

**Report of the 19th Youth Synod Session
Held May 5, 2007 at St. George's, Guelph**

Introduction

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| Chair | Bill Mous |
| Chancellor | The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins |
| MCs | Kristi Boulton and Nick Head-Petersen |
| Diocesan Program Consultants | Christyn Perkons and Joyce Wilton |
| Secretary | Jay Blackwood |
| Youth Synod Coordinator | Courtney Evers |
| Youth Synod Council Coordinator | The Reverend Stephen Murray |
| Youth Local Planning Coordinators | The Reverend Derek Anderson, Nancy Hewat |

Voting Delegates:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alicia Archbell** | Karen Haycraft | Katie Peach** |
| Sam Archbell | Jade Hayward | Braden Perrett |
| Mac Armstrong** | Nick Head-Petersen** | Yogi Pitt |
| Maggie Armstrong | Brenda-Lee Henry | Hannah Raaflaub |
| Stuy Armstrong | Deirdre Henry | Devin Robbins |
| Kaitlin Bainbridge | Alex Hill | Julian Rossiter |
| Whitney Bassett-Bradley | Ben Holtam-Prodger | Evan Rudderham |
| James Beattie | Rosie Hopkins | Matthew Saayman |
| Eric Bennett | Emily Irwin-James | Kyle Samuels |
| Leslie Bothwell | Janine Jackson | Margaret Sawatzky |
| Amberlee Boulton | Charlotte James | Erin Shuter |
| Kristi Boulton | Emily Johnson | Cody Slote-Roberts |
| Ayanna Boyce | Hilary Johnston | Maddisson Slote-Roberts |
| Logie Bradley | Tessa Jones | Marrissa Slote-Roberts |
| Steff Browning | Derek La Hay | Ashley Smith |
| Cam Buttrum | Kaitlin Lagerwerf | Emma Smith |
| Adam Carriere | John Lehocki | Kate Smyth |
| Desiye Collier | Marsha Letman | Katharine Sobschak |
| Jenn Cumming | Barbara Jean Lick | Chelsea Stewart |
| Jeff Cummings | Amanda Lickers | Diana Stout |
| Jeff Deegan | Mike Lickers | Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh** |
| Steph DeForest | Scott Lorimer | Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh** |
| Rae Dingwall | Clair Macaulay-Newcombe | Hilary Svatos** |
| Matt Dolson | Jay MacKinnon | Andrew Szucs |
| Nate Duliban | Tricia Manning | Bryan Szucs |
| Dane Edwards | Chris Mantel | Colin Taylor |
| Janoi Edwards | Emma Marchand | Heleena Teal |
| Elyse Ellis** | Katie McCann | Laura Tomkins |
| Hilary Finch | Kyle McCooley** | Alex Urquhart |
| Andee Fisher** | Christopher McDevitt | Zach Vernon |
| Mathew Fisher | Thomas McDevitt | Monica Volkov |
| Corey Freeman | Colleen Meade | Nicholas Waterman |
| Ken Garland | Justin Michael | Pamela Wettlaufer |
| Sarah Gibbons | David Micks | Jordyn Woehl |
| Nora Gravelle | Dan Mitchell | Diana Wood |
| Billy-Jim Green | Allison Mondloch | Dave Wright |
| Monica Griffin | Marah Montague | Ashley Yaworski |
| Becky Halliwell | Josh Morrison | Laura Zargi |
| Steve Harschnitz | Charlotte Morritt-Jacobs | |
| Ashley Hatcher | Sarah Noiseux | |

**Youth Synod Council Members

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Other Adult Observers

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Jamie Barnes | Observer |
| Ven. Michael Bird | Archdeacon of Trafalgar Region, Episcopal Nominee |
| Jay Blackwood | Small Group Leader |
| Lori Bodner | Observer |
| Jane Caulfield | Observer |
| Belle Daley | Youth Ministry Committee |
| Courtney Evers | Youth Synod Coordinator |
| Mary Gordon | Small Group Leader/Youth Ministry Committee |
| Ven. Tom Greene | Archdeacon of Greater Wellington |
| Matthew Griffin | Small Group Leader |
| Keith Halliwell | Observer and Photographer |
| Jen Harper | Small Group Leader |
| Laura Harrison | Small Group Leader |
| Phil Jones | Small Group Leader |
| Rev. Canon Dr. Rick Jones | St. Paul's Westdale, Episcopal Nominee |
| Katie Macdougall | Observer |
| Kim Martignago | Observer |
| Rev. Jean Mitchell | Observer |
| Rev. Kathy Morgan | Regional Dean, Mohawk/Youth Ministry Committee |
| Rev. Canon Dr. Margaret Murray | St. Matthias Guelph, Episcopal Nominee |
| Rev. Stephen Murray | Youth Synod Council Coordinator/Small Group Leader |
| Megan Peach | Small Group Leader |
| Pat Ruggles | Small Group Leader/Youth Ministry Committee |
| Ven. Jim Sandilands | St. James Dundas, Episcopal Nominee |
| Sarah Scapinello | Small Group Leader/Youth Ministry Committee |
| Very Rev. Peter Wall | Dean of the Diocese of Niagara, Episcopal Nominee |
| Jane Wyse | Diocesan Staff |

Tech Crew

Jon Simkins

Motion to Give Rights to the Floor for Observers:

“that the observers listed above be granted rights to the floor..”

The house granted overwhelming consent.

