

Diocese of Rupert's Land  
Diocesan Council

MINUTES

March 19, 2016  
St. Francis, Winnipeg

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

Y	Bardsley, The Ven. James*	R	MacDonald, The Rev. Deacon Lynn
R	Blanchard, The Rev. Jonathan	Y	Maweje, The Ven. Godfrey*
Y	Braid, Mr. E. Arthur*	R	Norman, Mrs. Patricia
R	Carlson, Mr. Sean (a)	Y	Pawling, Mr. Gordon*
Y	Cook, Mrs. Ellen V.	Y	Phillips, The Rt. Rev. Donald*
R	Dolloff, The Rev. John (a)	A	Relf, Mrs. Donna Lee
Y	Dugan, The Ven. James*	A	Silk, Mr. Ian
Y	Elliott, The Rev. Dr. Brad	A	Sisson, The Ven. Jennifer*
R	Fortier, Ms Roselyn	Y	Slipetz, Ms Willie
R	Hunter, The Rev. Deacon Helen	R	Solomon, The Rev. Vince
Y	Ingram, Mrs. Barbara	Y	Trott, Dr. Christopher* (Warden St. John's College)
Y	Jackson, Mr. Gary	Y	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
Y	Kennedy, The Rev. Helen		
R	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

Bishop welcomed members to St. Francis. The meeting was called to order by the Rt. Rev. Donald Phillips, Bishop and invited the Ven. James Dugan to lead the worship. Following worship the regrets were read. Notice was given of the passing Mr. Bill Regehr, a former member of Diocesan Council and a Diocesan Council appointee on St. John's College Council.

Minutes of Diocesan Council of January 23, 2016:

The minutes were presented for approval.

MOTION:        THAT the minutes of Diocesan Council of January 23, 2016 be approved.

P. Johnson/H. Kennedy

Carried.

Minutes of the Executive Committee of February 9, 2016

The minutes were presented for reception.

MOTION:        THAT the minutes of the Executive Committee of February 9, 2016 be received.

J. Bardsley/J. Dugan

Carried.

Revised Minutes of Executive Committee of March 8, 2016

The revised minutes of the Executive Committee were presented and a correction was made on page 2.

Year-to-date earnings are 'negative' 1.96%.

MOTION: THAT the minutes of the Executive Committee of March 8, 2016 be received.  
W.Slipetz/T.Webster  
Carried.

*Arising from the minutes:*

- Refugee Fund

The Executive Committee has recommended that the Terms of Reference for the Diocesan Refugee Fund be approved as submitted. Until now there have been no terms of reference for the Fund, nor a formal committee for authorizing the disbursement of funds. Because this is a special ministry of the diocese and with the recent influx of refugees into Canada, it was felt that formal terms of reference be established for the Fund as well as a process for accessing funds.

MOTION: THAT Diocesan Council approve the Terms of Reference of Diocesan Refugee Fund.  
H.Kennedy  
on behalf of the Executive Committee  
Carried.

MOTION: THAT Diocesan Council ratify the membership of Diocesan Refugee Committee as follows:  
G.Pawling/ Ms Kathy Flemmington, The Rev. Helen Kennedy, Ms Diane Lambert and Mrs.Gail Schnabl  
G.Mawejje and that the Refugee Committee have the power to coopt additional members as necessary.

Carried.

(It was suggested that consideration be given to appointing a male member on the Committee).

- *Refund from the National Settlement Agreement for Indian Residential Schools (IRS)*

The Bishop explained how the Dioceses of the Anglican Church of Canada have come to receive a refund of monies provided by the Anglican Church for its contribution to the National Settlement Agreement for IRS. The Anglican Church was one of the very first church bodies to enter into an agreement with the Federal Government, and at the time of the Agreement, the Anglican Church stipulated that if any of the parties to the Agreement negotiated a more favourable Agreement, the Anglican Church would receive the same terms of that Agreement. This has come to be as the Roman Catholic Church was not able to raise the full amount of the funds they had hoped. Therefore, all Anglican Dioceses will receive a refund; The Diocese of Rupert's Land will receive a refund of \$50,891; and the Diocese of Keewatin approx. \$20,000.

In accordance with the Implementation Plan established by the Diocese of Keewatin prior to the boundary changes, Keewatin funds will be divided 2/3 funding to Mishamikoweesh and 1/3 to "southern Region" of the former Kenora (now known as Archdeaconry of Kenora – St. Alban).

