

**MINUTES OF THE 131st SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA
HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2005 IN HAMILTON**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2005

CHEDOKE HALL, HAMILTON CONVENTION CENTRE

Registration began at 8:00 a.m. Bishop Spence called Synod to order at 9:00 a.m. Seated at the head table were Bishop Ralph Spence, Chancellor Rob Welch, and The Very Reverend Peter Wall.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Chancellor Rob Welch reported that, as of 9:00 a.m., November 18, 2005, 193 out of 270 eligible lay delegates had registered, representing 71.48% of all eligible delegates in the order of laity, and 89 out of 122 eligible clergy delegates had registered, representing 72.95% 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.

NEW MEMBERS OF SYNOD

The Bishop welcomed:

- The Rev. Eleanor Clitheroe-Bell, Assistant Curate, St. Cuthbert, Oakville
- The Rev. Mark Gladding, Rector, Grace Church, Arthur/St. Paul, Mount Forest
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Alan Hayes, Professor, Wycliffe College; Honorary Assistant, St. Simon's, Oakville
- The Rev. Patrick Patterson, Rector, St. John, Elora
- The Rev. Stephanie Pellow, Rector, St. Alban, Grand Valley
- The Rev. Jeffrey Ward, Assistant Curate, St. Paul, Hamilton
- The Rev. Sue-Ann Ward, Assistant Curate, Christ's Church Cathedral

WELCOME TO THE DEACONS REPRESENTING THE COLLEGE OF DEACONS

- William Phipps, Ronald Pincoe, Jane Rokeby

WELCOME DIVINITY STUDENTS:

The Bishop welcomed Mr. Derek Anderson, Ms. Cheryl Barker, Ms. Renee Desjardins, Mr. Ray David Glenn, and Mr. Paul Tinker

WELCOME GUESTS

The Bishop welcomed:

- Mr. Bruce Kuhn, the Gospel of Luke, who is a Synod Guest and Dinner Speaker.
- Mrs. Fiona Brownlee, Council of the North, Diocese of Keewatin
- Mr. Fred Allen (Technical Producer)
- Mr. Christopher Grabiec and Mr. John Janisse (Diocesan Webmasters)
- The Rev. Canon Charles Stirling (Publishers Advisory Board)

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Privileges of the House were extended to:

- Ms. Kathryn Davies (Auditor)
- Mr. Kirk Boyd (Finance Budget Sub-Committee)

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 2004 SYNOD

**MOTION: The Reverend Ian Chadwick/Mrs. Carol Summers
THAT the minutes of the 2005 January session of the 130th Session
of Synod, as found on pages 6 through 9 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 page 4A which was received at registration.

POINT OF ORDER

The Reverend Canon Mark McDermott rose on a point of order to say that we had agreed not to discuss the blessing of same sex unions and to ask how it is that a motion on this subject has been permitted.

Chancellor Rob Welch advised members that this matter could be discussed when the motion was brought forward.

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 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 4 p.m. on Friday. Motions from the floor, which can be dealt with at this Synod session, will be presented on the screens.

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller/The Reverend Dr. Steve Hopkins
THAT the agenda as presented by the Agenda Committee 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 distributed at
registration 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 Canon Mark Tiller made announcements and acknowledged the contribution of FaithLife Financial in sponsoring the morning break.

TRINITY COLLEGE CORPORATION

**MOTION: The Rev. Dr. Stephen Hopkins/The Venerable Richard Jones
THAT the representative from the Diocese of Niagara to the
Corporation of Trinity College be the Reverend Joseph Asselin
(clergy) for a term of two years.**

CARRIED.

(Please note: Mr. Gordon Askwith and Mrs. Margaret Reid (lay), the Venerable Tom Greene and the Reverend Canon Gordon Kinkley (clergy), are continuing members of the Corporation of Trinity College.)

PROVINCIAL SYNOD ELECTIONS

**MOTION: The Venerable Tom Greene/The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller
THAT Provincial Synod Nominations for Clergy members be closed.**

CARRIED.

**MOTION: Mr. Robert Tilbury/Mrs. Carol Summers
THAT Provincial Synod Nominations for Lay members be closed.**

CARRIED.

The Bishop informed Synod that the ballot boxes for Provincial Synod elections would be closed at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 18th, 2005

The Synod Eucharist was held.
The Bishop's Charge to Synod was delivered via video.

The Bishop welcomed and introduced The Right Reverend Ann Tottenham, retired Area Bishop of the Credit Valley. She spoke about joining the Diocese as an assistant to the Bishop on Sundays commencing in January.

THE THREE-LEGGED STOOL: EVANGELISM

The Reverend Canon Michael Patterson, Diocesan Evangelism Officer, made a PowerPoint presentation on Evangelism. He announced that copies of the Bishop's Charge would be made available to all parishes in either DVD or VHS. The presentation covered the activities of the Evangelism Working Group, Communication Team, Clergy Support Team, and Marketing and Tools.

THE THREE-LEGGED STOOL: STEWARDSHIP

Mr. Jim Newman, Diocesan Director of Stewardship and Financial Development, made a PowerPoint presentation on Stewardship.

THE THREE-LEGGED STOOL: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A video was shown to all delegates representing the Leadership leg of the Three-Legged Stool. Many people from around the diocese were represented on the video and talked about how their experience in the church has strengthened their leadership skills.

The Bishop thanked all those who participated in the presentations.

GRACE AND LUNCH

Mr. Ross Gillett, St. John's, Niagara Falls, said Grace and lunch was the served at the delegate tables.

