

**MINUTES OF THE 138<sup>th</sup>  
SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA  
HELD NOVEMBER 17, 2012 IN BURLINGTON**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012**

**ST. CHRISTOPHER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, BURLINGTON**

The Synod Eucharist was held at St. Christopher's. The Bishop delivered his Charge to Synod.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2012**

**ST. CHRISTOPHER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, BURLINGTON**

Registration began at 8:00 a.m. Bishop Bird called Synod to order at 9:00 a.m. Seated at the head table were Bishop Michael Bird, Chancellor Robert Welch, The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell.

Synod began with the gathering worship.

**REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

Chancellor Robert Welch reported that, as of 9:15 a.m., November 17, 2012, 182 out of 219 eligible lay delegates had registered, representing 83.105% of all eligible delegates in the Order of Laity, and 85 out of 105 eligible clergy delegates had registered, representing 80.952% of all eligible delegates in the Order of Clergy.

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

**WELCOME NEW CLERGY MEMBERS OF SYNOD**

- The Reverend Claudine Carlson, St. Paul's, Glanford and Christ Church, Woodburn
- The Reverend Janet Cashin, Interim Pastor, St. Saviour, Queenston
- Canon Fran Darlington, Interim Pastor, Christ Church, Flamborough
- The Reverend Trent Fraser, St. Barnabas, St. Catharines
- The Reverend Wayne Fraser, Interim Pastor, St. Paul's, Fort Erie and St. John's, Ridgemount
- The Reverend Leslie Gerlofs, St. John's, Winona
- The Reverend Paul Maynard, Christ Church, Niagara Falls
- The Reverend Connie Phillipson, St. Mark's, Orangeville
- Canon Barry Randle, St. Aidan's, Oakville
- The Reverend Elizabeth Steeves, St. James, Dundas
- The Reverend Dr. Barbara Sykes, Interim Pastor, St. James, Guelph
- Canon Susan Wells, Interim Pastor, St. Alban's, Beamsville

**WELCOME TO THE DEACONS REPRESENTING THE COLLEGE OF DEACONS**

- George Henry, Roderick McDowell, Jean Ruttan-Yates

**PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE**

Privileges of the House were extended to:

- Mr. Jose Zarate (PWRDF)

**ELECTION OF SYNOD SECRETARIES**

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/Canon Robert Welch  
THAT the Reverend Canon Susan Wells and Mrs. Penny Johnstone  
be the Honorary Secretaries of Synod at the sessions of this Synod.  
CARRIED.**

MINUTES OF THE SESSION OF THE 2011 SYNOD

**MOTION: Mrs. Penny Johnstone/The Reverend Canon Susan Wells  
THAT the minutes of the 2011 session of the 137th Session of  
Synod, as found on pages 6 through 12 of the Convening Circular be  
now approved. CARRIED.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

Canon Robert Welch advised members that motions could be found on pages 3, 4, 4A and 4D of the Convening Circular. He also addressed members on a Canonical change, Canon 4.6(1)-(3) found on page 5.

New motions not included with the Convening Circular package to be delivered to the Chair or Honorary Secretaries prior to 10:00 am on Saturday. It will be subsequently determined when best to deal with new motions. A mover and a seconder to a resolution will be allowed a total of six minutes to speak. Speakers to a motion will be allowed two minutes with a "warning" bell 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.

AGENDA COMMITTEE REPORT

Canon Mark Tiller, Synod Planning Chair, gave a report and outlined procedures. He referred to the Agenda, found on page 1 and 2 of the Convening Circular. Change in the Agenda - PWRDF/Partners in Mission Presentation added at 11:00 am; Financial Advisory Committee moved to 11:15 am.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller/  
The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell  
THAT the Agenda as presented by the Agenda Committee be adopted  
as amended. CARRIED.**

RECEPTION OF ALL REPORTS

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller/  
The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell  
THAT all reports found in the Convening Circular and obtained 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:

Mr. Andrew Clinkard, Mrs. Susan Little, Ms. Sharon White, The Reverend Suzanne Craven, The Reverend Stuart Pike and The Venerable Peter Scott. The Diocesan Chancellor is automatically a member of Diocesan Court.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Canon Mark Tiller made announcements.

