

**Minutes of the Second Session of the 141st
Synod of the Diocese of Niagara
October 30 and 31, 2015 at Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton**

The Right Reverend Michael Bird, Bishop of Niagara, called the Second Session of the 141st Synod of the Diocese of Niagara to order at 9:02 a.m. The Bishop announced that the offering received would go towards supporting the diocesan refugee fund.

Gathering Worship: Bishop's Charge & Eucharist

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz. During his charge to synod, Bishop Bird discussed the theme of this synod, "More Together." Bishop Bird spoke to the "dawning of a new tomorrow": (1) in which we are becoming discipleship-based rather than membership-based; (2) where our participation in God's mission cannot be separated from our life together; and (3) where we participate not in separate acts of outreach, but a network of loving concern.

The Bishop also recognized Canon Robert Welch as having served 25 years as Chancellor and commented that Canon Welch's father had also acted as Chancellor for 25 years.

BREAK

Clicker Orientation

A representative from Data on Spot gave an orientation to the clicker technology. It was fun to get comfortable voting with these devices by answering a few sample questions.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Canon Robert Welch reported that as of 8:55 am on October 30, 90% of all eligible delegates in the Order of the Clergy and 66% of the Order of the Laity had registered. He declared that there was a quorum.

MOTION: Canon Robert Welch/ The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
'THAT the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted.'

CARRIED

MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/The Very Reverend Peter Wall
'THAT notwithstanding the rules of procedure that votes be by clicker, save except for the General Synod ballot.'

CARRIED

Welcome to New Members of Synod & Guests

Bishop Bird welcomed The Reverend Canon Robert Brownlee, The Reverend Canon Francis Darlington, The Reverend Canon John Cathcart, and the Reverend Canon Trudy Lebas as clergy recently appointed to interim ministries in the diocese.

Privileges of the House

Privileges of the House were extended to: Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Ms. Lisa DiVeto, Brian Culp, James Boswick and Donna Bomberry.

Election of Honorary Lay Secretary

MOTION: Canon Robert Welch/ The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
'THAT Penelope Johnstone be elected as the Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod at this session of this Synod.'

CARRIED.

Minutes of the First Session of the 141st Synod

MOTION: The Venerable David Anderson/ Mrs. Penelope Johnstone
'THAT the minutes of the 1st Session of the 141st Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, as found on pages 8 through 10 of the Convening Circular be now approved.'

CARRIED.

Notices of Motion

Canon Welch announced that the notices of motion could be found on pages 3 to 7 of the convening circular and would be dealt with in due course.

Report of the Agenda Committee

MOTION: Ms. Janet Kaye / The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
'THAT the agenda as presented by the Agenda Committee be adopted.'

CARRIED.

Reception of Reports

MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/ The Reverend Bill Mous
'THAT all reports found in the Convening Circular and obtained at registration be received.'

CARRIED.

Appointments to Diocesan Court

The following clergy and lay delegates were appointed to Diocesan Court: the Reverend Canon Suzanne Craven, the Reverend Canon Stuart Pike, the Reverend Canon Darcey Lazerte, Ms. Rosemary Anstey, Mr. Andrew Clinkard, and Ms. Pat Davis.

Trinity College Corporation

MOTION: The Reverend Dan Tatarnic / Ms. Pat Davis
'THAT the representatives from the Diocese of Niagara to the Corporation of Trinity College be The Reverend Dr. Canon Darcey Lazerte (clergy), Ms. Mary Churchill (lay) and Ms. Kathleen Randle (lay); for a term of two years.'

CARRIED.

It was noted that the Reverend Aaron Orear, the Reverend Nigel Bunce (clergy) and Sister Heather Broadwell are continuing members of the Corporation of Trinity College.

Announcements

Guests welcomed at Synod were: The Reverend Judith Altree, Mission to Seafarers; Steve Leighfield, St. Matthew's House; The Reverend Carol Wood, McMaster University Chaplaincy; Pastor Jeff Smith, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Guelph.

General Synod Nominations

Canon Rob Welch, explained the ballots, process and rules for voting for delegates to the 2016 General Synod. The nominees were introduced and there were no nomination from the floor.

