

**Corporate (Financial) Session of Synod**  
**MINUTES**  
**St Paul, Bloor Street, Toronto**  
**Saturday, June 16, 2012**

**Opening of Synod**

Synod opened with a service of Holy Communion, commencing at 9:00 a.m. at St. Paul, Bloor Street, 227 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, the Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson, Archbishop of Toronto, named ten new Canons of St James Cathedral:

- The Rev. Canon Don Aitchison
- Canon Paul Baston
- The Rev. Canon Stephen Crowther
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Henderson
- The Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham
- The Rev. Canon Millie Hope
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Drew MacDonald
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Mervyn Mercer
- The Rev. Canon Richard Miller
- The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Morley

**Business Session**

Pursuant to the *Notice of Meeting*, the Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called the meeting to order with prayer at 10:03 a.m. As a corporation the Diocese of Toronto is subject to the general provisions of the Ontario Corporations Act even though the Diocese of Toronto has its own incorporation statute and the constitution sets out when to meet as a Synod. Under this Act, we are required to hold an annual meeting of its members not more than 15 months after the holding of the last preceding meeting and must accomplish the following:

- present a financial statement for the last fiscal year,
- present the auditor's report,
- appoint an auditor for the next year, and,
- present any further information respecting the financial position of the corporation as the by-laws may require.

The *Notice of Meeting* was issued on April 20, 2012 on the Diocese's website and in the online Bulletin Board. Convening Circulars were posted on the Diocese's website and mailed to members of Synod on May 22, 2012.

**Committee on Credentials**

Vice Chancellor Ms. Clare Burns affirmed that the meeting was duly constituted and that all clerical and lay members present were entitled to take their seats. She noted that:

|                                     | <u>Clergy</u> | <u>Laity</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total eligible members (voting)     | 399           | 423          | 822          |
| Present and Registered (voting)     | 188           | 231          | 419          |
| Present and Registered (non-voting) | 7             | 5            | 12           |
|                                     | 195           | 236          | 431          |

## Agenda

**MOVED** by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham and **SECONDED** by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the Agenda be approved. **CARRIED.**

### Announcements

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called on the Honorary Secretaries, the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham and Mr. Chris Ambidge, for announcements of house-keeping matters.

Synod was informed that in accordance with *The Constitution*, Section 18, Mr. David Thornton and the Rev. Dr. John Stephenson have been elected Scrutineers by Diocesan Council on March 22, 2012 for this session of the Synod.

### Omnibus Motion

#### Minutes of the 154<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod

It was noted that on page 21 of the Minutes, the first sentence should read ‘The following people were elected to represent the Diocese of Toronto at Provincial [not ‘General’] Synod.’

**MOVED** by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham and **SECONDED** by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the reading of the Minutes of the 154th Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held on November 25-26, 2011 in Toronto be dispensed with, and the Minutes of the said Regular Session as prepared by the Honorary Secretaries and revised be adopted and confirmed as the Minutes of the said Synod. **CARRIED.**

#### Courtesies of the House

**MOVED** by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham and **SECONDED** by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the following people 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 Order of the Holy Cross;
- Sisters of St John the Divine;
- Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit;
- Canon 24 Parish Administrators.

**CARRIED.**

## Timekeepers

**MOVED** by the Rev. Judith Herron-Graham and **SECONDED** by the Mr. Chris Ambidge that Mr Ian LaFleur, Mr Mark Regis and Mr Kevin Wong be appointed as Timekeepers for this Session of the Synod. **CARRIED.**