1. GLOBAL WARMING

WHEREAS: Global warming is an observable increase in the average temperature of the Earth. It is also an increase in global temperatures that can cause rising sea levels and changes in the amount and patterns of precipitation (www.earthday.ca);

AND WHEREAS: Delegates of Youth Synod 2007 should be helping stop the causes of Global Warming.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. When delegates return to their church they will help start compost and green box programs or if they exist, then get involved in helping people use them more.
2. Youth Synod will petition the Bishop of Niagara to declare one Sunday per year for Anglicans to walk, cycle or car-pool to church and delegates will walk or car-pool whenever possible and encourage others to do the same.
3. When delegates return to their church, they participate in an “adopt a road” program and pick up garbage on a Sunday after church.

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

4. Youth Synod 2007 notes that Diocesan Synod 2006 passed a motion resolving to consider at least one social justice motion yearly and requests the Secretary of Synod to designate global warming as the social justice theme of Diocesan Synod 2007.

Moved by: Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh
All Saints, Hamilton

Seconded by: Katie Peach
St. Matthias, Guelph

Discussion

- Motion was created to raise awareness of the issue.
- Scientist estimate that we have approx. 10 years to decrease the impact of our actions on global warming.
- Does the inclusion of global warming as a social justice issue at Diocesan Synod exclude same-sex blessings from being addressed as a social justice issue?
- The secretary of synod may consider the issue of same-sex blessings as a non-social justice issue, but we do not know if it would be excluded.

Friendly Amendment: *Youth Synod 2007 will ask that all Anglicans in the Diocese of Niagara petition the Government of Ontario to reduce airborne pollution due to coal-fired electrical generation plants.*

Moved by: Matthew Saayman, St. Mark's, Orangeville

Seconded by: Nick Head-Peterson, St. David & St. Patrick, Guelph

- Coal-fired energy in Ontario provides many jobs
- Adopt-a-Road may be too much for a church
- Remember that Global Warming is not simply about energy protection but about the consumption of individuals in our society... we need to look at our behaviours and be willing to make sacrifices about our current ways of living
- There are alternative methods of composting if green boxes are not available
- Is this day enough to make any impact? Should we do a month?
- Taking it step by step can make a difference
- You and your church can choose to take these actions further

Procedural Motion

Motion to vote clause-by-clause

Moved by: Evan Rudderham, St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton

Seconded by: Desiye Collier, St. Paul's, Hamilton

It passed overwhelmingly.

- Adopt-a-Road is not that difficult, can be a small road, can be cleaned monthly, or every few months
- We're thinking too small by saying only one Sunday a year

Friendly Amendment: to add the following to clause 2: *And to encourage the Bishop to couple this event with Earth Week.*

Moved by: Nick Head-Peterson, St. David & St. Patrick, Guelph

Seconded by: Tricia Manning, St. John's, Thorold

- Giving the idea of global warming as the Diocesan Synod social justice issue can be done any year
- Social justice discusses the rights of people rather than rights of the environment
- Embarrassment over Diocesan Synod not tackling the hard issues
- Global warming is actually climate change being trendy about the issue gets people talking about the issue.

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

- In the future look at what we can do in our community and during youth events to reduce waste and make an impact.

Clause 1: When delegates return to their church they will help start compost and green box programs or if they exist, then get involved in helping people use them more.

In Favour: 108
Opposed: 6
Clause is carried.

Clause 2: Youth Synod will petition the Bishop of Niagara to declare one Sunday per year for Anglicans to walk, cycle or car-pool to church and delegates will walk or car-pool whenever possible and encourage others to do the same, and to encourage the Bishop to couple this event with Earth Week.

In Favour: 117
Opposed: 4
Clause is carried.

Clause 3: When delegates return to their church, they participate in an “adopt a road” program and pick up garbage on a Sunday after church.

In Favour: 79
Opposed: 39
Clause is carried.

Clause 4: Youth Synod 2007 notes that Diocesan Synod 2006 passed a motion resolving to consider at least one social justice motion yearly and requests the Secretary of Synod to designate global warming as the social justice theme of Diocesan Synod 2007.

In Favour: 109
Opposed: 8
Clause is carried.

Clause 5: Youth Synod 2007 will ask that all Anglicans in the Diocese of Niagara petition the Government of Ontario to reduce airborne pollution due to coal-fired electrical generation plants.

In Favour: 20
Opposed: 91
Clause is defeated.

2. PROCEDURAL MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. Youth Synod debates motions that have been designated clause by clause as a whole motion and then vote clause by clause.

Moved by: Stephanie DeForest, St. James, Dundas
Seconded by: Andee Fisher, St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls

In Favour: 90
Opposed: 20
Motion is carried.

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

3. iCHURCH

WHEREAS: (Toronto Star article) “It has been predicted that the last Anglican will leave the last Anglican church in 2050” which shows us that the church in our modern times is not keeping up with the changing technologies and times of society;

AND WHEREAS: The internet brings many benefits to the church that have not been tapped into as society moves towards a more internet-oriented lifestyle;

AND WHEREAS: The availability of the internet is becoming more and more widespread which will allow the church to communicate with more people that are not within their parishes’ main area of focus and develop better communication with ministry partners (i.e., The Diocese of Niagara’s congregations being able to communicate more easily with The Diocese of Moosonee’s or Cuba’s congregations via the internet).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The delegates of Youth Synod request the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee look into the feasibility of hosting podcasts and webcasts of contemporary worship services on ZipSqueal by the end of January 2008.
2. If feasible, the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee will begin an iChurch Task Force that will oversee the integration of new technology into the youth ministry activities and website.
3. The delegates of Youth Synod with technological experience will donate their time and technology to the video recording of all youth gatherings, contemporary worships, and other events that can be later made available to view via the internet.

Moved By: Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton

Seconded By: Mac Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga

Unfriendly Amendment: *That the iChurch congregation meet once a month or bi-monthly.*

Moved by: Mike Lickers, All Saints, Hagersville

Seconded by: Pam Wettlaufer, St. John’s, Burlington

- This takes away from the spirit of the original motion; not looking to create an online congregation.

