

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE  
128<sup>th</sup> SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA  
HELD ON JANUARY 18, 2003 IN HAMILTON**

CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL, HAMILTON

Registration began at 8:00 a.m. The Synod began at 9:30 am 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. The Bishop called upon the Reverend Timothy Morgan to say a few words. Tim gave thanks for the sympathy he and his family had received from the Church following the death of his mother in November.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Chancellor Rob Welch reported that, as of 9:20 a.m., January 18, 2003, 184 out of 289 eligible lay delegates had registered, representing 64% of all eligible delegates in the order of laity, and 91 out of 122 eligible clergy delegates had registered, representing 75% 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.

HONORARY SECRETARIES

The Bishop announced that the honorary secretaries for this session of Synod remain unchanged – Mrs. Carol Summers, honorary lay secretary; the Reverend Ian Chadwick, honorary clerical secretary.

WELCOME TO GUESTS/PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Privileges of the House were extended to:

- Archdeacon Jim Boyles, General Secretary of General Synod
- The Right Reverend David Ashdown, Bishop of the Diocese of Keewatin
- Mr. Gordon Ross, Stewardship and Financial Development Chair and Member of the Task Force on Funding
- Mr. Stan Hatcher, Member of the Task Force on Funding
- Mr. Gerald Aggus, Diocesan Solicitor, Simpson Wigle Barristers and Solicitors
- The Reverend Canon Charles Stirling
- The Reverend Canon Terry DeForest

Also in attendance:

- Ms. Solange De Santis, Anglican Journal
- Ms. Diana Hutton, Niagara Anglican Editor

RECEPTION OF REPORTS

MOTION: The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins/Mrs. Carol Summers  
`the reports included in the Convening Circular for this special session be received. CARRIED.

### BACKGROUND ON THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS SETTLEMENT

Steve Hopkins presented agenda for the day. A presentation followed, outlining the history of the residential schools, the circumstances of the announced agreement to settle this issue, and the need for this Synod to ratify the agreement.

Bishop Ashdown noted his appreciation for the opportunity to be present and described the impact of the residential schools on native people in his diocese. He talked about how the church and native people have begun the process of reconciliation - a healing journey.

Diocesan Solicitor, Gerry Aggus, gave an overview of the agreement and answered questions of clarification. Archdeacon Jim Boyles and Bishop Ashdown also explained aspects of the agreement.

### REPORT OF THE TASKFORCE ON FUNDING

Mrs. Judy Conning, a member of Task Force on Funding, outlined the report, its options, and recommendations. Questions of clarification were answered.

The Bishop spoke and encouraged ratification. The Dean made announcements about the upcoming break.

After the break, members returned for debate and discussion.

### RATIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

MOTION: Rob Welch/Fred Gosse  
`that this Synod ratifies the settlement agreement and authorizes the Bishop and Secretary of Synod to execute the Contribution and Co-operation Agreement, the General Synod Support Agreement and the Promissory Note in the amount of \$1,885,000.’  
CARRIED.

The house stood and applauded the ratification. Bishop Ashdown shared his thoughts on this historic debate and resolution.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Spence made two announcements:

- Archdeacon Ales Hewitt has submitted his resignation as Rector of St.Jude’s Church, Oakville and Archdeacon of Trafalgar, effective February 28, and has accepted the position to be Dean of Ontario and Rector of St.George’s Cathedral, Kingston, effective March 1, 2003.
- The Reverend Christine Hutchison-Hounsell has resigned as Assistant Curate at St.George’s, Guelph, effective February 28, and will begin her new ministry as Incumbent at St.Paul’s Church, Lorne Park, Mississauga, effective March 1, 2003.

INTERIM EDITOR THANKED

Bishop Spence publicly thanked Megan Strohschein, former Interim Editor of the Niagara Anglican, for all her hard work and great efforts over many years on the Diocesan newspaper. The Synod applauded Megan's accomplishments.

ADOPTION OF PAYMENT OPTION

Members debated the aspects of the proposed option for payment

MOTION: Judy Conning/Thomas Greene  
`that this Synod adopts option #2 for payment of our contribution to the Settlement Fund and instructs Synod Council to implement this decision.' CARRIED.

Bishop Spence made closing remarks and gave his assent to all actions of this session of Synod.

The Bishop thanked the Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins for his work as Director of Program over the past ten years.

The Synod adjourned following the Bishop's blessing.

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