General Synod Nominations: Laity

MOTION: Canon Rob Welch/ The Reverend Canon Terry DeForest
'**THAT the nominations for the Order of Laity for General Synod be closed.**'

CARRIED.

General Synod Nominations: Clergy

MOTION: Canon Rob Welch/ The Reverend Canon Terry DeForest
'**THAT the nominations for the Order of Clergy for General Synod be closed.**'

CARRIED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Canon Rob Hurkmans made an announcement regarding the ReChurch Conference with the theme of "Let's Grow" in partnership between the Diocese of Niagara and Wycliffe College. The speaker is The Very Reverend Kevin Martin, retired Dean of the Diocese of Dallas. The Venerable Max Wooaover spoke to the import of this conference for St. Andrew's Grimsby.

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell made some housekeeping announcements.

Introduction of Lisa Di Veto, Stewardship, Legacy Giving and Fund Development Consultant

Bishop Michael Bird introduced Lisa Di Veto, Stewardship, Legacy Giving and Fund Development Consultant. Lisa made a brief presentation where she described a number of new initiatives, including: (1) The Leadership Meeting; (2) Grants; (3) Legacy Giving Workshop.

Bishop Bird acknowledged the generous support of the National Church for many years in this area of diocesan stewardship development and thanked the Primate for this support.

Cathedral Place Revitalization Project Update

Dean Peter Wall reported on the status of this project, which remains in preliminary stages, with important work of consultation and development of the plan ongoing. The letter of intent is ready to be signed between the diocese and the developer.

Provincial Synod Report

A reporting team from the delegates to Provincial Synod, including Sue Carson, Canon David Ricketts, and Sierra Robertson-Roper made a presentation on the 3 day session earlier in October.

Marriage Canon: Presentation & Discussion

Archbishop Fred Hiltz made a presentation regarding the work of the Commission on the Marriage Canon, and where we as a church now find ourselves in this conversation. Any change in the canon requires a conscience clause, amendments and clarification.

Following the presentation there was a moderated session led by the Dean including questions for clarification, and reflections from the floor.

The Bishop asked and charged all parishes and Synod Council to study this report and called for the formation of a commission to receive reports and to report back to the Diocesan Synod next year regarding any response required by this synod following General Synod 2016.

LUNCH

A character actor playing the role of Bishop Fuller, first Bishop of Niagara said the Grace. A video called The Church in the Public Square was played and delegates had time to meet with the General Synod nominees during the lunch break.

Synod Council Report

MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/ Mr. Terry Charters
'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.

Election of 2016 - 2017 Synod Council Members

MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/Canon Robert Welch
'THAT this Synod elect the regional members of Synod Council and alternate regional members for the 2016 - 2017 term, as outlined on the nominations sheet, as outlined on the nomination sheet distributed at registration.'

CARRIED.

Proposal for Electing Synod Council Regional Representatives

The Reverend Bill Mous spoke to a proposal for a new way of electing Synod Council Regional Representatives. The Governance Working Group had met and considered how to enhance representation of Synod on Synod Council, how to standardize the process of electing regional representatives and how to increase the accountability of those elected. This is part of our ongoing process of governance review. Synod Council will review feedback from this meeting of Synod. Comments and questions were received.

Canterbury Hills Endowment Fund

Canon Christyn Perkons and Jodi Beck reported. Canon Perkons reviewed the history of the sale of portions of the Canterbury Hills property. Jodi Beck explained the numbers concerning the proceeds of sale, expenses, debt and the balance which is being considered for investment.

