



## WELCOME GUESTS

The Bishop welcomed:

- The Right Reverend Ann Tottenham, Area Bishop of the Credit Valley who is a Synod Guest and Dinner Speaker.
- Mr. Fred Allen (Technical Producer)
- Mr. Christopher Grabiec and Mr. John Janisse (Diocesan Webmasters)
- The Rev. Canon Charles Stirling and Ms. Diana Hutton (Communications Committee)

## PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Privileges of the House were extended to:

- Ms. Kathryn Davies (Auditor)
- Mr. Kirk Boyd (Finance Budget Sub-Committee)
- Mr. Jim Newman (Bishop's Task Force on Parish Viability)

## DIVINITY STUDENTS

The Bishop welcomed Ms. Stephanie Pellow, Ms. Ronda Ploughman, Mr. Jeff Ward, and Ms. Sue-Ann Ward

## 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 2003 SYNOD

**MOTION: The Reverend Ian Chadwick/Mrs. Carol Summers  
THAT the minutes of the 2003 session of the 129<sup>th</sup> Session of  
Synod, as found on pages 6 through 14 of this Convening  
Circular, be now approved.**

**CARRIED.**

## NOTICES OF MOTION

Chancellor Rob Welch advised members that motions could be found on pages 3 to 4 of the Convening Circular and on pages 4A and 4B which were received at registration. He also advised Synod of the order in which the motions on Blessing Same Sex Unions would be considered.

## NOTICE OF CANONICAL CHANGES

Chancellor Rob Welch advised members that the one proposed Canonical change could be found on page 5 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 five 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 Friday. 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 be adopted.**

**CARRIED.**

RECEPTION OF ALL 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 to serve on the Diocesan Court:

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 and acknowledged the contribution of the Lutheran Life Insurance Society of Canada in sponsoring the morning break.

TRINITY COLLEGE CORPORATION

**MOTION: The Venerable Marion Vincett/The Rev. Dr. Stephen Hopkins  
THAT Mrs. Margaret Reid (lay) be elected as a representative  
from the Diocese of Niagara to the Corporation of Trinity  
College for a term of two years.**

**CARRIED.**

Mr. Gordon Askwith and Mrs. Joan Dunn (lay), and the Venerable Tom Green, the Reverend Canon Gordon Kinkley and the Reverend Canon Keith Whittingham (clergy) are continuing members of the Corporation of Trinity College.

CANONICAL CHANGES

Canon 4.1.17 (d) (Vestries and Churchwardens)

**MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch/The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins  
THAT the following words be added to subparagraph 17(d) of  
Canon 4.1.: "Provided that nothing in this subparagraph shall  
prohibit the use of electronic certification being used in a  
form as prescribed by the Secretary of Synod."**

**CARRIED.**

GENERAL SYNOD REPORT

The Secretary of Synod introduced Niagara's members of the 2004 General Synod and encouraged Synod members to speak with them about the recent General Synod held at Brock University in St. Catharines. He also thanked all those who had contributed to the work of Local Arrangements Committee in hosting the event.

2003 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MOTION: Mr. Ian Pratt/Mr. Robert McKinnell  
THAT the audited financial statements for 2003, as found on  
pages 43 through 52, be accepted.**

**CARRIED.**

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

**MOTION: Mr. Ian Pratt/Mr. Robert McKinnell  
THAT KPMG be appointed as auditors for fiscal year 2004.**

**CARRIED.**

ENERGY BREAK

The Reverend Stephen Murray, St. James, Dundas and Canterbury Hills Camp, along with help from the Youth delegates, led the energy break.

NEW NIAGARA

Ms. Christyn Perkons made a presentation on the work of New Niagara.

BLESSING SAME SEX UNIONS

The Secretary of Synod proposed ground rules for the debate and led the Synod in prayer.

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Dr. Mark McDermott/ The Reverend  
Gerald Brodie  
THAT any action around same sex blessings in the Diocese of  
Niagara be put off until after General Synod 2007**

**AMENDMENT: The Very Reverend Peter Wall/The Venerable Fred  
Gosse  
THAT the words “any action” be replaced by the following:  
“while affirming the integrity and sanctity of committed adult  
same sex relationships and committing itself to ongoing study  
of this issue, this Synod resolves that any legislative action”**  
**DEFEATED**

**AMENDMENT: The Reverend Darcey Lazerte/Mr. David Tinker  
THAT the word “legislative” be inserted between the words  
“any” and “action”**

This was received as a friendly amendment by the mover and seconder.