The Archdeaconry of Kenora / St. Alban has met recently and has agreed that their portion of the \$20,000 refunded to Keewatin Diocese, (approx. \$6680) should be added to the Rupert's Land's amount of \$50,891, bringing these two funds together into one fund. The Diocesan Council is being asked to determine what should be done with the total refund. At the present time the funds are being held in short term investments with CIBC. The Bishop indicated that with the new beginnings that are currently underway in our diocese with respect to indigenous ministries (new Urban Indigenous Ministry Developer to begin May 1/16; the Rupert's Land Indigenous Council re-constitution itself; and new initiatives in healing and reconciliation) that these funds be held for the time being.

MOTION: THAT, for the time being, the refund from the Negotiated Settlement Agreement with the  
P.Johnson/ Federal Government concerning Indian Residential Schools be held for indigenous ministries of the Diocese.

On behalf of the Executive Committee  
Carried.

- *Date of the September Diocesan Council Meeting:*

Consideration was given as to whether the September meeting should be held on a Tuesday evening or Saturday morning. The proposed venue is **Church of the Ascension, Stonewall**. After discussion, it was determined that the fall meeting would be held on Saturday, **September 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 to 12:30 pm**. **Breakfast will be served at 8:45 am**. Members are encouraged to attend breakfast for fellowship, as this will be the last meeting of the Council prior to Synod when a new Council will be elected.

#### Report on Living Stones

The Ven. James Dugan presented this on behalf of our Diocesan Living Stones Coordinator, Mrs. Armel Evoy. He gave a brief explanation of the history of this organization and how, through presentations of case studies, in small discussion groups, each member diocese receives comments and feedback. Rupert's Land's case study this year was on Local Collaborative Ministry (LCM) in sparsely populated areas (such as in the Ontario region of our Diocese). James found it to be a rich opportunity to meet and share with others. James indicated an attempt is being at St Mary's Sioux Lookout to take steps in LCM.

The Chancellor asked if there is an "incumbent" in the LCM model, because according to the Temporality Act of Manitoba, the Incumbent and Wardens form the Corporation of a Parish. According to our definitions in the Constitution, an Incumbent is a person "in holy orders". Consideration may need to be given to changing this definition if LCM parishes will not have an ordained person licensed as 'incumbent'.

MOTION: THAT the report on Living Stones be received.  
J.Dugan/G.Jackson  
Carried.

After a brief break, the meeting resumed with the Report of the Finance Committee.

#### Finance Committee

##### *Financial Statements to January 31, 2016*

Ms Bernice Funk advised that she has received word from the Charities Directorate that the Ontario parishes now have received their new charities numbers. This process has been on-going for a very long time, because a ruling was required. The matter is now satisfactorily resolved.

Investment earnings in 2016 continue in negative figures at negative 1.7%. The Investment Committee is still of the opinion the Diocese will manage to reach 'mid-range' results by year-end, which would enable the 4% investment earnings to be realized as included in the 2016 budget. The January statements show a small deficit of \$1,268. Ms Funk drew attention to the Notes on page 7, relating to the Shared Ministry Trust Funds, Youth Ministry Trust Funds, a pre-payment of the TENS subscription and higher than normal 'miscellaneous' expenses due to the Uganda trip.

MOTION: THAT the financial statements for the period ending January 31, 2016 be received.  
G. Pawling  
on behalf of the Finance Committee  
Carried.

Ms Funk suggested having a microphone at the Council. The Chair advised this could be discussed under other business.

2015 Draft Year-end Audited Statements:

Mr. Pawling presented the Balance Sheet, and the position of each of the eight different funds for which the diocese is responsible. He advised that Net Assets -- investments at market value -- are \$4,994,357. Total funds invested with Integra Management are over \$6 M. Because of this the diocese has received a decrease in investment management fees. Note 8 shows how each of the funds in the Net Asset section is broken down in terms of restrictions on the funds.

Mr. Pawling presented The Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund balances for all the funds for 2015. He noted we have an excess of Revenue of \$479,238 in total for the year. In the Operating Fund (the one we are mostly concerned with) our operating budget shows a surplus of \$27,762 for the year ending December 31, 2015. He noted this is due to a decrease in expenditures primarily in Indigenous Ministries. He reported that parish pledge revenue was slightly above the budget amount.

The remainder of the pages contains notes which explain various items on Balance Sheet and Statement of Operations. There will be some changes to these, not necessarily any of the financial numbers, but in way they are presented as the Auditors review them.

MOTION: THAT the 2015 Draft year-end Audited Statements be received.

