



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 2 November 2019

MINUTES OF THE 136th SESSION OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

4 November 2017

The Right Reverend David Edwards, Chair
Christ Church (Parish) Church, Parish of Fredericton
Fredericton, N.B.

THEME:

Walk the walk *Ephesians 4:1*

The 136th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton was convened in the Nave of Christ Church (Parish) Church, Parish of Fredericton. Registration of delegates began at 8:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

The Right Reverend David Edwards, Bishop of Fredericton, called delegates, guests, and observers to order at 8:50 am by acknowledging that the land on which Synod gathered is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) and Mi'kmaq peoples. He then opened the session with prayers and offered a word of welcome to all gathered.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Bishop reported the Credentials Committee had advised him that, as of 8:50 am, the number of delegates registered was as follows:

Clergy: 59 registered out of a possible 76 (78%)

Lay: 126 registered out of a possible 171 (74%)

Quorum was declared and the 136th Session of Diocesan Synod officially opened.

Note: The Reverend Lidvald Haugen-Strand was left out of the membership list in the circular.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Motion 136-01 - The Ven Cathy Laskey / The Rev'd Debbie Edmondson
That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY

The Bishop thanked the Rev'd Canon Leo Martin and presented him with a card for his service as the Diocesan Council Recording Secretary and Recording Secretary for Synod for 13 years.

Motion 136-02 - The Ven Cathy Laskey / Barb Haire
That the Reverend David Peer be appointed Recording Secretary for this Session of Synod.

Motion carried.

REGRETS

Synod Members:

The Reverend Robert Barry
The Reverend James Crighton
The Reverend Canon George Eves
The Venerable Arthur Gregg
The Venerable John Matheson
The Reverend Canon Bruce McKenna
The Reverend Dr David Mercer
The Reverend Canon Robert Smith
The Reverend Dr John Paul Weston
Dr Kelly VanBuskirk, QC
The Reverend Karmen Hunt
The Reverend Valerie Hunt
Nancy Stephens, Chair, Outreach and Mission Team
Rick Haddad, Chair, Stewardship Team

Ecumenical Guests

The Most Reverend Robert Harris – Catholic Diocese of Saint John
The Reverend Dr. Peter Reid – Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEAD TABLE

The Bishop called on the Vice Chair to introduce those sitting at the head table:

The Very Reverend Geoffrey Hall, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral
Mr David Bell, Chancellor of the Diocese
The Right Reverend David Edwards, Bishop of the Diocese
The Venerable Cathy Laskey, Executive Assistant of the Bishop
The Reverend David Peer, Recording Secretary of this Synod
The Reverend Canon Leo Martin, Past Recording Secretary of Synod
Mrs Sandra Craft, Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council

SYNOD INVITED GUESTS, SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND OBSERVERS

The Bishop acknowledged the Chairs of the Sessional Committees:

Synod Planning Chair	Sandra Craft
Agenda	The Ven. Cathy Laskey and the Right Rev'd David Edwards
Communications	Gisele McKnight and Dorothy Shephard
Arrangements	Mary Robinson and John Galbraith
Hospitality Subcommittee	Carol Blacklock and Geneva Anderson
Nominating	The Rev'd Ann Fairweather and Frank Morehouse
Resolutions	David Bell
Technical Support	David Wilson and Peter Jacobs
Worship	The Very Rev'd Geoffrey Hall and the Rev'd Paul Ranson
Credentials	Cheryl Jacobs
Program Planning	The Rt Rev'd David Edwards, the Ven Cathy Laskey, the Rev'd David Peer, the Rev'd Paul Ranson, Erin Hodge, and Klaudia Ross

The Bishop introduced the invited guests:

The Rev'd Lisa Vaughn Parish Vitality Coordinator for the Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island
The Rev'd Richard Bowley President of the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada and Minister at St Paul's United Church, Fredericton

The Rev'd Ralph Weigold Eastern Synod Representative from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada and Pastor of New Denmark Lutheran Church
Andrew Scollick Director Vocations and Recruitment, The Atlantic School of Theology

COURTESIES TO SYNOD GUESTS/OBSERVERS

Motion 136-03 - The Rev'd Rob Salloum / Gina Quann
That this Synod extend its courtesies to our guests.

Motion carried.

