

**154th Regular Session of Synod
MINUTES
Doubletree by Hilton-Toronto Airport
November 25 and 26, 2011**

*Celebrating this fragile earth:
Growing Communities of Hope and Compassion*

Friday, November 25, 2011

Pursuant to the notice, the opening of the 154th Regular Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto assembled at 9:45 a.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton, Toronto Airport.

Eucharist

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson presided at the Eucharist.

Synod Opens

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called the meeting to order.

Constitution of the Meeting

Report of the Court on Contested Seats

Canon Robert Falby, Chancellor, reported that, prior to Synod, the Court on Contested Seats met to review a protest on behalf of a retired priest who lost their voting status at Synod under Section 2(4) of *The Constitution*, but has subsequently been appointed as interim priest-in-charge of a Parish.

The Court on Contested Seats concluded that the retired cleric was entitled to vote at Synod but suggested that the question of voting rights for retired clerics who have lost the right to vote should be referred to the Constitution and Canons Committee for future consideration.

Report of the Committee on Credentials

Canon Robert Falby, Chancellor, further noted that the Committee on Credentials reports that all Clerical and Lay Members here gathered are entitled to take seats at Synod.

Announcements

The Honorary Secretaries made several housekeeping announcements.

Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston and SECONDED by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham that the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

General Synod Elections

Pursuant to *The Constitution*, Section 33, at the session immediately preceding a session of the General Synod, the Diocese of Toronto shall elect the prescribed number of Clerical and Lay Members to the General Synod by ballot. The Diocese of Toronto is entitled to elect nine clerical and nine lay members.

No additional nominations were received; however, it was noted that the ballot had been updated in the Synod information packages since the original package was circulated.

MOVED by Mr. Chris Ambidge and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon E. A. (Betty) Jordan that the nominations for Clerical and Lay Members to the General Synod be closed.

CARRIED.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson announced that Youth Members of Synod would be gathering on Saturday, November 26, 2011 in a caucus to elect a Youth Member of General Synod from the Diocese of Toronto.

Provincial Synod Elections

Pursuant to *The Constitution*, Section 35, at the session immediately preceding a session of the Provincial Synod, the Diocese of Toronto shall elect the prescribed number of Clerical and Lay Members to the Provincial Synod by ballot. The Diocese of Toronto is entitled to elect four clerical and four lay members.

No additional nominations were received; however, it was noted that the ballot had been updated in the Synod information packages since the original package was circulated.

MOVED by Mr. Chris Ambidge and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon Prudence Chambers that the nominations for Clerical and Lay Members to the Provincial Synod be closed.

CARRIED.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson announced that he appointed Jenny Salisbury, a member of St. Clement, Eglinton, as the Youth Member from the Diocese of Toronto.

Omnibus Motion

Minutes of the 153rd Regular Session of Synod

MOVED by Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston and SECONDED by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham that the reading of the Minutes of the 153rd Regular Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held on May 29-30, 2009 in Oshawa, and November 21, 2009 in Toronto, be dispensed with, and the Minutes of the said Regular Session, as prepared by the Honorary Secretaries, be adopted and confirmed as the Minutes of the said Synod.

CARRIED.

Minutes of the Corporate (Financial) Session of Synod

MOVED by Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston and SECONDED by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham that the reading of the minutes of the Corporate (Financial) Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held on June 19, 2010 in Toronto be dispensed with, and the Minutes of the said Session, as prepared by the Honorary Secretaries, be adopted and confirmed as the Minutes of the said Synod.

CARRIED.

Courtesies of the House

MOVED by Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston and SECONDED by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham that the following be given Courtesies of the House: All clergy with "Informal

Permission”; all postulants of the Diocese; any lay chairperson, deanery council member, or area council member not a member of Synod; Ecumenical partners; lay faculty of theological colleges; Members of the Threshold Ministries; Members of the Order of the Holy Cross; Sisters of St. John the Divine; Sisters of the Church; Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit; and Parish Administrators.

CARRIED.

York Rectory Commissioners and Committee on Etobicoke Glebe

MOVED by Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston and SECONDED by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham that the report of the First York Rectory Commission be received, and that the following be appointed Commissioners for the distribution of the First York Rectory Fund and the Etobicoke Glebe for 2012 and 2013: Canon Robert L. Falby, Chancellor; Ms. Clare Burns, Vice Chancellor; and Mr. Peter Davidson.

CARRIED.

Advisory Commission on Termination of Clerical Appointment

MOVED by Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston and SECONDED by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham that the following be elected by Synod to the Advisory Commission on Termination of Clerical Appointments for 2012 and 2013: The Rev. Canon Stephen Fields, Ms. Delores Lawrence, and Ms. Robyn Ryan Bell.

CARRIED.

Court on Contested Seats

Synod was informed that, in accordance with *The Constitution*, Section 7, the Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson has appointed the following members of Synod to the Court on Contested Seats: Canon Robert Falby, Chancellor; Mr. Paul Baston, Registrar; Mr. Leonard Leader; The Rev. Heather McCance; Ms. Anne Oram; The Rev. Canon Stephen Peake; and Ms. Garcia Robinson.

Scrutineers

Synod was informed that, in accordance with *The Constitution*, Section 18, at its September 2011 meeting, the Diocesan Council appointed the following members of Synod as Scrutineers for this session of Synod: The Rev. Dr. John Stephenson and Mr. David Thornton.

Timekeepers

Synod was informed that the following were appointed as Timekeepers for this Session of Synod: Ms. Jo-Anne Billinger; Ms. Julie Burn; Ms. Carol Friesen; Brother Randy Greve; Ms. Megan Jull; Mr. Ian LaFleur; Ms. Julie Meakin; Mr. Mark Regis; Ms. Susan Spicer; Mr. Jordan Wellington; and Mr. Kevin Wong.

Regrets

Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston reported that regrets were received from the following active and retired clergy who were unable to attend Synod: The Rev. June Abel; The Very Rev. S. Duncan Abraham; The Rev. David C. Adams; The Rev. Ruth M. Adams; The Rev. Donald W. Anderson; The Rev. Theodore S. Bartlett; The Rev. Canon Donald Beatty; The Rt. Rev. Douglas Blackwell; The Rev. Sara Boyles; The Rev. Arthur Bromley; The Rev. Keith C. Byer; The Rev. Donald A. Catton; The Rev. James Chu; The Rev. Canon Thomas Crawford;

The Rev. Canon Frederick A. Cross; The Rev. Canon Trevor C. Denny; The Rev. Donald Downer; The Rev. Patricia D. Dutfeld; The Rev. Canon Dr. R. Timothy Elliott; The Rev. Canon Alan Ferguson; The Most Rev. Terence E. Finlay; The Rev. David M. Flint; The Rev. Canon Timothy D. Foley; The Rev. Canon John R. Fralick; The Rev. Canon Dr. Brian D. Freeland; The Rev. Canon Kenneth Fung; The Rev. Earl Gerber; The Rev. Dawn M. Gilby; The Rev. Floyd E. Green; The Rev. Edward T. Hales; The Rev. Beverly Anne Hall; The Rev. Hollis Hiscock; The Rev. Roy A. Hault; The Rev. Stanley Isherwood; The Rev. Doug Jacques; The Rev. Richard Johns; The Rev. Randal Johnston; The Rev. Kenneth Keen; The Rev. Dr. Ron Kydd; The Rev. William G. Leach; The Rev. Canon David E. Lemon; The Rev. William G. Linley; The Rev. Dr. Michael J. Lloyd; The Rev. Roger J. Maggs; The Rev. Murray G. McColl; The Rev. Mary Louise Meadow; The Rev. David C. Metcalfe; The Rev. Canon Bruce Mutch; The Rev. Peter J. Orme; The Rev. Canon Sonjie E. Pearson; The Ven. David H. E. Peasgood; The Rev. Canon Gregory W. A. Physick; The Rev. Canon Murray Porter; The Rev. Dr. Cyril H. Powles; The Rev. Barbara Ramsay; The Rev. Canon Dr. Jack R. Roberts; The Rev. Robert A. Ross; The Rev. Philip F. Rowswell; The Rev. G. Arnold Ruskell; The Rev. Mary Ryback; The Rev. William L. Sharpe; The Rev. Ann Shorrocks; The Rev. Elsie Stephenson; The Rev. Canon John A. Thompson; The Rt. Rev. Ann Elizabeth Tottenham; The Ven. Judith G. Walton; The Rev. Christopher Glynn Williams; and The Rev. Canon Byron B. Yates.

