

REPORT OF BROCK REGIONAL COUNCIL

Brock Region encompasses the half of the Niagara Peninsula that includes Dunnville, Wainfleet, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Fonthill and Welland. A total of fifteen parishes are represented at meetings the first Wednesday of the month, each at a different parish even though distances can be daunting.

The format of most meetings is a presentation by a guest speaker on either a topical subject or an activity of the Church which needs support or wider understanding. These are followed by a brief social period with refreshments, after which we attend to the business portion.

An important element of the business meeting is the report from Synod Council which updates parishes on the various matters of concern from the Diocese and any proposed changes to Canon law or policies and the budget intentions. The last portion of the evening is devoted to each of the parishes sharing their upcoming events and activities, including the successes of the previous month. It is also an opportunity for parishes to exchange new ideas and discover new ways in which to grow.

This year, we have had discussions on the “Response to the Windsor Report”. The Bishop’s visit allowed us an opportunity to express our concerns and ideas and to enter into a meaningful dialogue. As a follow up, the council struck a committee to review the role of the council in providing support to the regional parishes regarding same sex marriages and to make recommendations to the council. The Bishop also spoke at length about the Pope’s passing and his memories of the man. As is his character, the Bishop also added some levity to provide distraction from the weighty topics.

We were able to celebrate the arrival of summer and our hiatus as well as the contributions of the members of our council, with a pot luck supper at the lakeside home of Bill and Helen Coons.

We look forward to hearing from the parishes in other regions and we will continue to promote their events and achievements throughout the Brock Region.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Patricia Davis, Chair

REPORT OF LINCOLN REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Lincoln Regional Council met regularly over the past year, with meetings held in September, November, February, April and June.

The Council has continued its work in the area of music and movement workshops, and Historic Church Tours. A third tour was held this past May, concentrating on the city area of our Region. A delicious luncheon was served at St. Barnabas Church Hall, and tours of five city churches followed. Proceeds from this event will be used to support the work of the Lincoln and Brock Children's Festival.

Reports were received from PWRDF, Children's Festival (2004 and 2005), the Voice and Movement workshop and Project Warmth. We have been challenged to learn more about the possibility of Diocesan supported housing for seniors.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Jim Costigan, our member from Transfiguration. Our sympathy is extended to both his family and his parish community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Thorsteinson, Chair

REPORT OF UNDERMOUNT REGIONAL COUNCIL

As to Canon 1.10 Regional Council is charged to:

- Develop and administer an annual outreach budget
- Support and encourage ministry in response to local community needs
- Encourage and respond to requests from parishes, groups and individuals regarding support for local outreach activities
- Arrange appropriate inter-parish and ecumenical cooperation
- Plan and arrange leadership training to support congregational development and community projects
- Enable parishes to share information with each other regarding their programs with at least one annual gathering of parish leaders
- Refer individual, parish and regional concerns and suggestions to the appropriate diocesan body and
- Research debate and prepare resolutions to be forwarded to Synod.

The Diocese of Niagara has 6 different regions with the Undermount Region nestled in the middle, with the smallest land mass. We are the Twelve Tribes of Undermount Region stretching from St. John's, Hamilton, as far east to St. John's Winona, north to the lake and south to the escarpment. We include a wide variety of people and cultures, from the founding fathers and fur hats of Hamilton, to the homeless, from high density dwellings to almost rural country homes, from Anglo-Catholic liturgies to traditional liturgies to very modern liturgies. We are very diverse!

In December of 2004, the need for Christmas gifts for seniors at St. Matthew's House was recognized and Undermount Region Council created 40 gift boxes for both men and women containing such items as toothpaste and brush, deodorant, hard candy, socks, hand lotion, and jam. It is easy to remember the children and families at Christmastime and often the less fortunate seniors are forgotten. The boxes were very well received.

2005 has seen a turnover in some of the leadership roles and membership in our council, as some of the terms come to an end with vestry and new members are elected to represent their parishes. Carol Burnell is the newly elected chair, as we wished the retiring chair, Susan Little, a fond goodbye. Ruth Anne Martin accepted the role of secretary, replacing Tim Standish.

