

**REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION
HELD MAY 3, 2008 AT ST. ANDREW'S, GRIMSBY**

Introduction of:

Chair	Bill Mous
Chancellor	The Venerable Dr. Stephen Hopkins
MCs	Justin Michael and Emma Smith
Diocesan Program Consultants	Christyn Perkons and Joyce Wilton
Secretary	Jamie Barnes and Brandon Prodger
Youth Synod Coordinator	Mary Gordon
Youth Synod Council Coordinator	Matthew Griffin
Youth Local Planning Coordinators	Pat Ruggles and The Reverend Canon Stuart Pike

Voting Delegates:

Alicia Archbell**	Brenda-Lee Henry	Hannah Raaflaub
Sam Archbell	Ben Holtam-Prodger	Nathalie Reid
Elliott Armstrong	Rosie Hopkins**	Devin Robbins
Mac Armstrong**	Charlotte Irwin-James	Julianne Rock
Maggie Armstrong	Janine Jackson	Thomas Rolfe
Stuy Armstrong**	Emily Johnson	Evan Rudderham
Nick Arseneau	Hilary Johnston	Matthew Saayman
James Beattie	Danielle Killingbeck	Kyle Samuels
Latish Bechkos	Jasmine Kondracki	Katelyn Schaeffer
Jordyn Bell	Derek La Hay	Erin Shuter
Sarah Bird	Kaitlin Lagerwerf	Ashley Smith**
Amberlee Boulton	John Lehocki	Emma Smith
Logie Bradley	Jess Letman	Andrew Soave
Steff Browning**	Barbara Jean Lick	Katharine Sobschak
Cam Buttrum	Mike Lickers	Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh**
Erin Buttrum	Clair Macaulay-	Dean Sutton-
Victoria Carlson	Newcombe	Greenhalgh**
Lauren Clark	Jay MacKinnon	Bryan Szucs
Jeff Cummings	Tricia Manning	Patrick Taylor
Lenox Daley	Emma Marchand	Kristalyn
Nate Duliban	Christopher McDevitt	Thornborrow
Jenn Evans	Cory McGee	Madison Toth
Kelsey Fedus	Aley Meade	Alex Urquhart
Mat Fisher	Justin Michael**	Zach Vernon
Andrew Garland	David Micks	Monica Volkov
Angela Gibbons	Emily Moar	Rob Warren
Sarah Gibbons	Cam Moffat	Nic Waterman
Nora Gravelle	Allison Mondloch	Will Wells
Billy-Jim Green	Marah Montague**	Pamela Wettlaufer
Eric Greene	Josh Morrison	Diana Wood
Monica Griffin	Charlotte Morrirt-Jacobs	Brock Wootton
Richard Griffin	Graham Nicolls	Dave Wright
Steve Harschnitz	Sarah Noiseux	Ashley Yaworski
Ashley Hatcher	Jeremy Phillips	Sabrina Yott
Karen Haycraft	Carolyn Pugh	Laura Zargi

** Youth Synod Council Members

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Other Adult Observers:

The Right Reverend Michael Bird	Bishop of Niagara
Lori Bodner	Youth Ministry Volunteer
Carrie Charters	Small Group Leader
Jen Craig	Night Staff
The Reverend Mike Deed	Social Coordinator
The Reverend Dianne Distler	Regional Dean, Undermount
Donna Ellis	Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee
Courtney Evers	Past Youth Synod Coordinator
The Reverend Rob Fead	Regional Dean, Lincoln
Jen Harper	Small Group Leader
Keith Halliwell	Small Group Leader
Laura Harrison	Small Group Leader
Phil Jones	Small Group Leader
The Reverend Kathy Morgan	Regional Dean, Mohawk
The Reverend Stephen Murray	Small Group Leader
Jordan Russell	Small Group Leader
Anna Ryder	Small Group Leader
The Venerable Jim Sandilands	Archdeacon, Mohawk
Sarah Scapinello	Small Group Leader/Youth Ministry Committee
Jane Wyse	Diocesan Staff

Tech Crew:

Jamie Barnes and Brandon Prodger

Bishop Bird's Charge:

- The importance of the Youth Synod body in lifting the spirits of the church in a tough time at his installation
- Ensuring we reach out to all in our diocese
- Challenge to all of us amidst these complex times, to read the bible, to learn more about what it means to be an Anglican...foundations and realities of our practices and doctrines
- Blessing