Introductions

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson announced that Ms. Robyn Ryan Bell had been appointed Vice Chancellor of the Diocese, succeeding Mr. Tim Hadwen. He then made the following introductions:

Officers of the Diocese

Suffragan Bishops: The Rt. Rev. George Elliott; The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls; The Rt. Rev. Philip Poole; and The Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu.

Chancellor: Canon Robert Falby

Vice Chancellors: Ms. Clare Burns and Ms. Robin Ryan Bell

Registrar: Mr. Paul Baston

Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary of Synod: The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Hardy

Honorary Lay Secretary: Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston

Honorary Clerical Secretary: The Rev. Judith Herron-Graham

Assistant Honorary Lay Secretary: Mr. Chris Ambidge

Treasurer and Director of Finance: Mr. Michael Joshua

Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. James: The Very Rev. Douglas Stoute

Archdeacons: The Ven. Peter Fenty, Archdeacon of York and Executive Officer; and The Ven. Gordon Finney, Archdeacon of Trent Durham

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Stephen Scharper, Professor, University of Toronto

Partners:

The Rt. Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church; and

The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop

Chaplain

The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes, OHC

Reflections since last Synod in 2009

The Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, Dean of Toronto, updated Synod members on the progress of the *Our Faith, Our Hope* ministry campaign. His reflections centered on the vision and of *Our Faith, Our Hope*, how the vision we have as Church changes over time, and how we, in a new age, are called to develop a new vision. He stated that *Our Faith, Our Hope* provides a vision for the Church which invites a global passion for the gospel. This vision has been captured in the case made for *Our Faith, Our Hope*, a campaign that aims to raise \$50.0 million.

The Very Rev. Douglas Stoute urged parishes to carefully follow the advice and expertise offered by Community Counselling Service (CCS) as, this advice has proved very effective for parishes; the results are impressive and many churches are beginning to receive benefits.

The Rev. Gary van der Meer reminded members that, at the opening of the last session of Synod in May 2009 whilst delivering his charge to Synod, Archbishop Johnson encouraged us to try new things, to take some risks within our parishes, so we could reach new people with the gospel.

Mr. van der Meer then informed members that, during Synod, they would be viewing some video clips highlighting the undertakings of a diverse range of parishes in response to that invitation from the Archbishop. He then introduced the first video clip.

Members viewed a video clip from *The Road Trip*, featuring the Fresh Expressions Working Group.

Diocesan Council's Report to Synod on the Plans and Priorities 2009-2011

The Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid noted that a presentation on Diocesan Council's report to Synod was made at each of the Pre-Synod meetings in which each Area Bishop highlighted some of the key achievements within their Episcopal area. The report focused and highlighted the actions taken over the last two years to achieve the strategic priorities of the Diocese.

A total of 43 parishes have met or exceeded their campaign goal. The Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid then highlighted some key parish achievements.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor to debate. No one approached the microphone.

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid and SECONDED by Mr. Kennedy Marshall that Synod receive the document entitled *Diocesan Council's Report to Synod on the Plans and Priorities 2009-2011* as approved by Diocesan Council, who forwarded it to Synod with the recommendation it be adopted.

CARRIED.

Bishop's Charge

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson delivered his Charge to Synod (Attachment A).

Adjournment

The morning session adjourned.

Synod Resumes

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called the meeting to order.

Announcements

The Honorary Secretaries made several housekeeping announcements and reminded members that that balloting for General Synod and Provincial Synod would close at 4:00 p.m.

MOVED by Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston and SECONDED by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham that the following members who arrived after the close of registration be permitted to vote: Ms. Lynda McKerr, St. John the Baptist, Lakefield; Ms. Emma Mitrovic, San Lorenzo Ruiz; Mr. Denny George, Trinity, Streetsville; Mr. Stephen Masson, St. Paul on-the-Hill; and The Rev. Dr. Drew MacDonald, St. John, York Mills.

CARRIED.

Audited Financial Statements

Mr. Paul Singleton, a member of the Audit Committee, noted that the Chairman of the Audit Committee, Mr. Don Gillespie, could not be present at Synod and had sent his regrets. In lieu of the chairmen, Mr. Singleton then presented three financial statements for The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto; The Consolidated Trust Fund of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto; and The Cemetery Fund of The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, giving background as to the process by which they were finalized and audited.

Mr. Singleton reported that the Auditors have issued an unqualified opinion on each of the three financial statements. The Audit Committee has reviewed the work of the auditors and management with respect to the preparation of the financial statements. On the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Financial Statements have been approved by Diocesan Council on behalf of the corporation.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson noted that the Financial Statements were available on the Diocesan website or by request from the Diocesan Centre. Presentations on the financial statements were made at each of the four area Pre-Synod meetings and questions raised, along with answers at those meetings were posted on the website. Questions were invited but no one approached the microphone.

MOVED by Mr. Kennedy Marshall and SECONDED by the Rev. Richard Miller that Synod receive the audited Financial Statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the year ended December 31, 2010.

CARRIED.

MOVED by Mr. Kennedy Marshall and SECONDED by the Rev. Richard Miller that Synod receive the audited Financial Statements for the Consolidated Trust Fund of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the year ended December 31, 2010.

CARRIED.

MOVED by Mr. Kennedy Marshall and SECONDED by the Rev. Richard Miller that Synod receive the audited Financial Statements for the Cemetery Fund of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the year ended December 31, 2010.

CARRIED.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson thanked members of the Audit Committee for their assistance to the Diocese in their important governance role.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson also thanked members of the Investment Committee and recognized that it is not an easy time to be overseeing investments.

Auditors

MOVED by Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston and SECONDED by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham that Synod appoint the firm of Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants, to conduct the audit of the Financial Statements of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the year ending December 31, 2011 at a fee to be approved by the Audit Committee.

CARRIED.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson sought the consent of Synod that two further late arrivals be accorded registration and voting privileges.

Late Arrivals

MOVED by Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston and SECONDED by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham the following members that arrived since the close of registration be permitted to vote: The Rev. Ariel Dumaran, San Lorenzo Ruiz; and The Rev. Canon Donald Butler, Nativity, Malvern.

CARRIED.

Priorities and Plans 2011-2013

The Rt. Rev. George Elliott thanked the Budget Committee for their work in preparing the budget and noted that it is not an easy task to balance the needs of Diocese and the needs of parishes. He reported that, as found in Section D of the Convening Circular and discussed at Pre-Synod meetings, the Budget Working Group and Diocesan Council recommended a budget that increased spending from \$7,697,883 in 2011 to \$8,066,813 in 2012, and to \$8,267,518 in 2013, increases of \$368,930 and \$200,705, respectively.

To attain this, the parish allotment has increased to \$5,786,993 for 2012 and \$5,955,640 for 2013. These increases are directly tied to achieving the Priorities and Plans for 2011 through 2012. A number of these priorities had been introduced and had incurred expenditures during 2010 and 2011 after the last budget had been approved in 2009. The 2012 allotment is \$1.3 million less than the allotment of 5 years ago.

Major items that are ongoing and affect the 2012-2013 budgets, but were not originally accounted for in the budgets of 2010 and 2011 include:

1. Advertisements in print media to achieve the priority of a more cutting edge communications strategy.
2. Additional Diocesan staffing to ensure a dedicated assistant to each Episcopal Area, and additional Diocesan committees such as Fresh Expressions, Missional Reconfiguration and Parish Selection Committee to achieve the priority of reconfiguring our structures in ways to support parishes.
3. The introduction of the Bishop's Officer for Mission to achieve the priority of assisting parishes and the Diocese in planting new churches and supporting innovative ways to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. The introduction of the Missional Transformation Coach and program to achieve the priority of equipping lay and ordained leaders by supporting experienced mentors, coaches and volunteers.
5. Funding appropriately for our rigorous Sexual Misconduct Policy and Practices. The tri-annual Sexual Misconduct Policy Training of all our clergy is an important corporate requirement; it achieves our priority of building safe and healthy communities.
6. Investing in the Diocesan Ambassador of Reconciliation to continue to reconcile the church with the people that were affected by the Residential School systems of the past.