Our Council had the privilege of naming 2 clergy and 2 lay representatives for the nominations for Provincial Synod in October 2006. We nominated Steve Hopkins, and Sandy Copland as the two clergy, and Susan Little and Paul Mansfield as the two lay representatives.

The Council is taking a very active part in the Undermount Review process. The Bishop has asked the Archdeacon of Undermount to oversee the development of a mission and ministry plan for the region that addresses several concerns. As part of the Mandate, Regional Council is asked to support to assist him in this task. After a series of spring meetings the next step is a visioning day "Discerning God's Future for Undermount", held at Christ Church Cathedral using Open Space technology on September 10, 2005. The purpose of this day is to pray, to dream, to share, to work, and to build a future together.

REPORT OF UNDERMOUNT REGIONAL COUNCIL (continued)

We made the difficult decision to cancel Praise All ways this year. It takes a lot of organization and work as we decided to focus our energies on the Undermount Review Process.

As liaison between the Tribes, the representatives share with one another the everyday joys and struggles of parish life offering the support of the larger community. The blessing of being on Regional Council is learning that much more can be accomplished when we work together as team rather than as individual tribes.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Burnell, Chair

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHIVIST

There are still a few parishes which have not taken advantage of our Diocesan policy under Canon 2.6 to store valuable parish registers, vestry and other minute books plans and blueprints at McMaster University. Copies of registers are made and returned to the parish for research. There is, of course, no charge for this service. Also there are a number of parishes which have not sent any registers for a few years. Please check and get these in to me at Cathedral Place and begin new registers.

The closing of some churches in Hamilton, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls has brought many registers to me. Some of the new registers contain additional information such as the place of internment of cremated remains. As you are aware there are no rules or laws regulating Ashes but I feel some note should be recorded at the time of burial so future researchers can know what has happened to them.

If you have sent registers in to me lately the copying sometimes takes a while as McMaster will save them before taking them to Toronto. I can always access any register sent to me.

As they don't teach penmanship in schools any more - please - where a name or signature is required - please print the name clearly as well as signing. This will help greatly in deciphering names especially for any legal purposes.

I sometimes get a request for information which can better be dealt with in the parish, especially if there is a parish archivist who has the time and knowledge of the parish history. I am grateful to parish rectors for assisting me in this way.

I do accumulate, besides all the above mentioned registers etc., some material things - vestments, albs, cassocks, cemetery capes, copes, baptismal ewers, collection plates, and other bits of "holy hardware".

I do have a file on each parish which might be helpful to any parish contemplating writing a parish history. If such a history is written please send me a (free) copy for my records. I also have some blueprints and plans which can be borrowed for your Decennial inspection by the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings. Do parish clergy know what is kept at McMaster University for their parish? If not, please contact me at Cathedral Place 905-527-1316 extension 450.

Respectfully submitted,
Archdeacon John Rathbone, Diocesan Archivist

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Advisory Committee was established approximately two years ago as the Province began a process of introducing revised legislation and significant changes relating to the bereavement industry under proposed Bill 209. This new Bill will significantly influence both the current Cemeteries and Funeral Services Acts. The Cemetery Advisory Committee functions primarily to assist parishes offering the disposition and care of human remains under the authority of the present Cemetery Act (1992) and to disseminate and interpret information and advise parishes as new legislation is introduced and enacted.

The newly Revised Act, being introduced in five separate clusters and intended to receive final reading in the Autumn of 2005, has progressed at a far slower rate than anticipated. At the present time, only three of the five clusters have received approval. It appears evident that at least another year will pass before the Bill receives final assent. The newly revised legislation is intended to influence and govern all segments of the funeral industry currently operating both within and outside the present Funeral/Cemetery Acts. With the introduction of Bill 209, it will establish clear rules under which combinations (joint ownership of funeral establishments and cemeteries or funeral establishments and crematoria) can be permitted. It establishes regulations for industry related services which are currently outside the Cemeteries Act (1992) and Funeral Services Act. These include monument dealers, transfer services, casket dealers, retail funeral supply outlets, and cemetery sales persons. All service and funeral related providers, their employees, and those in volunteer positions will require licensing.