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. JOINT ANGLICAN – LUTHERAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

WHEREAS: the United Nations called homelessness in Canada a “national emergency,” and the current Federal Budget leaves 150,000 to 300,000 homeless people in Canada out in the cold, and 1.5 million Canadians in desperate housing need without relief;

AND WHEREAS: homelessness and risk of homelessness is a serious but often unrecognized problem for young people under the age of 21;

AND WHEREAS: the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada and the National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada launched an Affordable Housing Initiative on February 27, 2008 by sending a letter to the Minister of Human Resources and Development Canada, the Rt. Hon. Monte Solberg, requesting the government “address homelessness in Canada as part of a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy”;

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

AND WHEREAS: the joint Anglican–Lutheran initiative takes inspiration from the prophet Isaiah who reminds us what true religious observance is: “Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house?” (Isaiah 58:7), and seeks to go beyond the prophet’s call to create a society where the homeless poor are invited into their own house.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Delegates to Youth Synod 2008 will sign a letter to the Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development that asks the government to take immediate steps towards addressing homelessness across Canada.
2. Delegates will send a letter to their federal Member of Parliament; a sample of which is included in the delegate package along with the MPs’ names.
3. Delegates will learn more about homelessness in their own communities and will encourage their parishes to act in some way to empower the homeless or those at risk of homelessness.
4. Delegates commit to volunteering a minimum of 20 hours over the next year to assist those people in the Diocese of Niagara who are without homes or at risk of homelessness.

Moved by: Stu Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga
Seconded by: Marah Montague, St. Paul’s, Caledonia

Discussion

- Twenty (20) hours is only half of what is required for school volunteering
- Belief that this motion, if passed, would have a great impact in communities
- Concern that these motions cannot be enforced
- One-third of the kids under the poverty line are three times as likely to be exposed to crime, 2x as likely to suffer health problems, and prone to abuse
- Question of clarification; what is the consequence if we don’t volunteer for 20 hours

Unfriendly Amendment: Delegates commit to volunteering a minimum of 1,000 hours over the next year to assist those people in the diocese of Niagara who are without homes or at risk of homelessness.

Moved by: Stephen Murray, Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton
Seconded by: Matthew Griffin, Christ’s Church Cathedral, Hamilton

Discussion

- This is too much and unrealistic
- Way over our head
- We need to look at key words in our clause; what does it mean when we “assist”
- Response: As with other Youth Synod motions there will not be direct consequence, but rather as delegates of Youth Synod we have to take it upon ourselves to self govern the actions of motions; example of this is the canned goods drive. Take the time, help those in need, as Anglican it’s our responsibility
- Great opportunity for youth groups to get involved; opportunity for the good works to multiply

Friendly Amendment for the Amendment: Delegates commit to volunteering 1,000 hours as a whole participating in their youth groups, over the next year to assist those people in the diocese of Niagara who are without homes or at risk of homelessness

Moved by: Alicia Archbell, St. Elizabeth’s Burlington
Seconded by: Amberlee Boulton, St. Matthias, Guelph

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Procedural Motion

Motion to vote clause-by-clause

In Favour: 72

Opposed: 22

Motion carried.

Procedural Motion

Motion to refer Clause 3 to Youth Synod Council

In Favour: 25

Opposed: 68

Motion defeated.

Discussion

- Voice from a small youth group states that 1,000 hours is possible for even a couple people

Procedural Motion

Request for the question to be called.

Clause 1: Delegates to Youth Synod 2008 will sign a letter to the Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development that asks the government to take immediate steps towards addressing homelessness across Canada.

In Favour: 95

Opposed: 2

Clause is carried.

Clause 2: Delegates will send a letter to their federal Member of Parliament; a sample of which is included in the delegate package along with the MPs' names.

In Favour: 60

Opposed: 33

Clause is carried.

Clause 3: Delegates will learn more about homelessness in their own communities and will encourage their parishes to act in some way to empower the homeless or those at risk of homelessness.

In Favour: 76

Opposed: 18

Clause is carried.

Clause 4: Delegates commit to volunteering a minimum of 20 hours over the next year to assist those people in the Diocese of Niagara who are without homes or at risk of homelessness.

