



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Adopted 5 November 2022

MINUTES OF THE 137th SESSION OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

02 November 2019

The Right Reverend David Edwards, Chair
Journey Wesleyan Church,
50 Duncan Lane, Fredericton, N.B.

THEME:

Sharing Hope and Help

The 137th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton was convened in the Sanctuary of Journey Wesleyan Church, Fredericton. Registration of delegates began at 8:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

The Right Reverend David Edwards, Bishop of Fredericton, called members, 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 Wolastoqey people. 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 8:53 am, the number of members registered was as follows:

Clergy: 67 registered out of a possible 80 (84%)

Lay: 131 registered out of a possible 169 (78%)

Quorum was declared and the 137th Session of Diocesan Synod officially opened.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Motion 137-01 - The Rev David Peer / Sandra Craft

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

REGRETS

The Rev Douglas Reble, ELCIC Eastern Synod Observer, the Rev Wendy Amos-Binks, the Rev Canon David Barrett, the Rev Terence Chandra, the Rev Wally Corey, the Rev David Dean, the Rev Bruce Glencross, the Rev Jonathan Hallewell, the Ven Sandy MacPherson, the Rev Shirley Noseworthy, the Rev Craig O'Brien, the Rev Michael O'Hara, the Rev David Turner, the Rev Elizabeth Wells, Arlene Alexander, Diana Brideau, Donna Dobbin, Maya Richards, Gary Veneau.

Bishop Edwards informed Synod that one of our delegates, Mrs. Darlene Dobson of the Parish of Dorchester had passed away this week. He asked the Synod to observe a moment of silence and then he offered prayer for her and her family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEAD TABLE

The Bishop called on the Vice Chair of Diocesan Council, Sandra Craft to introduce those sitting at the head table:

The Very Rev Geoffrey Hall, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral
Mr David Bell, Chancellor of the Diocese
The Rt Rev David Edwards, Bishop of Fredericton
The Ven Cathy Laskey, Episcopal Archdeacon
The Rev David Peer, Secretary of Synod
Mrs Sandra Craft, Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council

INTRODUCTION OF NEW SYNOD STAFF

The Bishop introduced the staff who had joined the Synod office since the last meeting of Synod: the Rev David Peer, Secretary of Synod, Heather Harris-Jones, Treasurer of Synod, and Josh McDorman, Synod Finance.

SYNOD INVITED GUESTS AND OBSERVERS

The Bishop acknowledged the Chairs of the Sessional Committees:

The Bishop introduced the invited guests:

The Rev Canon Neale Bennet, President of the Atlantic School of Theology
The Rev Lisa Vaughn, Parish Vitality Coordinator for the Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island
The Rev Audrey Louder, President of the Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Region of the United Church of Canada

COURTESIES TO SYNOD GUESTS

Motion 137-02 - The Rev Bob LeBlanc / The Rev David Peer
That this Synod extend its courtesies to our guests.

Motion carried.

The Bishop welcomed the guests and observers.

REVIEW OF THE RULES OF ORDER AND DECORUM

The Chancellor reminded Synod of the voting process for changes to the Constitution and Canons requires a two-thirds majority in both houses of clergy and Lay and the consent of the Bishop. He noted where the Rules of Order and Procedure could be found in 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 9:30 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bishop asked the Rev Chris Ketch to introduce the Synod first aiders and provided basic instructions for first aid emergencies.

The Rev David Peer noted the location of building exits and washrooms and cautioned everyone that the floor rises on entering the Gym and could pose a tripping hazard.

THE NOMINATION AND VOTING PROCESS

Cheryl Jacobs, the Chair of the Credentials Committee on behalf of the Nominating Committee, explained the process for nominating a delegate to Provincial and General Synod, followed by an explanation of the voting process.

No nominations for delegates to Provincial Synod were proposed from the floor, so the Bishop asked for a motion that nominations for Provincial Synod cease.

