

Diocese of Rupert's Land
Diocesan Council

MINUTES

November 14, 2015
St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg

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

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

The meeting was called to order by the Bishop at 9:35 am, who extended a welcome to all. The Very Rev. Paul Johnson led the opening worship which included Gospel-based Discipleship. Special prayers were offered for the terrorist attacks in Paris, France the day before. The regrets were read.

Minutes of Diocesan Council of September 29, 2015:

MOTION: THAT the minutes be approved as presented.
P. Johnson/P. Norman
Carried.

Abridged Minutes of the Executive Committee of October 13, 2015:

An abridged version of the minutes of the Executive Committee was provided for Council members. A full discussion on Theological Education Commission was held at the Executive Committee and this dialogue was condensed for Council's purpose.

MOTION: THAT the abridged minutes the of Executive Committee of October 13th, 2015 be
W. Slipetz/ received.
H. Hunter
Carried.

Minutes of the Executive Committee of November 10, 2015

Two changes were noted as these minutes were presented. The Executive Committee will approve these for adoption at its next meeting.

MOTION: THAT the corrected minutes of November 10, 2015 be received.
G. Mawejje/R. Fortier
Carried.

Council members asked to take note of the funds drawn from the Mission and Ministry Trust fund for the benefit of the Archdeaconry of Kenora – St. Alban, and to see the good work going on in this Archdeaconry.

Spirit Path Ministry – Revised Report and budget.

The Bishop reported on the meetings with the three denominations (judicatories) about how this program can be integrated to represent the three denominations as fully integrated shared ministry.

MOTION: THAT Diocesan Council receive the Revised Report on Spirit Path Ministry.
G. Jackson/G. Mawejje
Carried.

After a brief discussion, both motions as recommended by the Executive Committee, were put.

MOTION: THAT the Diocese of Rupert's Land contribute \$37,500 for 2016 to the Spirit Path
G.Mawejje/ Ministry from the New Church Development fund; and that the Diocese commit to
maintaining this level of funding (\$18,750) for the first half of 2017 (Jun. 30, 2017) at
which time a new ministry covenant is negotiated.
Carried.

MOTION: THAT the Diocese of Rupert's Land extend the 25% time position of Jennifer Sisson
P. Johnson/ (currently ending June 30, 2016) to June 30, 2017.
Carried.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Gordon Pawling reported on the financial statements to September 30, 2015. It shows a surplus of \$38,936. Revenues are close to the budget figures, while the aboriginal and youth budgets items remain under spent for 2015. Earnings from Integra at the end of October are 5.5%. Hopefully they will continue above 4% by year end so that the 4% distribution to the operating fund can happen. Gordon Pawling moved the reception of the statements as recommended by the Finance Committee.

MOTION: THAT the financial statements to September 30, 2015 be received.
G. Pawling/
Carried.

Faith Horizons -- Feedback from Council

The Bishop advised that the key organizers have not had a chance to meet since the event. He invited feedback from Council members.

- The hydro exhibit was a good thing.
- The venue and set up allowed for lots of visiting and interaction -- visiting and connecting with each other is important.
- Many came away from the day appreciating the venue, the set up (not assigned to parish/deanery seating) and the speaker.
- St. Luke's Dryden is hoping to have the key-note speaker do a presentation there.
- Kevin was engaging, challenging and moving.
- While there were some glitches, those present didn't seem to mind.

Thanks to the Helen Kennedy, Gary Jackson and Judy McIvor for their work on the event.

Synod Agenda Committee:

Secretary of Synod, Mr. Bob Wedlake, presented a brief report on behalf of the Synod Agenda Committee. He noted the dates for Synod have been set for as Oct 20-22, 2016. We have a change in venue as NKMB is no longer available to us during the times we require. Douglas Mennonite Church, on Rothesay, has been booked. We expect to be able to keep the costs the same as 2014 and are recommending an \$85 delegate fee. There has been a change in the Synod Agenda Chair. Mary Williams will be chairing this Committee, which will meet together in early December. The theme will be around the idea of “Engaging/Embracing the World”, continuing with a theme of missional church and discipleship.