In Favour: 61

Opposed: 35

Clause is carried.

2. CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION

WHEREAS: Global warming is an observable increase in the average temperature of the Earth. This increase in global temperatures can cause rising sea levels and changes in the amount and patterns of precipitation, which in turn will cause devastating effects on the life of the planet and its inhabitants;

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

AND WHEREAS: A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of green house gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide;

AND WHEREAS: A carbon footprint is meant to be useful for individuals and organizations to conceptualize their personal (or organizational) impact in contributing to global warming. As our carbon footprints grow, so does the catastrophic damage we are inflicting upon the Earth;

AND WHEREAS: Youth Synods in previous years have made concerted efforts to condemn and act against Global Warming, because of our deep-rooted concern for eco-justice;

AND WHEREAS: Delegates of Youth Synod 2008 should be helping stop the behaviours that cause Global Warming.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod calls upon the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee to reduce the carbon footprint of all youth ministry events by enabling effective car-pooling to all events.
2. Youth Synod calls upon the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara to begin including in its budgets necessary amounts to support carbon-offsetting programs for all youth-ministry activities.
3. Delegates of Youth Synod report to Youth Synod their parishes' efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and that we continue to be setting and achieving realistic goals in the effort to help and to maintain the environment.
4. Delegates will advocate to their rectors, parish councils, and/or parish vestry meetings for the creation of on-going greening groups within their parishes (with those groups including at least one youth member of each parish).
5. Delegates will calculate their own carbon footprints and take steps in the next year to reduce their carbon footprints by 15%.

Moved by: Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton

Seconded by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias, Guelph

Discussion

- Follow up to the global warming motion from the previous year, and to support the motion made at Synod
- We the youth are the future, and thus we need to make a difference today
- Keep pushing forward
- Inspires and offers a way to make it accomplishable
- Point of clarification; Clause 1 and 2, wondering how plausible this is for the committee to do
- Motion forwarder is not imposing anything; looking for assistance from the respective committees
- It's very simple to carpool and to take the bus
- We need to watch that we don't fall into the pitfall of trendy environmentalism; that said a belief that this motion is very possible

Friendly Amendment: To demonstrate their contribution to carbon reduction, Youth Synod will present a tree to each host church to youth synod following this year as a thank-you gift and dedication to environmental awareness.

Moved by: Amberlee Boulton, St. Matthias, Guelph

Seconded by: Josh Morrison, Church of the Ascension, Hamilton

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Discussion

- We need to do this to stay alive.
- We could use less paper too; comment on the massive amount of paper being used at these events
- Don't know why we're trying to add more global warming initiatives as a lot of them aren't actually happening
- Challenge as we leave Youth Synod to actually go further
- Echo awareness is significant, as once you know your footprint, you can take active steps to affect and reduce it!
- If you want the earth to live for ever; we need to take this up
- "We inherit the world from our parents, but we're in it for our grand children"
- Christyn responding to question about receiving paper copies of minutes: you will **not** be receiving paper copies of the minutes; going to get them with email.
- Diocese does NOT use recycled paper, suggestion,
- Rob Fead will pay for the tree for St. Andrews this year if it's passed
- Not everyone can do everything, but everyone can do something

In Favour: 95

Opposed: 4

Motion is carried.

3. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHEREAS: Human Trafficking is transportation of humans for the purpose of exploitation, primarily sexual exploitation;

AND WHEREAS: It is estimated that more than 800,000 people are tricked into becoming sex slaves each year. Often, these women, girls, and sometimes men are lured overseas to meet an online boyfriend or are offered good-paying jobs. Sometimes they are kidnapped right from their homes, neighbourhoods or while on vacation;

AND WHEREAS: The slaves, mostly women and young girls (as young as five), are raped up to 25 times every day. They are not given any protection from sexually transmitted diseases, infections, or pregnancy. In a case study of Nepalese human trafficking victims, 38% contracted HIV/AIDS;

AND WHEREAS: The annual revenue of human trafficking is estimated to be approximately \$9,500,000,000. The consequences for these traffickers can be as little as one to four years in prison and on occasion, a monetary fine.