The Bishop recognized and welcomed the following observers:

Ben Bourque - Personnel and Safe Church Officer
Nicole Chouinard – Financial and Administrative Assistant
Allyson Caldwell – Assistant to Director of Youth and Intergenerational Ministries
Cheryl Jacobs - Bishop's Secretary and Spiritual Development Team Chair
Gisele McKnight - Communications Officer
Colin McDonald – Director of Youth and Intergenerational Ministries
Jason Smith - Youth and Intergenerational Ministries Team Chair
Dorothy Shephard - Communications Team Chair
Erin Hodge - Threshold Ministries

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ven Cathy Laskey noted that housekeeping announcements were contained in the delegate package and only First Aid and Safe Church announcements would be provided from the floor.

The Rev'd Chris Ketch introduced the Synod first aiders and provided basic instructions for first aid emergencies

Ben Bourque talked about safe church, how to find information online, and the response the Diocese has taken from feedback on training. The online training will be updated. He noted the location of building exits, washrooms, fire extinguishers and fire alarms.

REVIEW OF THE RULES OF ORDER AND DECORUM

The Chancellor reminded Synod of the responsibilities of all members and that Synod gathers to deal with the temporal matters of the Diocese of Fredericton. He noted that the Rules of Order and Procedure could be found on pages 4 to 8 of Section A of the Convening Circular and that anyone wishing to place a motion before Synod needs to provide a written draft of his or her resolution to the Resolutions Committee before 10:10 am. The resolutions committee will make sure everything is in order and that the motion states what the mover and seconder want it to say.

MINUTES

Motion 136-04 – The Rev'd Ed Quann / Cheryl Young
That the minutes of the 135th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton be adopted as circulated (Section C, pages 1-14)

Motion carried.

STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS – 135th SESSION OF SYNOD

Motion 135-05 – Nancy Wiggins / Neville Sloane

That the report on the Status of Resolutions of the 134th Session of the Diocesan of Fredericton (Section C, pages 15-16) be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Ven Cathy Laskey read correspondence sent to the Synod from the Office of the Prime Minister and the Requests Officer to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

MORNING PRAYER

The Very Rev'd Geoffrey Hall led the Synod at Morning Prayer. The offering of \$1786.80 was directed to the construction of the Anglican Seminary Library at Bishop McAllister College.

BISHOP'S CHARGE

The Bishop based his charge to those gathered for the 136th Session of Synod on Matthew 22:35-40. In his charge the Bishop reminded delegates that love is absolutely everything and called synod delegates to consider our purpose as the Church and how we can reach out to the world that God loves. Copies of the charge will be made available on the Diocesan website after Synod.

BREAK

The Bishop called for a break and asked members to return within in 15 minutes. Synod was called back to order at 10:40 am.

PROGRAM

The Bishop introduced the program portion of synod with a video that envisages the Church as a Missional community. He then spoke about the book *Surprise the World: the 5 Habits of Highly Missional People* and the BELLS model for mission proposed by the books author Michael Frost. The author uses the acronym BELLS to remind readers of the five habits: Bless, Eat, Listen, Learn, Sent.

Threshold Ministries' national director Shawn Branch facilitated the program session, introducing videos for each habit, interviewing a member of the Diocese who illustrates the habit, and praying for their ministry after their interview.

B is for Bless

Frost explained the value of supporting and affirming and suggested blessing three people each week. Dawn Mary Baker, a member of the Parish of Madawaska, discussed her mission, which illustrates blessing. A retired nurse, she shares her experience, skills and compassion with the women of the Edmundston region, a city with its share of drug abuse, alcoholism and family violence.

E is for Eat

Frost suggested eating with one member of the church, one non-Christian and one more person each week. Shawn interviewed Rob Pitman, Threshold Ministries' parish evangelist and the outreach pastor at St. Luke's in the Parish of Portland. Rob runs a food ministry serving more than 5,000 meals a year. Rob explained how volunteers used to stay in the kitchen, but now they know that the real mission is with the diners.

L is for Listen

Frost explained the importance of creating space to listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Missional people must be in tune with the outside world, yet remain different from the world. Anna Caines explained how listening to the Holy Spirit changed her life and she described to Synod how she regularly sits in quiet meditation in God's love.

MID-DAY PRAYER

The Rev'd Paul Ranson led the Synod at mid-day prayer.

LUNCH

The Rev'd Paul Ranson offered a prayer of thanksgiving for lunch and the Synod recessed at 11:50 am.

PROGRAM

Synod reconvened at 12:50 pm to continue with the program.