MOTION: THAT the report of the Synod Agenda Committee be received.
L. MacDonald /G. Jackson
Carried.

MOTION: THAT Diocesan Council approve a fee of \$85 per delegate for 2016 Synod.
P. Norman/P. Johnson
Carried.

Members enjoyed a coffee break and offered thanks to Leanne who organized the refreshments.

Update on the Urban Indigenous Ministry Developer Position:

The Very Rev. Paul Johnson indicated that we have a very fine potential candidate, but we are unable to share any more information at this time. Hopefully, God willing, and spirit-guiding, we will be able to share some news with you in the near future.

Joint Theological Commission Report:

This report was received by Diocesan Council at the March meeting. The Executive Committee has discussed the report and the next steps. The Report has been discussed at a Clergy Day and at the meeting of the Associates in Episcopal Ministry. We need to help members of the Diocese engage this document; discuss it and see if they can support it. To that end, a Revised Annotated Report is being presented and it is suggested that this report could be circulated as an introduction to the full report (which is available on the Diocesan Website).

The Executive Committee, at its meeting on November 10th, suggested that we need to work out a means of distributing it and getting feedback. The Bishop will prepare some questions for consideration by Vestries to engage discussion and provide feedback. The Executive Committee is recommending the annotated report be commended to parishes for their information and discussion.

MOTION: THAT Diocesan Council receive the Annotated Report on the Theological Education
P. Johnson/ Commission Report.
G. Jackson
Carried.

A few key comments were noted:

- Without strong support of our College and of our leaders, we are rudderless.
- The ability to offer this education locally is important.

We are nearing the point where we, as a Diocese, have to make some decisions about the Report and its recommendations. This is for the formal theological education for our diocese: for ordinands and lay persons as well. In the meantime, St. John's College will continue to develop courses: continue association with St. Margaret's Church for credit courses; offer courses to deepen intercultural understanding; continue with Wilmot Lectures; continue the Bible & Breakfast series; as well as develop new initiatives.

The Bishop will prepare a letter to accompany the annotated report, and in it indicate that the Warden of the College is available to come to a vestry meeting, if that would be helpful. It was further suggested that it be useful to have an introduction evening on the report, either at a deanery or diocesan level.

Proposal Policy for Frequency of Criminal Record Checks for Clergy:

A Policy was drafted and submitted to the Executive Committee for feedback. A revised proposed policy, reflecting input from Executive Committee, was presented to Council.

MOTION: THAT Diocesan Council adopt the Revised Policy for Frequency of Vulnerable Sector L. MacDonald/ Checks (dated Nov 2015).
R. Kennedy
Carried.

A letter to all Priests (copied to Vestries) will accompany this new policy.

The Council offered the following comment to those responsible for amendments to the Building Healthy Communities: We would like to see a recommendation from council to parishes that volunteers re-check are done every five years as well. It would not be a policy, but a recommendation to parishes for their consideration for re-checking their volunteers.

Other Business:

Accessing funds from the St. Francis Trust:

The Diocese holds in trust funds from the sale of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church. These funds are available to the Parish of St. Francis for their use, upon application to the Council. The Parish is requesting \$5,000 from the capital of the Fund to be used to assist two members of St. Francis travel to Uganda as part of the Diocesan delegation in 2016.

MOTION: THAT Diocesan Council authorize a withdrawal of \$5000 from the capital of the St. G. Jackson/ Francis Trust Fund to help fund two members from the Parish of St. Francis to be part of P. Johnson the diocesan delegation to Uganda planned for January 2016.
Carried.

Thank you to the Bishop: Mrs. Patricia Norman thanked the Bishop for coming to the Kenora – St. Alban Deanery meeting to talk about local collaborative ministry. There had been some misunderstanding about what it was and now we know more. It is so encouraging. The Bishop expressed thanks to the Local Collaborative Ministry team for their visit as well.

The next Diocesan Council meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan 23 at St. John's College, Winnipeg. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.
Ss/ss