

**MINUTES OF THE 2nd SESSION OF
THE 130th SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA
HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2005 AT CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2005

CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL, HAMILTON, ONTARIO

Registration began at 8:30 a.m. in Myler Hall.

Bishop Spence called Synod to order at 9:30 a.m. Seated at the head table were Bishop Ralph Spence and Chancellor Rob Welch. The 2nd Session of the 130th Synod began with opening worship.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Chancellor Rob Welch reported that, as of 9:30 a.m., January 8, 2005, 200 out of 272 eligible lay delegates had registered, representing 73.5% of all eligible delegates in the order of laity, and 106 out of 128 eligible clergy delegates had registered, representing 82.8% of all eligible delegates in the order of clergy, thus forming a quorum for Synod.

**MOTION: Mr. Rob Welch/The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins
THAT the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted.
CARRIED.**

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

- There were no Privileges of the House.

MINUTES OF THE 130th SESSION OF SYNOD

**MOTION: The Reverend Ian Chadwick/Mrs. Carol Summers
THAT the minutes of the 2004 November session of the 130th
Session of Synod, as found on pages 5 through 13 of this
Convening Circular, be now approved.
CARRIED.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

Chancellor Rob Welch advised members that motions could be found on page 2 of the Convening Circular. At the November 2004 Session of Synod, motions 6, 7 and 8 were referred to Synod Council. At the December 2004 Synod Council meeting these motions were referred back to Synod. He also advised members that the 8 motions in the Convening Circular would be the only motions received at this session of Synod.

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 would be allowed a total of five minutes to speak. Speakers to a motion would be allowed two minutes each. A "warning" bell would be sounded when 20 seconds remain in the speaker's allotted time; and a bell would be sounded to indicate the end of the allotted time.

The Reverend Mark Tiller announced that the Prime Minister of Canada had asked Canadians to recognize two minutes of silence at 12:00 noon for the victims of the Tsunami disaster. This would be observed in Synod if we were sitting at noon or earlier if we were to adjourn before then.

MOTION: The Reverend 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 obtained at registration, be received.

CARRIED.

NEW MEMBERS OF SYNOD

The Bishop welcomed:

- The Rev. Mark Gladding, Rector, Grace Church, Arthur/St. Pauls, Mount Forest

The Bishop announced the appointment of The Reverend Paul Whitehouse as Diocesan Registrar, replacing The Reverend Canon Charles Stirling.

2005 BUDGET

MOTION: Mrs. Judy Conning/Mr. Ian Pratt THAT the 2005 Diocesan Operating Budget, as found on the green pages of the Convening Circular, be approved.

CARRIED

A standing count was taken, 256 in favour, 37 against.

DIOCESAN MISSION & MINISTRY

MOTION: The Reverend Rob Park THAT the Diocese of Niagara consider reducing the DMM percentage expected from the parishes for the 2006 budget.

The Reverend Rob Park asked to withdraw the motion. The Bishop sought the consent of the house and the motion was withdrawn. **WITHDRAWN.**

TIMING & FORMAT OF FUTURE SYNODS

MOTION PREAMBLE

Whereas

- **in recent years, Diocesan Synod has been held from Thursday evening to Saturday afternoon**
- **a resolution adopted by Youth Synod 2004 requested that Diocesan Synod be scheduled over a weekend (Saturday and Sunday)**
- **in addition to youth, significant other categories of parishioners are excluded by the current timing, thereby limiting the diversity of experience among Synod members**
- **a three day Synod involves significant time, transportation, parking, food and lodging costs to delegates and parishes**

Whereas

- **Synods are expensive for some parishes and delegates in terms of time, transportation, parking, food, and lodging costs**
- **several other dioceses now hold their synod biennially or triennially**
- **creative alternatives can be developed concerning program and delivery**

**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.**

DEFEATED

A standing count was taken, 132 in favour, 160 against.

TIMING & FORMAT OF FUTURE SYNODS

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Michael Bird/ Mrs. Nancy Wood
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.**

CARRIED

**AMENDMENT: The Reverend Susan Wilson/Ms. Judy Steers
THAT the motion be amended by deleting the words
“the option of conducting Diocesan Synod biennially”
and inserting the words “options for conducting
Diocesan Synod”.**

CARRIED

AMENDED MOTION

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

CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joyce Wilton, Consultant for Youth Ministry and Adult Education, announced that Youth Synod will be an Annual Event and to cover budget costs registration fees have been raised for delegates.

The Very Reverend Peter Wall, Dean of Niagara and Rector of Christ’s Church Cathedral told the Members of Synod that The Bishop is to receive an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Huron College, University of Western Ontario. The Bishop has been previously awarded Doctor of Divinity by both Wycliffe and Trinity Colleges and the University of Toronto. He is the first bishop to be so honoured by the three historic Ontario institutions. Synod responded to this announcement with a standing ovation.

ASSENT

Bishop Spence gave his assent to all actions of the Synod.

The Bishop thanked the Synod Planning Team and all those who assisted.

PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE TSUNAMI IN SOUTH ASIA

Two minutes of silence were observed in remembrance of those who tragically lost their lives and all the families devastated by the Tsunami tidal wave in the Indian Ocean.

CLOSING

Synod voted to prorogue.

The Bishop closed the session with the blessing and the 130th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, 2nd Session, was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins, Secretary of Synod

Mrs. Karen Nowicki, Assistant Secretary of Synod

Mrs. Carol Summers, Honorary Lay Secretary

The Reverend Ian Chadwick, Honorary Clerical Secretary