

Diocese of Rupert's Land
Diocesan Council

Minutes

January 25, 2014
Christ Church, Selkirk

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

R	Allen, Mr. E. Martin	Y	Lysecki, The Rev. Mary
R	Bardsley, The Ven. James*	Y	Mawejje, The Ven. Godfrey*
Y	Braid, Mr. E. Arthur*	A	McKenzie, The Rev. Donald
Y	Blanchard, The Rev. Jonathan	Y	Parsons, The Rev. Deacon Eric
Y	Carlson, Mr. Sean (a)	Y	Pawling, Mr. Gordon*
Y	Clarke, Ms Margaret*	Y	Pelser, Mrs. Leslie
R	Clow, Mrs. Cathie	Y	Phillips, The Rt. Rev. Donald*
Y	Elliott, The Rev. Dr. Brad	Y	Ross, Mrs. Valerie
Y	Ford, The Rev. Brian	R	Routley, Ms Sharon
Y	Fortier, Ms Roselyn	Y	Silk, Mr. Ian
Y	Hunter, The Rev. Deacon Helen	Y	Sisson, The Ven. Jennifer*
Y	James, Dr. June	A	Solomon, The Rev. Vincent (a)
R	Johnson, The Very Rev. Paul*	Y	Stagg, Mr. Roger (a)
Y	Kennedy, The Rev. Helen	Y	Thagard, Mrs. Claudine
Y	Kawka, Mr. Bill (a)	Y	Trott, Dr. Christopher* (Warden St. John's College)
Y	Lado, Mr. David	R	Webster, Ms Tannis
A	Laki, The Rev. Justin	Y	West, Mrs. Lorraine
Y	Laldin, The Rev. Edmund		

Staff: Mrs. Susan Suppes (Secretary of Diocesan Council)

The Bishop opened the meeting. Incumbent, Brad Elliott welcomed the Council to Christ Church and led opening worship. The Bishop welcomed Sean Carlson a new appointee to the Council in his position as Chair of Companion Diocese Committee.

Minutes of the Meeting of November 30, 2013

The minutes were reviewed and found to be in order.

MOTION: THAT the minutes of November 30, 2013 be approved.

Fortier/Trott

Carried

Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of December 2013 and January 2014

MOTION: THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of December 17, 2013 be James/ received.

Mawejje

Carried

MOTION: THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of January 14, 2014 be Parsons/ received.

Thagard

Carried

Paying down the Line of Credit:

The Executive Committee at its meeting of December 17, 2013 recommended to Council that it authorize the paying off the line of credit owed to the Rupert's Land Capital Fund (RLCF) by the Diocese by accessing funds in the New Church Development Fund.

The Treasurer noted that Canon 19 (on disestablishment) sets out five points on how allocations of assets from sale of disestablished parishes are to be made. One of these points is "the needs of the diocese as a whole, whether in the area of operations, capital, trust or endowment funds." [Funds in the New Church Development fund are primarily the result of the sale of assets of disestablished parishes.] Mr. Pawling advised that the Diocese has made applications to 12 granting foundations to help offset the cost of the Accessibility Project for 935 Nesbitt Bay and has not been successful yet in securing a grant. There is one outstanding application from the Anglican Foundation for a grant of \$15,000.

The total cost of the Accessibility project was \$255,000. Of that \$150,000 was funded by means of a line of credit from the RLCF Inc. That is the amount we are short from this project.

Mr. Pawling makes the point that Canon 19 a) 4, iv) makes it possible for us to eliminate the debt owed to the RLCF. There are no other resources available and the only other option is to amortize this line of credit through the diocesan budget over 10 years, at \$15,000 per year plus interest. This way of addressing the matter is unattainable given the capacity for the diocesan budget to service this loan.

The New Church Development Fund (NCDF) has a balance of \$910,000 as of Dec 31/13. Earnings for the 2013 year were very good which has improved all trust funds of the Diocese which total \$5M. If the application to the Anglican Foundation is approved, the grant of \$15,000 would go back into the NCDF.

Concern was raised that it was Synod in 2008 that set the terms of the New Church Development Fund. The Chancellor advised that the resolution of Synod 2008 was beyond authority of the Synod to pass. It should not have been able to do this without amending the Canon. No resolution of Synod can override the power of a Canon which is in place, without Synod first amending the Canon. The resolution of Synod 2008 becomes advisory, not binding. It is an indication of a preference. The Canon trumps the Synod motion.

