

Diocese of Rupert's Land  
Diocesan Council

MINUTES

January 17, 2014  
St. Stephen & St. Bede, Winnipeg

Present = Y    Regrets = R    Absent = A    (\*) = *ex officio* (a) = *appointed*

|   |                                 |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| R | Bardsley, The Ven. James*       | Y | Maweje, The Ven. Godfrey*                           |
| Y | Blanchard, The Rev. Jonathan    | Y | Norman, Mrs. Patricia                               |
| Y | Braid, Mr. E. Arthur*           | Y | Pawling, Mr. Gordon*                                |
| Y | Bruce, The Rev. Michael         | Y | Phillips, The Rt. Rev. Donald*                      |
| R | Carlson, Mr. Sean (a)           | R | Relf, Mrs. Donna Lee                                |
| R | Cook, Mrs. Ellen V.             | Y | Silk, Mr. Ian                                       |
| Y | Dolloff, The Rev. John (a)      | Y | Sisson, The Ven. Jennifer*                          |
| Y | Dugan, The Ven. James*          | Y | Slipetz, Ms Willie                                  |
| Y | Elliott, The Rev. Dr. Brad      | Y | Solomon, The Rev. Vince                             |
| Y | Fortier, Ms Roselyn             | Y | Thagard, Mr. Dan                                    |
| Y | Hunter, The Rev. Deacon Helen   | Y | Trott, Dr. Christopher* (Warden St. John's College) |
| R | Ingram, Mrs. Barbara            | Y | Webster, Ms Tannis                                  |
| Y | Jackson, Mr. Gary               | Y | Wedlake, Mr. Bob* (Secretary of Synod)              |
| R | James, Dr. June                 | Y | Whitmore, The Rev. Judith                           |
| Y | Ives-Lewis, Mrs. Diane          |   |   |
| Y | Johnson, The Very Rev. Paul*    |   |   |
| Y | Kennedy, The Rev. Helen         |   | Staff:  |
| Y | Kennedy, The Rev. Dick          | Y | Funk, Mrs. Bernice – Director of Finance            |
| Y | Lysecki, The Rev. Mary          | Y | Suppes, Mrs. Susan - Secretary                      |
| Y | MacDonald, The Rev. Deacon Lynn |   |   |

The Bishop welcomed members (including newly appointed and first-time attending members) to the meeting and invited the Dean, Paul Johnson, to lead opening worship. Following worship the regrets were read. Patricia Norman congratulated the Bishop on his appointment as Acting Metropolitan of the Province of Rupert's Land. With David Ashdown's retirement at end of December 2014, Bishop Phillips as bishop senior by consecration in the Province, has assumed the role of Acting Metropolitan until Provincial Synod convenes in June 2015 to elect the next Metropolitan for the Province.

New members sharing: The Rev. John Dolloff, Sean Carlson, Diane Ives-Lewis and Ellen Cook were invited to share information with the Council. Only John and Diane were present to do so.

| Name             | Parish                                      | Interests  | Skills                             |
|------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| John Dolloff     | St. Mary la Prairie, Portage la Prairie, MB | Cycling and hockey; passion for the Church and things of God | Skills in pastoring a congregation |
| Diane Ives-Lewis | St. George, Cres                            | Visiting battlegrounds and war memorials                     | Good administrative skills         |

Minutes of Diocesan Council - November 8, 2014

MOTION: THAT the minutes of November 8, 2014 be adopted as corrected.

M. Bruce/L. Macdonald

Carried.

Minutes of Executive Committee - December 9, 2014

MOTION: THAT the minutes of the Executive Committee of December 9, 2014 be received.  
D. Thagard /P. Norman  
Carried.

MOTION: THAT Diocesan Council ratify the membership of the Diocesan Compensation  
D.Thagard/  
Committee as recommended by the Executive Committee.  
(on behalf of Executive)  
Carried.