### **Our Faith – Our Hope**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson gave Synod a brief progress report on the Our Faith-Our Hope ministry campaign of the Diocese of Toronto. He thanked the Diocese for its tremendous generosity and particularly singled out the Very Rev. Douglas Stoute and Ms. Delores Lawrence for their leadership. He expressed gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Philip Poole, Mr. Peter Misiaszek, the Rev. Canon Elizabeth Hardy and the entire Executive Committee.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson announced that after more than 27 months of on-site support from professional counsel, 210 congregations have participated in the campaign. In total, nearly \$39.0 million toward our overall goal of \$50.0 million has been pledged. In the Pilot Phase, 10 Parishes raised \$2,538,155 or 103% of their goal, in Block 1, 28 Parishes raised \$6,321,337 or 99% of goal, in Block 2, 57 Parishes raised \$5,639,989 or 79% of goal, in Block 3, 109 Parishes raised \$14,855,898 or 73% of goal, in Block 3A, 4 Parishes raised \$1,698,432 or 76 % of goal, and covenanted Pledges in 2 Parishes equal \$1,364,000. Seventy-eight parishes met or exceeded their campaign goal. Other parishes across the Diocese have put forth a good faith effort—realizing that sometimes you learn more from the journey than the actual outcome.

In total, 798 donors (or nearly 10% of all donations) pledged gifts in excess of \$10,000. The leadership gift phase has similarly been extremely successful: \$6.3 million from 17 donors has been pledged toward a goal of \$10.0 million. Another \$11.0 million in potential gifts is being considered and a handful of promising supporters still need to be approached.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson said that he has been overwhelmed by the stories of both the large and the small, but hugely significant gifts. He was also impressed by the stories of faith that the campaign generated. Lastly, he gave tribute to those clergy leaders who championed the campaign in the parishes, particularly noting the four priests who, because of movement during the course of the campaign, had to lead the process twice: the Rev. Canon Stephen Fields, the Rev. Gary van der Meer, the Rev. Claire Goodrich Dyer and the Rev. Kevin Robertson, all who took both their previous and their current parishes over goal. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson led Synod in a round of applause of congratulations.

### **The Anglican Foundation of Canada**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called on the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois to report on the Anglican Foundation.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois relayed how her role takes her across the country, meeting Anglicans who generously support the Anglican Foundation of Canada and its work. She shared some of the history and purpose of the Foundation, and described how it receives and disburses donations and serves as a funding resource for parishes to access financial resources for renovations or new ministries. The Foundation was meant to ensure a strong

future for all congregations across the country and was at the time of its inception a visionary and generous idea. There are Dioceses in Canada, in the East and in the North, where every single parish makes a donation to the Foundation. It is noteworthy that some of the poorest dioceses are those that contribute the most. Some of the projects supported by the Foundation include camps, youth initiatives, accessibility renovations, theological education, and rectory upgrades. Canon Rois introduced two initiatives which allow the youngest donors to participate in giving to the Foundation: Hope Bear and to the toonie fund. She noted, however, that the Foundation is currently giving away more money than it has coming in. She invited Synod members to encourage their parishes to make an annual donation noting that only 32 of 260 congregations in the Diocese of Toronto make an annual donation. Her goal is to be able to say that every parish in the Diocese of Toronto makes a donation to the Anglican Foundation of Canada.

Archbishop Johnson thanked Canon Rois for her report and encouraged every parish to become a member at \$50 per year.

### **Audited Financial Statements for 2011**

The Financial Statements were approved by the Diocesan Council of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto on May 17, 2012 and were made available to individuals through the Diocese's website and to those who phoned the Synod Office.

Mr. Don Gillespie, Chair of the Audit Committee, described the audit process. The Audit Committee oversaw the Audits of each of 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 for the year ended December 31, 2011. The Audit Committee recommended, and Diocesan Council approved the Financial Statements of The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, the Consolidated Trust Fund and the Cemetery Fund for the year ending December 31, 2011 on May 17, 2012 along with the respective unqualified opinions of Grant Thornton LLP.

