

**Minutes of the 124th session of The Diocesan Synod of Fredericton
November 16th, 2002
Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton
The Rt. Reverend William J. Hockin Presiding**

The 124th Synod began with a service of Morning Prayer at Christ Church Cathedral, on Saturday, November 16th, 2002. The service was attended by more than 280 clergy and lay delegates to Synod and by numerous observers.

Registration Committee

The Committee reported that there were 77 of 130 Clergy, and 210 of 267 lay delegates registered for Synod. The Bishop declared that a quorum was present.

Corrections to Minutes of 123rd session of the Synod

In one of the Appendix of the response to the Bishop's Charge the word "well" should be in quotation marks

A second "t" should have been added to the name of Mrs. Betty Kennett on page 2.

Mrs. Kathy Nason's name was misspelled on page 7 (change to a "K")

On page 1 of the first Appendix, at the beginning of the second paragraph, the phrase "at Synod 2001" should be changed to "at Synod 2000" (change of year).

In the fourth paragraph of the first page, in the third line, the phrase "is included as Appendix A" should read instead "is included as Appendix 1" (changes "A" to "1").

Appointment of Recording Secretary

123-1 Canon Fred Scott/The Rev. Jane Arnott THAT the Rev. Bentley Steers be appointed Recording Secretary for the Session. Carried.

Minutes of the 123rd Session of the Synod

123-2 The Rev. Gerry Laskey/The Rev. Chris Van Buskirk THAT the minutes be accepted. Carried.

The Bishop thanked all who organized this Synod.

The Bishop welcomed clergy new to this Diocese, including: The Rev. Wendy Amos-Binks, The Rev. Julie Armstrong, The Rev. Greg Frazer.

Agenda Review

The Bishop introduced three items on our agenda and addressed the Synod accordingly.

Motions coming before the Synod

As an introduction to the first motion, the Bishop discussed the advantages of a specific process of transition (from one Bishop to another) and the benefit of a co-adjutorship for the Diocese and for the individual so elected as succeeding Bishop.

Regarding Election of a Coadjutor Bishop

123-3 Mr. Keith Dow/The Ven. Stuart Allan.

THAT this Synod call for the convening of an Electoral Synod, to be held on Saturday, March 15, 2003 at a time and place to be established in order to elect a Coadjutor Bishop.

Mr. Dow read the explanation as printed in Notices of Motion page 1 in the circular, which detailed the process leading up to consecration and installation of the new Bishop and the cost ramifications.

The Bishop invited those gathered to speak to the motion.

The Rev. Neville Cheeseman expressed favor for a Coadjutor Bishop, but he felt it was not necessary to have the Coadjutor serve for the period of time envisioned in the motion and the explanation.

He commented as well that the actual costs of electing a Coadjutor Bishop could be higher than noted in the explanation, when one takes into account the installation and consecration of the Coadjutor and the Electoral Synod itself.

AMENDMENT

123-4 The Rev. Neville Cheeseman/Canon Alvin Westgate

THAT this Synod call for the convening of an Electoral [Synod] to be held at a date to be determined.

Debate of the motion ensued and the motion was defeated in a vote.

Discussion returned to the original motion.

A suggestion was made that we should have an alternate date for an Electoral Synod to allow for inclement weather.

SECOND AMENDMENT:

123-5 The Rev. Rufus Onyewuchi/The Rev. Brenda McKnight

THAT the original motion to convene an Electoral Synod on March 15, 2003 be amended to allow for the alternate date of Saturday, March 22, 2003, in the event of inclement weather forcing the postponement of the Electoral Synod on March 15, 2003. Carried

The amended motion was then put and carried.

Regarding a Diocesan Profile

Mr. Keith Dow presented the Diocesan Profile for the consideration of this Synod and said this profile was created for Synod delegates AND prospective nominees. The document was produced by a subcommittee of Diocesan Council.