Minutes of Executive Committee – January 6, 2015

MOTION: THAT the minutes of the Executive Committee of January 6, 2015 be received.  
R. Fortier /G. Mawejje  
Carried.

Terms of Reference – Archdeaconry of Kenora/St. Alban Trust:

MOTION: THAT the terms of reference for the Archdeaconry of Kenora/St. Alban Mission and  
G. Pawling/  
Mission Trust Fund be approved as presented.  
(on behalf of Executive)

Faith Horizons:

Arising from the discussion at the Executive Committee, it is recommended that the theme for 2015 Faith Horizons be “Reconciliation” through the lens of missional church. It is intended that ‘reconciliation’ be interpretation broadly. Concern was raised that we not rush into planning for a service of reconciliation before doing the necessary work of education, awareness, teaching, and perhaps repentance before moving to a service of reconciliation. The Bishop stated that Faith Horizons could be a starting point, as we do need to do the work of helping people understand the issues and why we need reconciliation. We need to broaden the base of understanding and thinking with each other. Faith Horizons could be a launching pad for this initiative, however long it takes, with follow-up gatherings such as bishop’s days, parish gatherings, forums, etc, until we get to a point of where we are ready for repentance and reconciliation.

In suggesting the theme of “reconciliation’ (through the lens of missional church) the intention of the motion of the Executive Committee from October 2014 would be initiated.

*[MOTION: THAT the Diocese of Rupert’s Land commits to exploring and implementing a process in the Diocese to engage the spiritual work of repentance and reconciliation concerning indigenous peoples in Canada; and that the Executive Committee request the Bishop, in consultation with the next Diocesan Council, to implement this resolution.]*

The planning committee for Faith Horizons will determine how the theme is presented. If workshops are part of the planning, mental health and anti-racism could be possible topics. However, both of these issues can continue to be working at on their own, as part of a continuum. Paul Johnson commented about the possibility of something to mark the final TRC hearing this May. Diocesan Council needs to make the defining decision on theme and then turn the work over the task to a Committee to implement.

MOTION: THAT that the theme for 2015 Faith Horizons be ‘reconciliation’ through the lens of  
A. Braid/  
G. Jackson  
missional church.

Carried.

This motion will now be up to the Bishop (and Executive) to implement. The Bishop invited those interested in serving on the committee to drop him an email.

Resolutions of Synod:

This report comes to the Council as recommendations from the former Secretary of Synod with input by the Executive Committee. The report is presented to Council for approval so that these resolutions can be enacted. The Chancellor suggested that an omnibus resolution would be in order as a way of dealing with the report.

MOTION: THAT Diocesan Council receive the report on the Resolutions of Synod and approve the  
G. Mawejje/ recommendations as submitted by the Secretary of Synod and the Executive Committee  
D. Thagard concerning the resolutions of the 2014 Diocesan

Carried.

Associates in Episcopal Ministry:

The Bishop explained that the Associates in Episcopal Ministry is a leadership group formed by the Bishop and comprised of Bishop, Dean, Archdeacon and District Deans. It was established after the Synod in 2012 and works in concert with the Bishop in a ministry of oversight. It has been suggested that the group would benefit if it was expanded to include persons who have been identified with specialized gifts and skills to offer specialized ministry throughout the diocese.

The Bishop wants to authorize persons who are giving diocesan-wide leadership in a particular area of ministry to exercise that leadership throughout the diocese. These persons would serve as catalysts for these particular ministries. This would not limit what others could do; instead, they would be a local help and resource in support of others. It is the Bishop's intention to commission these people and provide them with an appropriate title as an Archdeacon. It lies within the Bishop's purview to appoint archdeacons (canon 5) but archdeaconries must be defined (Canon 6). Since the specialized leadership would be for the benefit of the diocese as a whole diocese, the entire diocese will be the region. Their responsibility would be the particular focus for which they have been appointed.