G. Pawling  
on behalf of Finance Committee  
Carried.

Theological Education Working Group Report

The Bishop presented this 'working group report' as the piece that was yet to come when Council reviewed the Report of the Theological Education Commission, back in March of 2015. This working document was to contain a set of shared expectations for ministry formation based on knowledge, skill and 'being' for ministry competencies, and a list of the resources available to meet these competencies. The Executive Committee has reviewed. The Bishop indicated that this working report is still a 'work in progress' and won't be complete until the Diocese tries to implement it. It represents the best that can be done at this time. The working group was a diverse group of people and it was clear that they did not agree on all aspects of the report, but they worked deeply with the different issues before them. The report represents their consensus.

Both the Executive Committee and the Associates in Episcopal Ministry groups believe the working group exceeded its mandate giving us more than actually mandated. The Working Group also made a significant recommendation -- developing a recommendation in the original report. This group tempered the recommendation for a full time staff person, not because they don't think it is required, but because they don't feel it would be easy to find one person that has both the gifts and skills required. They are not confident that having everything vested in one person is the best way to proceed. It might require several persons in lesser roles, so rather than a full time position for one person, it may need something that is shared among several qualified persons.

Concern was expressed that there is no mention of St. John's College in the report. They have prepared the competencies, then the resources listed but, since the College presently does not offer its own courses, there isn't a course or training program listed from St. John's. As a result there is a deafening silence about St. John's College.

The question was posed: So, with this report, what do we envisage St. John's College might be? Whatever action we take, we need to say we see St. John's as being a player in creating a robust theological climate. The U of Wpg Faculty of Theology will close after they will graduate their current students.

It was felt the Committee did a good job, and produced a report, but was not specific in addressing the concerns we can take back to St. John's to say – here are the findings. Perhaps it was a mistake by not saying to the sub-group you need to factor into this “What might St. John's role be?”

The Diocese and Council recognize the strength and importance of St. John's College in this, but how does this get melded together to allow St. John's to continue to be the resource to the Diocese now and in the future? With the closing of (the faculty of theology at the) University of Winnipeg, all the more reason for St. John's to move to the fore.

One member was extremely disappointed with aspects of the report. Another was not happy with the competencies in forming “Anglicans”. General competencies were noted, but not specifically Anglican competencies.

The Warden of St. John's College noted that St. John's is doing more theology; more outreach, more programs, and is more engaged with public offerings than in recent years. If there is to be any mainline protestant education in this part of the world, then we need to do it together. It is sad that this group overlooked some of the work and partnership that have been worked at over the past few years.

A concern was noted that the working group has dropped the recommendation of formation director. One can have an open model for training of clergy, and have a variety of resources available, but someone needs to facilitate this. For example, a 10 day retreat for all ordinands would be a good event; someone can be hired by contract to lead this retreat, but who determines who attends, and keeps track and assesses it? It would be a serious mistake to not have a Formation Director. If we don't have that, it will fall on the plate of the Bishop or others.

The Working Group's report also calls for the formation of another committee to supervise training for clergy. A comment was made that we're too small a diocese to have four committees to look after the few people we have in training and formation. A suggestion was made that we need only one committee not four. This recommendation seems to be making a more complex structure, rather than a simpler, cleaner system.

The Warden of the College noted that St. John's will continue to develop a program; continue its relationships with other theological bodies in the diocese and elsewhere and will look at the coordination of needs of the diocese, continuing to bring to the wider diocesan community opportunities for theological education for all people.

The Bishop noted that at this Diocesan Council meeting, and at the meeting of the Associates in Episcopal Ministry Meeting, he is hearing a strong voice expressing concerns about the change of the one ‘point-person’ (Formation Director). People weren't arguing about part or full time, but that there is a need for ‘a person’ to drive this. Where does it fit into the larger sense of priorities in the Diocese? We have a stewardship issue -- some other things may need to change in order to fund this.

One of the first pieces was to create a Theological Council for the Diocese of Rupert's Land. If we really value St. John's College we need to give it our full support, and listen to the people who are working in that area. We have an opportunity to strengthen Anglican beliefs here and that is important. Pragmatically speaking: historically, we asked St. John's to respond to our needs: They gave us the Institute for Anglican

ministry, and then a two year diploma program but not enough people came. Has a Market Study been undertaken to see if there is a market. These programs were good and they produced good graduates; but in the long term it was not viable to continue. None of these reports recommend re-opening the Theology program at St. John's.

The Bishop thanked the members for an excellent critique of the work that has been done. It would be accurate to say the Diocesan Council confirmed that the role of the College in this work.