**Motion 137-03 - The Rev Douglas Painter / The Rev Ross Hebb
That this Synod close nominations for Provincial Synod.**

Motion carried.

Clergy delegate nominees:

- The Rev Rob Langmaid
- The Rev Kevin McAllister
- The Rev Thomas Nisbett
- The Rev Ted Quann

Lay delegate nominees:

- Laura McNulty
- Jason Smith
- Robert Taylor
- Louise Whalen

Four nominations for General Synod delegate were proposed from the floor and agreed by the respective nominee:

- The Rev Paul Ranson nominated as a clergy delegate by the Rev Kevin McAllister
- Ken Brien nominated as a lay delegate by the Rev Rob Langmaid
- Peter Irish nominated as a lay delegate by Rob Pitman
- Erik Beek nominated as a youth delegate by the Rev Neil Osiowy

The Bishop asked for a motion that nominations for General Synod cease.

**Motion 137-04 - The Rev Rob Salloum / The Rev Christopher Ketch
That this Synod close nominations for General Synod.**

Motion carried.

The Bishop opened the voting for Provincial and General Synod delegates and announced voting will close at 12:55 pm.

Clergy delegate nominees:

- The Rev Ann Fairweather
- The Rev Dr Cole Hartin
- The Ven Cathy Laskey
- The Rev Gerald Laskey
- The Rev Robert (Bob) LeBlanc
- The Rev Paul Ranson
- The Ven Wandlyn Snelgrove

Lay delegate nominees:

- David Bell
- Ken Brien
- Peter Irish
- Siobhan Laskey
- Laura McNulty
- Beresford Price
- Richard Walsh

Youth Delegate nominee: Erik Beek

MINUTES

Motion 137-05 – The Rev David Peer / Sandra Craft

That the minutes of the 136th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton be adopted as circulated (Section C, pages 1-10)

Motion carried.

STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS – 136th SESSION OF SYNOD

Motion 137-06 – The Ven Cathy Laskey / Sandra Craft

That the report on the Status of Resolutions of the 136th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton (Section C, pages 11-12) be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

MILITARY CHAPLAINCY

The Bishop asked the Rev Michael Caines to address Synod and he spoke about the Canadian Armed Forces Chaplaincy.

MORNING PRAYER

The Rev Rob Salloum and the Rev Barb Haire led the Synod at Morning Prayer.

BISHOP'S CHARGE

In his charge, the Bishop reminded Synod members of the importance of mission. He spoke about recent initiatives large and small across the Diocese where we are impacting our communities. Whether it is knitting hats for babies and making prayer shawls to major projects in the parishes of the Diocese in Grand Bay-Westfield and in Hampton, Anglicans have been making a difference in New Brunswick.

The Bishop called for an intentional response to discipleship with Mission Action Plans. The plans would build on the “Deep Roots” event with Michael Frost and the visit of Canon Phil Potter to the Clergy Conference. The Bishop also called the Diocese to join with the rest of the Anglican Communion in the season of intentional discipleship so that we can come to understand more fully what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

The Bishop laid out his desire for the Diocese to focus on the “cure of souls” in New Brunswick. He wants the Diocese to see the Anglican Church as part of the Kingdom of God and, in our New Brunswick context, this means everyone in the province should be able to access an Anglican congregation locally.

The Bishop screened a YouTube video by Michael Jr about knowing your “why.” Your “why” provides the passion to transform what you do. The Bishops “why,” his passion, is to see people to come to know Jesus and through Jesus to know God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bishop identified we who follow Jesus as Kingdom agents for change in our villages, towns and cities. Drawing on the Five Marks of Mission as our foundation, we are called to provide both innovative and traditional ministry for people of all ages; to educate followers of Jesus for mission in their context; and to establish partnerships with other organizations for the good of our province.