The Treasurer and Director of Finance Mr. Michael Joshua made the following additional comments on the Audited Financial Statements; In 2011, significant increases in some revenue line items were found from donations from the Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-imagine Church campaign and from an increase in the investment income from the Consolidated Trust Fund. Decreases in revenue were realized from depreciation in Capital investments, a result of the market decline experienced in 2011. There were two significant valuable properties sold during 2010 reflected on the statements; 2010 revenues were much higher than 2011 because of this anomaly. In 2011, expenses tracked reasonably well. There were four line items that fluctuated. Corporate Governance increased as the biennial Synod costs are recorded; these costs are balanced off by the Synod fees. As expected, the Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-imagine Church campaign expenses were significantly higher in 2011, which was offset by the increase in donations. Over \$1.0 million more was returned to parishes through grants and a further \$500,000 more in Fund Disbursements, which included FaithWorks distributions and tithing from the Ministry Allocation Fund. The "Unrestricted Fund", which included operations and the Ministry Allocation Fund, increased from \$27.0 million to \$29.0 million. The Balance Sheet was stronger in 2011 due to the increase in assets. Capital Assets increased as there were eight properties held for sale at the end of

2011. Cash increased as a result of donations from the Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-imagine Church campaign. Liabilities also increased from 2010 due to the Our Faith-Our Hope: Reimagine Church campaign rebate payable to the parishes.

**MOVED** by Mr. Peter Tovell and **SECONDED** by Ms. Delores Lawrence that Synod receive the audited financial statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the year ended December 31, 2011. **CARRIED.**

#### **Consolidated Trust Fund and Cemetery Fund**

Mr. Michael Joshua reported that The Consolidated Trust Fund experienced a negative investment return for the year of 0.50%. The Investment Committee utilizes the services of Brockhouse Cooper. Their Balanced Benchmark produced a 0.60% return. Two of the three investment managers performed below this benchmark. The Consolidated Trust Fund is a unit based fund. The value per unit at the end of the year had decreased to \$176.13. One half of the fund is Diocesan investments. The other half of the Fund is invested on behalf of parishes and the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation. The investments are reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Investment Committee of the Diocese. The investments were at a 57/43 split between equities and bonds at the end of the year. This split is in line with the Diocese of Toronto Statement of Investment Policy and Procedures.

The Cemetery Fund earned a positive investment return for the year of 1.79%. This was below industry benchmark which produced a 2.32% return. The Cemetery Fund is also a unit based fund. The value per unit at the end of the year decreased to \$141.30. The Cemetery Fund is invested entirely on behalf of parishes with cemeteries. The investments are reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Investment Committee of the Diocese. The investments were at a 46/54 split between equities and bonds. This split is in line with the Diocese of Toronto Statement of Investment Policy and Procedures and provincial law. The Investment Committee meets with the investment managers on a quarterly basis. Given the recent results, the Committee Chair will be meeting with Diocesan Council in October to discuss managers.

**MOVED** by Mr. Peter Tovell and **SECONDED** by Ms. Delores Lawrence 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, 2011. **CARRIED.**

**MOVED** by Mr. Peter Tovell and **SECONDED** by Ms. Delores Lawrence 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, 2011. **CARRIED.**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson thanked the Audit Committee and the Auditors for their care and diligence in these matters.

#### **Financial Report for 2011**

**MOVED** by Mr. Peter Tovell and **SECONDED** by Ms. Delores Lawrence that Synod receive the "Financial Report for 2011" from the Treasurer and Director of Finance. **CARRIED.**