TRINITY COLLEGE CORPORATION

**MOTION: The Venerable Michael Patterson/  
The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell  
THAT the representatives from the Diocese of Niagara to the  
Corporation of Trinity College be the Reverend Dr. Pauline Head, the  
Reverend Aaron Orear (clergy); Ms. Elizabeth Wensley, Sister  
Heather Broadwell, Mr. Ross Gillett (lay) for a term of two years.  
CARRIED.**

(The Reverend Derek Anderson (clergy) is a continuing member)

#### SYNOD COUNCIL ELECTION

**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 2013 - 2014 term, as outlined on  
the nominations sheet, found on page 114 of the Convening  
Circular.  
CARRIED.**

#### SYNOD COUNCIL

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/  
The Venerable Michael Patterson  
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.**

#### 2013 GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATIONS

Canon Robert Welch outlined the voting process for General Synod. The 8 clergy and 10 laity nominees were asked to stand. General Synod Balloting began and the Chancellor informed delegates that the ballot boxes for General Synod elections would be closed at 2:15 p.m.

The Chancellor asked if there were any additional clergy nominations; none.

**MOTION: Canon Robert Welch/The Reverend Dianne Distler  
THAT General Synod Nominations for Clergy members be closed.  
CARRIED.**

The Chancellor asked if there were any additional lay nominations; none.

**MOTION: Canon Robert Welch/Mrs. Laura McKenzie  
THAT General Synod Nominations for Lay members be closed.  
CARRIED.**

#### CANONICAL CHANGES

Canon 4.6 (1)-(3) On Erection or Alteration of Church Buildings

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/Canon Robert Welch  
THAT Canon 4.6 be amended to read, "No church building shall be  
erected or altered, and no new work commenced on any real estate  
belonging to or held by the parish church or diocese without the  
written permission of the Diocesan Bishop. Municipal building  
permits should not be applied for until this permission is received.**

**Specific regulations related to procedures for approval of parish  
building projects and financing shall be set by the Bishop and Synod  
Council in consultation with those named in the regulations. It  
shall be the duty of the Incumbent and Church Wardens to seek out,  
review and comply with current regulations governing the erection  
or alteration of church buildings, as well as complying with  
conditions contained within the Bishop's approval.**

**Any memorial gifts or donations of a permanent nature that affect  
the fixtures or fittings, fabric or structure of the church are  
considered to be alterations and will be subject to this Canon.  
CARRIED.**

## GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP REPORT

Opening remarks by Canon Rob Fead. A video presentation was given, the reshaping of new ways to learn and work together. The model is broad and is still a work in progress. Propose Synod Council as a Niagara Synod Forum to be held between regular Synod Sessions. Three tables - Vision & Mission (share stories - mission and guiding those who live it out); Governance (financial, property, policy and Canons); Episcopal (leadership and ministry - Human Resources and Ministry Covenants, communication, planning and identity). Where are we going and how are we doing? A document outlining the concept was distributed to Synod delegates along with a form asking for feedback on the concept. Canon Rob Fead thanked Canon Margaret Murray on her technical presentation, Canon Marni Nancekivell and Mrs. Karen Nowicki for their assistance.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and BREAK

Canon Mark Tiller made announcements.

Bishop Bird announced the appointments of four new Canons -David Anderson, Jean Archbell, Kevin Bothwell and Rob Hurkmans.

## LIVING WAGE

WHEREAS we are a people of faith striving to live into God's vision of justice, where all have enough; AND

WHEREAS a living wage enables a person "to have a decent quality of life ... to enjoy recreation, culture, and entertainment, and participate fully in social life"; AND

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton's living wage rate has been calculated to be \$14.95/hr for 2011-2012; AND

WHEREAS the Social Planning Network of Ontario has called for minimum wage levels in 2014 to be set at \$12.50/hr and indexed thereafter so that a full-time, full-year worker earns an annual income 10% above the poverty line.

**MOTION: Ms. Jenny Street/Mr. Roy Campbell**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**1) This Synod affirms the Bishop's request that all parishes engage in discussion about fair compensation through living wages for lay employees before setting their 2013 budgets;**

**AND**

**2) This Synod requests that all Parish Corporations ensure their employees are paid a minimum of \$12.50/hr by 2014.**

**CARRIED.**

## PWRDF/PARTNERS IN MISSION

Canon Stuart Pike, Rector of St. Luke's, Burlington, introduced Jose Zarate, Indigenous Communities and Latin America/Caribbean Program Coordinator from the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, to speak about Cuba and the destruction Hurricane Sandy left behind. The Diocese of Niagara pledged \$7,000 to aid our brothers and sisters in Cuba with basic needs of food, clothing and rebuilding of homes. Any amount raised over and above the \$7,000 will be used to rebuild minor damage caused to churches and for education.

## FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## 2011 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MOTION: Mr. Tim Huxley/Ms. Joanna Beck**

**THAT the audited financial statements for 2011, as found on pages 43 through 56, be received. CARRIED.**

AUDITOR'S REPORT

**MOTION: Mr. Tim Huxley/Ms. Joanna Beck  
THAT the Auditor's Report, as found on pages 41 and 42, be received. CARRIED.**

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

**MOTION: Mr. Tim Huxley/Ms. Joanna Beck  
THAT KPMG be appointed as auditors for fiscal year 2012. CARRIED.**

CATHEDRAL PLACE PROPERTY

WHEREAS "Cathedral Place" came into being over two decades ago as an innovative and coordinated asset to the ongoing benefit of Anglicans in The Diocese of Niagara; AND

WHEREAS Cathedral Place is a unique asset, not a liability, to The Anglican Diocese of Niagara; AND

WHEREAS neither the original Cathedral Place agreement, nor its subsequent revisions, were ever been signed either by the Cathedral Congregation nor the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, yet are in use; AND

WHEREAS the exterior and interior Historical Designation of Cathedral Place, amongst other considerations, indicates that this asset will not be disposed of but will remain in our care for many years to come; AND

WHEREAS the benefits of this agreement have not been properly celebrated in the context of the wider Diocese; AND

WHEREAS the challenges of this agreement indicate a need for transparent and informed evaluation as they impact future operations, budgets and, more importantly, are at the heart of the Diocesan Vision and Mission.

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon David Pickett/Mr. Ian Pratt  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**1) Synod direct Synod Council to initiate a study of benefits pertaining to, costs involved in, and concerns with the operation of Cathedral Place, such study to involve the Cathedral Place Property Management Committee, representatives of the Financial Advisory Committee, The Corporation of Christ's Church Cathedral, other Synod Council members 'at large', and any others whose gifts or involvement the Council deems to be helpful to the process; AND**

**2) Synod further directs that a report along with recommendations for the future benefit of Cathedral Place and its operations (particularly any recommendations affecting the draft 'Cathedral Place Agreement' and its future ratification) be delivered to Synod in 2013.**

**CARRIED.**

GRACE AND LUNCH

Canon Terry DeForest said Grace and lunch commenced.

VISION THEME VIDEO

Canon Rob Hurkmans, Team Leader for Continuous Culture of Innovation, produced and presented an entertaining video to delegates on the Diocesan Vision and parishes' responses. Delegates were asked to break off in small groups and answer the

following question, In the coming year what will it look like to be passionately following Christ, as individuals, as a parish and as a community. The results of reflection were then posted on the windows of the church.

### 2013 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Andrew Clinkard, Chair of the Finance Budget Sub-Committee of the Financial Advisory Committee, presented a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the Proposed 2013-2014 Budget. Five regional meetings were held prior to Synod with 160 people attending. Feedback was received from those regional meetings to assist with the final draft budget presented at Synod. He thanked Senior Staff and the Bishop for their vision and support.

### HANDS ACROSS NIAGARA

The Reverend Derek Anderson, St. Matthews on-the-Plains, Burlington, made a presentation to members on the Hands Across Niagara program. Hands Across Niagara supports our ability to engage God's mission throughout our diocese and beyond as we live out our baptism by committing to justice and servant ministries. He talked about building relationships with our neighbors and empowering members of our communities. He touched on the various programs undertaken in some parishes across Niagara which were made possible through grants provided by Hands Across Niagara. Key dates for 2013 are with maximum grants increasing to \$2,500 are: January 15 - Call for Grant Applications; March 1 - Grant Applications Due; April 14 - Campaign Sunday; May 14 - Funding Decisions Communicated.

### PRESENTATION

Presentation to Karen Nowicki for recognition of her hard work in the organization of Synod.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS and BREAK

Announcements were made. The General Synod Balloting closed at 2:15 pm.