- About meeting together... must encourage people to still meet together

- iChurch spirit was not to replace parish services

Amendment was defeated.

Discussion

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- Access to events online
- Won’t have to drive to places
- Great for people who are already a part of the church but does not encourage people to come out
- It’s expensive to do
- Losing the physical community aspect of church
- You can see pictures online already

Procedural Motion

Elyse Ellis requested that the question be called.

In Favour: 57

Opposed: 52

IN FAVOUR: 81

OPPOSED: 32

Motion is carried.

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

4. ELECTION OF A NEW BISHOP

WHEREAS: This is a pivotal time for the Anglican Church within our parish communities, diocese, nation, and internationally;

AND WHEREAS: A new Bishop of the Diocese of Niagara will be elected on June 2, 2007;

AND WHEREAS: The youth of the Diocese are an important part of many of the great events of this Diocese and contribute to its wonderful work in the many communities;

AND WHEREAS: There are currently 12 nominees for the position of Coadjutor Bishop of Niagara;

AND WHEREAS: Youth are the present and the future of our church and our voice is an important one in choosing a new Bishop; and every parish is able to send one youth delegate to the Electoral Synod.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. Youth Synod 2007 asks Synod delegates to elect a bishop who is visibly engaged in diocesan and regional youth events such as Youth Synod, NYC and YLTP; and youth ministry within their own parish.
2. The youth urge delegates to vote for a nominee who embodies characteristics including empowering lay leadership, spiritual grounding, respecting the opinions of youth and who values a strong connection to all parishes and their congregations.
3. A memorial be sent to Electoral Synod expressing these.

Moved by: Nick Head-Petersen, St. David & St. Patrick, Guelph

Seconded by: Hilary Svatos, St. Jude's, Oakville

Discussion

- This could be a vote for the direction of the church for many years to come and we may not have another opportunity very soon to make an impact like this

Friendly Amendment: *to add a clause: That all Bishop nominees have a chance to reflect on what they have observed today and briefly talk (for no more than 3 minutes) about their vision for the future of the Diocese of Niagara and the larger Anglican community. This will occur at the end of today's first or second session.*

Moved by: Katie Peach, St. Matthias, Guelph

Seconded by: Josh Morrison, Young Adult Mentor

- Think about how much fun you can have with the Bishop... it would be a radical change if we went to NYC and did not have fun with the Bishop
- Several nominees are at Youth Synod this weekend, talk to them while they're here
- Encourage everyone to feel connected to the process... your priest, lay and youth representatives are going to represent you, ensure they represent your opinions
- Email the candidates with your questions
- Important and the Bishop see first hand what is going on... its discouraging that the Bishop is not here it feels like our opinions may get lost or go unheard if he is not present
- Last year the current Bishop was at Youth Synod for a little while... remember it's a lot of work
- Despite the absence of the Bishop, our voice is heard – sent memorials to Diocesan and General Synod and Youth Synod held up as example at Diocesan Synod in terms of addressing social justice issues

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

IN FAVOUR: 118

OPPOSED: 1

Motion is carried.

5. MEDIA BIAS

WHEREAS: Media bias is a term used to describe a real or perceived bias of journalists and news producers within the mass media, in the selection of which events will be reported and how they are covered. “Media bias” usually refers to a persistent or widespread bias disregarding the standards of journalism, rather than the perspective of an individual journalist or article; www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_bias

AND WHEREAS: Articles in newspapers and news reports are often times repeated, even if they are already “widely reported in other news media” (such as the coverage of personal celebrity lives and “overrepresentation of crime reporting, particularly street crime”). This is to lower the cost it makes to present these types of stories, compared to “investigative” journalism which takes the time and money to research the whole story and review all the facts. Because of costs, many stories are only half presented, which leaves more room for bias enter; www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_bias

AND WHEREAS: The news media are money-making businesses. They must present products that appeal to their customers in order to make a profit. News media customers are advertisers, so the best “products” the news media can offer are viewers and readers. The more readers and viewers the media has, the better their profit. The news media is biased toward conflict (bad news and narrative biases) because conflict draws readers and viewers. But that doesn’t necessarily mean that these stories are untrue; <http://www.rhetorica.net/bias.html>

AND WHEREAS: Media violence also a major factor in society today, which effects the long and short term affects in aggression. Research on violent television, films, video games and music reveals evidence that media violence increases the likelihood of aggressive and violent behaviour; whether it is in long or short term contexts; <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/doi/>

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. Delegates will form discussion groups in their parishes, to meet once a month. These groups will talk and debate about current issues: identifying biases and practicing the development of independent opinions.
2. Delegates will give up all watching of television, playing video games and using the internet for any reason during the first full week in October after Thanksgiving (this year that would be Monday, October 15th to Sunday, October 21st, 2007) annually; and that, during this time, delegates will read at least two different newspapers, and seek out alternate sources of receiving news. Delegates will encourage their family members and friends to also participate in this boycott.
3. Delegates will not use internet sources, and especially Wikipedia, during October 2007, unless explicitly told to do so by teachers.

Motioned by: Elyse Ellis, Christ Church, Woodburn

Seconded by: Andee Fisher, St. John’s, Niagara Falls

Discussion

- Affects our lives everyday, and so the one week media ban helps us to realize how much media influences our opinion, and gives us a chance to think for ourselves
- Music is excluded from the media ban, even though it is recognized that music includes a media bias
- Is hoped to encourage people to make their own decisions

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

- Newspaper is thought to be one of the most biased sources, and is not included in this ban
- Media is one of the ways that we can learn about happenings around the world, and without it, we would have no knowledge of what was occurring nationally or globally

Procedural Motion

Emma Smith asked that the motion be voted on clause-by-clause.