### **Presentation by Ethnic Ministries**

The Rev. Canon Matthias Der, the Rev. Maurice Francois, and Mr. Kennedy Marshall made a presentation on behalf of the Ethnic Ministries Committee. The presentation included a demonstration of diverse music from across the Diocese; a show of hands illustrated the breadth of diversity and language in the Diocese. The Committee noted that its full report had been published on-line and the Executive Summary was published on pages 15 and 16 of Convening Circular. It was noted that in the Diocese of Toronto, there are twenty-six congregations that are specifically ethnic or multi-ethnic; the Diocese of Toronto is multicultural. The very nature of the Diocese presents some significant challenges. Synod was asked if they are collectively ready to reach out to people of different cultures and languages. The Committee urged the Diocese to move from thinking multiculturally to intercultural by not just embracing diversity but actively seeking to be transformed by a reciprocal sharing of cultures. The Diocese was asked to continue the work established by the Multiculturalism Committee with an Intercultural Committee. Parishes were encouraged to celebrate their cultural diversity not only at Pentecost, but all year round. It was suggested that services in languages other than English and French could be offered on Feast days, and parishes were encouraged to provide opportunities for people to offer their heritage through, for example, music or food.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson thanked the Committee for their thought provoking presentation and opened the floor for debate and questions. Highlights included:

- A suggestion was made to use the phrase ‘welcome training’ rather than ‘anti’ or ‘sensitivity training’ - a model used by public health which is simpler and more positive.
- In response to a question asked regarding the financial implications of approving the motion, Archbishop Johnson reported that Diocesan Council would discuss each recommendation and decide on its feasibility. He further added that there is an undesignated budget line item for Diversity in the amount of \$10,000.
- Caution was expressed with respect to engaging in “reverse colonialism” or bringing ethnic clergy to specific congregations. It was noted that there may be an intergenerational difference in an ethnic congregation where the needs of one generation may differ from another.
- It was suggested that the Diocese of Toronto should participate in the National Ethnic Ministries Group which is moving toward training sessions for intercultural ministry training from the Canadian Churches Council for Global Mission. It was further added that the report is incredible and has done a lot toward the recognition of ethnic clergy.
- Encouragement was given for the Committee to go further, specifically, to articulate inclusion and equity in the report.

Canon Der responded to the questions by assuring Synod that this work was just a beginning. This report encouraged the Church to interculturalism, going beyond celebrating one’s own and others’ cultures, to bring traditions together to transform the Church in reciprocal sharing.

**MOVED** by the Rev. Canon Matthias Der and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Maurice Francois that Synod receive the report from the Ethnic Ministry Consultation Committee and asked the Diocesan Council to consider the recommendations for implementation which include the establishment of an Intercultural Committee and future funding. **CARRIED.**

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.

#### **Proposed Changes to Canon 4**

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls reported that in November 2011, Synod considered a motion brought forward by two members of Synod requesting an amendment to Canon 4 that would allow for the deduction of compensation for organists, music directors, choir directors, choristers, and other musicians engaged in music ministry from the total income of a parish in the calculation of assessable income.

Prior to Synod in 2011, Diocesan Council considered the motion and recommended it not be approved. Among other considerations, Council members felt that large, multi-staffed parishes would benefit, but a disproportionate amount of the costs would fall on the shoulders of smaller parishes. At Synod in 2011, a subsequent motion was then duly moved, seconded and carried 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 report back to Synod.

Mr. Peter Davidson, member of Diocesan Council, reported that at its May 17, 2012 meeting, Council considered the financial impact of the proposed changes to Canon 4, together with detailed financial information on how these changes would impact the assessable income and the Assessment Rate. As an example, he described how, if the proposed changes to Canon 4 allowing deductions for music ministry had been implemented for this year, the assessable income would have been reduced by that \$3.3 million to \$20.7 million, a decrease of about 13%. That alone would have resulted in a decrease of diocesan revenue of \$814,000. The assessment would have needed to be 28.33%, an increase of almost four percentage points, to meet the diocesan budget.

Additionally, he reported, the beneficiaries of the proposed change would predominantly be those parishes which spend significant amounts on music ministry; those parishes which rely almost entirely on volunteer or pay a nominal amount to organists would make up the difference. After examining the calculations on an individual parish basis, it was found that 40% of parishes would experience a decrease in assessment, 57% of parishes would see an increase and it would be neutral for 3%. The parishes which would carry the load are generally the smaller parishes where a 5% or 10% increase in assessment could be devastating to the parish finances.