MOTION: Canon Christyn Perkons/ Terry Charters
'WHEREAS the property known as Canterbury Hills Camp and Conference Centre is owned by the Diocese of Niagara and is leased by the Canterbury Hills Board of Directors for \$1 per year for its use; and

WHEREAS the Canterbury Hills property was divided into three parcels, two of which were subsequently sold resulting in a net amount of \$1,154,505 being received by the Diocese;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Synod authorize the Treasurer to disburse the net proceeds of the sale of the two parts of the Canterbury Hills property as follows:

- a) to fully reimburse the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara in the amount of \$630,032 for the indebtedness of the Canterbury Hills Camp and Conference Centre it previously assumed;
- b) to establish an internally restricted fund held by the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara in the amount of \$524,473, for the purposes of supporting program and capital costs associated with ministry undertaken by the Canterbury Hills Camp and Conference Centre Board;

AND THAT only 80% of the growth in the value of the aforementioned internally restricted fund may be drawn in any given year such that in years of negative growth, funds may still be drawn provided the initial value of the fund remains intact.

AND THAT all monies in the aforementioned internally restricted fund be redirected to the Disestablished Properties Fund should the Canterbury Hills Conference Centre Board no longer require financial support.'

CARRIED.

Revised License Agreement

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell made a brief presentation. One of the changes in this new agreement raises the amount of liability insurance required by the licensee to \$2 million.

MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/ Canon David Ricketts
'THAT the revised parish license agreement be adopted effective November 1, 2015.'

CARRIED.

Reflection Time & Prayer Stations

The Reverend Michael Deed introduced a time of reflection and prayer. Sheets were placed at each table with questions for reflection; stations included icons and placards.

BREAK

Canonical Changes

The votes for all of the changes to the canons were taken by house.

Replacement of Canon 3.5: College of Deacons

MOTION: The Reverend Deacon Rod McDowell/ Ms. Sue Carson
'THAT Canon 3.5 be replaced as follows:

- 1. There shall be a College of Deacons whose purpose is to provide communal support and encouragement to deacons exercising their ministries throughout the Diocese of Niagara.**
- 2. The diocesan Bishop shall appoint a Director of Deacons and may appoint both a Deputy Director of Deacons and a Chaplain to the College of Deacons. The Director and Deputy Director, if any, shall serve at the Bishop's pleasure and assist the Bishop in the placement and supervision of deacons. The Bishop's Chaplain to the College will function as a pastor to the deacons on behalf of the Bishop.**
- 3. The College of Deacons shall be composed of:**
 - (a) all deacons in good standing and holding a Bishop's Permission**
 - (b) the Director of Deacons;**
 - (c) the Deputy Director of Deacons, if any; and**
 - (d) the Bishop's Chaplain to the College of Deacons, if any.**
- 4. There shall be an Executive Council of the College of Deacons whose purpose is to advise and assist the Bishop, Director of Deacons and Deputy Director of Deacons, if any, in seeking and promoting the vitality of diaconal ministries in the Diocese of Niagara.**
- 5. The Executive Council of the College of Deacons shall be composed of:**
 - (a) the Director of Deacons, who shall serve as Chair;**
 - (b) the Deputy Director of Deacons, if any;**
 - (c) three delegates duly elected from the membership of the College of Deacons;**
 - (d) the Bishop's Chaplain to the College of Deacons, if any; and**
 - (e) the Bishop or his/her designate.**

CARRIED.

Amendment of Canon 1.1: Composition of Synod

MOTION: Canon Robert Welch/ The Reverend Deacon Jean Ruttan-Yates
'THAT Canon 1.1 be revised as follows:

- 1. The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara shall consist of:**
 - (1) The Bishop of the Diocese, who shall be the head of Synod;**
 - (2) Any Suffragan or Coadjutor Bishop thereof;**
 - (3) The Priests, Deacons and Lay Workers thereof, duly licensed; (amended, 2015)**
 - (4) The Director of Deacons, the Deputy Director of Deacons (if any), and up to three deacons (who have been granted a Bishop's Permission) elected annually by the College of Deacons from among its members, (amended 2015)**
 - (5) The Chancellor;**
 - (6) The Vice-Chancellor, if any;**
 - (7) The Treasurer;**
 - (8) The Secretary of Synod; (amended, 1991)**
 - (9) The Lay Representatives duly elected in accordance with Canon 4.1(17);**
 - (10) Anyone not otherwise designated above who is a member of the Synod Council; (new, 2001)**
 - (11) Not more than 10 Lay Representatives who shall be appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese in each year in consultation with the Synod Council, such Lay Representative serving for a one-year term.**

- 2. Lay Workers who are members of Synod shall be considered members of the Order of Laity for purposes of voting.**

- 3. Clergy who receive a pension from the Anglican Church of Canada and who are currently in good standing with the Bishop of Niagara shall be entitled to a seat on the floor of the Synod, and shall have a right to take part in discussion, but shall not be entitled to vote. (amended,2015)**

CARRIED.