Discussion in favour and against taking funds from the Line of Credit ensued.

Mr. Pawling moved the motion on behalf of the Executive Committee:

MOTION: THAT, pursuant to the authority in Canon 19, 4. (a) iv, up to \$150,000 of the New Church
Pawling/ Development Fund be reallocated to the Nesbitt Bay Accessibility Project to repay the
line of credit to the Rupert's Land Capital Fund.

Carried.

(A request was made to record the number of votes opposed: 3 against)

Report of the Finance Committee:

Mr. Pawling presented the Financial Statements of the operating fund for the period Nov 30/13, which shows a deficit of \$3.00. Mr. Pawling noted that the work is happening on year end, as well as finalizing the 2014 budget. The Diocesan Investment portfolio with Integra Management produced income return of 13.5%. We will be making the 4% distribution as per diocesan policy. For the 2014 year, the Budget Committee and Investment Committee may make a recommendation to make a distribution of

5%. Mr. Pawling noted we have one more year to amortize the stock market loss of 2008. The final year for the five-year amortization policy would be 2014.

November 30, 2013 Financial Statements

MOTION: THAT the financial statements to November 30, 2013 be received.

Pawling/Kawka

Carried.

Update on the Accessibility Funding:

The total expenses to date are \$244,579 and we have accessed \$140,000 of line of credit. We still have \$16,000 in hold backs to pay. We are nearing completion of the project.

Budget 2014:

We are working to finalize the 2014 budget. Parishes are asked for preliminary Common Ministry and Mission (CM&M) amounts to enable preliminary work. The final budget will be presented once we know final numbers from the parishes.

It was asked if we have done projections for 5-10 years down the road. We do 2-year projections for income because the calculation of CM&M revenue is based on parish income. Do we need to do some longer term planning in the Diocese for our budget? We should be at least looking at the present trends.

Update on the Parish of St. Francis:

The Bishop invited one of the members of the new parish of St. Francis to report. She noted that there may be a small operating deficit until one of the two buildings is sold. Some folks are having a hard time making the adjustment, but there is commitment and desire to see this succeed. The Bishop was there the first Sunday in January to establish the parish and preached a good sermon. Last Sunday the local Lutheran church closed, and the Parish of St. Francis has extended an invitation to Christ Lutheran members to join the Anglican Parish of St. Francis. Overall, things are going well.

Parish of St. Barnabas:

The Bishop indicated that this is one of the instances where the local parish would benefit from assistance from the wider diocese in discerning its future. The Bishop is calling a Commission, in accordance with Canon 19, to respond to the question: what is best for the people of the parish of St. Barnabas? A guiding principle has been: what way forward will offer the Anglican opportunity for enriching worship, pastoral care, development of gifts and opportunity to use these gifts in the world? What is best for the people of St. Barnabas? The Commission will work with the parish and share its report with the Bishop and the parish before it comes to the Council. The Commission will be chaired by Archdeacon Mawejje, and according to Canon will consist of two 2 clergy (Mawejje and Helen Kennedy) and two lay members of Synod (Claudine Thagard and Kim McIntyre Leighton). The Commission will undertake this task in six weeks, and will bring its preliminary report to March Executive Committee and a full and final report at Diocesan Council in March. The report will be shared with the parish before it is shared more widely.

Update on proposal for Indigenous Ministry Developer

There has been one RLIC meeting in mid-January. The Development Team has yet to meet. There is nothing further to report to the Council at this time. A response will be coming for the March meeting.

Response to Synod A-4

Resolution A-4 of the 2012 Synod requests consultation throughout the Diocese to formulate a Mission and Ministry plan in which short-term goals can be shared and acted upon, and the goal results, with short and long-term objectives be reported to the Synod.

This resolution was prompted by the less than flattering Feasibility Study Report. This report prompted the Bishop's address to Synod; the work that is on-going with the Archdeacons, and the establishment of the Associates In Episcopal Ministry. He noted that we have done several things, but have not thought of them in terms of objectives of a ministry plan.