Motion was approved.

- Smaller towns may not have access to wider varieties of informed sources, and so the internet offers the opportunity to access this information
- The focus is also on being critical and analytical of the information that is being read, and making an informed decision as to whether or not it is a credible source
- Media will always be around us, and so we need to learn to think for ourselves even while in the presence of the media
- Addressing violence due to media is good
- Do violent video games make all people violent?
- Focus on parenting and how the media portrays violence
- People do not think of the deeper implications of their video game play

Procedural Motion

James Beattie asked the question to be called.

Clause 1: Delegates will form discussion groups in their parishes, to meet once a month. These groups will talk and debate about current issues: identifying biases and practicing the development of independent opinions.

In Favour: 77

Opposed: 39

Clause is carried.

Clause 2: Delegates will give up all watching of television, playing video games and using the internet for any reason during the first full week in October after Thanksgiving (this year that would be Monday, October 15th to Sunday, October 21st, 2007) annually; and that, during this time, delegates will read at least two different newspapers, and seek out alternate sources of receiving news. Delegates will encourage their family members and friends to also participate in this boycott.

In Favour: 18

Opposed: 98

Clause is defeated.

Clause 3: Delegates will not use internet sources, and especially Wikipedia, during October 2007, unless explicitly told to do so by teachers.

In Favour: 16

Opposed: 103

Clause is defeated.

6. MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS

WHEREAS: Youth Synod proper only allows one amendment per motion.

AND WHEREAS: Although time efficient, this can reduce the ultimate effectiveness of the motion

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. Maximum of 3 relevant amendments be permitted per motion to increase the effectiveness of a motion;
2. Each of the 3 amendments can be amended once;
3. If the motion is voted clause by clause one amendment per clause is permitted.

Moved by: Adam Carriere, St. John's, Nassagaweya
Seconded by: Ashley Smith, St. John's, Burlington

Discussion

- This issue was referred to Youth Synod Council and they decided that in order to protect the original intention of the motion, one amendment was decided to be adequate.
- Who determines what is a relevant amendment?
- Amendments were changing the wording of be it resolved clauses in the past and that is why the rule was changed at Youth Synod in the past.
- Calling the question should be addressed also.
- Write new motions rather than amending repeatedly.
- More amendments may take away from the presentation and discussion of other motions during the Youth Synod proper sessions.

Procedural Motion

Josh Morrison asked that the question be called.

The house agreed.

In Favour: 24

Opposed: 82

Motion is defeated.

7. PROACTIVE YOUTH MISSION TRIPS NOW

WHEREAS: Several initiatives to undertake active missionary work by youth in this diocese have been passed at previous Youth Synods, including the mission trip motion of Youth Synod 2006, and it is clear there is a strong desire for a mission trip program within this diocese;

AND WHEREAS: Youth Synod Council understands that the Rev. Patricia Lucy has been designated by the Executive Officer as the Youth Mission Trips Coordinator, and that as such, she has participated in a training workshop around setting up mission trips;

AND WHEREAS: There has been no youth mission trip proposed for 2007;

AND WHEREAS: There are many faith organizations currently running youth mission trips, some of whom have worked with parishes in the diocese, and future cooperation with such programs could be immediately productive for the youth of the diocese.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2007 appoints Nick Head-Petersen, Mac Armstrong, and two members of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee to work with Rev. Patricia Lucy to create a youth mission trip for 2008.
2. This Youth Mission Trip Working Committee explores utilizing currently existing programs as part of their work in the next year.

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

3. That space on ZipSqueal be devoted to regular reporting on the progress of mission trips.

Moved by: Mac Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga
Seconded by: Maggie Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga

Discussion

- There have been several motions around this in the past but not much action has been taken... I have been waiting to go on a mission trip for several years so this motion is intended to encourage it to happen now.
- There are many who have waited for several years for this program to take place.
- Would these mission trips be funded for the participants?
- What about donating time/money to other global social justice causes.
- A motion around mission trips was heavily favoured in 2006.
- Clause 3 has been proposed in the past. There will be space on ZipSqueal when there is a mission trip
- What does one do on a mission trip?
- Who is Patricia Lucy? What does she do? Patricia Lucy (St. Paul's, Glanford) was asked by Archdeacon Marion Vincett to assume responsibility for coordinating a diocesan youth mission trip in response to Youth Synod 2006 motion. She sits on the Outreach Committee.
- Why are certain individuals on this committee?
- More opportunities for rural churches to participate
- Mission trips have been attempted in the past and youth need to take responsibility for this to happen. Especially the people named in the motion. You need to be committed to the full process of planning and funding it.
- This is a very special gift to another global community and we are representing our dioceses in this.
- Consistency is required from the individuals in charge.

Friendly Amendment: to amend clause 1 to read as follows: Youth Synod 2007 appoints Nick Head-Petersen, Mac Armstrong, and/or others appointed by Youth Synod Council, and two members of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee to work with Rev. Patricia Lucy to create a youth mission trip for 2008.

Moved by: Nick Head-Peterson, St. David & St. Patrick, Guelph
Seconded by: Kristi Boulton, St. Matthias, Guelph

- How would they be funded?
- Funding may take a few years and training and preparation is required, the money may be better spent by donating it to existing organizations that do this type of work
- World Vision suggestions are ok, but mission trips are personal and you're making a commitment of your own time and work... its more rewarding
- There need to be a strict acceptance process to ensure that everyone who says they are going to go is committed to going.

Procedural Motion

Braden Perrett asked that the question be called.

It was not the will of the house at this time.

- This motion should have been discussed with Patricia Lucy rather than being presented without her awareness
- Patricia Lucy has been contacted about progress reports to Youth Synod Council
- The responsibility of Outreach Committee has been overlooked
- We are putting the responsibility on other people, we can do this ourselves
- Creating our own program so that people have access and are comfortable with the organization they are donating their time and money to
- This is our responsibility (to help others) as Christians.