L is for Learn Christ

Frost made an important distinction between knowing about Jesus and really knowing Jesus. Learning Christ means being continually shaped by Jesus by finding at least one time a week solely for immersing yourself in the example of Jesus — reading aloud, using study materials and entering into the story. Erik Sample was the next guest. He and his wife, Nicole, are house parents at the Bishop's Court community. They oversee and mentor several young people. He explained how Bishop's Court provides an opportunity to be immersed in a community of people who want to know Jesus, who read the bible together, and eat together. Erik said that immersing himself in the gospels changed his life and motivates him to live life differently.

S is for Sent

Frost noted that the word mission means to be sent and that many mistakenly believe that only those ordained are sent. Klaudia Ross explained how the Holy Spirit called her over time, and rather persistently, to leave her career as a cancer researcher. She is now the Parish Outreach Coordinator at St. George's in Moncton.

Shawn Branch wrapped up the BELLS portion of the program by summarizing key points and leading the Synod in prayer.

Hockey Ministries International

Bishop David introduced Bruce Smith of Hockey Ministries International. Bruce works extensively with hockey leagues in the Maritimes, offering chapel services in arenas. Bruce noted the continual conflict between church and hockey on Sunday mornings. His call has been to stop waiting for people to choose church, and instead, take God to where they are. He recalled the QMJHL president being shocked when Bruce told him that 56 of his players had requested a bible. Bruce noted that this ministry is a work of God and that he has discovered lots of people out there need a shepherd. Bruce advised Synod delegates to take a risk and extend an invitation. At the end of Bruce Smith's presentation, the Bishop thanked him and prayed for his hockey ministry.

Motion 136-06 – Rev David Peer / Coralie Losier

- a) That the Diocesan Synod recommend to the Greater Chapters that their January/February meeting agenda include the video series based on the book *Surprise The World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People* by Michael Frost;**

- b) That the Archdeacon, Lay and Cleric members of Diocesan Council from each Greater Chapter work together to provided leadership for this meeting and encourage and support the clergy, parish lay and substitute synod members and wardens to enable parishes or groups of parishes to engage with the book during Easter;
- c) That each Parish Corporation's cleric, wardens, delegates and substitutes to synod work together to have their parish and its congregations study the book during Easter; and
- d) That after Easter, the Archdeacon, Cleric, and Lay member of Diocesan Council report back to council at each meeting on the missional actions taken by parishes or groups of parishes in their Greater Chapter.

Motion carried.

DIOCESAN OFFICER REPORTS AND DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT

Motion 136-07 – Sandra Craft / The Ven Cathy Laskey

That this Synod receive the Diocesan Officer Reports and the Diocesan Council Report (Section E, pages 1-8 and Section F, pages 1-5).

Motion carried.

2016 REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion 136-08 – Gilbert Carter / Rob Marsh

That this Synod receive the Diocesan Review Engagement Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 (Section F Appendix 7 & 8).

Motion Carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS BY GREATER CHAPTERS

At meetings of Archdeaconry Greater Chapters, elections were held for members of Diocesan Council for the next term beginning following the 2017 meeting of Diocesan Synod. The following elections were presented for the approval of Synod.

Archdeaconry	Lay	Clergy
Chatham	Mrs Siobhan Laskey Parish of Derby and Blackville	The Rev'd Ted Quann Parish of Chatham
Fredericton	Mrs Sandra Craft Parish of New Maryland	The Rev'd Christian Persaud Parishes of Cambridge and Waterborough and Gagetown
Kingston and the Kennebecasis	Mr Robert Taylor Parish of Rothesay	The Rev'd Tom Stradwick Parish of Sussex
Moncton	Mrs Cheryl Young Parish of Salisbury & Havelock	The Rev'd Chris Hayes Parish of Salisbury & Havelock
Saint John	Ms Coralie Losier Parish of St Mark	The Rev'd Canon David Barrett Parish of Portland
St Andrews	Mrs Susan Jack Parish of Lancaster	See Note
Woodstock	Mrs Kathy Asch Parish of Woodstock	The Rev'd Roderick Black Parish of Richmond

Note:

The Rev'd Ann Fairweather explained to Synod that Diocesan Council will have the responsibility for filling the vacancy and appointing a cleric member from the Archdeaconry of St Andrews, as no cleric member was elected.

Motion 136-09 – The Rev'd Ann Fairweather / The Ven Cathy Laskey
That this Synod accept the Archdeaconry Greater Chapter elections to Diocesan Council, as presented.

Motion Carried.

CANONICAL AMENDMENTS

The Chancellor took the floor to introduce the following three canonical motions and noted that the votes on the three canonical motions will be by house.