The over-arching principle on which the Bishop is working is that: every Anglican has opportunity to engage in spiritually enriching worship and to participate in, and be supported by, a community which, through holistic stewardship of its life, enables the discovery, development and deployment of all its members as disciples of Jesus Christ in our contemporary context.

The Bishop will share this with the Associates in Episcopal Ministry next week and bring something back to the Council. Gone are the days to do the 5-year plan which says we will achieve these goals, but there are certain things that can be done -- much more principled rather than static objectives. The real mission and ministry of the church happens at the parish level. We can create a vision to guide our common work, and then within our diversity, each parish will determine how to play that out in their own context. Each parish's discipleship may look different -- parishes can discern that for themselves.

Bishop reported he has visited all six deanery clergy gatherings and received feedback on their progress on Discovery, Development and Deployment. The Bishop will share this information through a series of articles in the Rupert's Land News beginning in February.

The Diocese gathered at Synod 2014 will discuss what we 'together' ought to be doing. Is this V & V 3 -- this is what we are doing -- Parishes are having conversations arising from V & V 1 and 2. V & V 3 is happening, as the learnings and insights of V & V 1 and 2 are implemented.

Call for Peace in South Sudan:

The Bishop will send out a letter to the Clergy acknowledging and thanking the National Church for doing what they have done as "the gathered church" that we, alone, could not do.

A letter from the Primate to the Prime Minister was circulated. The Bishop is very proud that they have been able to do this so well... and so fast. Next week there will be a statement from the Church about this.

It was suggested that the Primate's letter should be copied to both the Archbishop there, and to the Prime Minister there. It would be helpful if the Government of South Sudan knew what is happening in Canada with regard to supporting them.

Update on the southern region of Keewatin;

The work of the Task Force is proceeding. Our three representatives (Bishop Donald, Archdeacon Mawejje and Rev. Merv Lanctot) went to Keewatin this week to meet with the Archbishop, Dean Jim Dugan and Wayne McIntosh. The parishes of Thompson and Churchill are going to the Diocese of Brandon. They discussed the funds that Keewatin Southern Region will have and what needs they have that we need to pay attention to. Rules and procedures, and the Constitution, all need to be looked at particularly because the southern part of Keewatin is in the civil Province of Ontario. In Manitoba some things are done differently: we have deaneries, we have archdeaconries. They have one deanery that

does not meet as regularly as we do. As we are working on the merger, there is much to learn along the way. We talked about the Synod. The question of whether they are members or visitors of Synod will be determined by how soon the merger comes to be. If it happens in September they are delegates -- If afterwards they are guests. There are many things to be considered and we need to be sensitive to the uncertainty. We need to open our arms as wide as we can.

On the financial end, Bernice will need to meet with their treasurer; Gordon Pawling will be asked to put together terms of reference re: their assets. Merv will work with our Compensation Committee. There are a significant number of non-stipendiary clergy in Keewatin the majority of whom are incumbents. We will need to consult with the Chancellor regarding the canons, etc.

In terms of representation at Synod, they want to send 1 clergy and 1 lay from each parish, if they are guests, but they are electing delegates now so should the change happen sooner. We can also consider inviting them to be billeted in our homes. The idea was put that we be 'companions'.

Margaret Clarke indicated that we will need some creative minds and actions to help us put together how we present who we are (perhaps that would be in the way of a skit) that is enlightening and enlivens the Synod.

Discussion re: Membership in our Diocesan Synod –

General Synod is changing the way in which it re-constitutes its membership -- Should we be looking at this for our own synod?

We have a lot of ex officio people. Is the gathering of synod a question of letting the parishes know and be involved in the wider diocese? We have a larger than efficient Council and Synod. But if you're looking at getting people involved, then you want many from the parish to be involved, same goes for Diocesan Council.

Synod delegates don't really function the way they should in the Canon. Could at least one warden be a synod delegate? Synod is seen as the gathering of the church that comes together to deliberate, make decisions, and grow together.

The Bishop indicated he will continue this discussion at the Executive Committee.

Other Business;

The Mothering Sunday service is a time where representatives from each of the parishes gather. It is a liturgical, sacramental, worshipful, time when we are challenged to in our mission and ministries. The service is Sunday evening, March 30, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Cathedral.

Adjournment:

As there was no further business a motion to adjourn was put.