:

College of Deacons

There shall be a College of Deacons composed of:

- 1. All deacons in good standing and holding the Bishop’s license, excluding transitional deacons;**
- 2. A Director of Deacons appointed by the Bishop who shall serve at the Bishop’s pleasure and assist the Bishop in the placement and supervision of deacons;**

There shall be an Executive Board of the College of Deacons composed of:

- (a) Up to three members appointed by the Bishop for a term of 3 years (renewable once) (At least one cleric and at least one lay person)**
- (b) Up to three members elected by Synod Council for a term of 3 years**

**(renewable once) (At least one cleric and at least one lay person)
(Initially the appointments/elections shall be for periods of one, two
and three years.)**

- (c) Up to 3 deacons elected annually by the College of Deacons from
among its members**

Purpose of the College

**The College of Deacons shall recommend standards and educational
opportunities for candidates while supporting and encouraging all Deacons in
their ministry. They shall assist the Director in planning an annual
retreat/conference and conduct elections for member(s) of Synod. The College
shall advise the Bishop on matters she/he may refer to them from time to time.'**
CARRIED.

Canon 1.1 - Composition of Synod

**MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch/The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins
'that Canon 1.1 to be amended as follows:**

**Change paragraph 3 to read "Priests, Transitional Deacons and Lay
Workers thereof, duly licensed;
Add a new paragraph 4 that reads "up to 3 deacons elected annually by the
College of Deacons from among its members";
Re-number the remaining paragraphs accordingly.' **CARRIED.****

(These canonical revisions are included in the updated Book of Canons, downloadable
from Niagara's website.)

PARISH LIABILITY COVERAGE

Mr. David Ricketts explained the details of the coverage for parish liability insurance,
as well as concerns regarding the template for Parish Licensing Agreements.

GENERAL SYNOD LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS REPORT

The Venerable Bruce McPetrie outlined the plans for the 2004 gathering at Brock
University, St.Catharines, and expressed the need for volunteers in many areas.
Members were asked to check the website for information. The theme for General
Synod is "See, I am making all things new."

EVANGELISM

The Reverend Canon Michael Patterson, Diocesan Evangelism Officer, gave his report
and introduced Brian Henley (St.John, Hamilton) and Wendy Newman (Christ's
Church Cathedral, Hamilton) who each gave evangelism testimonials.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Val Kerr outlined the process for this afternoon's Educational Event on Aboriginal
Issues. Canon Wendy Roy spoke on the 30th anniversary of St.Matthew's House,
Hamilton and their ongoing struggles to assist those in need.

Grace was followed by lunch at the tables. Wally Knash gave musical accompaniment as lunch concluded.

GUESTS

The Deans of Huron, Trinity, and Wycliffe Colleges each spoke briefly.

SYNOD TASK FORCE

Chancellor Rob Welch reported on the work of the Synod Task Force whose mandate it was to review the frequency, composition, venue, and other arrangements of Synod meetings, including a review of cost and how these should be recovered. Synod's task was to discuss each option as outlined on the worksheets and provide feedback. Following the table discussions, the worksheets were collected for future review and response by the task force.

DIVISION OF OUTREACH – PARTNERS IN MISSION

Mrs. Bev Groombridge reported on the proposed ratification of the partnership agreement between the Dioceses of Niagara and Keewatin.

MOTION: Mr. Bill Mous/The Reverend Lynne Thackwray
'that the Diocese of Niagara, while maintaining our Cuba Partnership until December 31, 2005, undertakes in the spirit of the New Agape, a Partners in Mission relationship with the Diocese of Keewatin and its indigenous and non-native congregations for a period of three years commencing at the ratification of the signed covenant of October 28, 2003.' CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Chris Grabiec spoke on new developments in the Niagara Anglican and on the website that will serve to broaden aspects of diocesan communications and reporting.

SYNOD COUNCIL ELECTION

MOTION: The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins/Mr. Rob Welch
'that this Synod elect the regional members of Synod Council and alternate regional members for the 2004-2005 term, as outlined on the nominations sheet.' CARRIED.

The regional slate is as follows:

Members to serve for 2004:

Brock	Mr. Ross Gillett
Greater Wellington	Mr. John Lawrence
Lincoln	The Reverend Canon Nissa Basbaum
Mohawk	The Reverend Leon Burke
Trafalgar	Mr. Ian Smith
Undermount	Mrs. Susan Little

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Members to serve for 2004-2005:

Brock	The Reverend Trish McCarthy
Greater Wellington	The Reverend Richard Moorse
Lincoln	Mr. Cy Armstrong
Mohawk	Mrs. Susan Deakin
Trafalgar	The Reverend Joe Asselin
Undermount	The Reverend Robert Leckey

Alternate members for 2004-2005 (in the event that an elected member cannot continue to serve):

Brock	Ms. Gill Tucker
Greater Wellington	Mrs. Susan Pulleyblank
Lincoln	Mrs. Betty Van der Ree
Mohawk	no name received
Trafalgar	Mrs. Mary Bishop
Undermount	Mr. Robert Tilbury

PROVINCIAL SYNOD REPORT

The delegates to the 2003 Provincial Synod each gave their reports and impressions.

Youth delegates led the energy break, accompanied by music and photo clips of Niagara youth events.