OMNIBUS CONSTITUTIONAL AND CANONICAL AMENDMENTS

Motion 136-10 - Sandra Craft / The Very Rev'd Geoffrey Hall
That the constitution of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton and Canons One, Five, Six, and Seven be amended as follows, such amendments to become effective on 15 November 2017 (Section D, pages 3-12).

Comments:

The Chancellor noted that the 135th Synod had requested the NB Legislature to make a detailed schedule of changes to the Anglican Church Act. The Legislature amended the Act and it received Royal assent on 5 May 2017. It will be proclaimed in force on November 15th, 2017. The proposed changes in this motion would bring the Canons into line with the amended Anglican Church Act.

Motion carried by voice unanimously in the houses of Laity and Clergy.

CANON THREE AMENDMENTS – IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EPISCOPAL ELECTIONS TASKFORCE

Motion 136-11 - Sandra Craft / The Very Rev'd Geoffrey Hall
That Canon Three be amended as printed (Section D, pages 13-14).

Comments:

The Chancellor noted that at the 135th Synod some members expressed the view that the electoral synod members should have greater opportunity to learn about the nominees for episcopal election. Synod referred the matter to the Diocesan Council, which appointed a taskforce to consider the situation and make recommendations. This motion implements taskforce recommendations that require changes to Canon Three. In addition this motion will make the Diocesan Council the body that calls an electoral synod, a change proposed by the Diocesan Council itself, not the taskforce

Motion carried by voice unanimously in the house of Clergy.

Motion carried by voice in the house of Laity with one vote against.

CANON TWO AMENDMENTS – ON THE TIMING OF ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE PROVINCIAL AND GENERAL SYNODS

Motion 136-12 - Sandra Craft / The Very Rev'd Geoffrey Hall
That S.12 of Canon Two be amended as printed (Section D, pages 14-15).

Comments:

The Chancellor explained that the 135th Synod asked Diocesan Council to see if there was a way to change Canon Two to bring the election of delegates closer in time to the meetings of Provincial and General Synod, so that the Diocese might not run short of delegates or substitutes who were both qualified and able to attend. The Chancellor noted there is no wholly satisfactory solution or easy way to do this. The effect of the canonical change in this motion empowers the Diocesan Council to appoint additional substitute delegates should the need arise. The Diocesan Council already has this power in relation to the youth delegate.

Motion carried by voice in the house of Clergy, with two votes opposed.

Motion carried by voice in the house of Laity, with three votes opposed.

YOUTH DELEGATE/SUBSTITUTE AGE THRESHOLD

Notice of Motion 136-13 – The Rev'd Daniel McMullen / The Rev'd Christian Persaud

Synod was given notice that at the next regular session of the Diocesan Synod, a motion will be presented to lower the age ceiling for youth delegates from 35 to 25.

Comment:

The Rev'd Daniel McMullin explained to Synod that the intent of his motion was for Synod to be intentional about hearing the voice of youth.

MEDIATION SUPPORT IN NEW BRUNSWICK FAMILY COURTS

Motion 136-14 - The Rev'd Thomas Nisbett / Ms Kathy Page

That Diocesan Synod urge the Government of New Brunswick to:

- a) introduce a system of Mediation Support for all cases proceeding through the New Brunswick Court of Queen's Bench - Family Division that cannot be resolved with a single hearing;**
- b) give judges in the Court of Queen's Bench - Family Division the option, through legislation, of requiring parties to participate in a Mediation Program prior to any Court hearing; and,**
- c) establish a cadre of trained, volunteer professionals to provide Mediation Services to parties journeying through the Family Court system.**

Comments:

The Rev'd Thomas Nisbett pointed out, while the Church does not advocate divorce over marriage, divorce and its consequences are a reality that requires a pastoral response. He noted the difficulty families are experiencing in the Family Court system and how the lack of mediation services in New Brunswick exacerbates the difficulty when families break up. Delegates rose to speak for and against the motion.

Motion carried.

PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Motion 136-15 - The Rev'd Shirley Noseworthy / The Rev. Robert LeBlanc

That the Diocesan Synod write the federal Minister of Justice, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, and the Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal & Constitutional Affairs to express the Synod's opposition to the proposed repeal of section 176 of the Criminal Code, which specially protects faith leaders and faith communities from violence and disturbance in worship.

Comments:

The mover and seconder adopted a friendly amendment to their motion to Direct Diocesan Synod to include the Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights and the Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal & Constitutional Affairs to the Diocesan Synod correspondence expressing the Synod's opposition to the repeal of section 176 of the Criminal Code. All delegates that spoke were in favour.