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| <b>MOVED</b> by Mr. Peter Davidson and <b>SECONDED</b> by the Very Rev. Douglas Stoute that the Report on “Proposed Changes to Canon 4” be received. <b>CARRIED.</b> |
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The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls vacated the chair and the Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson took the chair.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson reminded Synod that as the motion comes before Synod not having been recommended for adoption by Diocesan Council, it would require approval of not less than 60% of the members of Synod present and a further vote at two successive

sessions of Synod, and would then need the assent of the Bishop of Toronto. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson then opened the floor for discussion. Highlights included:

- The mover of the motion Mr. Kevin Toyne thanked Diocesan Council for considering the motion. He was surprised to learn that 14% of the assessable base comes from the tax on music ministry. The original intent of the motion was not to look for a tax cut for parishes that have music ministry but to offer a break to those parishes that wish to spend more money on their music programs. If Synod votes in favour of this option then the Synod can find other ways to fund the financial loss rather than hiking the assessment.
- In response to a question asked regarding whether there were other means to fund the lost revenue that passing this motion would entail, the response was no.
- Some very small parishes have vibrant music ministries that should be encouraged as a form of evangelism. While recognizing the financial implications, Synod should support the motion.
- Music ministry is at the heart of Anglican worship and can touch the soul in a way that words cannot. No one wants to burden smaller parishes, so the money should be found elsewhere.
- While music is very much a part of Anglican worship, members should vote against the motion because the financial implications are too great.
- A suggestion was made to find a way for parishes with significant music ministries to receive support in much the same way as other innovative ministries.
- The assessment policy is a tax with both a base and a rate, and this motion is about the base. The response from Council is about the rate, not the base. Encouragement was given that Synod vote based on the principles espoused in assessing the base. It was also pointed out that the inequity between larger and smaller parishes is already at play based on other ministry allocations.
- In response, another member of Synod, stated that if the assessable base is to decline by \$3.3 million dollars, then one must increase the assessment rate or decrease the diocesan budget by that amount. It was believed that this was an inappropriate discussion to be having at this time.

**MOVED** by Mr. Kevin Toyne and **SECONDED** by Mr. 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.**

**DEFEATED.**



### **Financial Forecast for 2012**

The Treasurer and Director of Finance Mr. Michael Joshua was called upon to give an update on the 2012 financial projections, and relay any course corrections deemed necessary since the last Regular Session of Synod as advised by Diocesan Council.

Mr. Joshua reported that the shortfall from budgeting for a 5% dividend compared to the declared dividend of 4.5% will be offset by the increase in revenue received from the Marriott Hotel lease.

As of March 2012, the arrears from parishes totaled \$1.8 million. This is an improvement of approximately 7% from the previous year. This improvement has been a result of significant efforts by the parishes and the support of them by the Accounts Receivable Committee.

Mr. Joshua reported that the Diocese is currently on track with its expenditures and is expected to meet the targeted Budget for 2012.

**MOVED** by the Rev. Kim McArthur and **SECONDED** by Mr. Peter Tovell that Synod receive the "Financial Forecast for 2012" from the Treasurer and Director of Finance. **CARRIED.**

### **Financial Forecast for 2013**

The Treasurer and Director of Finance Mr. Michael Joshua described how the Budget Working Group prepared the 2013 budget on the assumption that the Assessable Base would remain the same as it was for 2012. (The Assessable Base is an average of 3 years Assessable Income; it is applied to the Assessment Rate to calculate the allotment collected by the Diocese.) It was anticipated that there would be an Assessment Rate of 25.10% for 2013 to meet the approved budget. Although total Parish Income has increased, the Assessable Base for 2013 has decreased by almost \$500,000. It is anticipated that this trend will continue, since the decrease came from Offertory Income which is assessable. In 2012 many parishes will be receiving Our Faith-Our Hope rebates which is not assessable income. As of December 31, 2011, the rebates slated for parishes totaled \$2.2 million. This should be significantly higher in 2012, where an additional \$2.8 million in parish rebates is anticipated.