2004 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MOTION: Mr. Kirk Boyd/Mr. Robert McKinnell
THAT the audited financial statements for 2004, as found on pages
43 through 52, be accepted.**

CARRIED.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

CARRIED.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

**MOTION: Mr. Kirk Boyd/Mr. Robert McKinnell
THAT KPMG be appointed as auditors for fiscal year 2005.**

CARRIED.

BUDGET 2006

Mrs. Judy Conning, Co-Chair of the Finance Budget Sub-Committee of the Financial Advisory Committee, and Mr. Robert McKinnell, Diocesan Treasurer, made a PowerPoint presentation on the Proposed 2006 Budget.

**MOTION: Mrs. Judy Conning/Mr. Robert McKinnell
THAT the diocesan budget for 2006 as presented on pages 33 to 40,
be approved.**

CARRIED.

BREAK

The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller made announcements and acknowledged the contribution of Pollard Windows in sponsoring the afternoon break.

DIVISION OF OUTREACH

The Reverend Cheryl Fricker, Mr. Bill Mous, The Reverend Lynne Thackwray, and Mrs. Judy Connor presented a Public Service Announcement from the Outreach Committee.

CANON CHANGES

Canon 1.2.2 (Meetings and Organization of Synod)
Canon 2.2.3 (iv) (Secretary and Treasurer)

MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch/The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins
THAT the first sentence of Canon 1.2.2 be amended to read,
“A convening circular summoning the Synod shall be issued by
the Secretary to all members of Synod at least fourteen days prior to the
date fixed for the meeting.” and
THAT Canon 2.2.3 (iv) be amended to read,
“to issue, under the direction of the Bishop, a circular fourteen
days at least before the meeting of Synod to the clerical and lay
members thereof;”

CARRIED.

SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY

MOTION: Ms. Joyce Wilton/The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
That this Synod endorses an immediate review of the diocesan
Sexual Misconduct Policy by members of the Bishop’s Committee
for a Safe Church and empowers the Synod Council of the Diocese of
Niagara to ratify any changes.

CARRIED.

DIOCESAN TASK FORCE ON OPTIONS FOR CONDUCTING DIOCESAN SYNOD

MOTION: Mr. Brian Grose/The Venerable Michael Bird
THAT Synod requests the Bishop to convene the 2006
Diocesan Synod as a one-day session and the 2007 Synod as a
two-day session, with this sequence repeating in successive
even and odd years.

CARRIED.

POINT OF ORDER

The Reverend Canon David Howells spoke about the point of order question raised by The Reverend Canon Mark McDermott. He felt that we needed to deal with the disquiet among the members before the day’s adjournment. The Chancellor spoke to the issue and explained that any member of Synod is entitled to present a motion to Synod. The Chair of the Synod, the Bishop, may rule a motion out of order for a variety of reasons.

MOTION: **The Very Reverend Peter Wall/Mr. Jeremiah Ike**
THAT this Synod reaffirms, in the midst of a time of waiting, our strong commitment to the inclusion of all people, and to the integrity and sanctity of adult committed same sex relationships.

MOTION: **Mrs. Beth Kerley/Canon Mark McDermott**
THAT the motion be tabled

CARRIED

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 2006-2007 term, as outlined on the nominations sheet.

CARRIED.

The regional slate is as follows:

Members to serve for 2006-2007:

Brock	Ms. Gill Tucker
Greater Wellington	Mrs. Susan Pulleyblank
Lincoln	Mr. John Palmer
Mohawk	The Reverend Canon David Pickett
Trafalgar	The Reverend Suzanne Craven
Undermount	Mr. Robert Tilbury

Alternate members for 2006:

Brock	no name received
Greater Wellington	no name received
Lincoln	Mrs. Pat Thorsteinson
Mohawk	The Reverend Ann Macdonald
Trafalgar	Mrs. Mary Bishop
Undermount	The Reverend Dianne Distler

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An announcement was made that the Provincial Synod ballot boxes close at 4:00 p.m. and the results of the election would be announced at the evening dinner.

PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

The Bishop closed the session with prayer and the session was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

DINNER & PRESENTATION

A reception was held prior to dinner at 6 p.m. and Mr. Bruce Kuhn was the after dinner guest speaker. He presented portions of The Gospel of Luke.

2006 PROVINCIAL SYNOD ELECTION RESULTS

The Provincial Synod Election results were announced prior to dinner.

The Provincial Synod slate is as follows:

Regular Clergy Delegates 2006

The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins
The Reverend Kevin Block
The Venerable Lynne Corfield
The Very Reverend Peter Wall

Regular Lay Delegates 2006

Mrs. Susan Little
Mr. David Ricketts
Mr. Ross Gillett
Mrs. Irene Walback

Substitute Clergy Delegates 2006

The Reverend Sandra Copland
The Reverend Martha Tatarnic
The Venerable Bruce McPetrie
The Reverend Sue Nicolls

Substitute Lay Delegates 2006

Mrs. Patricia Thorsteinson
Mrs. Joyce Mauro
Mr. Carl Sneyd
Mr. Paul Mansfield

BISHOP'S ASSENT

After dinner the Bishop gave his assent to all the actions of the Synod. The Bishop closed the session with the blessing and the 131st Synod of the Diocese of Niagara was prorogued.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins, Secretary of Synod
Mrs. Karen Nowicki, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of Synod
Mrs. Carol Summers, Honorary Lay Secretary
The Reverend Ian Chadwick, Honorary Clerical Secretary