**MOTION: The Reverend Jean Archbell/The Reverend Dan Tatarnic  
THAT the motion be tabled**

**DEFEATED**

**AMENDED MOTION:  
THAT any legislative action around same sex blessings in the  
Diocese of Niagara be put off until after General Synod 2007**  
**DEFEATED**

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

**MOTION: Mr. Ian Pratt/Mr. Robert McKinnell  
THAT the Auditor's Report, as found on page 42, be accepted.  
CARRIED.**

#### NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The Secretary of Synod gave notice of motions received as of the 10:00 a.m. deadline.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Mark Tiller made further announcements.

#### GRACE AND LUNCH

Grace was followed by lunch at the tables.

#### EVANGELISM

The Reverend Canon Michael Patterson, Diocesan Evangelism Officer, gave his report and made a PowerPoint presentation with the Reverend Dr. Cathy Crawford Browning and lay leaders from St. John's, Thorold who described the history of their parish and what evangelism means to them.

#### BISHOP'S TASK FORCE ON PARISH VIABILITY

Mr. Jim Newman, Chair of the Bishop's Task Force on Parish Viability, made a PowerPoint presentation on Parish Viability.

#### INFORMATION ON CEMETERIES

The Reverend Steve Witcher made a PowerPoint presentation on changes in provincial legislation regarding cemeteries.

#### SURVIVE & THRIVE SPENDING REVIEW COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

Mr. Peter Swire, Chair of the *Survive & Thrive* Spending Review Committee, and The Reverend David Ponting, Director of Stewardship and Financial Development made a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Final Report.

#### YOUTH RECIPE COOKBOOK ADVERTISEMENT

Youth members promoted the Youth Ministry Cook Book.

#### BREAK

Mrs. June Baker, All Saints, Ridgeway led the afternoon Energy Break.

#### NEW NIAGARA - 2005 BUDGET SCENARIOS

Mrs. Judy Conning, Co-Chair of the Finance Budget Sub-Committee of the Financial Advisory Committee, Mr. Ian Pratt, Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee, and Mr. Robert McKinnell, Treasurer, outlined the consultative process arising from New Niagara and reviewed the five 2005 Budget Scenarios prepared in response to the budget consultations in September. Delegates were asked to discuss at their tables: Which option is MOST DESIRABLE? Why? Which option is the LEAST DESIRABLE? Why? Table groups were asked to provide written feedback using the forms provided. Each member was asked to indicate their FIRST and SECOND choices and table groups were asked to document the rationale in favour of top two choices at their table. The results were to be tabulated by the Finance Budget Sub-Committee of the Financial Advisory Committee to guide them in preparing a motion on the 2005 budget for consideration on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Cheryl Miller, PWRDF Diocesan Coordinator, announced that the Steven Lewis AIDS Video would be shown in room #314 starting at 5:00 pm.

The Reverend Mark Tiller made further announcements.

The Bishop closed the session with prayer and Synod was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

A reception was held prior to dinner at 6 p.m. and The Right Reverend Ann Tottenham, Area Bishop of the Credit Valley, was the after dinner guest speaker.

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2004**

### **CHEDOKE HALL, HAMILTON CONVENTION CENTRE**

The Bishop called the session to order and the morning worship began at 9:00 am. The Reverend Mark Tiller made various announcements.

## 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 2005-2006 term, as outlined on  
the nominations sheet.**

**CARRIED.**

The regional slate is as follows:

### Members to serve for 2005-2006:

Brock	Mr. Patricia Davis
Greater Wellington	Mr. John Lawrence
Lincoln	The Reverend Dorothy Hewlett
Mohawk	Mr. Carl Sneyd
Trafalgar	Mr. Ian Smith
Undermount	Mrs. Carol Burnell

### Alternate members for 2005:

Brock	no name received
Greater Wellington	Mrs. Susan Pulleyblank
Lincoln	Mr. Jim Costigan
Mohawk	Mr. Terry Charters
Trafalgar	Mrs. Mary Bishop
Undermount	The Reverend Dianne Distler

## 2005 BUDGET

**MOTION: Mrs. Judy Conning / Mr. Ian Pratt  
THAT this Synod approve option 4 for the 2005 budget.**

**AMENDMENT: Ms. Justine Taft/Ms. Stephanie DeForest  
THAT this Synod approve option 1 for the 2005 budget, but  
give \$22,000 to the Niagara Anglican and adjust the remaining  
short-term variable expenses by equal amounts.**

The Chancellor ruled that this could not be considered an amendment to the motion on the floor and ruled it out of order.