AND WHEREAS: while it is easy to denounce the selling and abuse of human beings as a terrible injustice, we must also remember our call to seek God's reign, and work toward a world in which we do love our neighbours as ourselves in answer to Jesus' call (Matthew 22.37-40).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2008 condemns the practice of human trafficking worldwide, and delegates will sign the I Am Coming Petition.
2. Delegates will join the I Am Coming.com group on one of the various social networks (e.g. Facebook, myspace, etc.), to support this movement and to investigate ways to apply their various gifts to this cause

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

3. Delegates will pray daily for an end to human trafficking and the safe return and recovery of victims.

Moved by: Rosie Hopkins, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Seconded by: Ashley Smith, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Discussion

- Massive life long effects
- This is a travesty of circumstance
- The I Am Coming campaign exists to raise awareness and to raise minimum sentences
- In the room there are 100 people, four of the tables stand up to show the statistics of HIV/AIDS amidst the forced sex workers
- Not about just joining the social network but increasing awareness
- Prayer may sound like a small thing, but it keeps it at front of mind and has a powerful impact
- Comment on Clause 2: so often nothing comes out of the social awareness networks online...

Friendly Amendment: Delegates will join the I Am Coming.com group on one of the various social networks (e.g. Facebook, myspace, etc.), as well as raising further awareness by joining or forming an awareness group in their schools or communities, to support this movement and to investigate ways to apply their various gifts to this cause

Moved by: Emma Smith, St. John's, Burlington

Seconded by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias, Guelph

- Much support and applause for the motion
- This issue deals with organized crime; to fight this issue is to assist in helping fight crime...and become a super hero
- The spirit and initiative is great, however it's not going far enough... Frustrated that this is not enough. That we'll only go as joining the website
- If we talk about this issue, taking it beyond the website, then we have a chance to make a difference
- A call to take this information back to your parish... It's the job of all of the youth synod delegates to take this data back to our churches
- This is a local issue; recently there was a local brothel taken down in Hamilton
- Stewardship; Time, Talent, Treasure... Looking at this issue as a form of Stewardship; going online and taking the time to do something
- Question about how to become involved if delegates are NOT involved in facebook or myspace;
- In that case; go to the iamcoming website and youtube to learn more - Google it..
- People who drink and drive get longer sentences than those who traffic humans
- During the time this debate has taken, 15 people were brought into the sex trade.
- Rosie invited friends to the group...who invited other friends...who invited other friends. Viral marketing at its best! Hooray!

In Favour: 94

Opposed: 2

Motion is carried.

4. NETWORK PARISHES

WHEREAS: the decision of three parishes (St. George's, Lowville; St. Hilda's, Oakville, Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Catharines) to leave the Diocese of Niagara and the Anglican Church of Canada has left many feeling the deep loss of friends and acquaintances;

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

AND WHEREAS: this separation has caused both Youth Synod and the Diocese to lose valuable voices and viewpoints that help us to fully discern God's will for our actions;

AND WHEREAS: this separation prevents us from being able to connect with friends, new and old.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. We respect the opinions and convictions of those who have chosen to leave, and will remain ready to hear all who challenge us to listen carefully for God's movement in our lives.
2. We stay in contact with our friends, and work to include them in our lives and faith journeys to the best of our abilities.

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

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

Discussion

- This is not about whether or not we agree with the actions of those who have left the Anglican Church, but rather to continue to extend our hands in friendship and dialog
- We're missing people and friends today
- We need to respect the opinions of others
- Suggestion that we can extend invitation to youth from these parishes to youth ministry events

Friendly Amendment: Youth Synod 2008 calls upon diocesan youth ministry staff to send the youth from these churches notices involving social events like The Gathering that they are welcome to be involved in; as well as sending invitations for them to return as special guests.

Moved by: Emma Smith, St. John's, Burlington

Seconded by: Ashley Smith, St. Christopher's, Burlington

In Favour: 96

Opposed: 0

Motion is carried.

5. RECYCLED PAPER

WHEREAS: Motions at Youth Synod 2007, 2008 and Diocesan Synod 2007 have focused on reducing carbon footprints and global warming.

AND WHEREAS: cutting down trees to produce paper eliminates a source CO2 conversion into oxygen and cleaning the air.

AND WHEREAS: Genesis 1:26 says, "And God said, 'and now we will make human beings. They will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, birds and all animals, domestic or wild, large or small.'"