By Constitution all archdeacons are ex officio of Council and Executive. However, it is the Bishop's intention that these specialize ministry archdeacons not be ex officio on Council and Executive and to that end, a condition of the appointment would stipulate that they are not be members of ex-officio Diocesan Council nor Executive Committee. Then Chancellor indicated this could be done since these appointments are not territorial Archdeacons. At some point, the Council might like to might consider asking the Board on Canons & Rules of Order to prepare an amendment to the Constitution to define two different types of archdeacons. The Bishop noted that as we move further 'down the missional church road', it is possible or likely that additional appointments would be made.

The Bishop advised he will be appointing two new archdeacons each with a specific ministry focus. The title will define them as distinct from the area archdeacons. These Archdeacons, as all archdeacons, would be accountable to the Bishop. They would serve as members of the Associates in Episcopal Ministry.

The Bishop entertained questions and comments:

- Is this a term position or open ended? The Bishop likes renewable term, but hasn't decided on this.
- Are these remunerated positions? These are non-remunerated position, but travel expenses would be reimbursed as are other Archdeacons' travel.

- Has thought gone into the term Archdeacon? What about Canon for? The Bishop responded that he believes archdeacon is the right term as it is known, denotes authority and is used in other dioceses as Archdeacon for (eg, congregational development).

The Bishop advised he will be making these appointments soon. The over-arching principle is to commission these persons for ministries that they are already doing, and this will happen at the Mothering Sunday service on March 15.

A brief coffee break was held.

Rupert's Land News (RLN) Funding and Strategy for the future: The Rev. Canon Geoff Woodcroft Geoff addressed the Council speaking on behalf of the RLN about the fund-raising. The history is very basic. The national church and sponsors / advertisers have been covering most of our costs to operate the RLN. Rupert's Land contributions toward the RLN and journal are just under one-third of the actual costs regularly.

Last year the Diocesan Council agreed to a new approach and to hire a new Editor, to produce an on-line RLNews with capability of weekly communications to the diocese. That one shift alone has made more stirrings in the church than anything else. At every gathering the conversation focuses around "how much longer will we have a print edition?" The answer is not very long. Soon we will be moving to just an on-line edition. All parishes have received several copies of a brochure inviting all to become on-line members. He encouraged Council members to get on-line and to get others on line to read the paper. With the advent of new editor and new style of paper, we had a development budget of \$40,000 to make the change to the new format. An Anglican Foundation grant of \$15,000 has been received. At the Bishop's invitation Geoff has begun a major gifts campaign and in 4 wks we have \$17,000 of the remainder of the development costs.

A lot, if not the majority of RL folk are on-line and it likely won't be a problem for them. For those who can only receive print copies, parishes or deaneries need to find the capacity to print-out and deliver copies to these folk. Every parish receives a list from the Journal, and parishes are to be adding and removing, on a regular basis, people from the list. Geoff suggested that Council needs to empower parishes to monitor the list and for the whole of its community – not just who want it for the Journal and the RLNews. All parishioners are offered the publication regardless of paying a subscription fee.

Geoff is suggesting that the Commitment form for Common Ministry and Mission include another line that says RLNews contribution. If this were done we would have a firm financial base for diocesan communication.

The new target audience of the RLN is to reach the fringe, and go well beyond the fringe, reaching out to those who are not part of our church communities. Articles that appear in our on line publication are being read by an audience that exceeds our print papers readership. The RLN needs writers, and thought provoking articles. The Council is solidly behind this continuing initiative so much so that parishes will be asked to maintain the list and support the RLNews. Budget 2015 is \$32,000, splitting that proportionately between all parishes is our present direction. The \$32,000 will certainly decrease if advertising revenue increases.

Comments: The weekly updates and the website as well as the magazine are meaningful: relevance, relationship and rigour. These three aspects need to be in balance – relationship with issues, relevance to my life; and want some depth. A digital issue seems to be much more able to do this. Part of our role

can be to visit with those who do not have web access with the print edition, or perhaps show people how to access the news on line.