### 2013 BUDGET DISCUSSION - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- St. Luke's, Palermo support - there are a lot of numbers that pertain to Palermo. The joint proposal with Versa Care is no longer financially viable, St. Luke's will continue with the project without partnership and the Diocese is assisting financially to complete the Parish Centre.
- If some churches don't have the money to pay the DM&M then how can the Diocese spend when they won't be getting all they budget for? The Diocese carries long term debt but have had significant pay downs and hope that continues in 2013.
- There has been a 60% reduction in staff at the Synod Office since Bishop Bird was elected. There is a need for a better understanding of the Diocesan vision and the Bishop challenged all Councils to get a better understanding of what we are being called to, engage in conversation in a meaningful and positive way.
- How will we be able to meet budget when we are still trying to juggle scarcity and hope for more abundance? Have we moved back to a model of scarcity and not abundance?
- We need to balance scarcity with abundance.
- If incomes increase so will the DM&M and how can we manage this with an aging congregation and declining attendance?
- A task force will look at all properties/assets in the diocese.
- Parishes should have more money to do social justice in their own communities.

- Parishes are delving into line of credits and investments, it's a cascading affect that maybe we can't afford to do, may be called to a different kind of church

**MOTION: Mr. Tim Huxley/Mr. Andrew Clinkard  
 THAT this Synod approve the 2013 proposed budget.  
 CARRIED.**

RECTORY FUNDS

Jody Beck explained the way Rectory Funds work according to the legislation from the Province of Ontario, Trust Laws, Diocesan Canons, Rectory Funds Policy and Administrative Guidelines. The sale of a Rectory original amount must always be maintained with the interest drawn upon. In some cases a loan may be granted against the principal but it must be paid back. Some churches have not adhered to this policy. November 30, 2012 a letter will be sent to all parishes advising them of their current balances, current growth and position. If in a negative position borrowing from the fund cannot continue and the original principal must be attained. There are 64 Rectory funds held by the Anglican Church Ministries Founding totalling over \$7 million dollars.

2008 rules suggest Parishes grow and maintain the fund at a balance equivalent to cost of a 3 bedroom home in their community. This is no longer a realistic measurement, unable to accurately measure and the original sale proceeds may not have represented a 3 bedroom house.

The new proposal will:

- Anticipate fluctuating market conditions
  - Take into account the current status of fund balances
  - Use a measureable method for loan approvals
  - Allow for an "Appeal" process for new requests
  - Loan approval process (allow time)
  - New loans cannot be taken if a loan is outstanding
  - Loans are restricted to use as per Trust rules
  - Loans are not allowed if fund has Restricted Fund has negative balance
  - Loans require repayments in reasonable time period, with Interest paid to fund
  - Draws will be limited to those whose Restricted Funds are positive – current and future
- Dec 2012 – Confirmation letter to fund holders
    - Balance as at Nov 30 – Net and components
    - Notice if restricted funds are negative
    - Notice if current draws are reducing capital
  - Dec 2012 – Parishes to review Confirmation
    - Respond to confirmation – identify any issues
    - Prepare for 2013 changes if drawings to be halted
  - 2013 Synod Council to review proposed policy
    - Review / amend proposed policy
  - Determine date of enactment of proposed policy

Thanks were given to Jody for her presentation.

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION RESULTS

Chancellor Rob Welch announced the results of the General Synod election as follows:

**Clergy Delegates**

The Reverend Canon Joe Asselin  
 The Reverend Canon Jean Archbell  
 The Reverend Kathy Morgan

The Venerable Lynne Marchant  
 The Reverend Canon David Pickett  
 The Right Reverend Michael Bird

**Lay Delegates**

Mrs. Susan Little  
Mr. Andrew Clinkard  
Ms. Sharon White

Mr. Greg Laughton  
Mr. Wayne Barnes

**Youth Appointee**

Miss Alicia Archbell

**Alternate Clergy Delegates**

The Very Reverend Peter Wall  
The Reverend Susan Wilson  
The Reverend Brian Galligan

**Alternate Lay Delegates**

Mrs. Patricia Davis  
Mr. Bradley Cook  
Ms. Victoria Gaitskell  
Dr. Paul Holyoke  
Mrs. Margaret St. Pierre

**Alternate Youth Appointee**

Mr. Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh

OTHER BUSINESS

No new business

**MOTION: Canon Robert Welch/Canon Marni Nancekivell  
THAT the General Synod ballots be destroyed.  
CARRIED.**

BISHOP'S ASSENT

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

CLOSING REMARKS

Bishop Michael Bird extended thanks to all who were instrumental in the organization of Synod.

CLOSING WORSHIP

Closing worship was led by the Reverend Elizabeth Huether.

Bishop Michael Bird closed the session with the Blessing. The 138<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Niagara was prorogued at 3:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod  
Mrs. Karen Nowicki, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of Synod  
Mrs. Penny Johnstone, Honorary Lay Secretary  
The Reverend Canon Susan Wells, Honorary Clerical Secretary