New initiatives were kept at a minimum but include:

1. An advocacy intern who was hired at the end of 2011 to assist the Diocesan Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant with plans for the Justice Camp which will be hosted by us in Peterborough in 2012.
2. A scanner for the Archives department to replace the obsolete equipment which is over 20 years old and hinders the work of the Archives department.
3. Resources to focus on diversity initiatives to support parishes that find themselves with a variety of cultures in their community.
4. An additional Congregational Development Consultant in 2013 to increase the capacity of the Diocese to support the congregational health of our parishes.
5. Funding for a Planned Giving Consultant in 2013 to be funded partly by the Diocese and partly by the National Church to work with potential donors to arrange for planned and legacy givings such as wills and bequests.

Items that are not being brought back into the budget at the same level include:

1. Replacing the Senior Administrative Officer
2. Replacing the Administration and Property Support Assistant with a half-time Assistant who is split with the Finance department
3. Support for the Wider Church which is supplemented with the tithing that is done from the Ministry Allocation Fund receipts on an annual basis.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor to debate.

The highlights of the viewpoints expressed and observations made included:

- ❖ Clarification was sought on how debate on the assessment rate could follow this budget debate, as the assessment rate provides the revenue upon which the budget is predicated. Concern was then expressed regarding the increase in the assessment rate at a time when parishes are being asked to contribute to *Our Faith Our Hope* and cope with the economic downturn. There was fear that this increase will put more parishes into a situation where they are fighting to maintain their economic status, detracting energy from mission. Because of the aforementioned agenda order, the member expressed a desire to vote against both motions.
- ❖ Appreciation was expressed for the narrative budget. The view that missional work is best done at the local level appeared contrary to this budget which takes money from local parishes to fund the central Diocesan budget.
- ❖ Information was requested on the history of funding for truth and reconciliation ministries. Mr. Michael Joshua, Treasurer and Director of Finance, responded by stating that these issues have been before the church for a number of years. As the Truth & Reconciliation hearings began, the Diocese identified ambassadors to provide support as stories were told. The Diocese has provided around \$5,000, mostly in travel. Funding has been provided through specific fundraising and Ministry Allocation Funds.
- ❖ Clarification was requested about the implications of the increase in allotment in relation to receipts.
- ❖ Concern was expressed that information provided to Synod members in advance of the Pre-Synod meetings was not detailed enough to make a decision as to how to vote. More detailed budget documents were requested in the future.
- ❖ An observation was made that one of the budget challenges is that the Diocese is carrying a line of credit that covers parishes that are not paying their assessment or stipend for clergy.
- ❖ Clarification was requested regarding 'merit pay' for Diocesan staff in terms of the criteria, i.e. who is expected to receive it and who makes the decisions. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson responded that Diocesan pay scales do not include an annual incremental increase as is the case with clergy. The only way staff can move up the scale is if such an increase is applied by the supervisor for exemplary performance. There is no provision in the 2012 budget for such increases. The only pay increase for Diocesan staff will be the cost of living adjustment.
- ❖ A question was asked about how the arrears referred to earlier affect the increase in allotment. Mr. Michael Joshua responded that currently almost \$2 million is outstanding from parishes. This is a result of situations where the Diocese has paid clergy but not received money from parishes and it has been reflected in the budget for 2012-2013.
- ❖ Appreciation was expressed for Diocesan support received for a missional program at St. John, West Toronto and it was noted that Natural Church Development (NCD) and Mission Shaped Church are really about work at the parish level; the divide between Diocesan and parish funding is not as clear as has been suggested.
- ❖ An enquiry was made as to the impact of *Our Faith Our Hope* on costs and revenues for the Diocese. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson clarified that campaign revenue will continue to grow over a five year pledge period with installments paid out to parishes every three months. Once the Diocese has secured a significant capital

base, likely in mid-to-late 2013, distribution of funds to the various program areas identified in the case document will begin. Prior to that, however, an allocations committee will be established with a mandate to develop an application procedure for parishes, review submissions and recommend allocations. No revenue will be used in 2012. There is potential for some to be used in 2013, but that is still uncertain and is not part of current calculations. It is proposed not to set the assessment rate for 2013 until part-way through 2012.

- ❖ It was confirmed that if the budget motion is passed, there is flexibility built in for 2013 based on revenues.
- ❖ A member noted that often it is the same group of parishes in deficit. Sometimes it seems as if the message that someone else is paying doesn't get through to people in the pews. It was suggested that getting people in deficit parishes to work with neighboring parishes might make this perception more real. The Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu responded that we have had some success in the last year in dealing with parishes in deficit. This is also reflected in the culture of survival that this budget addresses. On one hand there are opportunities for growth and reform that require money. On the other hand the impact of the recession is making us think about restraint. This budget offers the opportunity to do the risky thing.
- ❖ A member spoke in support of maintaining the best people we can at the Diocesan level with adequate funding for staffing.
- ❖ A member queried whether interest is charged to parishes that covers the cost of line of credit charges. Mr. Michael Joshua responded that some of this is recovered from the parishes. The amount paid out is slightly more than what is recovered.
- ❖ It was noted that, for *Our Faith Our Hope*, each parish is encouraged to develop a case statement for money coming back to them.
- ❖ A member asked what the implications were should the motion be defeated. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson responded that we could hold another Synod, though this would be at a cost of around \$200,000. He further clarified that the allotment figure proposed in the 2012 budget equates to 2007 levels and is less than the 2005 level. If allotment figures are adjusted for Cost of Living Adjustment, the revised figure for 1997 would be \$7.66 million. In real terms, the allotment figure has been decreasing since 1997. Archbishop Johnson reminded Synod that ministry takes place at both Diocesan and parish levels and that the question in front of Synod is whether this budget is the appropriate budget for the work of the Diocese at this time.
- ❖ A remark was made on the fluctuations in funding for Administration and the CAO. It was further requested that a copy of the allotment slide be sent to all parishes. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson responded that CAO and Administrative costs have been reduced through staffing cuts.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson notified Synod that a Corporate (Financial) Synod will be held in 2012 to approve the Assessment Rate for 2013 and make any necessary course corrections to the budget.

MOVED by the Rt. Rev. George Elliott and SECONDED by the Rev. Ted McCollum that Synod receive the document entitled "High-Level Financial Picture – Narrative Financial Budget for 2011 to 2013" as recommended by Diocesan Council and approve the priorities

and the financial plans contained therein. It was further moved that Diocesan Council implement and report back to the Synod on this plan, and take corrective measures from time to time as best serves the needs of this Diocese.

CARRIED.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson thanked the Rt. Rev. George Elliott and members of the Budget Committee for their hard work. He also thanked Synod members for their questions.

Assessment Rate

The Ven. Gordon Finney reported that the Diocesan Allotment is the portion of the Diocesan Budget to be raised from parishes and represents the amount needed to balance the Diocesan Budget. Canon 4 sets out how each congregation's share or allotment is to be determined.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor for questions.

Highlights of the discussion included:

- ❖ A member asked about the potential impact of a motion coming to Synod on Saturday regarding the payment of musicians. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson responded that since this has not been included in current budget plans, it probably would not be possible to implement in 2012 if it passed. He further noted that, because the motion does not come forward with recommendation of Diocesan Council, it would require two meetings of Synod before it came into effect. If such a motion were to pass, the earliest it could take effect would be 2014.

MOVED by the Ven. Gordon Finney and SECONDED by the Rev. Margaret Rodrigues that the Parish Assessment Rate, as defined in Canon 4, Section 2, be 24.39% for 2012, as recommended by Diocesan Council.

CARRIED.

Members' Time

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called on the Rt. Rev. Philip Poole to chair the next portion of the meeting.

The Rt. Rev. Philip Poole took the chair and reminded members of the rules for Members' Time as are found in *The Constitution*, Section 38(20). Members were invited to approach the microphones.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Stephen Scharper addressed Synod on the need to reflect on our underlying assumptions regarding our ecological world view. He also paid tribute to those who have the courage to challenge prevailing world views.