The Bishop was clear that mission is critical for the life of the church and the people the church reaches with the Good News because it is through relationship with God through Christ, within Jesus' body the Church, that human beings have a chance of finding wholeness and peace. Let us go out from this Synod determined to share in the mission of God for the good of all.

Copies of the charge were made available at the Synod and will be made available on the Diocesan website after Synod.

DIOCESAN LOGO AND TAGLINE

Gisele McKnight introduced the new Diocesan logo, "Followers of Jesus sharing hope and help in our communities and beyond," and our new tagline, "Sharing Hope and Help" and noted that delegates may have seen them in the New Brunswick Anglican already.

SYNOD OFFERING

The Secretary of Synod announced that a Synod offering would be collected to provide support for youth camperships for Diocesan camping ministries.

BREAK

The Bishop called for a break and asked members to return in 5 minutes. The Bishop called the Synod back to order at 10:30 am to consider notices of motion.

NOTICES OF MOTION

The full text of each of the Legislative Motions are found in the Annex to the Minutes. An explanation of the motion is included with the minutes.

Lowering the maximum age of parish's third Synod delegate to 25.

Motion 137-07 – The Rev Daniel McMullen/ The Rev Rob Montgomery

This motion specifies a narrower age band to the third delegate that parishes may send to Synod to emphasize the youth voice at Synod. An amendment to the motion to change the age from 25 to 30 was defeated.

AMENDMENT 137-07-01 - The Rev Lidvald Haugen-Strand / The Rev Rob Langmaid

That Motion 137-07 be amended to change twenty-five in paragraphs 4(2), 4(4), 4(7), and 4(8.1) to thirty.

Defeated 74 to 124 in a combined vote of both houses.

The motion was defeated in a recorded vote by houses.

Clergy 38 for; 33 against

Lay 60 for; 87 against

Amendment of the Constitution (tenure of elected lay members of Diocesan Council)

Motion 137-08 – Sandra Craft / The Very Rev Geoffrey Hall

The Chancellor advised that this motion would allow any lay member elected from a Greater Chapter to complete his or her term on Diocesan Council even if she or he has ceased to be a member of the Greater Chapter from which they were elected. The rationale is that stability of membership on the Diocesan Council during its two-year term is important.

The motion was carried in a recorded vote by houses
Lay 141 for; 6 against
Clergy 63 for; 8 against

Amendment of Canon Three (post-election procedure for becoming bishop)

Motion 137-09 – Sandra Craft / The Very Rev Geoffrey Hall

This motion would cure misleading language in subsection 6 (1) of our canon on episcopal elections to make it clear that the nominee elected bishop of Fredericton requires confirmation of election by the bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Canada, in most cases consecration, and arguably enthronement in the Cathedral. It makes no change to current practice. “Bishop-elect” is terminology borrowed from the Diocese of Nova Scotia & PEI.

The motion carried by voice vote in both houses.

Amendment of Canon Four (role of diocesan bishop in managing temporal matters)

Motion 137-10 – Sandra Craft / The Very Rev Geoffrey Hall

This motion acknowledges the temporal role of the Bishop to supervise and otherwise deal with the status of lay employees and to make the other day-to-day contractual commitments and managerial decisions that go with running the Diocese. The role of the Finance Committee in property matters is defined in Canon Five – Diocesan Business.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote in both houses.

Amendment of Canon Four (role of diocesan bishop in requiring police records checks)

Motion 137-11 – Sandra Craft / The Very Rev Geoffrey Hall

This motion would obligate and empower the bishop to require vulnerable sector checks for all ministerial licence-holders. It would also require licence-holders to report criminal charges.

AMENDMENT 137-11-01 – The Rev Ross Hebb / Deanna Morrison

That Motion 137-11 be amended to omit “to renew it at least every third year, and”.

The amendment passed on a voice vote.

The motion carried by voice vote in both houses.

MIDDAY PRAYERS AND LUNCH

The Dean led Synod in Mid Day prayers, after which the Bishop paused the Session for lunch and asked members to return at 1:00 pm.