While it may appear intimidating and threatening to some, Bill 209 strengthens consumer protection within the entire bereavement sector. It provides protection for consumers at a time when they are most vulnerable in their decision making process; provides a 30-day cooling off period, and entrusts pre-need consumer funds to ensure they receive a full refund should they change their mind and wish to cancel their purchase for any reason. The Bill provides for enforcement mechanisms ensuring that all industry participants must adhere to a provincially acceptable code of ethics. It is a bill that clearly has the best interests of the consumer as its primary intent.

Over the past year, the Cemetery Advisory Committee has assisted several parishes as they endeavor to meet requirements under the present Cemeteries Act, and to prepare for the new legislation. In an effort to obtain current information and helpful advice relating to the newly proposed legislation, the Diocese became a member of the OACFP (Ontario Association of Cemeteries and Funeral Professionals) earlier this year. This association remains in close dialogue with the Provincial Government, providing comment and suggestions to its members as segments of the new legislation are introduced.

As part of the Diocesan Resource Centre, the Cemetery Advisory Committee extends an invitation to all parishes seeking help or advice relating to cemetery issues and/or interment. Please contact the chair at (519) 843-2141 or via e-mail switcher@sympatico.ca for assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Reverend Canon Stephen A. Witcher, Chair

DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Member 2006-2007

Alternate 2006

BROCK	Ms. Gill Tucker Holy Trinity, Niagara Falls	
GREATER WELLINGTON	Mrs. Susan Pulleyblank St. George, Guelph	
LINCOLN	Mr. John Palmer St. Andrew's, Grimsby	Mrs. Pat Thorsteinson St. John's, Thorold
MOHAWK	The Rev'd Canon David Pickett St. John, Ancaster	The Rev'd Ann Macdonald Interim Ministry, Diocese of Niagara
TRAFALGAR	The Rev'd Suzanne Craven St. Matthew's, Burlington	Mrs. Mary Bishop St. Christopher's, Burlington
UNDERMOUNT	Mr. Robert Tilbury All Saints, Hamilton	The Reverend Dianne Distler St. Alban, Hamilton

The above names were secured from the Regional Chairs and Regional Archdeacons according to the direction received from Synod Council.

**Clergy Nominations for the 2006 Provincial Synod
(in alphabetical order)**

Block, The Reverend Kevin

- √ Rector of Christ Church, Niagara Falls since January 1, 2005
- √ Ordained deacon May 2004 and priest in December 2004
- √ Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop 2005
- √ Previously an ordained Mennonite minister
- √ Served The First Mennonite Church in Vineland from 1990 to 2003

Copland, The Reverend Sandra

- √ Rector of St. Peter's Church, Hamilton since 2000
- √ Ordained deacon and priest in 1995
- √ Previous appointments St. Brendan's, Port Colborne and Christ Church, Wainfleet, where she served as Chaplain to the regional nursing home
- √ Chaplain to the Bishop and Regional Dean of Undermount
- √ Former member of the Division of Congregational Support and Brock representative to Synod Council
- √ Member of the Faith Advisory Committee for the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board
- √ Represented the Niagara Diocese at National and Provincial Synods and on the Provincial Executive
- √ Represented Canada at the Evangelism and Missions conference in Nairobi

Corfield, The Venerable Lynne

- √ Rector of St. John's, Niagara Falls since 2000
- √ Ordained deacon and priest in 1997
- √ Served as Assistant and Priest-in-Charge at Church of the Redeemer from 1997 to 2000
- √ Bishop's Chaplain from 2001 to 2003
- √ Regional Dean from 2001 to 2003
- √ Appointed Archdeacon of Brock 2003
- √ Member of Regional Council, Synod Council, Stewardship & Financial Development
- √ Member of Bishop's Task Force on Parish Viability 2004
- √ Elected Lay Representative to Provincial Synod 1993

Gladding, The Reverend Mark

- √ Rector of Grace Church, Arthur and St. Paul's, Mount Forest since December 2004
- √ Ordained in 1994 in the Diocese of Huron
- √ Previous appointments include St. Stephen's, Brantford; St. George's of Forest Hill, Kitchener
- √ In the Diocese of Huron he was a member of the Doctrine & Worship Committee, Executive Committee, and the Evangelism Task Force
- √ Former chair of the Planning and Agenda Committee for the Waterloo General Synod

Clergy Nominations for the 2006 Provincial Synod (continued)