Canon 4.8: Cemeteries

MOTION: Canon Rob Welch/ The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
'THAT Canon 4.8 be enacted as presented.'

- 1. Every parish of the Diocese with a cemetery, scattering garden or columbarium (here after referred to in this Canon as a cemetery) adjacent to or affiliated with such parish shall have a Cemetery Board, referred to in this Canon as "the Board".**

2. Synod Council shall serve as the Board for any cemetery adjacent to or affiliated with a parish that has been disestablished, where such cemetery has not been conveyed to a third party.

3. The Board (save and except for a Board serving pursuant to section 2 of this Canon) shall be elected annually at the vestry meeting of any parish to which this Canon applies.

4. Should any parish to which this Canon applies fail to elect a Board, then the priest of such parish and the wardens of such parish shall serve as the Board.

5. Synod Council may approve policies and guidelines for the operation of cemeteries that are subject to the provisions of this Canon.

6. The Board shall administer the cemetery in accordance with provincial legislation pertaining to cemeteries, any regulations promulgated in accordance with said legislation, this Canon and any guidelines and policies approved by Synod Council concerning the operations of cemeteries.

7. In any conflict in interpretation between the provisions of this Canon, any policies and guidelines approved by Synod Council concerning the operations of cemeteries, and provincial legislation, the provisions of the legislation shall prevail.'

CARRIED.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bishop announced that the Bishop's Company Bonspiel will be held on Saturday, February 20 at the Victoria Curling Club.

Amendment to Canon 4.7: Church Property

MOTION: Canon Rob Welch/ The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
'**THAT** Canon 4.7 (20) be amended to read:

(20) No parish in the Diocese shall grant a right of way, an easement for utility or other purposes, enter a heritage designation agreement, establish a cemetery, scattering garden or columbarium, enter into a development agreement, apply for a demolition permit, or grant a restrictive covenant without consent of the Vestry by a two-thirds majority vote at a meeting called for that purpose, and approval by the Bishop and Synod.'

CARRIED.

WOW Grants Ministry Moment

Mr. James Bowick, Executive Director from the Bridge in Hamilton spoke about a new venture known as Ananias House Chapel, "an adult faith community where all are welcome, regardless of convictions, religious or criminal." Ananias House meets at the

Church of St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. A grant from the diocese's WOW Grants has made this work possible.

Other WOW grant recipients mentioned included: St. Alban's Beamsville, Grace Church St. Catharines, St. John The Evangelist and St. James Guelph.

Bishop Bird announced that it is time to get applications for 2016 WOW grant applications in.

2014 Audited Statements

2014 Audited Financial Statements

MOTION: Mrs. Pat Davis/Ms. Joanna Beck
'THAT the audited financial statements for 2014 as found on pages 50-68, be received.'

CARRIED.

Auditor's Report

MOTION: Mrs. Pat Davis/Ms. Joanna Beck
'THAT the Auditor's Report, as found on pages 51-52 be received.'

CARRIED.

Appointment of Auditors

MOTION: Mrs. Pat Davis/Ms. Joanna Beck
'THAT KPMG be appointed as auditors for fiscal year 2015.'

CARRIED.

General Synod Balloting Ends

The Bishop announced that General Synod delegate voting was closed.

Announcements

The Bishop offered thanks to those who had contributed to a very good day of Synod, including Cathedral and Diocesan staff and volunteers, the Chancellor, the Agenda and Worship committees and musicians.