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

IN FAVOUR: 110

OPPOSED: 4

Motion is carried.

STATEMENTS FROM EPISCOPAL NOMINEES

- **Rev. Canon Dr. Brian Ruttan**
 - How you do things is as important as content
 - Psychotherapist who is concerned about process
 - Music writer with hymns in the hymn book
 - Stirring round of “Glory to God in the Highest” with the help of Steve Hopkins

- **Rev. Canon Dr. Margaret Murray**
 - Song “We Will Walk With God”
 - Rhythm challenged
 - The song is about the way she works with people
 - Walking with God and walking with people is the way the Diocese works the best
 - Awestruck with the wisdom of youth
 - Youth voice should be clearer in the church
 - We should make video of youth synod to show Diocesan Synod how well youth work and move process along

- **Rev. Canon Dr. Rick Jones**
 - Story about TV Evangelist and his white dove (Holy Spirit) which was eaten by the cat
 - Sometimes life in the diocese feels like the cat ate the Holy Spirit
 - Things should be exciting in parishes and across the dioceses like they are at youth events
 - Secretary of Diocesan Synod 2007
 - Listening to you has generated lots of ideas; like I will try to get David Suzuki to Diocesan Synod 2007
 - Appreciate the motion around Media Bias
 - Remembers when Canterbury Hills Camp was almost closed. At that time people led a charge to keep Canterbury Hills alive and profitable. Is willing to fight to keep youth programs.
 - When you’re thinking about the next person, ask them, when the going gets tough, what will be the priority of Youth Ministry and Canterbury Hills in the future of the Diocese?

- **Ven. Michael Bird**
 - The work of the church, proclaiming God’s love in the word has not changed to much in the last 2000 years but the world that we are proclaiming it too has - changing with increasingly rapidity
 - Sometimes we fail to meet these changes
 - There are places across the Diocese that have vision and creativity around how to bring that message in the changing world
 - Youth Ministry has that creative vision about how to bring that message across
 - Youth Ministry is the seeds to grow the future of the Diocese.
 - His version of Anglican Idol... sang an Eric Clapton song.

- **Very Rev. Peter Wall**
 - Very happy that we’re all here, fill shim with hope
 - Happy that Youth Ministry in the Diocese is lively and that people care about it... point of pride
 - Measure of youth’s dedication to give a weekend to work on resolutions that matter and helping the church to learn what matters
 - Leaders deserve a lot of credit for their hard work
 - Honoured and humbled to be nominated, 3rd or 4th time he’s been on an Episcopal ballot

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

- Life of a Bishop is difficult and at times lonely one
 - Lots that interests and frightens him about the prospect of doing the job
 - Niagara is on cutting edge of the church - looked to with great admiration
 - Would be an honour for him to lead with people like us around him
 - It will be fun to figure out what our future will be with the youth
 - He's an old fart and we would keep him young
 - Looking at new way to be the church and be Anglicans in the world
 - Philosophy is one of the bedrock subjects of Christianity
 - Monty Python... a group of people who are in their own way philosophers
 - A song about philosophers... "I drink therefore I am." The new Cartersian philosophy.
- **Ven. Jim Sandilands**
 - Believes in tradition but creativity
 - Sing God's song at every time you can, sing it loud and strong
 - Will promise to try to answer your forwarded questions
 - (Insert bass solo here)
 - He loves you all

8. PROVINCIAL & GENERAL SYNOD DELEGATE ELECTIONS

WHEREAS: The Provincial Synod of Ontario, meeting in the fall of 2006, passed a motion urging diocesan bishops to effect changes so that youth delegates to Provincial Synod be elected rather than appointed;

AND WHEREAS: At this time youth delegates are currently appointed by the Bishop, and that the Diocese as a whole lacks the opportunity to provide input, unlike the process for clergy and adult lay delegates;

AND WHEREAS: Youth delegates are full members of the bodies to which they are delegates, with full privileges;

AND WHEREAS: Youth delegates represent not only the youth but the diocese as a whole.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. We ask the Bishop of Niagara and Synod Council to bring forward a motion to diocesan synod that will change the canons that specify how youth delegates to Provincial and General Synods are selected, so that youth delegates for each event are elected by the same Diocesan Synod which elects adult delegates.

Moved by: Nick Head-Petersen, St. David & St. Patrick, Guelph

Seconded by: Kyle McCooley, St. Paul's, Fort Erie

Discussion

- More democratic method for selecting candidates
- Closer to the rest of the system for Provincial/General Synod delegates
- We are old enough to have our own Synod, we are mature enough to vote for it
- Youth having a say in who represents them
- Proposal of amendment to have those delegates voted upon at Youth Synod for selection by the Bishop
- This person is representing the diocese not just the youth of the diocese, keep the motion as written
- Diocesan Synod does not have the knowledge of the candidates that we do
- We should have a say because it would change our church
- Have the Youth Synod select their nominees and forward them to Diocesan synod for election from that body

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

- Youth Ministry Committee current makes suggestions of representatives that are selected by the Bishop

Friendly Amendment: *that the clause be amended as follows: We ask the Bishop of Niagara and Synod Council to bring forward a motion to diocesan synod that will change the canons that specify how youth delegates to Provincial and General Synods are selected, so that youth delegates for each event are nominated by Youth Synod and elected by the same diocesan synod which elects adult delegates.*

Moved by: Karen Haycraft, St. Simon's, Oakville

Seconded by: Cam Buttram, Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton

- Representative to Provincial & General Synod must be a member of Diocesan Synod at the time of their nomination
- If the persons nominated are not a parish delegate, the Bishop could appoint them as youth delegates to Diocesan Synod.