Bible Study

Members participated in Bible Study.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Members participated in the following Concurrent Breakout Sessions:

- **Advocacy at a time of Climate Crisis: What is our Christian Calling?** *Presenter: Ms. Diane Marshall*
- **Is there a Legitimate Green Reading of the Bible?** *Presenter: The Rev. Stephen Drakeford*
- **Earth Education for the Next Generation: Greening our Sunday Schools** *Presenter: Ms. Ann Bone*
- **The Spirituality of Social Justice** *Presenter: The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald*
- **Local Food** *Presenter: The Rev. Catherine Miller*
- **Practical Parish Actions** *Presenter: Mr. Murray MacAdam*
- **Theology & Ecology – Living Roots: Discovering and Recovering a Theology of Creation Care** *Presenter: Ms. Elin Goulden*
- **Crafting the Prayers of the People in a Time of Climate Crisis** *Presenter: The Rev. John Hill*
- **Urban & Community Gardening** *Presenter: Nastassja Harris*

Adjournment

The afternoon session adjourned.

Synod Resumed

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called the meeting to order.

He informed members that the website www.shapedformission.ca has all the videos that Mr. Mathew Carter has produced and the film from which clips were shown will also be available shortly.

Members viewed a BBC documentary on environmental issues and concerns entitled *Earth the Biography – the Story of our World: Rare Planet*.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Stephen Scharper addressed Synod and gave his second reflection on the connection between socio-economic and ecological issues. He noted that Churches are well placed by their tradition of involvement in social justice issues to embrace the environmental movement. He also spoke of the human cost of alienation from nature, a connection vital to our physical, spiritual and mental wellbeing.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson urged Synod members to read and meditate on Psalm 104.

Adjournment

The evening session adjourned.

Saturday, November 26, 2011

Synod Resumed

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called on the Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls to chair the next portion of the meeting.

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls took the chair and called the meeting to order.

Guest Speaker and Panel Reflections

Dr. Stephen Scharper addressed Synod with a reflection entitled *Moving Beyond Solar Panels*. He challenged the audience to re-vision the way they relate to each other, to the earth and more; he asked Synod members to fall in love with our creation, our ecosystem, to be in a new relation to life and enter into new relationships, into a new love relationship with all that is. He closed with a reading of Psalm 104.

The Rt. Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada gave her perspective. She reflected on Black Friday as a monument to consumerism and greed, and emphasized that Jesus calls us away from personal interests to communal interests. She suggested that Psalm 104 reminds us that this is indeed God's world and challenges us to continue to act against the word 'mine'; the law that needs to be written on our heart should include our relationship with God and our relationship with the earth. Archbishop Johnson closed with a challenge as to where the personal commitment is going to come from, at parish and Diocesan levels and how we can take this home and start changing our lives.

The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, followed with his perspective. He noted that Toronto is the second largest aboriginal city in North America with 85,000 aboriginal people living in the GTA and it is vital for the Diocese of Toronto to address the needs of aboriginal people. The heart of a spiritual revolution in indigenous communities today is the recognition of the risen Christ in our midst that is the hope for change. He further reflected that the presentations have helped us to understand the absolute moral significance of the environment to our Christian faith.

These reflections were followed by a panel discussion, involving Dr. Stephen Scharper, the Rt. Rev. Susan Johnson and the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, and moderated by Ms. Heather Steeves, Congregational Development Volunteer Coordinator of the Diocese. Synod members were invited to ask questions, respond and react.

Dr. Stephen Scharper responded by thanking the Rt. Rev. Susan Johnson and the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald for their gracious reflections. He invited Synod members to bring to mind a natural space from childhood, asking what has happened to this land since, how it has been preserved or destroyed and what this feels like.

The floor was opened for questions to the panel.

Q Concerns were noted regarding the 'mega-quarry' proposed in East Dufferin and expressed the need for governmental controls and for the Church to take a stand on this issue.

- A Dr. Stephen Scharper responded that the hope is that this is a project that can be stopped and noting that there is a precedent for this in which the aboriginal community was instrumental.
- Q A question was directed to the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald asking which languages he speaks.
- A The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald responded that has a working knowledge of four or five indigenous languages that he can use liturgically, particularly Ojibway and Navaho.
- Q A question, directed to Dr. Stephen Scharper, asked how we can grapple with the need for cities to grow at a practical, not just an ideological level.
- A Dr. Stephen Scharper responded that we have to ask whether the proposed projects are in keeping with the common good or are helping the poor. We have to bring back a sense of the common good, meshed with a new understanding of the fragile earth and a concern for the least among us.
- Q Members were asked to be aware of the importance of ancestral teachings that spoke of the relationship to the earth. God created man last. We need the things that were created before us.
- A The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald thanked this Synod member for his ministry and acknowledged him as his elder.
- Q Dr. Stephen Scharper was asked for a reflection on the ticking time-bomb of overpopulation.
- A Dr. Stephen Scharper responded that about 8% of the population use about 80% of the earth's resources. A Canadian child's eco footprint is shown to be 300 times that of a child born in Ethiopia. Many Christians are adopting an ethic of fewer children as a part of their commitment. Spiritually, we have to pray about this in terms of what it means as to our human presence on this earth.
- Q A member reflected on the Rt. Rev. Susan Johnson's question as to what we are going to do when we leave here. She suggested that, if we are making a commitment to do something within our communities, it may be easier than in this large group at Synod.
- A The Rt. Rev. Susan Johnson responded that this is a great idea. As an example, she noted that the Occupy movement is now focusing on *Occupy Christmas* in response to the materialization of Christmas. We can take this home to our communities and families and consider what Christmas truly is.
- Q A member spoke of his support for the fight against the mega-quarry. He also asked for signposting on information around recently developed photocell paint.

- A Dr. Stephen Scharper responded that Professors Bryan Karney and Phil Byer of the Centre for Environment at the University of Toronto might be contacts regarding the photocell paint.
- Q A member asked how we can deal with the people who deny the significance of these challenges; how can we mediate between the needs of all these people and at the same time protect the earth; how can we get society to make these difficult decisions between what we need to have and what we can't afford because of the devastation involved.
- A Dr. Stephen Scharper responded that the solution to the environmental crisis is not a silver bullet so much as a silver buckshot approach. Small responses create actions e.g. phasing out bottled water at Ryerson following a comment at a conference. What is needed is a 'biodiversity of approaches'.
- A member challenged the Diocese that a policy of green building should be part of a requirement for any new building.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson thanked Guest Speaker Dr. Stephen Scharper, for his presentations; for helping us think about the whole issue of ecology in a different way; for helping us move beyond helplessness into hopefulness, for helping us reimagine what the world could be like in the context of a new relationship with the whole of creation based on the fact that Jesus Christ is present in our midst. He also thanked the Rt. Rev. Susan Johnson for her call to make this real, not just leave it at the level of theory. He thanked the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald for his gracious presence and workshop leadership.

Motions from Synod Members

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson informed Synod that, as of September 22, 2011, two Notices of Motions had been received.

The first Notice of Motion was received on June 9, 2011 from Ms. Nancy Whitla, Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, and Ms Sue Ferguson, St. John, West Toronto, who confirmed that they still wish to move and second the following motion:

MOVED by Ms. Nancy Whitla and SECONDED by Ms. Sue Ferguson that whereas all the sacraments are for all the baptized: Be it resolved that this Synod memorialize General Synod to amend Canon 21 On Marriage to allow marriage of all persons legally qualified to marry each other; and also That this Synod request the House of Bishops to withdraw the February 1979 Resolution on Sexuality which prevents the ordination of persons in committed same gender relationships.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson reported that Diocesan Council made no recommendation to members of the Synod regarding the above motion.

The Chancellor, Canon Robert Falby, explained that to "memorialize General Synod" is to forward a note about a particular issue to General Synod; it does not require any action to be taken. He reported that notice was given that the mover and seconder have suggested that

this motion be split into two parts. The house did not object. Nancy Whitla and Sue Ferguson confirmed that they wished the motion to be split.