Hedelius, The Reverend Victoria

- √ Rector of Holy Trinity, Hamilton since 2002
- √ Ordained in 1995
- √ She holds a BA in English from McMaster University, an M.Div. from U of T (Wycliffe College) and M.R.E. from Ottawa University (St. Paul's University)
- √ She has worked in a variety of team ministries in the diocese where she focused on Family and Children's Ministry
- √ Joined the Hamilton Mountain Ministry Team in 2000

Hopkins, The Reverend Dr. Stephen

- √ Rector of St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton since 2003
- √ Ordained deacon in 2000 and priest in 2001
- √ Assistant Curate, Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton 2000 - 2003
- √ Diocesan Director of Program from 1993 - 2003
- √ Secretary of Synod since 2001
- √ Fresh Start facilitator and trainer
- √ Member of General Synod 1995, 1998, 2004
- √ Former Program Consultant in the Diocese of Toronto, 1984 - 1992
- √ Former Consultant to Council of General Synod, 1998 - 2001
- √ Consultant to Provincial Synod 2000 and 2003; OPCOTE 2000

McPetrie, The Venerable Bruce

- √ Rector of St. Columba's Church, St. Catharines since 1982
- √ Ordained deacon in 1977 and priest in 1978
- √ Regional Archdeacon of Lincoln, and former Regional Dean of Lincoln
- √ Recently served as chair of the 2003 Provincial Synod Local Arrangements Planning Committee and General Synod
- √ Chair of the Bishop's Commission on the Vocational Diaconate; Diocesan Mission and Ministry Task Force in 2005
- √ Former member of Diocesan Program, Administration and Finance; Finance and Investment; Financial Advisory Committee; Servers' Festival, Bishop's Conference on Spirituality, ACPO assessor
- √ Former Chaplain at Guelph Correctional Centre and Niagara Regional Police.
- √ Founding member, project manager, and board chairman of Habitat for Humanity, Niagara

Murray, The Reverend Canon Dr. Margaret

- √ Rector of St. Matthias' Church, Guelph since 2000
- √ Ordained deacon in 1987 and priest in 1988
- √ Coordinator of Niagara Continuing Education Program (1997 - 2003) & Chaplain to Ordinands (1995 - 2000)
- √ Appointed member College of Deacons 2003 to present
- √ Member of Mission Strategy Committee 1997 to present
- √ Delegate to 1992 and 1995 General Synod, member of its 1992-1995 Doctrine and Worship Committee, and Chair of its 1995 Nominations Committee
- √ Archdeacon of Undermount (1997 - 2000) and Regional Dean of Trafalgar (1990 - 1992)
- √ Former member Synod Council, Regional Council, Futures Committees.
- √ Doctor of Ministry in Advanced Congregational Studies

Clergy Nominations for the 2006 Provincial Synod (continued)

Nancekivell, The Reverend Canon Marni

- √ Rector of St. Aidan's Church, Oakville from 1993 - 2005
- √ Ordained deacon in 1988 and priest in 1989
- √ Previous appointment All Saints' Church, Welland
- √ Appointed Canon of Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton in June 2003
- √ Director of Transitional Ministry 2005
- √ Coordinator of the Fresh Start Team and Interim Ministry 2005
- √ Chair of the Bishop's Sexual Abuse/Harassment Response Team and one of its founding members
- √ Member of the Canterbury Hills Board since 2004
- √ Former member of Diocesan Program Committee, Doctrine and Worship Committee, and Clergy Conference Planning Group

Nicolls, The Reverend Sue

- √ Rector of St. Phillip the Apostle, Burlington since 2003
- √ Ordained deacon in June 2001 and priest in December 2001
- √ Previous appointment includes curacy at St. James, Dundas
- √ Currently representing the Diocese of Niagara on the Ontario Provincial Commission for Theological Education
- √ Member of the Evangelism Support Group
- √ Member of Liturgy Canada Executive
- √ Former member of Diocesan Synod Council, 2001 - 2003

Sandilands, The Reverend Canon James

- √ Rector of St. James' Church, Dundas since 1997
- √ Ordained deacon in 1982 and priest in 1983
- √ Previous appointments include St. Philip's and St. Luke's Church, Burlington
- √ Chaplain to Dundas Branch 36 of the Royal Canadian Legion
- √ Former Chaplain at Joseph Brant Hospital, Burlington
- √ Former member of Diocesan Outreach Committee, Synod Council, Synod Planning and Candidates' Committee for Ordination