IN FAVOUR: 108

OPPOSED: 6

Motion is carried.

9. SAFE INJECTION SITES

WHEREAS: Heroin is a highly addictive drug. It kills almost 5,000 people in Canada each year. Heroin users can spend \$150-200 per day if they are an everyday user. All heroin users can get HIV/AIDS if they use contaminated needles, and sharing needles is a common practice amongst heroin users because they can't afford them or acquire them easily;

AND WHEREAS: Safe Injection Sites saves countless lives every day by administering the proper dose of methadone thus avoiding drug overdoses and preventing HIV/AIDS as well as other transmittable diseases by eliminating the use of shared needles;

AND WHEREAS: If addicted drug users stop using drugs, they will go into withdrawal and become seriously ill. Because many heroin users are unable to work or because the money they earn is insufficient to feed their daily habit, many turn to crime to fund their heroin habit. So by using Safe Injection Sites, they can get help to legally feed their addiction which will result in fewer robberies and other crimes;

AND WHEREAS: God wants us to love our neighbour as ourselves and if our neighbours are drug abusers, then we should help them get clean materials and help;

AND WHEREAS: Safe Injection Sites are extremely clean and well supervised with personnel trained in drug administration as well as strategies to support addicts who want to end their addiction.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. A petition, signed by the delegates and staff of Youth Synod 2007, will be sent to all of the regional health systems in our diocese to tell them of our support and to request that more safe injection sites be opened.
2. Each member of Youth Synod will write a letter to their Member of Provincial Parliament asking that more safe injection sites be opened.

Moved by: Kyle McCooley, St. Paul's, Fort Erie

Seconded by: Alicia Archbell, St. Elizabeth's, Burlington

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Discussion

- Current closest safe injection site is in Toronto
- Heroin is widely used
- It is a good idea to support environments that help people get well in a safe and healthy environment
- HIV and AIDs motions have been passed in the past and not support this motion contradicts our decision to fight this
- There are other ways to get clean... methadone and Tang. Can be taken orally which decreases the risk of HIV and AIDs transmission
- Create a safe environment for people who have the injection with trained professionals who ensure safe use and can promote reduction of dependence and addiction
- Heroin users are taking this risk upon themselves
- They can just quit if they don't want the risk
- Permitting other people to do heroin by reducing the risks associated with the drug
- People won't care what 14-15 year old kids have to say
- Safe drug use sites in Ottawa have not been effective (anecdotal story, not referenced)
- Supervision of these sites would be important
- Motion is missing support for increased awareness of safe drug use sites and methods or steps to eradicate drug use through awareness
- Logistical question, who would be staffing it and how many people come through?
- What about the safety of the employees?

Friendly Amendment: *to amend clause 2 to read as follows: that Each member of Youth Synod will write a letter to their Member of Provincial Parliament asking that more safe injection sites be opened. Additionally, members of Youth Synod are encouraged to write to the appropriate national government representatives to help decrease the number of drug users in the country.*

Moved by: Desiye Collier, St. Paul's, Hamilton

Seconded by: Scott Lorimer, St. John's, Thorold

- The only program in Canada that is for youth is a harm reduction site, should we not support programs that support youth.
- Would they be checking to ensure that there are no first time users?
- This does not encourage use because these centres would be places that good information would get to potential users
- Methadone is the heroin equivalent of the nicotine patch, makes quitting easier and reduces withdrawal symptoms
- World Health Organization has asked Canada to stop safe injection sites, and communities are moving to needle exchange programs instead so that drug use is not encouraged
- Large number of drug users are aboriginal, and not passing this motion would reflect a lack of care for them
- We need to consider the human factor, not just the drug
- This motion is referring to safe injection, needle exchange and usage reductions
- Safe injection sites are closely monitored and secure places

IN FAVOUR: 85

OPPOSED: 29

Motion is carried.

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

10. SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE

WHEREAS: Sexual intercourse should be part of a loving relationship and each partner should feel both sensitive to and protective of the other. Some people believe you are ready to have sex if you are comfortable telling your partner what feels good to you. Others feel you are ready to have sex when you can go to the drugstore and buy condoms with your own money, or when you can make an appointment with your doctor to get birth control; (<http://www.canadianliving.com/Canadianliving/client/en/Family/DetailNews.asp?idNews=1568&idSM=64>)

AND WHEREAS: The Bible has no actual reference to sex being a sin before marriage; the Bible does refer to sex as ‘fornication’, which does NOT mean ‘sex before marriage’; **Matt.15: 17-20; Mark 7: 19-21.** Jesus asked them “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean’. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, **sexual immorality**, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man ‘unclean’; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him ‘unclean’.” However this applies to several things outside of marriage, like incest or rape; (<http://net-burst.net/singles/premarital.htm>)

AND WHEREAS: In the Old Testament Law, casual sex was impossible. For an unmarried man to have sex with an unmarried woman was to make an even more binding commitment than normal marriage; (<http://net-burst.net/singles/premarital.htm>)

AND WHEREAS: There is no right age to start having sex. It depends on when you feel comfortable and the time is right for you. Everybody has a different feeling about when that time is and when the right age is. How ready you feel emotionally and how ready your body feels will help you figure that out. If not sure, think about all the reasons why you feel you are ready to have sex and all the reasons why you are not. You are the best person to make that decision; (<http://www.spiderbytes.ca/Sexuality/SexualityFAQ.shtml>)