**AMENDMENT: Mr. Paul Mansfield/Mr. Roy Merritt  
THAT the cost of diocesan staff salaries, benefits, and travel be  
reduced by approximately 15% (or \$164,776) and that these savings  
be entirely reflected in reducing the costs for DMM.**

The Chancellor ruled that this was not a proper motion and was out of order. This ruling was appealed and the appeal was defeated.

The original motion was put:

**THAT this Synod approve option 4 for the 2005 budget.**  
**DEFEATED**

The representatives of the Financial Advisory Committee (Mr. Ian Pratt, Mrs. Judy Conning, and Mr. Robert McKinnell) said that they could no longer guide the house and asked for suggestions from the floor.

The Bishop asked for the will of the house and it was decided to move on to the motion on blessing same sex unions.

### BREAK

### BLESSING SAME SEX UNIONS

**MOTION: Mrs. Barbara Mansfield / Dr. Geoffrey Purdell-Lewis**  
**THAT this Synod supports the Eames Commission and is committed to carrying out the recommendations of the Windsor Report.**

**MOTION: Ms. Judy Steers / Mr. Paul Clifford**  
**THAT the resolution be tabled to the next meeting of Synod**  
**CARRIED.**

**MOTION: The Rev. Ann Turner, Deacon / Mrs. Beth Kerley**  
**THAT the Bishop grant clergy permission to exercise their discretion in blessing the relationships of gay or lesbian couples who have been married civilly, once they with their congregations have petitioned the Bishop for permission to be a “blessing community”**  
**CARRIED.**

The Bishop announced the result of the vote: 213 in favour, 106 against. The Bishop explained that, while he would have voted for the motion personally, he would not assent to it as Bishop because he is Bishop for all the people of Niagara and because of his commitment to the House of Bishops.

### 2005 BUDGET

**MOTION: Mr. Sean Tierney / The Rev. Canon Michael Bird**  
**THAT this Synod approve option 1 for the 2005 budget, but give \$22,000 to the Niagara Anglican and reduce the remaining short-term variable expenses**

**AMENDMENT:**  
**THAT the motion be amended by adding the words “except university chaplaincies**

**AMENDED MOTION**  
**THAT this Synod approve option 1 for the 2005 budget, but give \$22,000 to the Niagara Anglican and reduce the remaining short-term variable expenses except university chaplaincies**

**DEFEATED**

**MOTION: The Rev. Stuart Pike / The Rev. Kristine Swire  
THAT this Synod approve option 5 for the 2005 budget  
DEFEATED**

**MOTION: Mrs. Jean Round / Mr. Ian Smith  
THAT this Synod approve option 2 for the 2005 budget  
DEFEATED**

**MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch / The Venerable Marion Vincett  
THAT this Synod  
Refers the proposed 2005 budget back to the Budget/Finance  
sub-committee for further review and for report back to a  
special session of Synod AND  
Authorizes the Finance department to levy interim  
assessments and commit expenditures based on the DMM  
figures for 2004 pending the decision of a special session of  
diocesan synod to be held before the end of January 2005  
CARRIED.**

SYNOD COUNCIL

**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.**

TIMING & FORMAT OF FUTURE SYNODS

**MOTION: Mr. Brian Grose/Mr. Bill Mous  
THAT this Diocesan Synod 2004 requests the Bishop to convene  
Diocesan Synod on a Saturday and Sunday in 2005.**

**MOTION: Ms. Christyn Perkons/Ms. Joyce Wilton  
THAT Synod be prorogued and all remaining motions be referred to  
Synod Council  
CARRIED.**

The referred motions are:

THAT this Diocesan Synod 2004 requests the Bishop to convene Diocesan Synod on a Saturday and Sunday in 2005.

[Moved by Mr. Brian Grose, seconded by Mr. Bill Mous]

THAT this Diocesan Synod 2004 requests the Bishop to strike a task force, with membership to include both clergy and laity, to consider the option of conducting Diocesan Synod biennially and to develop recommendations concerning the content and focus of future synods; and to report to Synod Council in the spring of 2005.

[Moved by The Rev. Canon Michael Bird, seconded by Mrs. Nancy Wood]

THAT the Diocese of Niagara consider reducing the DMM percentage expected from the parishes for the 2006 budget.

[Moved by the Rev. Rob Park, seconded by The Reverend Jean Archbell]

ASSENT

Bishop Spence gave his assent to all actions of the Synod, excluding the resolution on blessing of same sex unions.

The Bishop thanked the Synod Planning Team and all those who assisted. The Bishop closed the session with the blessing and the 130<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Niagara was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins, Secretary of Synod

Mrs. Carol Summers, Honorary Lay Secretary

The Reverend Ian Chadwick, Honorary Clerical Secretary