Ms. Nancy Whitla spoke to the motions. She noted that over the last twenty years, many people have changed their position on same gender marriage. She suggested that, until marriage of all baptized persons is allowed in the Anglican Church of this Diocese, there is no equality or justice. To accommodate those that do not wish to preside at such ceremonies, clergy have to be free to act according to their individual conscience. Lack of acceptance is a continued source of great pain and grief. If we, as a Church, can be more accepting it may help society to be more accepting. Same gender marriage is now legal across Canada. This motion seeks to fulfill Jesus' mandate to love one another as God so loved us.

Ms. Sue Ferguson seconded the motions, reflecting that this is part of the journey for our Church. She fully supports parishes that embrace gay members and clergy, saying that society and the Church have become far more inclusive in the last few years. She stated that we need to treat people in same gender relationships the same as anyone else; all people within our church should be able to fully realize their gifts.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor to debate. Highlights of the discussion included:

- ❖ The Church is a place where we learn to love; not accepting same sex marriage speaks of disapproval, not love.
- ❖ The motion lists too many elements, each of which is cause for serious debate and raises a host of questions. More work was requested on the construction of the notes.
- ❖ In 1979, only one Bishop publicly affirmed same gender relationships. In 2004, General Synod affirmed the sanctity and integrity of same sex relationships. Things have moved a long way. This Diocese and others offer blessings for such relationships because we recognize their bond as sacred. We should offer them the graces of marriage.
- ❖ There are very serious theological issues that bear further reflection. It is a huge leap from our pastoral response to a recommendation for a change in the marriage Canon. There are implications as to how we are led by the culture. This motion should therefore be referred for consideration by the Doctrine and Worship Committee of the Diocese.
- ❖ In order to do justice to the reality of marriage, it is important to look at same sex marriage in the context of biblical and theological resources and in a non-legislative way.

MOVED by the Rev. Ajit John and SECONDED by the Rev. Murray Henderson that both motions be referred to the Doctrine and Worship Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto for further consideration.

DEFEATED.

Discussion continued.

- ❖ In the Bible, it is Adam, not God who gets to decide who is a suitable helper for man. God trusted Adam to know who was a suitable companion. Why has the Church insisted on telling its members who is a suitable companion for marriage when even God did not?

- ❖ A member spoke of a gay parishioner who wanted to be married. Glad to offer a blessing, but beneath that was the awareness of a perception that this woman was not fully included.
- ❖ A member reflected on the scientific evidence that this is not a matter of 'choice'.
- ❖ God's grace is not limited by anyone's gender or orientation. People are longing to come back to church.
- ❖ A member urged the House to remove this motion citing the divisive nature of the issue. If it is addressed legislatively, everyone loses.
- ❖ A memorial of this kind is helpful as it speaks to the mind, heart and courage of other Dioceses in Canada. It will take more than eight years before anything really changes. However it sends a message that we wish to continue to move forward.
- ❖ A member suggested that Synod members may wish to go to ELCIC website and look at the motions passed on this issue. If we can work together, we can work this out.
- ❖ It is possible that there may have been people applying for postulancy who have been open about their relationship who may have been denied ordination. Thus a relationship that is being blessed in church is also an impediment to ordination. This creates a 'don't tell' culture that is untenable.
- ❖ It does not make sense to hide and pretend in this Church.
- ❖ Members were asked to avoid a legislative decision.
- ❖ Members were urged to vote against the motion and to be cautious in moving ahead.
- ❖ People are at different places over this issue and need to speak out of their own authenticity.
- ❖ Rather than accept a definition of marriage subject to the Court's definition, the Church must define for itself what Christian marriage is.
- ❖ Forward the result of the last motion to General Synod as a record of Synod's uncertainty, reflecting the division that exists.
- ❖ We need to acknowledge a current inability to see a middle ground.
- ❖ A member urged respect for the guidelines recommended by the College of Bishops in the Diocese of Toronto and to give this time to develop.
- ❖ The motion seems to be deceptive and should not be decided on by clergy and laity. The motion is destructive and decisive and requires a theological approach.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson noted that *The Constitution* indicates that all motions require his assent before becoming acts of Synod and also provides him the right to address the Synod. He indicated that, if this motion passed he would not withhold his assent as it requires no action except the need to forward an opinion to General Synod. However, as Bishop of the Diocese, he expressed deep discomfort with this motion. He explained that after two decades of work on this issue there remain deep divisions. A legislative approach has been avoided because a yes/no vote does not reflect the range of opinion. General Synod is not going to deal with Canon 21 at the next General Synod and may not do so for another two Synods. This could not possibly come as a legislative change for at least eight years.

The mover of the motion, Ms. Nancy Whitla, acknowledged the views expressed. She emphasized that 'sometimes it is only by moving forward that there is forward motion'. She stated that her support is rooted in her belief, not a response to the law of the land.

Opposing discrimination is a matter of justice and love. Every human being is precious and a part of God's family.

MOVED by Nancy Whitla and SECONDED by Sue Ferguson that, whereas all the sacraments are for all the baptized, be it resolved that this Synod memorialize General Synod to amend Canon 21 On Marriage to allow marriage of all persons legally qualified to marry each other.

CARRIED.

MOVED by Nancy Whitla and SECONDED by Sue Ferguson that this Synod request the House of Bishops to withdraw the February 1979 Resolution on Sexuality which prevents the ordination of persons in committed same gender relationships.

CARRIED.

As a point of order, a member noted that there had been no formal discussion of the second motion. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson responded that he had asked the house if it was ready to vote and no one dissented, therefore he ruled that the point of order was not valid in this instance.

The second Notice of Motion was received on September 8, 2011 from Kevin D. Toyne, St. Thomas, Huron Street, and Alexander Richmond, St. Thomas, Shanty Bay, who confirmed that they still wish to move and second the following motion:

MOVED by Kevin D. Toyne and SECONDED by Alexander Richmond that Section 2(c) of Canon 4 be amended in the following manner:

- (c) The following deductions may be made from the total income of a parish in the calculation of Assessable Income:
- (i) where the donor has restricted the use of money for a purpose other than the usual budgeted operations of the church;
 - (ii) grants of money to the parish from the Diocese;
 - (iii) compensation for clergy;
 - (iv) compensation for lay staff of a parish engaged in ministry in the parish, but not including ~~organists or music directors~~, administrative staff or custodial staff, regardless of job title;
 - (iv) money received by a parish as a result of special campaigns to raise capital funds for church construction, including major repairs and renovations;
 - (v) monies received by the parish as a bequest or memorial;
 - (vi) capital expenditures for church construction, major repairs and renovations;
 - ~~and;~~
 - (viii) money spent by the parish for its own outreach projects; and
 - (ix) compensation for organists, music directors, choir directors, choristers and other musicians engaged in music ministry in the parish.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson reported that Diocesan Council recommended that the Motion not be approved and then opened the floor for debate.

Mr. Kevin D. Toyne spoke to the motion. He stated that music is central to worship and to healthy congregations. The purpose of this motion is to recognize this importance. There is

a need to allow parishes that invest in music ministry without the impact of this being included in the assessment. A vote in favour of this motion would signal the start of a two year conversation about the importance of music in ministry within this Diocese that may culminate at the next Synod. The impact of this won't be known until 2015 or 2016 at the earliest.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson wondered if Synod might agree to refer this to Diocesan Council to establish a Working Group to look at the financial implications and that this might be brought back as a recommendation to the next Synod. Mr. Toyne agreed to this course of action.

MOVED by the Rev. Mark Kinghan and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon John Wilton that the motion to amend Canon 4 be referred to Diocesan Council and that a Working Group be established to investigate the financial implications related to the proposed changes and to report back to Synod.

CARRIED.

General Synod Elections

Under the *Constitution* of the Diocese of Toronto and the *Constitution* of the General Synod, Synod is required to elect nine clergy and nine lay members to serve as members of General Synod. The next General Synod meeting will be held from July 3 to 7, 2013 in Ottawa, Ontario. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson announced that balloting for General Synod and Provincial Synod elections be closed.

The following people were elected to represent the Diocese of Toronto at General Synod:

Clergy (in alphabetical order): The Rev. Jenny Andison; The Rev. Canon Andrew Asbil; The Rev. Canon Kimberley Beard; The Rev. Canon Matthias Der; The Ven. Peter Fenty; The Rev. Canon Sr. Constance Joanna Gefvert; The Rev. Judith Herron-Graham; The Rev. Heather McCance; The Very Rev. Douglas Stoute.