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod requests the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara to discuss a motion that all parishes and diocesan ministries would only use recycled paper.
2. All youth ministry events and resources within the diocese only use recycled paper.

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

3. Youth Synod delegates will only use recycled paper in their home, church and school.

Moved by: Alex Urquhart, St. Paul's, Dunnville
Seconded by: Ashley Hatcher, St. Paul's, Dunnville

Unfriendly Amendment: Youth Synod delegate will (if possible) only use recycled paper in their home, church and school.

Moved by: Trish Manning, St John's, Thorold
Seconded by: John Lehocki, St. James & St. Brendan's, Port Colborne

In Favour: 58

Opposed: 37

Amendment passed.

Procedural Motion

Call to table the motion.

In Favour: 48

Opposed: 45

Motion carried.

Procedural Motion

Motion for a revote.

Moved by: Monica Griffin, St. Alban's, Hamilton
Seconded by: Mat Fisher, St. John's, Niagara Falls

In Favour: 65

Opposed: 25

Motion carried.

Procedural Motion

Recount of vote for tabling motion.

In Favour 42

Opposed 52

Motion defeated.

Procedural Motion

Josh Morrison asked that the question be called.

In Favour: 94

Opposed: 7

Motion carried as amended.

6. FOOD JUSTICE

WHEREAS: investigations have concluded that red meat consumption is a significant cause of global warming. Gases from the animals we eat account for nearly a quarter of all emissions worldwide;

AND WHEREAS: currently, we in developed countries eat about 224 grams (½ lb.) of meat per day. With the expected world-wide increase in intake of red meat, meat production is expected to double by 2050. Increases in livestock production will mean increased pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

AND WHEREAS: reducing global red meat consumption by 10% would drastically reduce the methane gases emitted by cows, sheep and goats;

AND WHEREAS: the increase in meat consumption also has profoundly negative effects on the poor, because more grains are diverted to feed the animals, driving up the price of grain and making it nearly impossible for low income families to purchase sufficient food for their nutritional needs;

AND WHEREAS: prophet Isaiah reminds us that we are to share our bread with the hungry;

AND WHEREAS: significant emissions associated with transportation of livestock and meat products make these emissions even worse. Moreover, most of the food we eat is not locally produced. Our demand for out-of-season and tropical foodstuffs results in more fuel being used and more emissions are produced than if we ate locally produced food

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod delegates will increase the number of meatless meals they eat each week by three.
2. Youth Synod delegates take action in their church by striving for one major church meal per year that follows the 100-mile diet. This will include, parishes shopping locally, for community meals and using local ingredients for communion.
3. All residential Diocesan Youth Ministry events must have at least one entirely meatless meal.
4. Delegates of Youth Synod 2008 will promote and undertake the initiative to utilize or create a community vegetable garden at their parish.

Moved by: Steff Browning, St. John the Evangelist, Thorold

Seconded by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias, Guelph

Discussion

- As an advocate for God's world, want to tend to the world. This motion is a continuation of the carbon footprint moment.
- Not suggesting vegetarianism, encouraging a cut back on red meat in support of the environment.
- In addition to environment concerns, there are also food shortage issues that are tied to this (corn, wheat, rice prices have doubled in the past year). This has caused food riots. It takes 8 lbs of grain to make 1lb of meat.
- Exercise showing who would be able to eat amidst the increased costs of food due to meat being a preferred food.
- Belief that this is a very easy way to do good; very achievable.
- Important that we maintain healthy balance
- Putting the world first instead of yourself

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Unfriendly Amendment: Youth Synod delegates will increase the number of meatless meals to two per day.

Moved by: Jordan Russell

Seconded by: Angela Gibbons, All Saints, Cheapside

- Alternatives should be okay and easy to fit into ones diet
- Lunch and breakfast are easy to enjoy without meat.
- Three meals a week is a lot for some, and not for others
- If we all cut back on beef consumption, then bigger operators would provide meat at a lower price and would send local producers into an position where they cannot compete or even survive.
- Point of clarification request; what does meatless mean? Answer: Meat here is referring to land animals...Fish would be okay
- For some this would mean not eating meat in a day...this is an issue.
- Opposed to the amendment as it's believed to be contrary to the spirit of the original motion.