CLOSE OF VOTING FOR PROVINCIAL AND GENERAL SYNOD DELEGATES

Voting for delegates closed at 12:55 pm.

NOTICES OF MOTION (CONTINUED)

Bishop called the Synod back to order at 1:00 pm to consider notices of motion. The full text of each of the Legislative Motions are found in the Annex to the Minutes.

Amendment of Canon Four and Canon Six (role of archdeacons)

Motion 137-12 – Sandra Craft / The Very Rev Geoffrey Hall

Parish vacancies can be lengthy. This motion would authorize an archdeacon to become involved in parish governance, where desirable, but without becoming a member of the Parish Corporation.

The motion carried by voice vote in both houses.

Amendment of Canon Five (authority of the assistant secretary and the assistant treasurer of synod)

Motion 137-13 – Sandra Craft/The Very Rev Geoffrey Hall

Canon Four allows the Diocesan Council to appoint an Assistant Secretary of the Synod. This motion would permit the Assistant Secretary to perform some of the Secretary's most important duties. Canon Four also allows the Diocesan Council to appoint an Assistant Treasurer. This motion would permit an Assistant Treasurer to sign cheques.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote in both houses.

Amendment of Canon Six (non-incumbents presiding at parish annual meetings)

Motion 137-14 – Sandra Craft/The Very Rev Geoffrey Hall

This motion would remove the distinction between the role of a non-Incumbent in presiding at meetings of the parish corporation and the annual parish meeting.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote in both houses.

Amendment of Canon Six (membership of Parish Advisory Committee)

Motion 137-15 – Sandra Craft/The Very Rev Geoffrey Hall

This motion would widen the pool of possible appointees to the Parish Advisory Committee (PAC) and removes the restriction that all members of PAC be members of the Parish Corporation.

The motion carried by voice vote in both houses.

Amendment of Canon Six (preserving liability insurance policies; annual disclosure of special trusts)

Motion 137-16 – Sandra Craft/The Very Rev Geoffrey Hall

This motion would change terminology on the inspection of financial records; it recognizes the importance of retaining insurance policies to respond to changes in "limitation of actions" legislation; and it establishes a requirement for parishes to disclose at parish annual meetings any special direction for trusts for which the parish corporation is trustee.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote in both houses.

Amendment of Canon Six (parish financial signing authorities)

Motion 137-17 – Addie Marshall/Sandra Hamilton

This motion would change sub-section 10(2) of Canon Six to permit Parish Corporations to appoint signing authorities in accordance with the requirements of their banking institution and the logistics of their geographic location. Signing authorities could still include any of the Incumbent, the Treasurer or a Warden(s).

Parishes, especially rural parishes, need the flexibility to work with their banking institutions in a manner that works best for both parties, and within the rules and regulations governing those financial institutions and a parish.

This motion also permits a Parish to establish electronic banking protocols to facilitate automated bill payments.

The motion carried by voice vote in both houses.

Cemeteries in Dissolved Parishes

Motion 137-18 – The Rev Bonita LeBlanc/Maxine Fullarton

THAT Diocesan Council develop a policy and procedures for the perpetual care of cemeteries located within dissolved parishes.

Direction on the maintenance of cemeteries in dissolved parishes is unclear. This policy could inform procedures in parish cemeteries and also for columbaria.

The motion carried by voice vote.

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION ACTION PLANS

Shawn Branch provided some history and context on intentional discipleship and shared a video from the Anglican Consultative Council. Synod motion **2017-09 – A Missional People** urged every congregation to do a Lenten study of Michael Frost’s **Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People** and follow its call to lead “questionable” lives. The Synod would build on this initiative by accepting the Anglican Communion’s challenge to the worldwide church to enter a season of intentional discipleship to lead a Jesus-shaped life led by ministry-focused Diocesan Council teams.