Substitutes, in the following order: The Rev. Canon Dr. W. B. (Duke) Vipperman II; The Rev. Canon Dawn Davis; The Rev. Canon Stephen Fields; The Rev. Riscylla Walsh Shaw.

Laity (in alphabetical order): Mr. David Allen; Mr. Chris Ambidge; Canon Robert Falby; Ms. Leslie Hajdu; Mr. Leonard Leader; Mr. Kennedy Marshall; Mr. Ryan Ramsden; Mrs. Marion Saunders; Ms. Marion Thompson.

Substitutes, in the following order: Mr. John Brewin; Mr. John Fuke.

Provincial Synod Elections

Under the *Constitution* of the Diocese of Toronto and the *Constitution* of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, Synod is required to elect four clergy and four lay members to serve as members of Provincial Synod. The next Provincial Synod will be held from October 9 to 12, 2012 in Kingston, Ontario.

The following people were elected to represent the Diocese of Toronto at General Synod:

Clergy (in alphabetical order): The Rev. Canon Matthias Der; The Ven. Peter Fenty; The Rev. Christopher Greaves; The Rev. Canon Ann Smith.

Substitutes, in the following order: The Rev. Mark Kinghan; The Rev. Warren Leibovich; The Rev. Matthew McMillan; The Rev. David Giffen.

Laity (in alphabetical order): Mr. Christian Harvey; Mr. Kennedy Marshall; Mrs. Marion Saunders; Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston.

Substitutes, in the following order: Ms. Marion Thompson; Mr. John Brewin; Ms. Marilyn Csihas.

Constitution and Canon Changes

Canon Robert Falby, Chancellor, stated that information on proposed changes to the *Constitution and Canons* of the Diocese of Toronto was included in the Convening Circular, section F and would be dealt with in three blocks: deletions, one addition, and proposed amendments.

Deletions: Canon 3, Canon 8, Canon 21, Canon 26, Canon 27, Canon 35 and Canon 38

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor to debate.

For clarification, the Chancellor reported that the work previously carried out by these Boards will continue through ad hoc Committees.

MOVED by Canon Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Clare Burns that Synod approve the deletion of Canon 3, Canon 8, Canon 21, Canon 26, Canon 27, Canon 35 and Canon 38 as presented in the Convening Circular.

CARRIED.

Addition: Canon 3 - Executive Board

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson explained that the new Executive Board Canon is a culmination of work completed over the last four years. He then opened the floor to debate.

Highlights of the discussion included:

- ❖ Concern was expressed about the establishment of subcommittees and working groups on an 'ad hoc' basis, which indicates that all the work formerly accomplished by Boards, particularly Social Justice and Advocacy, will now only be called upon "as needed".
- ❖ The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson assured Synod of the importance of the Social Justice and Advocacy Group and committed to carrying on their work.

MOVED by Canon Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Clare Burns that Synod approve the addition of Canon 3–Executive Board as presented in the Convening Circular.

CARRIED.

Amendments: The Constitution

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor to debate.

Friendly Amendment

The Rev. Terry Noble, St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough proposed a friendly amendment to include replacing the words “Treasury Board” with the words “Executive Board” in the *Constitution*, Section 17, subsection 3. Synod agreed.

MOVED by Canon Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Clare Burns that Synod approve the amendments to *The Constitution* as presented in the Convening Circular and amended on floor of Synod.

CARRIED.

Amendments: Canon 5 – Trusts Committee

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor to debate but no one approached the microphone.

MOVED by Canon Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Clare Burns that Synod approve the amendments to Canon 5 - Trusts Committee as presented in the Convening Circular.

CARRIED.

Amendments: Canon 9 – Incumbent

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor to debate but no one approached the microphone.

MOVED by Canon Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Clare Burns that Synod approve the amendments to Canon 9 - Incumbent as presented in the Convening Circular.

CARRIED.

Amendments: Canon 10 – Clerical appointments, Exchanges, Retirements and Terminations

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor to debate but no one approached the microphone.

MOVED by Canon Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Clare Burns that Synod approve the amendments to Canon 10 - Clerical appointments, Exchanges, Retirements and Terminations as presented in the Convening Circular.

CARRIED.

Amendments: Canon 14 – Vestries

The Chancellor further informed the meeting that, based on feedback from the Pre-Synod meetings, the Constitution and Canons Committee proposed, and Diocesan Council recommended, a further change to Canon 14 regarding the audit provision. This addendum, which was included in the Registration Package, suggested that a provision be added which would permit Diocesan Council to adjust the ceiling for audits if the new *Not-For-Profit Corporations Act* is proclaimed and in force before the next Synod. The Act would permit not-for-profits with annual revenue more than \$100,000 and less than \$500,000 to require a

review engagement, as opposed to the current proposal of \$100,000 which is in sync with the present *Ontario Corporations Act*.

Therefore, revised Canon 14(4) would read as follows:

“Notwithstanding subsection (1), the vestry may pass an extraordinary resolution, to have a review engagement instead of an audit in respect of the parish’s financial year if the parish had annual revenue in that financial year of less than \$100,000 or an amount as declared by Diocesan Council in accordance with provincial legislation. The accountant conducting the review engagement shall make a report to the vestry on the Churchwardens’ accounts presented to the vestry at the annual meeting.”

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor to debate.

- ❖ The Rev. Jeanette Lewis, Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Burnt River, noted that the requirement to use an accountant from outside the Parish to conduct a review engagement involves fees of between \$1,000 and \$3,000. A high proportion of parishes have budgets of under \$100,000. She questioned the stewardship of finances regarding this requirement. She then offered an amendment that the words ‘or notice to reader’ be inserted after the words review engagement in two instances.

It was MOVED by the Rev. Jeanette Lewis, Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Burnt River and SECONDED by Ms. Luanne Reparón, St. John, Dunsford that the motion be amended to include the words “or notice to reader” between the words “review engagement” and “instead”.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson expressed concern that this motion might put the Diocese outside Provincial Law. He requested time to confer with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors.

He called on Mr. Randy Adamkowski of Grant Thornton to provide details on the various levels of account verification so that Synod would be able to make an informed decision.

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls took the chair.

Mr. Randy Adamkowski provided an explanation on the three levels of account verification.

- ❖ *Notice to Reader* – the lowest level of verification. There is very little verification of the accounts, but the statements cannot be knowingly wrong when prepared by a licensed accountant. This form of verification does not necessarily need to be independent.
- ❖ *Review Engagement* – the second level of verification. This verification involves comparisons and discussions with management. The financial statements will be in accordance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles).
- ❖ *Audit* – the highest level of verification. It involves testing and reviewing the accounting systems and confirmations. It ensures that the financial statements are in accordance with GAAP. Audits will also produce management letters. The auditor must be independent. If the auditor is a parishioner, they cannot hold a decision making position within the church.

The Chair the Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls acknowledged that the meeting had now run over time and thanked people for their patience, recognizing that some people might have to leave.

The Chancellor Canon Robert Falby clarified that legislation as currently defined provides that a company is exempt from an audit if its annual income is less than \$100,000. The new legislation, which has not yet been proclaimed, provides that if a company passes an appropriate resolution, they are not required to have an auditor conduct an audit or review engagement, if the annual revenue is less than \$500,000; however, a review engagement is required instead of an audit if annual revenue is between \$100,000 and \$500,000. He further explained that the basis of Diocesan Council's recommendation is that a third party conduct a review of the financial statements of each parish and a notice to reader does not provide for that.

Highlights of the discussion included:

- At Vestry, accounts are accepted by Vestry. He therefore suggested that there needs to be a change in the wording to the future tense. It was suggested that a conditional vestry motion be presented that would cover both thresholds.
- Small churches cannot take on any new expenses, an amendment is needed to ensure that their debt to the Diocese does not increase any further.
- A member queried why we are adding unnecessary layers and encouraged Synod to streamline the process with clear thresholds.

In response to a question raised, clarification was provided on how this affects multi-point parishes. If a multi-point parish holds three separate vestries, the requirement would be based on the individual income for each point. Some multi-points, however, hold a single vestry covering all points, in which case the basis would be the combined income.