Presently those who pay a subscription fee for the RLN do so with \$10 - \$20 per household. Geoff is asking that Parishes pay for the cost of operating the RLN. It was suggested that there should be 'donate' button on the RLNews website. All donations would receive a receipt. By December 2015, we will no longer send the print edition of the Journal. RLNews wants everyone to get on-line. With the cessation of the print edition of the Journal in 2016, we will lose as a print format for the RLNews. This is a proactive stance. Geoff and Allison will summarize the primary points and provide the Council with the actions they want the Council to consider.

The Bishop thanked Geoff for his presentation.

Report of the Finance Committee:

Gordon Pawling reported on the financial statements to November 30, 2014. The notes to the statements provide additional information. This statement shows a surplus of \$16,544 to November 30, 2014. Investment income for yearend December 31, 2014 was recorded at 11.5%.

MOTION: THAT the financial statements to November 30, 2014 be received.  
G. Pawling/ D.Thagard  
Carried.

The insurance matter is still being worked on and will come to a future meeting.

Report on Anti-racism Consultation:

The Rev. Edmund Laldin, the Rev. Barbara Shoomski, and the Rev. Mark Loyal attended the consultation from Rupert's Land. By invitation from the National Church an Anti-Racism Consultation and training in event was held in New Westminster. The conference charged the diocesan delegates to return and engage the diocese. The Bishop introduced Edmund to speak about racism in the Church. Barbara Shoomski will share about what happened at the consultation.

Edmund gave his background, previous involvement in anti-racism workshops, as well as describing the current state of 'racism' in our Church structure. He asserted that the Anglican Church of Canada systematically has been racist and discriminatory in its practice of ministry, suggesting a lack of indigenous, women and other groups in the hierarchy of the National Church; questioning if the leadership of the General Synod represents the reality of the Anglican Church of Canada. He spoke about cutbacks in the '90's at Church House; about composition current Church task forces such as the Marriage Commission; and about lack of indigenous and ethnic representation on National Church Committees. He indicated the conference provided analytical information. He suggested that we have an opportunity, through this consultation, to renew a process that began in 2001. The Diocese of New Westminster has an anti-racism policy, so we do not need to invent the wheel.

Barbara Shoomski then spoke, thanking the Bishop for inviting her to attend this consultation. It was a hard meeting, and she acknowledged that dealing with racism is very tough for all persons involved. The biggest challenge is that people are in denial that racism exists. Many say things without even realizing it may be a racist comment. Different races see things differently because of their culture. She then shared some stories that were told at the consultation.

The consultation was helpful. Barbara asserted we have a long way to go in this Diocese to get to know one another. He her work, Barbara speaks regularly about reconciliation between two different

cultures, who do things in different ways. She suggested we have to start somewhere: to talk and really listen to each other.

Edmund advised that in the Diocese of New Westminster all in this in holy orders or employees of Diocese are required to sign a sexual misconduct policy. A team of 7 or 8 persons go to the parish to provide an 8 hour workshop and how to enter into relationship, be mindful and to address this. We need to look at education about the other cultures and ways of growing together and living in racial harmony. We will not be able to do much unless we can address the discomfort with each other. We cannot create real community until we address this. Faith Horizon could focus on how people speak to one another.

As per the written report, a request is being made for the Diocese of Rupert's Land to establish an Anti-racism Task Force comprised of 5 persons to:

- Establish a Protocol and Policy on Anti-Racism.
- Identify training material for workshops with various constituencies within and of the diocese.
- Create a 'Trainers Team' to hold training events within the diocese.

The Bishop indicated that the Executive Committee will follow up on this suggestion.

As the time allocated for the meeting had concluded, adjournment was moved by Paul Johnson. Unfinished business on the agenda will be considered by the Executive Committee.

Ss/ss  
01/20/15