Steers, The Reverend Alan

- √ Rector of St. James' Church, St. Catharines since 2002
- √ Ordained deacon 2000 and priest in 2001
- √ Previous appointments include Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity, Fonthill
- √ Current member of Lincoln Regional Council since 2004
- √ Former member of Synod Council 2001-2002, Brock Regional Council 2000-2002
- √ Chair of the Local Ecumenical Ministerial Group since 2003
- √ Member of L'Arche Community, Richmond Hill for 10 years

Clergy Nominations for the 2006 Provincial Synod (continued)

Tatarnic, The Reverend Martha

- √ Assistant Curate of St. Jude's Church, Oakville
- √ Ordained deacon May 2004
- √ Attended Trinity College, University of Toronto where she focused her thesis on issues in Media and Communication; an article based on that thesis was recently published in the Anglican Theological Review
- √ She studied Music at the University of Western Ontario and continues her musical vocation in the Burlington Concert Band

Wall, The Very Reverend Peter

- √ Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral and Dean of Niagara since 1998
- √ Ordained deacon and priest in 1989
- √ Previous appointments include Bishop Cronyn Memorial Church, London; St. Mark's by the Lake, St. Clair Beach
- √ Ex-officio member of Synod Council
- √ Diocesan Liturgical Officer
- √ Member of The Council of General Synod and a member of General Synod since 1998
- √ Chair of the General Synod Planning Committee for General Synod 2007
- √ Chair of the 1998 and 2001 General Synod Worship Committee
- √ Member of the national Faith Worship and Ministry Committee
- √ Member of Provincial Synod 2000 and 2003

**Lay Nominations for the 2006 Provincial Synod
(in alphabetical order)**

Gillett, Mr. Ross

- √ Member of St. John the Evangelist Church, Niagara Falls
- √ Licensed Lay Reader and member of Parish Council
- √ Currently a lay delegate to Brock Regional Council and to Synod
- √ Former Lay Reader at St. Martin's Church, Niagara Falls
- √ Received Order of Niagara in 2002
- √ Chair, Diocesan Human Resources & Ministry Support Committee
- √ Member of Synod Council representing HR/MS Division
- √ Synod Council representative on Executive, College of Deacons
- √ Member of the Diocese Mission & Ministry (DM&M) Review 2005
- √ Interim Lay Reader at All Saints, Niagara Falls in 2004
- √ Former Chair, Brock Regional Council 2001-2004
- √ Elected first Alternate Lay Delegate to 2004 Provincial Synod
- √ Formerly active member of St. Bartholomew's Church, Sarnia and St. Michael & All Angels, London in the Diocese of Huron

Little, Mrs. Susan

- √ Member of St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton
- √ Order of Niagara 2002
- √ Undermount Parish Viability Committee 2005
- √ Chair of Undermount Regional Council 2000-2004
- √ Synod Council 2000-2004; Synod Council Coordinating Team 2002-2004
- √ Synod Delegate 1993 – present; Diocesan Court 1999 – present
- √ Co-founder Children's Festival 1983; Coordinator Undermount & Mohawk Children's Festival 1983-present
- √ Children's ministry – innovative parish activities (ongoing); week-long summer program (1998- present); week-long girls' summer camp bible study leader (2002 – present)
- √ Scouts Canada Trainer and Leader 1992-present
- √ Camp Artaban and Canterbury Hills aficionado
- √ Cursillista 1993-present
- √ Parish intergenerational events; adult small-group trainer; chalice-bearer; intercessor

Mansfield, Mr. Paul

- √ Member of St. Luke's Church, Hamilton
- √ Deputy Warden
- √ Member of Parish Council, Regional Council and Synod Delegate
- √ Active in the Prayer Book Society
- √ Retired Social Work Administrator
- √ Received his B.A. at the University of Windsor; M.S.W. at McGill University
- √ Specialized field was child welfare including 7 years with Aboriginal communities

Lay Nominations for the 2006 Provincial Synod (continued)