Procedural Motion

Request for the question to be called on the amendment.

In Favour: 30

Opposed: 59

Amendment defeated.

Discussion

- God made us to eat meat. He knew what he was doing when he created us.
- We're eating so much meat, it's insane! We're simply talking about downgrading our consumption to historical and normal levels
- Amazing how easy it is to reduce meat from diet.
- Very easy to make a sustainable difference

Procedural Motion

Motion to vote clause by clause.

Moved by: Elliott Armstrong, St. John's, Cayuga

Seconded by: Ashley Smith, St. Christopher's, Burlington

In Favour: 71

Opposed: 19

Clause 1: Youth Synod delegates will increase the number of meatless meals they eat each week by three.

In Favour: 65

Opposed: 26

Clause carried.

Clause 2: Youth Synod delegates take action in their church by striving for one major church meal per year that follows the 100-mile diet. This will include, parishes shopping locally, for community meals and using local ingredients for communion.

In Favour: 93

Opposed: 2

Clause carried.

Clause 3: All residential Diocesan Youth Ministry events must have at least one entirely meatless meal.

In Favour: 90

Opposed: 5

Clause carried.

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Clause 4: Delegates of Youth Synod 2008 will promote and undertake the initiative to utilize or create a community vegetable garden at their parish.

In Favour: 48

Opposed: 44

Clause carried.

7. OLYMPIC BOYCOTT

WHEREAS: we are called, through our baptismal covenants, to respect the dignity of every human being;

AND WHEREAS: that respect for the dignity of others translates into a need, in our world, to work for human rights everywhere;

AND WHEREAS: China has consistently and flagrantly violated, and continues to violate, the human rights of its citizens. Most recently, these violations have taken the form on violent attacks on those who seek independence for Tibet; rights to religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly, have been trampled upon;

AND WHEREAS: the goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practiced without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play (http://www.olympic.org/uk/organisation/index_uk.asp);

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. YS 2008 condemns the actions of the Chinese government, and calls upon the Chinese government to enshrine and protect the human rights of all its citizens. We will communicate this condemnation and call via letter to the Chinese consulate in Toronto.
2. YS delegates will write to their MPs to request that Canada take a firm stance against human rights abuses in China.
3. YS delegates will boycott the 2008 Olympics, by not attending, nor watching the events on television, nor reading news reports of the Olympics.

Moved by: Stu Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga

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

Discussion

- Review of human rights issues in China
- Question of how watching the Olympics is "supporting Canada",
- This is not about "we're not supporting Canada", it's about we're not supporting China.
- A lot of athletes that work really really hard work...shouldn't be deprived of our support.

Friendly Amendment: Youth Synod delegates will boycott the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2008 Olympics, by not attending nor watching the events on television, nor reading news reports of the Olympics.

Moved by: Lennox Daley, All Saints, Hamilton

Seconded by: Emily Johnson, St. Christopher's Burlington

- Hypocritical of Canada to claim human rights when they are violating the rights of aboriginal people
- Hesitant to intervene in how another country runs its affairs
- China is one of Canada's largest trading partners; do we really want to upset them? They are not likely to hear our opinion and let it go.

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Procedural Motion

Motion to vote clause by clause.

Moved by Evan Rudderham, St. John's, Hamilton

Seconded by: Nick Arseneau, St. Philips, Grimsby

In Favour: 78

Opposed: 10

Motion carried.

Discussion

- There was a reason Beijing was selected; we shouldn't act surprised now
- Another support reason is for future athletes who are aiming for FUTURE Olympics and should have the ability to see what other athletes are doing now in 2008.
- If there's an argument that Canada is guilty in their own human rights issues, that is a separate issue and should not be applied to this.
- The Olympics will bring to China an economic bump that if we can help avoid, we'll send a message that we don't approve of the way they treat their peoples.
- The Olympics are going to happen whether we like it or not; and this is a good opportunity to foster pro-friendship interactions between countries throughout the world
- There are other methods to send a message to China!
- We're not doing enough.
- Very easy to implement this motion

Procedural Motion

Request that the question be called.

Clause 1: YS 2008 condemns the actions of the Chinese government, and calls upon the Chinese government to enshrine and protect the human rights of all its citizens. We will communicate this condemnation and call via letter to the Chinese consulate in Toronto.