In response to a question asked, the Director of Finance stated that the *Public Accounting Act of Ontario (2004)* sets out who is eligible to perform an audit. If anyone else carries out an audit, they are acting outside the law and take a risk of being charged by the Regulator. Audits must be performed by a licensed accountant under the *Public Accounting Act of Ontario (2004)* and the auditor must have professional insurance. The majority of licensed accountants are Chartered Accountants (CA), with some Certified General Accountants (CGA). If the church has a volunteer who is willing to provide the audit for no fee, the auditor is exempt from the requirement of being licensed under the *Public Accounting Act of Ontario* but must be a member of a professional accounting body either a CA, CGA or Certified Management Accountant (CMA). The auditor is still required to have professional insurance, but if the gross revenues of the church are less than \$100,000, they may be eligible to obtain insurance through their designated accounting body.

The Rev. Jeanette Lewis, Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Burnt River, the mover of the motion, noted that the Diocese is asking for something not currently within Provincial legislation and that now is not the time to add the cost to small parishes.

The Chancellor clarified that the motion, as amended, is in order.

MOVED by the Rev. Jeanette Lewis, Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Burnt River and SECONDED by Ms. Luanne Reparon, St. John, Dunsford that the motion be amended to include the words “or notice to reader” between the words “review engagement” and “instead”.

CARRIED.

MOVED by Canon Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Clare Burns that revised Canon 14(4) would read as follows: Notwithstanding subsection (1) the vestry may pass an extraordinary resolution with the permission of the Bishop to have a review engagement or notice to reader instead of an audit in respect of the parish’s financial year if the parish has annual revenue in that financial year of less than \$100,000 or an amount as declared by Diocesan Council in accordance with provincial legislation. The accountant conducting the review engagement or notice to reader shall make a report to the Vestry on the Churchwardens’ accounts presented to the Vestry at the annual meeting.

CARRIED.

Canon 14 - Vestries

MOVED by Canon Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Clare Burns that Synod approve the amendments to Canon 14 – Vestries, as approved by Diocesan Council, and presented in the Convening Circular, handed out at registration and further amended at Synod.

CARRIED.

Amendments: Canon 15 - Churchwardens

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls opened the floor to debate but no one approached the microphone.

MOVED by Canon Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Clare Burns that Synod approve the amendments to Canon 15 - Churchwardens as presented in the Convening Circular.

CARRIED.

Amendments: Canon 22 - Discipline

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls opened the floor to debate but no one approached the microphone.

MOVED by Canon Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Clare Burns that Synod approve the amendments to Canon 22 - Discipline as presented in the Convening Circular.

CARRIED.

Communities of Hope and Compassion

The Anglican Foundation of Canada

Due to time constraints, the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois withdrew from her opportunity to speak. Synod members were encouraged to visit the Anglican Foundation website.

Ethnic Ministries

The Rev. Canon Matthias Der and the Rev. Maurice Francois also withdrew from their opportunity to speak.

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls relinquished the Chair back to The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson.

Archbishop's Closing Remarks to Synod

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson thanked everyone for accomplishing a lot of work despite the shortened timeframe. He reflected that Rt. Rev. Susan Johnson asked what we were taking home and made several suggestions: Work will continue at a Diocesan level to advocate around poverty and housing, often these matters are related to the environment. He asked members to consider 'What is God doing in your neighbourhood and what are you doing in your own church? What are you doing to join in and why is it worthwhile?' He emphasized that rethinking how we do little things can make big differences. There is a need to think locally and globally, how we function as individuals, a parish, a Diocese, and a nation.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson thanked Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston for her faithful service and presented her with a gift of appreciation. At the conclusion of this session of Synod, Ms. Walton-Clouston will retire from the position of Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod.

He also thanked the staff of the Diocese for their support of this session of Synod. In particular, he thanked Mrs. Irene Lansitie who will be retiring shortly, for her 23 loyal years of service to the Diocese.

Election of Honorary Secretaries

MOVED by Canon Robert Falby and SECONDED by Mr. Paul Baston that the following be elected for the ensuing two year term:

The Rev. Judith Herron-Graham, Honorary Clerical Secretary

Mr. Chris Ambidge, Honorary Lay Secretary

The Rev. Claire Wade, Assistant Honorary Clerical Secretary

CARRIED.

Appreciation

The Honorary Secretaries thanked the Scrutineers, Timekeepers, staff and volunteers for their efforts on these days and extended our appreciation to Ms. Heidi Wilker, Conference Manager and the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel for their work in making this Synod such a success.

Adjournment

MOVED by Ms. Laura Walton-Clouston that Synod adjourn.

CARRIED.

Invest in God's harvest, says Archbishop in his charge to Synod

The following is the Bishop's Charge delivered to Synod by Archbishop Colin Johnson at the beginning of the 154th Regular Session of Synod on Nov. 25, 2011.

Let me begin my charge by painting a couple of pictures for you. Some of you have seen these pictures before, but I want to repaint them for you. Last February, I was preaching at a parish in Harare, Zimbabwe. It was an exciting place to be. It was full of life and energy, there was music and dancing and singing, the word of God was proclaimed and the sacraments faithfully administered. It was an amazing gathering of a thousand people. The only issue was that they were in a tent. There were more people there than here, and they were in a tent and spilling out beyond it, because their parish church had been locked.

A renegade archbishop, Nolbert Kunonga, who has been denounced and deposed by the church of Central Africa, refuses to give up power, and with the support of President Mugabe and his forces, he continues to exercise power and exclude all the clergy and all the people from their church, claiming them as his. I was called to preach to that people as a member of the Anglican Communion, the wider church. I spoke, linking what was happening there with what is happening throughout the world, and I told them, 'You people here, you face persecution and suffering, but you are not alone. You are part of a world-wide communion and we know about what is happening here and we are holding you in prayer.' There was stunned silence and then they broke out in ululations because they had thought that they were alone. And then I had to proclaim the Gospel. It was a Gospel that I would not have chosen, except that it was the lectionary Gospel reading for the day, used across the whole church. It was from Matthew 5: "When your enemy strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek."

It was not the Gospel I would have chosen that morning. But it comes immediately after the Beatitudes and is a sort of commentary on the Beatitudes. It's not a Gospel, as I said to them, that talks about passive lying down in the face of oppression. It's not about passively receiving continued violence. It is about the active breaking of the cycle of violence, so no more do you continue on this deathly spiral.

It's about turning to the Beatitudes as a new way of life, a different world, a different way of seeing things, a different way of living. It's an expression of hope, a hope that the world as it is, is not the way the world will be, because God is active and present in the world, and he's making all things new.

A couple of weeks later, I was in Dar-es-Salam. Fascinating place, steaming hot, just near Zanzibar, that wonderful, mystic, exotic place, and also the place of slaves. In Dar-es-Salam was a gathering of 19 bishops, mostly from Canada and East Africa, where we were talking about the things that separate us and yet we found that in spite of all the differences that we have—differences of culture, differences of Scriptural interpretations, differences of theological understanding—yet there is something that binds us together that is even deeper than that, that we've been baptized into the life of Jesus Christ, that we've been given new life Christ, and we are bound together by the Holy Spirit, that we are linked by word and sacrament, nourished for mission in the world. And we discovered we need each other and we are bound to each other, and that in spite of differences, we can be together.

And then we were together, because the local parish nurse took us to visit a slum area and one of the places we visited was a little hovel, with less space than this dais, and in that hovel there was a man lying on a bed, dying of AIDS. The 19 bishops crowded into the tiny space and one of the bishops took his hand and prayed in Swahili with the man. I felt awful. I felt that I had invaded a dying man's last vestige of dignity. And I stood there and I could hardly stop from weeping and feeling like a voyeur. And I went out and I talked to the parish nurse and I expressed my feelings about how I had invaded his space and she said: "You are wrong. You have brought him dignity, because the church has come to see him, the church from all over the world, represented by you bishops, has come to this man's house, to his sick bed, to pray with him. He no longer is a non-person in the community, he has status and dignity, because the church showed up." It's an act of hope and compassion. Who is my neighbour?