Mauro, Mrs. Joyce

- √ Member of St. Alban's Church, Beamsville
- √ Current Altar Guild President, member for 28 years
- √ Church School Superintendent for 5 years; server; church choir member; volunteer church secretary; wrote and published the church newsletter
- √ Former People's Warden for nine consecutive years
- √ New Niagara Representative; Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and Partners in Mission representative, Lay Delegate to Synod
- √ Worked through St. Alban's on the Caribbean Workers Outreach Project in the Niagara area for four years
- √ Member of Lincoln Regional Council
- √ Involved with the Peace Vigil Concert by the WomEnchant Choir, raising funds for the Women's Resource Centre and Second Stage Housing of West Niagara

Ricketts, Mr. David

- √ Member of St. James Church, Dundas
- √ Former Church Warden, St. James, Dundas and St. George's, Barrie, Diocese of Toronto
- √ Received the Order of Niagara in 2003
- √ Lay delegate to Synod
- √ Current Lay delegate to Provincial Synod and General Synod
- √ Provincial Lay Secretary
- √ Licensed Lay Reader
- √ Member of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Committee, Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings, and Investment Sub-Committee
- √ Former chair and member of the Insurance and Risk Management Sub-Committee
- √ Founding chair of the Canterbury Hills Board of Management
- √ Former chair and member of the Stewardship and Financial Development Committee

Sneyd, Mr. Carl

- √ Member of Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton
- √ Member of Synod Council representing the Mohawk Region
- √ Member of the Synod Council Coordinating Team
- √ Licensed Lay Reader
- √ Last People's Warden at St. Timothy's Church, Hamilton before disestablishment
- √ First People's Warden at church of the Resurrection, Hamilton
He is a self-employed computer consultant

Lay Nominations for the 2006 Provincial Synod (continued)

Thorsteinson, Mrs. Patricia

- √ Member of St. John the Evangelist, Thorold for 22 years
- √ Member of the church choir
- √ Member of Parish Council
- √ Co-chair of the Parish Natural Church Development Team, Parish Shepherd, Building Committee Secretary (re: fire), co-chair Capital Campaign
- √ Participated in steering a Parish Evangelism Initiative
- √ Served as Rector's Warden, member of the Parochial Committee on two occasions
- √ Current Chair of the Lincoln Regional Council, served the past four years on council, serving one year as secretary
- √ Retired Guidance Head at Niagara District Secondary School

Walback, Mrs. Irene

- √ Member of All Saint's Church, Erin
- √ Deputy People's Warden 1998-1999
- √ People's Warden 1999-2003
- √ Lay Delegate to Synod 1999-present
- √ Licensed Layreader and Chalice Bearer 2000-present
- √ Coordinator High Hopes Ladies Group Retreat; Pancake Supper
- √ Primate's World Relief and Development Representative 2003-present
- √ Co-chairperson Pastoral Care 2003-present
- √ Coordinator and driver for Seniors
- √ Youth Group Leader 2003-present
- √ Served 26 years on Alter Guild
- √ Attending Renison College; working towards Christian Studies certificate
- √ Attended Wycliffe College and completed course - Pastoral Visiting of the Sick, Bereaved and Shut In

**CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL
SYNOD MEMORIAL**

The congregation of Christ's Church Cathedral, through its Cathedral Council, wishes to share with the members of Synod their considerable anxiety, pain, and anguish over the current situation in the Church regarding the Blessing of Same Sex Unions.

While we at the Cathedral accept the sad reality that the Anglican Communion is deeply divided over this issue and, more positively, that our Bishops and Synodical structures are deeply committed to holding the Communion together, we cannot ignore the fact that many are in deep pain over the hurt caused to our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, and therefore to all of us.

While the April 2005 statement of the Canadian House of Bishops and the events at the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in June 2005 have doubtlessly lowered the temperature on potentially divisive issues and actions, they have left many of our own congregants seriously concerned. We struggle with the perception that we simply can ask a whole segment of God's children to continue to wait unreasonably and unacceptably long amounts of time for their full inclusion in our Anglican family.

We sincerely regret this and call on our Synod to re-affirm, in the midst of a time of waiting, our Diocese's strong commitment to the inclusion of all, and to the integrity and sanctity of adult committed same sex relationships.