Motion 137-19 – Shawn Branch / The Rev Christopher Hayes

THAT members of this Synod encourage parishes to continue the momentum begun through *Surprise the World’s* challenge to lead “questionable” lives by urging fellow Anglicans to accept the Anglican Communion’s invitation to enter a season of intentional discipleship, until 2025, to strengthen our identity in and mission to New Brunswick communities.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Shawn Branch encouraged Synod to respond to the season of Intentional Discipleship by having Parishes develop Mission Action Plans (MAPs). Templates and staff would be made available to assist parishes in the discernment and implementation of the plans.

Motion 137-20 – Shawn Branch / The Rev Dr Sean Davidson
THAT this Synod request each parish to discern and develop a Mission Action Plan during 2020 that outlines its mission, discipleship and ministry focus for the season ahead (between 2-5 years as appropriate).

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

UNITY

The Rev Leo Martin spoke of the polarization occurring within the Church around the definition of marriage; polarization is antithetical to Christian behaviour. He offered the motion not to reopen a debate, but with hope that we can stand together under the leadership of Jesus Christ and perform the mission set before us. The Rev Paul Ranson noted that a Church united glorifies Jesus Christ; in a Church divided Jesus is not. Jesus Christ gave us a model of reconciliation we should follow.

Motion 137-21 – The Rev Canon Leo Martin/The Rev Paul Ranson
THAT as Jesus prayed for the Church to be one, so the Synod of the Diocese of Fredericton commits itself to walk together, in the bonds of love and affection, recognizing diverse opinions on the matter of marriage in the church. We will care for one another and continue to strengthen our commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel and living and loving as Christ.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

BREAK

The Bishop paused for a break at 1355 and reconvened Synod at 1410.

DIOCESAN OFFICER REPORTS AND DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT

Motion 137-22 – Sandra Craft / The Rev David Peer
THAT this Synod receives the Diocesan Officer Reports and Diocesan Council Report as found in the convening circular and the annex to the circular.

Motion carried.

Heather Harris-Jones spoke about the statements for 2018 and pointed out though the finance statements show a loss, our excess revenue over expenses was \$927k. The loss was due to unrealized investment losses.

Motion 137-23 – Heather Harris-Jones/Gilbert Carter
THAT this Synod receives the Diocesan Review Engagement Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2018.

Motion carried unanimously

ARCHDEACONRY DIOCESAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Archdeaconry Greater Chapters held elections at meetings in October for members of Diocesan Council. The members begin their term following the 2019 meeting of Diocesan Synod. Those people elected were presented for the approval of Synod.

Motion 137-24 – The Rev Ann Fairweather/The Ven Cathy Laskey
THAT this Synod accept the Archdeaconry Greater Chapter elections to Diocesan Council, as presented.

Chatham	The Rev. Ted Quann (Chatham) Mrs. Siobhan Laskey (Derby & Blackville)
Fredericton	The Rev. Paul Ranson (Douglas and Nashwaaksis) Dr. Ken Brien (St. Margaret's)
Kingston and Kennebecasis	The Rev. Michael O'Hara (Hammond River, Quispamsis) Mr. Robert Taylor (Rothesay)
Moncton	The Rev. Chris Hayes (Salisbury and Havelock) Mrs. Cheryl Young (Salisbury and Havelock)
Saint John	The Rev. Canon David Barrett (Portland) Ms. Coralie Losier (St. Mark)
St. Andrews	The Rev. Mary Anne Langmaid (St. George) Ms. Joni Richardson (St. George)
Woodstock	The Rev. Robert LeBlanc (Wicklow, Wilmot, Peel, Aberdeen) Ms. Kathy Asch (Woodstock)

The motion carried unanimously

PROVINCIAL AND GENERAL SYNOD ELECTION RESULTS

The Bishop announced the ranked results of the elections to Provincial and General Synod.