For the past 40 days, very clearly at the Cathedral and the diocesan offices, we have had new neighbours in our park. New neighbours with a very diffuse message. It was hard to know what they were representing when you saw a march that said: 'Free Tibet,' 'Marijuana will win the world,' 'Down with capitalism' and 'We're the 99 per cent.'

But they touched something real and deep in the psyche of our world today, an anxiety and a disenfranchisement and a sense of huge loss, but what they also touched was really an active hope. That the world as it is, is not the world as it should be. One of the slogans that I saw at one of the tents really struck me. It said: "As you look around the world, does it feel right?" Well, no it doesn't feel right. I think raising the issue was important, and ultimately decisions were made that the centre of focus was moving from the ideas and issues to who occupies which territory, which was not the point. But I am proud of our Cathedral and of our Dean, the Vicar, the associate priest and the lay people of the Cathedral church, who reached out into that community, to their neighbours, who brought people together, talked with the police and with the occupiers, who talked with the local business community and kept conversations going, who brought together concerns for the vulnerable who came into the camp and protected their concerns.

They began to proclaim the gospel and teach something about the faith to a group of people who had never had faith. These people came to the campsite and they asked if they could use the space and were told yes, but leave some space for people to get into the Cathedral and somebody said: "Something happens here on Sunday?" And they discovered something did, four times a day, every day, the bells of the Cathedral summon people to worship. And the Cathedral was open.

What we need to do now is to help continue our long-standing work of advocacy and direct service regarding poverty, homelessness, breaking cycles of violence, about proclaiming hope that the world as we know it today is not the finished world, is not the end of the world, not God's ultimate plan, but that God has a new plan for us and that we are called to join business, government, civil society, ordinary people, in building a community of hope and compassion.

That's what this diocese is about, building communities of hope and compassion, joining in God's mission to the world, joining in that mission to reconcile and heal God's wonderful

and beloved, but wounded and broken world. We come together at synod, a meeting place, not just to talk but to pray, to listen, to work, to learn, to discern the thread of God's mission to reconcile and restore his creation, to see the larger context.

Part of that larger context is the environment in which we find ourselves. Our environment is not incidental, it's not a side-bar, our environment is the very place that God's saving work is done. We have a long tradition in Anglicanism, theological, liturgical, emotional and practical, about dealing with the world around us, with the creation. We are an incarnational people, shaped largely by a Benedictine spirituality, where place is very important. We have much to learn from our aboriginal brothers and sisters about place, the land. For Anglicans, the three great feasts are Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, but it seems to me Christmas, Easter and Harvest, at least looking at the numbers.

The opening chapter of scripture talks about God's creation of a universe that he named good. We received our first commission to be stewards of that creation. The last book of the bible, the story of God's recreation, his new creation, not simply a destruction of the world, but its fulfillment, its healing and its perfection. At the heart of the Gospel is John's great declaration that God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son that the world through him might be saved—the world, the cosmos, not just us.

This is not just about recycling or composting, although that might be a good start for some people. Most of us need to learn to live simply, so that others can simply live. The Occupy movement's slogan, I think, might be more useful: "A few might be guilty, but all of us are responsible." And so we spend time at this synod considering our environment, our place in it, our responsibility, how it is part of God's mission.

In your packet, you received the five marks of mission that the Anglican Communion has identified. Those marks stretch our perception of what mission is, the mission of the whole communion, of what God is up to in our neighbourhood, and care of the environment is part of that. It is not an add-on, but an essential aspect of our missional emphasis in this diocese. It may well be a point of connection with people who are passionately concerned about our world but as yet do not know the gospel of Jesus Christ. Even as they are responding, God's spirit is already active in their own lives.

Missional focus, that is what we are about. We talked about moving towards a mixed-economy church, a healthy inherited church alongside new church plants and fresh expressions, new ways of doing things. It's about sharing the gospel, it's about building communities of hope and compassion where all people, not just those who inhabit our church buildings, will have a place. Both are vitally important. Both/and, not either/or.

And we have examples all around the diocese and you will see some of them highlighted in that video. It's risky, exciting, but it takes work. Not all ventures are going to be rewarded with the success that we wish for, but the seed needs to be scattered. Some will grow, some will thrive, and some will die, but the harvest will be overwhelming. It is God's harvest, and we need pray about it, we need to work hard about it, we need to invest in it.

And that's what we are doing with the Our Faith-Our Hope Campaign. It's missionally directed. Everything we are doing in this diocese at this point is missionally directed,

decisions we are making, the strategies we are trying to engage in, the way we are evaluating what we are doing. Our Faith-Our Hope is designed to invest in the mission of the church, in leadership development, in new church planting, in communications which go beyond the quill pens that I inherited. It's about retrofitting our heritage buildings for mission, about reconfiguring ministries for effective mission and service in their neighbourhoods.

We have already heard that \$30 million of our \$50 million goal has been achieved. It's not money put in the bank of a rainy day, but to invest in ministry and mission. Go fishing in deep waters; take the keys to the car and put a little gas in it and go somewhere. And that's what we are doing with our budget, too. The operating budget has been developed to focus on mission, provision of staffing for church planting, for missional leadership development, for training of leaders, for communication strategy that reaches out to the world.

Did you hear what synod is about? Mission. God's mission. God's mission that's going on whether we want it to go on or not, God's mission in which God is inviting us as active participants.

I want to close with thanksgiving and some personal notes. I want to thank Ellen, my wife, who happens to be here; she puts up with me and keeps me sane and tells me to stop once in a while. She also tells me to go once in a while. I want to thank the College of Bishops. I want to thank Peter Fenty and Elizabeth Hardy for their work. I want to thank Mary and Jennifer who keep me ordered and sane, and the incredible staff we share in this diocese, who do work above and beyond what you can imagine. They are treasured right across this whole church, across this country, and across the world. You may have no idea of how much expertise and value they give us.

I want to thank the incredible clergy and laypeople of this diocese, who make this church what it is, Jesus uses your hands, your feet, your mouths, your ears, your eyes, to be his in the world and you make a difference.

I want to thank our Chancellor, Vice-chancellor, and Registrar, for keeping us legal. But more than that, for giving us wisdom to deal with issues that would hamstring us if we didn't pay attention. I wear an episcopal ring. Inside that ring I had carved the motto that I chose when I became bishop of this diocese: Pro Ecclesia Dei—on behalf of the church of God, in favour of, working for the church of God. That's my motto, that's what I do, that's what gets me up every morning.

I was consecrated on the feast of St. Barnabas and I take Barnabas as a model for myself, not that I live up to Barnabas many days. But if you remember, Barnabas starts off by assisting the poor and the vulnerable, freely. He is generous. Barnabas also identifies newcomers and new leadership and brings them into the community and advocates on their behalf. He goes out on mission to others and brings the newcomer along and allows the newcomer actually to take over and become more important than he is.

He is an encourager of the faith; he gets into fights but reconciles, and it is all done for the honour and glory of God and the building up of the church. It seems to me that my role is to be an encourager and a bearer of faith, a bearer of hope, a bearer of compassion. Building

communities of hope and compassion is my vision for the diocese. To be an Advent people. To hold up a vision of Jesus Christ who can make all things new.

This summer I was privileged to be in the Holy Land for the very first time, and I got one Sunday morning to preside at a Eucharist on the Mount of Transfiguration. You know how Jesus went up the Mount of Transfiguration with three of his disciples, and was transfigured, and the disciples saw a glimpse of the glory of God.

We spend a lot of time trying to figure things out. Figuring out what's going on, figuring out how we are going to do things, figuring out who Jesus is, figuring out what our role as church is, figuring out what we are going to do next, figuring out how we are going to get the resources for it, but transfiguring is actually beyond that. Transfiguring means beyond figuring. You move beyond figuring if parishes catch a glimpse of the glory of God. They catch a glimpse of the big picture. They catch a glimpse of what God is calling us to. They catch a glimpse of God's mission for the world. They catch a glimpse of God's purposes. And everything else falls into place.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, the disciples heard the voice of God. "This is my beloved Son. Follow him. Listen to him." And that's what we are trying to do. Listen to him. Follow him. Be his disciples.

The Lutherans have a wonderful prayer at their evensong:

Oh, God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown, give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.