Dismissal

At 3:28 p.m. the Bishop dismissed us to reconvene again on Saturday morning and reminded delegates to leave their clickers on site for reissuing Saturday morning.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31, 2015 AT CATHEDRAL PLACE & LIUNA STATION

Synod Reconvenes Call to Order

The Bishop called the meeting back to order at 9:07 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bishop announced that the church building of St. Luke's Palermo had successfully been moved yesterday during the time when we were meeting. In addition, Sue-Ann and Jeff Ward received the gift of a newborn granddaughter.

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell made a number of announcements concerning the synod's move to Liuna Station for the anniversary celebration.

Gathering Rite & Prayer Stations

Similar to Friday, there were questions for reflection and different stations to visit during this time. Prayer was led by the Reverend Michael Deed.

General Synod Election Results

Canon Rob Welch announced the results of balloting. Elected as delegates from the order of clergy: The Reverend Martha Tataric, The Reverend Bill Mous, The Venerable Max Woolaver, The Very Reverend Peter Wall. And from the order of the laity: Susan Little, Patricia Davis, Andrew Clinkard, and Geoff Small.

In addition, Miss Siobhan Bennett, youth delegate, had been elected at youth synod earlier this spring.

2016 Diocesan Budget

Andrew Clinkard from the Budget Subcommittee of the Financial Advisory Board made the presentation; the theme was "Doing More Together".

MOTION: Mrs. Pat Davis/ Mr. Andrew Clinkard
`THAT this Synod approves the 2016 proposed budget.'

CARRIED.

The Bishop suggested that each parish should record their number of volunteer hours. He thanked the Budget committee for all of the time and work that went into preparing this budget.

TRC & Indigenous Self-Determination: Presentation & Discussion

The Reverend Canon Val Kerr and Ms. Donna Bomberry made a presentation including their personal backgrounds and their time at the "Lifted on the Wings of Faith" Indigenous Sacred Circle in August. The Primate and the Bishop also added their reflections on reconciliation and the calls to action from the TRC. The Bishop made an invitation for the formation of a group to meet to discuss how we as a diocese can respond to these calls to action. The presentation ended with the following quote by Justice Murray Smith. "When faced with a mountain, we have shown you the path to the top but we call upon you to do the climbing."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell made some final announcements.

Bishop's Assent & Closing Remarks

The Bishop gave his assent to all of the proceedings of this session of the 141st session of the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 and delegates headed to Liuna Station for the 140th Anniversary Celebration and Primalial Address.

LIUNA STATION: We are More Together

At Liuna Station delegates were welcomed by "Bishop and Mrs. Fuller" and then joined guests from parishes. All were invited to look at and add to displays for each decade of the diocese in the foyer of the station; there were also pictures of all diocesan bishops on easels. In the main room there was live music, a liturgical dance interpretation of the Lord's Prayer. Information displays for the Niagara Anglican and the Anglican Journal were set up. Guests were instructed by the Reverend Canon Terry DeForest to arrange themselves in order of when their parishes were established and then their distance from Cathedral Place. After the Grace was said by the Bishop, guests enjoyed a buffet style lunch.

The Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, Canadian Primate, was introduced by Sister Margaret, CSC Sister Provincial. In his address, the Archbishop reflected on the history and ministry of the diocese in relation to the greater Church. Archbishop Hiltz presented Bishop Bird with a certificate commemorating the 140th anniversary. Dean Peter Wall then thanked the Primate for his comments and his time with us.

Each table was instructed to create a rope of fabric provided and then a collaborative fabric art installation was created in front of the podium. The Primate blessed our ministry and the suspended fabric art which represented how we are more together.

The Reverend Bill Mous spoke about the Refugee Sponsorship Initiative and the Reverend Scott McLeod asked delegates to respond with generosity, passion and prayer.

The Bishop thanked all of those on the event planning committee, the Synod staff, the Diocesan Archivist, the musicians, and each and every one present.

At 2:00pm The Reverend Deacon Jean Ruttan-Yates gave a final dismissal. Guests left with a copy of the new Diocesan map and the conviction that we are more together.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod
Mrs. Mary Anne Grant, Administrative Assistant
The Reverend Canon David Anderson, Honorary Clergy Secretary
Mrs. Penelope Johnstone, Honorary Lay Secretary