Chancellor Charles Ferris introduced the team who put the profile together:

Keith Dow Jim Morrell Shara Golden Rev. Bill MacMullin
Charles Ferris Peter Irish Archdeacon Stuart Allan. Rev. Patricia Drummond

Archdeacon Stuart Allan spoke about the Diocesan Profile, calling it “the result of very careful work” and “not a static document, but a look at our current Diocese.”

123-6 Mr. Keith Dow/The Ven. Stuart Allan

THAT the Diocesan Profile as printed and distributed be adopted.

The motion was carried.

Chancellor Charles Ferris presented a motion regarding revision of the Church of England Act

Regarding Revisions to the Church of England Act

123-7 Mr. Charles Ferris/ Dr. Barry Craig

Be it resolved THAT this Synod approve the proposed Anglican Church Act 2003 for submission to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick for enactment at its next sitting.

Chancellor Ferris invited the members of the working committee on this motion to come forward. That group included Mr Beverly Smith, Canon Ronald Stevenson, Mr Eugene Westhaver, The Rev Dr Barry Craig, Mr Clyde Spinney and other members of the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

Chancellor Ferris spoke about the reasoning and process behind the re-writing of the Church of England Act.

He stated: “who we are as Christians in this church is not affected by what you are considering today” “These legal revisions will better facilitate our mission.”

“These changes reflect modern business practices and the reality of church life in New Brunswick” “Most of what is before you is an exacting consolidation of the previous act.”

Chancellor Ferris took Synod delegates through a review of each section of the proposed new Anglican Church Act 2003.

Mr. Beverly Smith then addressed specific parts of the proposed Act, namely that referring to “indemnification” and the “prudent investor rule”. His remarks were enlightening and help delegates understand these sometimes complicated terms and the ramifications of them.

Mr. Ron Stevenson addressed subsection 3 of the proposed Act regarding names of parish corporations. He referenced the list which would be included in the Act and which shows the existing parish names alongside the proposed new names where applicable. It was noted that there was an omission and that is addressed. Parishes are urged to look at this list and if they have objections to the proposed new name they should so inform the Committee.

The Bishop acknowledged the hard work of members of the Constitutions and Canons Committee.

The Bishop opened the floor for debate.

AMENDMENT A call to retain the historical name of the Diocese
123-8 The Rev. David Barrett/The Ven. John Sharpe

THAT all references to the name “The Diocese of New Brunswick” be removed from the proposed “The Anglican Church Act, 2003” and the name “The Diocese of Fredericton” be retained (and the resulting other necessary changes be made).

Debate on the motion ensued and this amendment to the original motion was carried by a majority vote.

Synod adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 1pm.

Debate continued on the proposed Revisions to the Church of England Act.

SECOND AMENDMENT - clarification as to the definition of a Parish as contained in the Act
123-9 The Rev. Chris Van Buskirk/Canon Dr. David Mercer

THAT subsection 9 (1) (a) [of the proposed “The Anglican Church Act, 2003”] be changed to read “a specific district or geographical area (and its people) which encompasses a church (or churches) AND

Debate on this amendment ensued and the amendment was carried by a vote of 136/94.

The amended motion, (124-7), was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

Canon Fred Scott expressed his appreciation to those who worked to organize this Synod, including:

The Cathedral Staff for their welcome, the facility and the Synod Service.

Peter Waterhouse for music leadership.

The Cathedral Church Women for their catering and refreshments.

Staff persons Doreen Smith and Phyllis Cathcart for their administrative assistance.

Ruth Gorlick and the Registration Committee for their excellent work.

The Committee on Constitution and Canons for their diligence and expertise.

The Bishop for his leadership of the Synod.

The clergy and lay delegates for their attendance and participation

The Rt. Rev. William J. Hockin, Bishop of the Diocese of Fredericton, closed the afternoon with prayer and announced that this 124th Session of Synod was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Bentley Steers, Recording Secretary,

Canon L.F. Scott, Diocesan Treasurer, on Behalf of the Canonical Secretary