EDUCATIONAL EVENT ON ABORIGINAL ISSUES

Ms. Val Kerr and Ms. Donna Bomberry led a dramatic and moving blanket exercise with the assistance of several members of Synod.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FUNDRAISING REPORT

Mr. Robert McKinnell spoke to the report that outlined the commitments, covenants, and contributions to date.

CREATING A NIAGARA VISION

Bishop Spence, Archdeacon Marion Vincett, and Mr. Bob McKinnell introduced the strategic vision, which is to include dynamics of appreciative inquiry, listening and learning. Ms. Sharon King of Starfield Consulting outlined the process, its implementation, and its implications.

The Reverend Mark Tiller made further announcements. The ballot boxes were closed.

Synod adjourned to enjoy a reception prior to the dinner. The Most Reverend Terence Finlay, Archbishop of Toronto and Metropolitan of Ontario, was the after dinner speaker.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2003

CHEDOKE HALL, HAMILTON CONVENTION CENTRE

The morning session began with gathering worship led by youth delegates. The Reverend Mark Tiller made various announcements.

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GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION RESULTS (in order of election)

The Chancellor announced the results.

Regular Clergy Delegates

The Reverend Dr. Steve Hopkins
The Reverend Canon Dr. Cathie
Crawford Browning
The Reverend Canon Trudy Lebens
The Very Reverend Peter Wall

The Reverend Sandra Copland

Alternate Clergy Delegates

The Rev. Canon Michael Patterson
The Reverend Canon Michael Bird
The Rev. Canon Charlie Masters

The Reverend Daniel Brereton
The Rev. Canon Nissa Basbaum

Regular Lay Delegates

Mr. David Ricketts
Mr. Ian Pratt
Mrs. Carol Summers
Ms. Judy Steers
Mrs. Beth Kerley

Alternate Lay Delegates

Mr. Brian Grose
Mr. Ross Gillett
Ms. Gill Tucker
Mrs. Lorraine Bryan
Mr. John Lawrence

MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch/The Reverend Duncan Lyon
‘that we destroy the ballots.’ CARRIED.

2004 PROPOSED BUDGET

A narrative budget was presented, as well as the proposed 2004 budget.

MOTION: Mrs. Judy Conning/Mr. Ian Pratt
‘that this Synod approve the 2004 proposed budget, as found
on pages 81 through 93 of the Convening Circular.’ CARRIED.

SURVIVE & THRIVE FUNDS

MOTION: Mr. Ian Pratt/Mrs. Judy Conning
‘that Synod endorses that no monies be spent beyond those
approved in the 2004 Diocesan operating budget unless
another source of funds has been identified and the money
obtained.’

MOTION: The Reverend Jean Archbell/Mr. Brian Grose
‘that the motion be tabled.’ DEFEATED.

The original MOTION, Mr. Ian Pratt/Mrs. Judy Conning, was CARRIED.

SURVIVE & THRIVE RE-ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

MOTION: Mr. Peter Swire/Mr. Brian Grose
‘that Synod endorse option #1 as outlined to address the
identified financial operational constraints in 2004, which is
to re-allocate \$200,000 from New Church Development
(primarily land banking) in the Survive & Thrive Case for
Support to Transitional Ministries.’

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A friendly amendment was made and agreed upon by the mover and seconder.

MOTION: Mr. Peter Swire/Mr. Brian Grose
‘that Synod reallocates \$200,000 from New Church
Development (primarily land banking) in the Survive & Thrive
Case for Support to Transitional Ministries.’

MOTION: The Reverend Gale Macaulay-Newcombe/Mr. Kerry Mason
‘that the motion be put.’ CARRIED.

The original MOTION, Mr. Peter Swire/Mr. Brian Grose, was CARRIED.

Wally Knash provided music during the break.

DISCUSSION ON THE BLESSING OF SAME SEX UNIONS

Steve Hopkins introduced the table discussions which gave delegates an opportunity to hear from each other. Time-limited presentations were made by individual speakers at the centre stage lectern.

Memorial From 2003 Youth Synod

MOTION: Ms. Stephanie DeForest/Mr. James Beattie
`that the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara 2003 forward the memorial from Niagara's Youth Synod 2003 to General Synod 2004.'

MOTION: The Rev. Haynes Hubbard/The Rev. Paul Charboneau
`that we table the motion.' **DEFEATED.**

The original MOTION, Ms. Stephanie DeForest/Mr. James Beattie, was CARRIED.

SYNOD COUNCIL REPORT

MOTION: The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins/Mr. Rob Welch
`that the Synod Council Report, having been fully considered, be now finally approved, and that all the decisions, agreements and documents entered into and signed on Synod's behalf since the last session of Synod, be hereby ratified and confirmed.' **CARRIED.**

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Reverend Michael Calderwood spoke about the impact of the aboriginal blanket exercise on the Synod.

ASSENT

Bishop Spence gave his assent to all actions of the Synod.

The Bishop thanked the Synod Planning Team and all those who assisted.

Members of Synod said the Grace. With the Bishop's blessing, the Synod was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Carol Summers, Honorary Lay Secretary
The Reverend Ian Chadwick, Honorary Clerical Secretary
Ms. Barbara Nixon, Assistant Secretary of Synod
The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins, Secretary of Synod