Provincial Synod

Clergy

The Rev Kevin McAllister
The Rev Rob Langmaid
The Rev Fred (Ted) Quann
The Rev Thomas Nisbett
The Rev Harold Boomer

Lay

Robert Taylor
Laura McNulty
Jason Smith
Louise Whalen

General Synod

Clergy

The Ven Cathy Laskey
The Rev Ann Fairweather
The Ven Wandlyn Snelgrove
The Rev Paul Ranson
The Rev Dr Cole Hartin
The Rev Bob LeBlanc
The Rev Gerry Laskey
The Rev Dr Sean Davidson

Lay

David Bell
Peter Irish
Laura McNulty
Siobhan Laskey
Richard Walsh
Beresford Price/Dr Ken Brien

Youth

Eric Beek

Synod Election ballots

Motion 137-25 – Margaret Ann Reid/The Rev Rob Langmaid
THAT the ballots for Provincial and General Synod be destroyed.

The motion carried unanimously

REMARKS FROM GUESTS

The Rev Canon Neale Bennet, President of the Atlantic School of Theology (AST) talked about the Diploma in Missional Leadership, which will launch at AST in the spring of 2020. The first cohort of students has already been selected. He is looking forward to working with the Diocese on theological education and is grateful to be partners with the Diocese of Fredericton.

The Rev Audrey Lounder brought greetings from the Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Region of the United Church of Canada and remarked how wonderful it was to hear the Synod discuss mission and to have youth delegates integrated into the meeting.

RESPONSE TO THE BISHOP'S CHARGE

Richard Walsh from the parish of Chatham responded to the Bishop's Charge and noted that the Diocese is blessed to have his leadership. He reminded delegates that Mission Action Plans are not something to fear, but to embrace as a way to take a step beyond where we are and where we are. He spoke of intentional discipleship and the importance of focussing on Jesus teaching and prayer. He cautioned delegates not to let the media's desire for headlines to overshadow the important work of Anglicans and the Anglican Church of Canada. He called all delegates to go out from this Synod ready for mission.

GREETINGS OF SYNOD

Motion 137-26 – Kathy Asch / Sandra Craft

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 Honorable Brenda Murphy the customary expression of its loyalty and affection.**
- 2. Our Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau and our Premier, the Honourable Blaine Higgs.**
- 3. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Justin Welby.**
- 4. To our Primate, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls.**
- 5. To our Metropolitan, the Most Rev. Ron Cutler.**
- 6. To our former Diocesan Bishops, the Rt. Rev. George Lemmon, the Rt. Rev. William Hockin, the Most Rev. Claude Miller and to their spouses, Mrs. Lois Lemmon, Mrs. Isabelle Hockin, Mrs. Sharon Miller and also Mrs. Edith Nutter.**
- 7. To our Companion Diocese, The Diocese of Ho, through their bishop, The Rt. Rev. Bishop Medadues-Badohu Matthias.**
- 8. To our Partner Diocese, The Diocese of the Yukon and their bishop, The Rt. Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame.**
- 9. To the Diocese of Jerusalem, The Most Rev. Suheil S. Dawani, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East**

The motion carried.

ASSENT AND CLOSING REMARKS

The Bishop expressed his gratitude to all those who were present for this 137th session of Diocesan Synod. The Bishop granted his assent to all motions passed by Synod and informed delegates that a copy of his charge is available at the exit and will be posted on the Diocesan web site. The Bishop reminded all Synod members they will be receiving an evaluation form and he encouraged everyone to fill it out and return it as soon as possible. The Bishop closed the 137th Session of Synod in prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion 137-27 – Shawn Branch

THAT this 137th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton be adjourned.

The motion carried.

EVENING PRAYER

The Ven Cathy Laskey and Alyssa Vandervalk led the Synod delegates in Evening Prayer, which completed at 3:38 p.m.

The Rev David Peer
Secretary of Synod

The Rt Rev David Edwards
Bishop of Fredericton