With an anticipated decreased assessable base, an Assessment Rate of 25.60% would be required to meet the approved budget needs of 2013. As this rate is likely not sustainable by most parishes, an amended budget was proposed which would result in an Assessment Rate of 25.00%. An Assessment Rate of 25.00% provides an increase in actual allotment dollars received by the Diocese of \$28,000, less than point 5 percent (0.5%) of the 2012 allotment dollars. A rate of 25.00% is an increase of 2.5% over the 2012 rate of 24.39%, which is less than the rate of inflation.

Although the 2013 budget was already approved, further savings were found and an amended budget was proposed that will include a \$140,000 reduction of expenses. This reduction is the result of the elimination of two new staff positions: the Planned Giving and Advertising Campaign Consultants. This amended budget would keep the staffing structure static, which is 8 persons fewer than in 2006.

The Diocesan Council forwarded the following motion to Synod with the recommendation that it be adopted.

**MOVED** by Mr. Kennedy Marshall and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Ted McCollum that Synod receive the “Financial Forecast for 2013”, including the amended Budget for 2013, from the Treasurer and Director of Finance. **CARRIED.**

### **Assessment Rate for 2013**

The Diocesan Council forwarded the following motion to Synod with the recommendation that it be adopted.

**MOVED** by Mr. Kennedy Marshall and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Ted McCollum that the Parish Assessment Rate, as defined in Canon 4, section 2, be 25.00% for 2013. **CARRIED.**

### **Auditors for 2012**

Audit Committee members Mr. Don Gillespie (Chair), Mr. Philip Creighton, Dr. Morley Lemon, and Mr. Paul Singleton recommended that the firm of Grant Thornton be retained as auditors for 2012 and that their remuneration be set by the Audit Committee.

**MOVED** by Mr. Peter Tovell and **SECONDED** by Ms. Delores Lawrence that the firm of Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants be appointed to conduct the audit of the Financial Statements of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, the Consolidated Trust Fund, and the Cemetery Fund for the year ending December 31, 2012 at a fee to be approved by the Audit Committee. **CARRIED.**

### **Closing Remarks**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson spoke of the Ministry Allocation Fund (MAF) and explained that the MAF gives a biblical tithe of 10% for work beyond the life of the Diocese. Some of the projects that the Diocese of Toronto has helped through this tithe include the rebuilding of the Cathedral in Iqaluit, providing relief in New Zealand following the earthquakes there, and contributing to a Suicide Prevention program in the North. The most recent donation has been a grant to the Diocese of New Westminster to help offset their legal fees in addressing their legal right to property. The legal decisions in favor of the principles of our ecclesiology have been precedent setting and we are grateful to the Diocese of New Westminster for their leadership. Diocesan Council’s decision to support the Diocese of New Westminster was a unanimous decision which does not reflect unanimity of opinion on the issues of sexuality that led to the original lawsuits.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson promoted his upcoming Town Hall meetings to discuss with Anglicans a proposal of reducing the number of Episcopal Areas and fewer suffragan bishops in the Diocese.

The Honorary Secretaries expressed their thanks and appreciation to the scrutineers, timekeepers, staff and volunteers for their efforts. They also thanked the Members of Synod for prayerfully considering the business of the Church.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson described the faith and witness of Bishop Joseph Butler, whose feast was celebrated that day, and how he defended an intellectually cogent approach to faith.

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| <p><b>MOVED</b> by the Rt. Rev. Philip Poole that this Corporate Session of Synod be adjourned.<br/><b>CARRIED.</b></p> |
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The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson closed the session of Synod with the Prayer after Communion for Joseph Butler and blessed the people at 12:42 pm.