AND WHEREAS: Precocious sex refers to sexual intercourse initiated before 16 years of age. More than 30% of adolescent females are sexually precocious and nearly 70% have engaged in sexual intercourse by age 18. Most young people begin having sex in their mid-to-late teens, about eight years before they marry; while 93% of teenage women report that their first intercourse was voluntary, one-quarter of these young women report that it was unwanted; seven in 10 of those who had sex before age 13. Each year, almost one million teenage women - 10% of all women aged 15-19 and 19% of those who have had sexual intercourse, become pregnant. (<http://www.teencarecenter.org/index.php?s=factsheets&p=sheet8>)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. Delegates reaffirm the motion on sex before marriage from 2003.
2. Delegates will discuss sexual issues with prospective or current partners, with parents, with confidantes and with trusted peers and elders, before and while engaging in sexual relationships.
3. Delegates will ask Diocesan Youth Ministry to provide and facilitate and conduct workshops and opportunities to discuss issues relating sexual relationships and sexual health.
4. Delegates will ask the Youth Synod Council to question the non-negotiable(s) of Youth Synod as it pertains to this motion and change them accordingly.

Moved by: Andee Fisher, St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls
Seconded by: Elyse Ellis, Christ Church, Woodburn

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Discussion

- Sex before marriage is a personal choice
- This motion supports the choice of those people who have chosen to engage in sexual relationships
- Different sources for making this decision such as the Bible should be respected
- Peer pressure issue
- Making an informed choice about a large decision in your life... think about the repercussions and discuss with those around you
- Is this saying that sex at Youth Ministry events is ok?
- No, this is referring to couples at events and their desire to be affectionate rather than sexual at Youth Ministry events.
- Should we define what sex is?
- Several people had issues of contention with the information in the whereas clauses

Friendly Amendment: *to amend clause 4 to read as follows: Delegates will ask the Youth Synod Council to clarify and redefine what is considered appropriate sexual activity at a Youth Ministry event and then question the non-negotiable(s) of Youth Synod as it pertains to this motion and change them accordingly.*

Moved by: Justin Michael, St. James, Guelph

Seconded by: Stuart Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga

Procedural Motion

Becky Halliwell asked that the motion be voted on clause-by-clause.

Motion was passed.

Procedural Motion

Amberlee Boulton asked that the motion be tabled until 2008.

Motion was defeated.

Procedural Motion

Ashley Smith asked that the motion be tabled to later in the session of Youth Synod 2007.

Motion was approved.

- Why are we saying that we encourage sexual activity when we have said that we want to reduce HIV infection?
- Does this conflict with our media bias affirmations to form our own opinions?
- Youth Synod Council does not have the authority to carry out clause four.
- Would any parish host an overnight event where this was encouraged
- Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee should have this motion referred to them as they are the ones responsible for the events

“that this motion be referred to Youth Synod Council and Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee”

Moved by: Emily Irwin-James, St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls

Seconded by: Evan Rudderham, St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton

Motion to refer is carried.

11. FOOD DRIVE FOR YOUTH SYNOD

WHEREAS: As Christians we are called to care for those who are sick, disabled, hungry, and alone. (Matthew 25:31-46);

AND WHEREAS: Hunger is a problem that is present both internationally, and within many of our own communities.

From the Canadian Association of Food Banks website (www.cafb-acba.ca):

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Between 1989 and 2006, the number of people using food banks has increased 99.3%. In March 2006, 753,458 hungry Canadians received food from a food bank:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 30.4% are single parents | 41% are children |
| 22.6% are 2-parent families | 6.8% are seniors |

AND WHEREAS: Though some communities have a higher need for non-perishable food products, nearly every community has a food bank or is served by one in a nearby community;

AND WHEREAS: at each Youth Synod, over 100 delegates gather at a different parish in a different community and if each delegate brought a gift of food, a lot of food could be raised for the local community food bank.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. Each Youth Synod delegate, as of Youth Synod 2008, will bring a minimum of 10 non-perishable goods (or a minimum of \$10.00), to be collected at registration, and distributed to the local food bank. A record of the number of non-perishable goods collected will be reported at the end of the Synod Proper Session, to be recorded in the minutes.
2. Youth Synod Delegates will be encouraged to break the record annually by bringing more non-perishable food items in the years to follow.
3. Participants in other diocesan Youth Ministry events be notified that a food bin will be provided for the collection of non-perishable food items to be distributed under the direction of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee.

Moved by: Mac Armstrong, St John the Divine, Cayuga
Seconded by: Maggie Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga

Discussion

Unfriendly Amendment: *to add a clause that reads as follows: To ask the youth to bring a donation of food as suggested from a list in their registration package or encourage the parish to donate food items for youth to bring to youth events.*

Moved by: Amberlee Boulton, St. Matthias, Guelph
Seconded by: Cam Buttram, Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton
Amendment is carried.

- Understanding that some people may not be able to afford this
- Some of the youth at events may be users of food banks themselves
- What if a parish does not do a food drive?
- Does the amendment contradict the first clause? No, it simply states that the items would be from a list, and/or that they would be provided by the parish
- The list in the package ensures useful donations for food banks

Procedural Motion

Ashley Smith asked that the motion be voted on clause-by-clause.
The house agreed.

- We are adding \$15 onto our program fees already, how much further are we going to take it?

Procedural Motion

Kyle McCooey asked that the question be called.

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Clause 1: Each Youth Synod delegate, as of Youth Synod 2008, will bring a minimum of 10 non-perishable goods (or a minimum of \$10.00), to be collected at registration, and distributed to the local food bank. A record of the number of non-perishable goods collected will be reported at the end of the Synod Proper Session, to be recorded in the minutes.

In Favour: 63

Opposed: 49

Clause is defeated.

Clause 2: Youth Synod Delegates will be encouraged to break the record annually by bringing more non-perishable food items in the years to follow.

Clause was initially ruled redundant and out of order.

No vote.

Clause was defeated.