- MOTION:        THAT:  
H.Kennedy/     a) That Diocesan Council receive with thanks the report of the Working Group on  
G. Jackson     Formation of Priests, Deacons and Local Collaborative Ministry Teams in the Diocese of  
                     Rupert's Land (March 2016)  
                     b) That Diocesan Council approve the report of The Theological Education Commission  
                     (March 2015) and the Working Group Report (March 2016) as a framework in fulfilling  
                     the original mandate to develop a robust theological climate within the Diocese of  
                     Rupert's Land for the whole Church paying particular attention to the role of our  
                     Anglican College of St. John's.  
                     c) And, that Diocesan Council request the Bishop to form a Implementation Team  
                     consisting of the following: (at a minimum) a past or present lay member and a past or  
                     present clerical member of the Diocesan Discernment Group on Ordained Ministry; An  
                     Anglican teaching faculty member of a theological education institution; the Warden of  
                     St. John's College; the Bishop.

Carried.

#### Ugandan Companion Diocese Report:

Bishop noted he is acutely aware we are in a relationship with Companion Diocese that is part of the Church of Uganda that is not supportive of the LGBTQ persons; in a country whose treatment of such persons has gotten worse. He raised the matter of a gay man in Winnipeg who has been persecuted in Uganda privately with Bishop Jackson and had a discussion with him. The Church of Uganda and other religious groups prepared a statement against the radical version of a proposed law (a few years ago) against LGBTQ persons.

Dean Paul Johnson was thankful to be part of the visit – sharing why we are going, why are we in relationship. If we don't go, we are breaking off a relationship. We were warmly welcomed, invited to preach and preside and distribute the elements -- evidence of their acceptance of our Church's ministry. The people always asked for a word, a prayer and a blessing. Christ makes us one and the witness to the relationship we have in Christ. Parishes who do not have links would like to have links with parishes in Rupert's Land. Bishop Jackson added two churches that are not yet established, to the visit schedule.

Maweije said it was exciting and challenging for many first-time visitors, as there were many new things for the new delegates to experience. The best part was the last meeting of the Team with the Bishop. He added that there is joy in saying thank you and but saying good bye is always difficult. He was thankful that we are able to remain friends. In two services, Fr. Wayne McIntosh baptized over 100 persons.

A member of the Council commented that the greatest and most powerful way to create change is through relationships and conversations with individuals to create understanding.

The Bishop noted a financial agreement (based on a template from the ELCIC) was signed that standardizes our financial agreements as a companion diocese.

Bishop Jackson retires at the end of this year. This visit was very useful to refresh the relationship as we have not sent a team since 2007. We have strengthened the ministry we have as a companion diocese; and link parishes. They will be back here in October -- a farewell visit for Bishop Jackson and hopefully a chance to meet his successor who will be elected at end of August. The visit will be about 2 – 2.5 weeks culminating at Synod. Archdeacon Jason Musoke will also be part of the delegation to visit Rupert's Land. We hope all three will bring their spouses.

#### Bishop's report on House of Bishops:

The House of Bishops issued a Statement after its special meeting in February. In a nutshell it communicated that it is unlikely the proposed changes in Marriage Canon to be presented to General Synod in 2016, will receive the required 2/3 majority in the House of Bishops. In recognizing this, the Bishops, with good intentions, issued a statement as such. They also indicated that a yes/no vote will not be helpful as there will be losers either way. The House had to decide whether to say something or to keep quiet. The majority of people in our Diocese that the Bishop has spoken with did not appreciate the statement by the House. The Bishop preached at the Mothering Sunday to reflect on some of the major issues, and some people were devastated by his comments, although that was not his intent. The Bishop has since issued a response, which is on the website.

The Bishop invited Tannis Webster, a member of the Council of General Synod, (COGS) and of our Diocese to comment. Tannis indicated there was a great deal of anger among the members of COGS in regard to the Bishops statement as it appeared like they were going to try to steer General Synod. The Bishops don't have authority to make any changes. A concern was raised by the Bishops that they perceived a lack of engagement by the Church to the Report of the Marriage Task Force. COGS countered with the statement that the Bishops were responsible for not dealing with the document in their dioceses and instructing clergy and parishioners to engage the document.

The Bishops suggested that an alternate option might be proposed. This immediately got a negative response at the Council of General Synod meeting. The feeling was that under Christ, all are equal. Everyone is entitled to what the Church has to offer.

Tannis indicated only two words need to be changed in the current Marriage Canon: man/woman; male/female. Tannis indicated voting will be done by electronic means, so no one will know how people voted. There will be facilitated discussion. She encouraged members to follow the daily reports of COGS.

The meeting had already run 20 minutes over time. The Bishop stated that we will not be dealing with a suggestion for a microphone at today's meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.