In Favour: 87

Opposed: 9

Clause carried.

Clause 2: YS delegates will write to their MPs to request that Canada take a firm stance against human rights abuses in China.

In Favour: 70

Opposed: 26

Clause Carried.

Clause 3: YS delegates will boycott the 2008 Olympics, by not attending, nor watching the events on television, nor reading news reports of the Olympics.

In Favour: 42

Opposed: 63

Clause defeated.

8. TAKING A BYTE OUT OF RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION

WHEREAS: Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are computer chips attached to an item and connected to an antenna that transmit a unique identification code when hit by a radio wave;

AND WHEREAS: RFID tags have been used to identify and monitor many different things, including library books, pets, livestock, and consumer products (like clothing, razors, lipstick, and underwear); yet if you held an item with an RFID tag, you would not necessarily know that the tag was there;

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

AND WHEREAS: while barcodes have a universal code for a single product, RFIDs have a unique tag designed to identify each individual product. Corporations and marketing companies hope to use portable and fixed readers to track and identify purchasing habits of individuals;

AND WHEREAS: Applied Digital Solutions (the makers of VeriChip), Persephone Inc., and other companies are already manufacturing RFIDs that can be implanted into high-risk individuals, such as hospital patients, children, soldiers, convicts, and the elderly, with many other companies contributing interactive products. Such technologies could allow others to watch, stalk, and track people without their knowledge;

AND WHEREAS: research has demonstrated an increased risk of cancer development in mice exposed to RFID tags. Serious health risks due to electromagnetic radiation could cause long term health problems, yet patents for using RFIDs with humans have already been filed without sufficient care for their impact on human health;

AND WHEREAS: our faith asks us to care for others. Excessive use of RFID technology could lead to complacency and a society in which people are not treated with the dignity they deserve. Whether a person is a medical patient, or is a child, or is elderly—whatever an individual's circumstances--we are called in our baptism and by Jesus Christ to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving them as ourselves, and to respect the dignity of each human person.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2008 delegates will avoid buying products from companies that support RFID tagging.
2. Youth Synod 2008 will ask the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee to organize a speaking event on the dangers of RFID mass use.
3. Youth Synod 2008 delegates will write to the Federal Privacy Commissioner, and the specific companies, to inform them of our concerns about maintaining our personal privacy given the increasing use of RFIDs.

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

Seconded by: Matt Saayman, St. Marks Orangeville

Discussion

- Chips are stuck to all sorts of products, suggestion that they should be left on
- Marketing companies might exploit this
- Barcodes are not unique, while
- Hospitals are limited in terms of the funds they have access to – there's a real case to be made for tracking expensive medical equipment as well as patients (elderly, ill) who need additional attention
- There are many positive applications of this technology
- The motion is about the potential to misuse this technology
- A similar situation exists with cell phone – the radio frequencies that come from these are likely comparable to those of RFID's
- Point of clarification: how is this information really that crucial
- Suggestion that this can track sensitive "big brother" type of data gathering

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Procedural Motion

Motion to refer motion to Youth Synod Council.

Moved by: Josh Morrison, Church of the Ascension, Hamilton

Seconded by: Jen Evans, St. James, Dundas

In Favour: 83

Opposed: 13

Motion carried.

9. YOUTH SYNOD FOLLOW-UP & REPORTING

WHEREAS: many of the motions passed at Youth Synod require action on the part of its members and youth groups;

AND WHEREAS: there have been a large number of questions about how much action will be taken or how much concrete work will be accomplished by members when Youth Synod ends;

AND WHEREAS: the action of peers can act both as an opportunity for celebration and inspiration.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Members be asked to report their actions resulting from the current years motions to Youth Synod Council in preparation for the next year's Youth Synod.
2. We ask that Youth Synod Council determines a dynamic method of reporting these actions to youth synod in a dynamic way (e.g., bulletin board, posters, slideshow presentation).
3. By January 1, 2009 there be an update from each parish in the Niagara Diocese of actions they have done to fulfill the motions passed at Youth Synod 2008.

Moved by: Ashley Smith, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Seconded by: Monica Griffin, St. Alban the Martyr, Hamilton

Discussion

-
- Been a lot of discussion today around what and how we will track and note people acting on the motions of Youth Synod
 - What we talk about gets put into action.
 - Creates a record of what's actually been accomplished

Procedural Motion

Motion to refer motion to Youth Synod Council.