Clause was changed was changed to read “the record” instead of “this record” and brought back into order with the passing of clause four.

In Favour: 105

Opposed: 9

Clause is carried.

Clause 3: Participants in other diocesan Youth Ministry events be notified that a food bin will be provided for the collection of non-perishable food items to be distributed under the direction of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee.

In Favour: 113

Opposed: 1

Clause is carried.

Clause 4: To ask the youth to bring a donation of food as suggested from a list in their registration package or encourage the parish to donate food items for youth to bring to youth events

In Favour: 119

Opposed: 0

Clause is unanimously.

12. ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY LAPTOPS

WHEREAS: We are called to care for our planet as stewards of creation;

AND WHEREAS: Computers have gone through many technological innovations over the past several years, including the development of the portable laptop computer;

AND WHEREAS: Paper is a waste of our natural resources and should be reserved for situations where electricity and wireless connections are not available;

AND WHEREAS: The large amounts of paper each Youth Synod delegate is given, when combined with the paper of others at their table equals at least one-quarter of a tree. (The amount of paper found in other formal events such as Diocesan Synod is even greater.);

AND WHEREAS: Paper often makes up the majority of clutter, garbage and recycling in one's house;

AND WHEREAS: Having your own laptop would be really awesome, especially if you do not have one already due to the expense.

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. Youth Synod 2007 will request the issuing of personal laptops to all Youth Synod delegates and staff to track the progress of motions during Synod Proper Sessions and to assist delegates in writing motions from the floor.
2. These laptops must be energy efficient with the possibility of an alternative energy source, such as a small solar panel to decrease the amount of energy used from the power grid, and to uphold an environmentally friendly attitude.
3. Youth Synod 2007 will request Diocesan Synod to also use a similar practice with the Convening Circular in order to reduce paper usage, to set an example to other dioceses across Canada and the world of the Diocese of Niagara's progressive and environmentally friendly attitude.
4. The Program Department will use the website in the future to communicate with all youth ministry program participants, to supply the convening circular for Youth Synod to the delegates, and to request health information and other information.
5. Youth Synod delegates be encouraged to bring their own laptops and that technology be provided that links the main screen to their laptops.

Moved by: Mac Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga
Seconded by: Hilary Svatos, St. Jude's, Oakville

Discussion

- **Motion to refer to Youth Synod Council - Motion is carried.**

CLOSING REMARKS

Observers Comments

- **Phil Jones**
 - Commend the youth
 - The youth usually notice everything and don't miss little things with motions
- **Brian Ruttan**
 - Observing the debate about sex
 - "The motion was like sex. You get going, then you get close and then you back right off..."
- **Margaret Murray**
 - Inspiring to see people listening to each other and addressing each others concerns
- **Kathy Morgan**
 - Wonderful to see the excitement and interest
 - Diocesan synod delegates certainly don't run to the mic
 - You have a voice and you use it

Steve Hopkins, Chancellor

- Has a lot of fun every time he does it
- Hopes that the new Bishop will be with you for all of Youth Synod 2008
- What happens at Youth Synod, the tactical skill and thought are impressive and need to be seen to be believed
- Procedural motions have Youth Synod take control of its whole life
- Confusion on amendments, remember that it's the text that matters, not what was said or intended... the wording is authoritative
- Most interest moments of debate were when people were attempting to root the debate in their faith experience and values
- Quoting the text may not be enough... we must be able to talk about what it means for us to make a decision as a faith community

REPORT OF THE NINETEEN YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

- Talking about community and sacrament in the iChurch motion
- Its great that we were being intentional about being a faith community
- Thought that people were going to duck the challenge when they defeated the first food drive clause and that they gave themselves the challenge to do more
- Sensitivity to the needs of others and ourselves
- Taking on the challenge to do something that is a sign of who we are and what we do
- We do this as a sign of God's promise that all are fed and have what they need
- This is about what humanity's ultimate destiny is
- Pleased that they passed the motion that Youth members be elected by Synod. Just elected by Youth Synod would ghettoize youth. The diocese as a whole needs to endorse the voice of youth be their voice. Having the nomination from Youth Synod is a good practical tool.
- The Prolocutor of Provincial Synod is a youth from Diocese of Ottawa, so the youth voice is important.
- Youth Synod as a mission trip... the purpose of a mission trip is to be changed by those we visit and see the church in another place and how people seek to be God's people in their place. Youth Synod allows you to meet people from a variety of parishes and communities and allows us to be changed by our relationships with other people.
- Remember what you have agreed to do. It's vital that you understand your personal responsibility when you vote at Youth Synod.
 - Episcopal elections... get on this soon, its happening shortly
 - Donating technology and time
 - Agents of Green change... who do I need to talk to in my parish?
 - Forming discussion groups on media bias... who do you need to talk to, how do you arrange this?
 - Agreed to sign petition and send a letter about safe injection sites
 - Bringing food to youth events in the future
- Making change happen means we need to make it our change. Change ourselves and change the world.

Bill Mous, Chair

- Congratulations on your hard work on the motions and in the proper sessions
- Good use of the processes involved in Youth Synod in order to have your voice and perspective heard
- The respect you showed in the debate was commendable and is important to have
- We have talked a lot which in itself is powerful and transforming
- Talk needs to be continued with action and commitment to the resolutions that you committed to
- This is where the transformation of ourselves and our world will move out of this place
- If we do not carry these forward we limit ourselves and say little for ourselves and for what youth synod means
- Make it more than a grandiose debating club
- Share the process with your friends and peers, clergy etc.
- Challenge them with the perspectives of the youth that have been brought forward here
- Create a report or presentation for your church so that others can share in what happened
- Thank you to the Chancellor and MCs for their work
- 19th Session of Youth Synod was ended with a standing ovation. Woot!