

REPORT OF YOUTH SYNOD IN ACTION

Minutes of May 4, 2014

Welcome by Chair, Carrie Charters – 12:20pm

Remarks, Chancellor Steve Hopkins

Privileges of the House to all observers (small group leaders/volunteers)

Moved: Mike Lickers (All Saints, Hagersville), Seconded: Siobhan Bennett (St. Paul's, Fort Erie)

Vote: Carried

GHOST OF MOTIONS PAST

WHEREAS it is difficult to find a clear and concise archive of past Youth Synod motions;

AND WHEREAS all previous Youth Synod motions must be followed.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a webpage on the diocesan website be created to provide a clear summary of each motion previously passed at Youth Synod.

A link be provided on the registration sheet so that new and old delegates know what has been voted on previously.

Moved: Greg Millar (Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton)

Seconded: Mike Lickers (All Saints, Hagersville)

Vote: Carried

RESPONSIBLE USE OF LANGUAGE

WHEREAS language and words are impactful. They can hurt people, so we need to be mindful of what we say;

AND WHEREAS marginalizing people in a racist, sexist, ageist, classist, ableist, mentalist, homophobic, etc. way, such as "That's so OCD", "Don't act so schizo", "The weather is so bipolar", "retarded", "gay", or calling someone a bitch, whore/slut, or using other gendered or violent words hurt others;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) All Youth Ministry delegates will refrain from using words and phrases that hurt or marginalize people, such as those listed as examples above;
- 2) As language evolves and new slang terms are introduced, Youth Ministry delegates will learn to recognize and refrain from using hurtful or marginalizing words and phrases.

Moved: Katie Wheeler (Holy Trinity, Niagara Falls), Seconded: Holly Soave (Grace Church, Waterdown)

Motion to table to next year's Youth Synod in Action

Moved: Erin Buttrum (Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton)

Second: Connor Wilson (St. Alban's Beamsville)

Vote: Carried

LOCAL FOOD & PURCHASING

WHEREAS the biblical concept of jubilee enshrines the notion of local food security and care for those most vulnerable in our communities as values of our faith tradition;

AND WHEREAS Local economic potential is lost when we choose international products over locally grown or created ones;

AND WHEREAS Buying local supports neighbours in our communities because fair and direct wages (without middle men) are paid and local jobs are created and sustained;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) Delegates commit to talking with their families and churches about shopping at local farmers markets or local food stores whenever possible; *and to suggest sourcing local bread and wine for communion.*
- 2) Youth Synod requests the Editor of the Niagara Anglican newspaper to include a local justice spotlight article each month.

Moved: Jonique Gardien (Holy Trinity Hamilton)

Seconded: Erin Buttrum (Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton)

Amendment suggestions:

- Mention buying local wine, Belle Daley (Small Group Leader)
- Grow your own vegetables, Mac Armstrong (Youth Ministry at Grace Church, Waterdown)

Amendment: "And to suggest local bread and wine for communion" – Friendly

Moved: Connor Wilson (St. Alban's Beamsville)

Seconded: Greg Millar (Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton)

Vote: Carried

STANDING WITH THE FIRST NATIONS

WHEREAS there is a severe lack of knowledge concerning First Nations history and traditions, which have impacted the country we live in today;

AND WHEREAS people in the Niagara region are not aware of all the resources available to them regarding the First Nations people and this contributes to the lack of knowledge displayed by the local youth;

AND WHEREAS tragedies such as the Residential Schools and the Caledonia Dispute are covered by sources of media that don't include the First Nations peoples point of view;

AND WHEREAS the knowledge of these subjects has been shut out of the curriculum in schools, and ignorance of these issues continues the marginalization of the First Nations people;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) Youth encourage those planning Youth Ministry Sunday in 2015 to incorporate First Nations spirituality (as in prayers of the people, music, etc.) into its worship theme and resources;
- 2) Delegates will work to be agents of support for First Nations people by educating themselves and others on relevant indigenous justice issues both past and present. This may include sharing articles and petitions through social media to promote and encourage the action and education of others;
- 3) Delegates will advocate for the breaking down of stereotypes associated with current and historical indigenous justice issues and seek to attend events and celebrations in their areas. These can include but are not limited to educational centers, Pow Wows, and services.

Moved: Siobhan Bennett (St. Paul's, Fort Erie)

Seconded by: Tricia Manning (St. John the Evangelist, Thorold)

Vote: Carried

ACTIVISM ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

WHEREAS more than 6% of Canadian women in marital or common law relationships report physical or sexual assault by their partners;

AND WHEREAS each year, over 40,000 arrests result from domestic violence—that's about 12% of all violent crime in Canada. Since only 22% of all incidents are reported to the police, the real number is much higher;

AND WHEREAS more than 3000 women in Canada stay in shelters each night to escape abuse.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) On December 5th, National Day of Remembrance and Action for Violence against Women, delegates will post a status or tweet, promoting awareness around the issue;
- 2) During the month of November, Women Abuse Prevention Month in Ontario, delegates will campaign at their home parish for donations of money and/or good quality food, clothing, cosmetics, and books to be donated to the YWCA or another women's shelter in their area.

Moved: Michelle O'Leary (St. George's Georgetown)

Seconded: Ann Snyder (St. George's, St. Catharines)

Vote: Carried

OPEN EARS, OPEN MIND

WHEREAS active listening is making space for someone to be in control of their own story, by asking open-ended questions, reflecting feelings, and not giving advice, allowing the speaker to make their own choices and feel empowered and valued;

AND WHEREAS Jesus didn't hesitate to eat and drink with people that society judged and stigmatized;

AND WHEREAS all people deserve to feel acknowledged and valued, regardless of their situation in life.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) Youth Synod delegates will actively listen, without judgement, when someone needs to talk;
- 2) Youth Synod delegates will treat all people with respect and dignity to help break stigma and stereotype, by acknowledging and greeting individuals they pass on the street.

Moved: Angel Menzies (Holy Trinity, Chippawa), Seconded: Jake Lidwill (St. Mark's, Orangeville)

Move to vote clause by clause

Moved: Michelle O'Leary (St. George's, Georgetown)

Seconded: Connor Wilson (St. Alban's, Beamsville)

Vote: Carried

Clause 1: Carried, Clause 2: Carried

The Chair announced time had run out and so could not continue with further motions.

Results of vote on Youth Delegate nominations for Provincial Synod:

Sierra Robertson Roper and Greg Millar to be recommended to Bishop for Provincial Synod

Reflections from the Chancellor

- You will need to figure out how to handle past motions
- Local food discussion was great – true that there are some things that you can't source locally but you can get a lot of food items locally; Hollis Hiscock, editor of NA will be supportive
- First Nations – happy to see interest in this issue; worried about first clause because taking aboriginal traditions without consulting them is just more colonial behaviour; consult with First

Nations folks/would have been more powerful to vote the next year's YSA will form relationships with First Nations people on whose land we meet; this is their issue and we need to learn how to let them lead it

- Violence against women – disturbed to see that most speakers were men. Need to recognize that violence happens against women predominantly because men are not privileged; we need to deal with this very real issue
- Responsible Use of Language: Clause 2 discussion was good – great that you recognize that we all behave differently and motions need to have space for differences; Connor, your question about how to live with integrity when your work place culture is so different is an excellent one for all of us; something we struggle with across different aspects

Chair Final Comments

Thank you to all movers, seconders and participants. Take the motions and the goal setting work home with you!!