Motion carried

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee reported that as of 3:00pm the number of delegates registered was as follows:

Clergy: 75 registered out of a possible 76 (98%)
Lay: 149 registered out of a possible 171 (87%)

REMARKS FROM GUESTS

The Rev'd Richard Bowley spoke for the ecumenical guests. He called the Synod a powerful experience that started with the Bishop's charge. The Rev'd Bowley felt Christ's presence, as he moved around the Synod. He reminded Synod that faith is about taking risks, recalling the story from Scripture when Peter walked on water. It was only when Peter lost his focus that he started to sink. He thanked the Synod for the invitation to attend and for the program presented. He particularly thanked the interviewees for boldly speaking about their love for Christ. He concluded with a prayer for our Diocese.

RESPONSE TO THE BISHOP'S CHARGE

Mr Lionel Hayter from the parish of St Andrews responded to the Bishop's Charge and noted how well the missional call in the Charge and the Synod Program fit together. He called delegates to focus on love and let it be the guide throughout our missional work. Lionel prayed for action and encouragement as we reach out to the wider community in the days to come.

GREETINGS OF SYNOD

Motion 136-16 – Kathy Asch / The Rev'd Perry Cooper

That the greetings of the 136th Session of Diocesan Synod be extended to:

- 1. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, through her representative in Canada, Her Excellency, the Governor-General, the Right Honourable Julie Payette and the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, the Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau, the customary expression of its loyalty and affection.**
- 2. Our Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau and our Premier, the Honourable Brian Gallant.**
- 3. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev'd Justin Welby.**
- 4. Our Primate, the Most Rev'd Fred Hiltz.**
- 5. Our Metropolitan, the Most Rev'd Ron Cutler.**
- 6. Our former Diocesan Bishops, the Rt. Rev'd George Lemmon, the Rt. Rev'd William Hockin, the Most Rev'd Claude Miller and to their spouses, Mrs Lois Lemmon, Mrs Isabelle Hockin and Mrs Sharon Miller and also to Mrs Edith Nutter.**
- 7. Our Companion Diocese, The Diocese of Ho and their bishop, The Rt. Rev. Bishop Medadues-Badohu Matthias.**
- 8. Our Partner Diocese, The Diocese of the Yukon and their bishop, The Rt. Rev. Larry Robertson.**

9. The Diocese of Jerusalem, The Most Rev'd Suheil S. Dawani, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East

Motion carried.

THANKS

Kathy Asch extended thanks on behalf of all members of this 136th Session of Diocesan Synod to the following people:

- Diocesan Synod Staff, Diocesan Council Members, Committee and Team Chairs, Synod Planning and Sessional Committees who work throughout the year to support and enable the ministry of Synod.
- All volunteers, who encompass many, to make this day happen, including the Rector and the members of Christ Church (Parish) Church.
- Our Chancellor who worked tirelessly in preparing all the legislative aspects of our work together.
- All officers and members of this 136th Session of Diocesan Synod for your willingness to carry on the work begun today.
- To our bishop for his leadership. For his focus on Jesus and desire for all to be disciples of the Lord, sharing in God's mission.
- For the many blessings God has given to us as a Diocesan Family.

INVITATION FROM THE WESTSIDE ANGLICAN MISSION

The Rev'd Rob Saloum invited delegates to Synod to Ham from WAM, a Ham Supper sponsored by the Westside Anglican Mission on December 9th, at 5:00 pm.

DIOCESAN ACW

Mrs Rosemary Kingston, Diocesan ACW President reminded Synod of the opportunity to sponsor students in Uganda at the Bishop McAllister College. She also thanked delegates to Synod for their financial contribution at worship in support of the library at the college.

EVALUATION INFORMATION

The Venerable Cathy reminded all Synod members they will be receiving an evaluation form electronically and she encouraged everyone to fill it out as soon as possible.

BISHOPS CLOSING REMARKS

The Bishop expressed his gratitude to all those who were present for this 136th session of Diocesan Synod and closed the session in Prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion 136-17 – Neville Sloane

That this 136th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton be adjourned.

Motion carried.

EVENING PRAYER

The Rev'd Paul Ranson led the Synod delegates in Evening Prayer, which completed at 3:37 p.m.

The Venerable Cathy Laskey
Secretary of Synod

The Right Reverend David Edwards
Bishop of Fredericton

The Reverend David Peer
Recording Secretary