Moved by: Stu Armstrong, St. John's, Cayuga

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

In Favour: 71

Opposed: 23

Motion carried.

10. ELIMINATING PAPER AT YOUTH SYNOD

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Youth Synod requests that DYMC and Youth Synod Council to send all delegate packages via e-mail and put in place procedures to ensure delegates read all necessary information.

Moved by: Rosie Hopkins, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Seconded by: Jen Harper, St. Paul's, Hamilton

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Discussion

- We would reduce the amount of paper by almost 3/4s
- We can eliminate paper all together
- How many people are actually using the paper at home (maybe at home)
- Hotmail accounts bounce when diocesan staff e-mail it out.
- Many create reports at the end of youth synod; they use the paper form to make notes on and to work with throughout the weekend.
- How could we ensure delegates actually read the e-mails.
- Many people have their own computers and would bring their own computers to Youth Synod in order to read and make notes
- Returning delegates often don't read many of the sheets as they have redundant information.
- Would be helpful for delegates, as its harder to lose papers that are in ones e-mail
- Those who want to read it, will read it regardless of what form it comes in...those who don't want to; wont.
- Motions were available online...could resolve the e-mail logistics
- Is it possible to send the information through the clergy and have it trickle down to the youth; anything is possible.
- Gmail would take the mail
- Think about the 4,400 sheets of paper
- Wasting paper bad; this is a way to not do it.

In Favour: 69

Opposed: 22

Motion carried.

11. MOTION TO REFER MISSED MOTIONS TO YOUTH SYNOD COUNCIL

WHEREAS: A number of delegates have worked hard to write and prepare some motions which this Youth Synod does not have time to consider properly.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: this Youth Synod refer the following motions received by the chair to Youth Synod Council:

- Bullying: A Call to Action

Moved by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias, Guelph

Seconded by: Emma Smith, St. John's Burlington

In Favour: 99

Opposed: 5

Motion carried.

Closing Remarks

The Right Reverend Michael Bird, Bishop:

- Adds thanks to the people in the office without whom Youth Synod and all the other fine youth ministry programs would not happen: Joyce, Christyn, Jane.
 - Much love and passion, special word of thanks.
- What you have done today is spoken on behalf of the whole church. Spoken and proclaimed the hope and love of the risen Christ to people who live in poverty, victimized, and live without hope and in despair.
- You as Anglican Christians have proclaimed hope and love.

REPORT OF THE TWENTIETH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

- Through one of the motions, you have shown us all how we can live together in the church, even when we don't always agree. A lesson we can all learn.
- God bless you, we'll see you again next year.

The Venerable Dr. Steve Hopkins, Chancellor:

- Really appreciated when Elliott stood up and identified as a beef farmer. The link is why we do fair trade, "farmers feed cities".
- Talked about the justice connection between Olympics and everyday trade. We support China daily. If we want to take a stand, then we need to enter in to the complexities of disentangling ourselves.
- How many contribute to the parish church? The capacity of what the church can do in response to what you want them to do is dependent on your support - you need to contribute to make the resources available. Need to put the financial resources in place. Don't pass a resolution without being able to put your own resources on the line.
- As we debate, we tend to speak most easily the language of logic, and public/political debate. The language we're less fluent with is the language of faith. Movers worked hard to reference it. We could find more power with the language of faith. Spend some time with learning and using this powerful language.
- Motion about monitoring the motions - accountability, happy to see.
- *Steve reviews everything that the delegates agree to do.*
- Made some important personal commitments.
- We need to make choices about where to act, about where our personal life story and personal passion engages God's love. It's where they intersect that we see the transforming capabilities.

Bill Mous, Chair:

- Bill thanks head table. The Bishop, Steve, Justin and Emma.

Dianne Distler, Regional Dean of Undermount

- Youth Synod takes on very important issues, social injustice, unfairness in world/others.
- You need to remember how much work goes in to preparing for this and say thank you to all involved.

Kathy Morgan, Regional Dean of Mohawk

- It is always an honour to see the work that happens here.
- All corners of the diocese come together.
- Delegates take the work/voice seriously.