

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION
HELD MAY 1, 2010 AT ST. JAMES, DUNDAS**

Introduction of:

Chair	The Reverend Bill Mous
Chancellor	The Venerable Dr. Stephen Hopkins
MCs	Stuart Armstrong and Kate Smyth
Diocesan Program Consultants	Christyn Perkons and Joyce Wilton
Secretary/Tech Crew	Jamie Barnes and Brandon Prodger
Youth Synod Coordinator	Mary Gordon
Youth Synod Council Coordinator	The Reverend Matthew Griffin
Youth Local Planning Coordinators	Courtney Evers

Voting Delegates:

Isaiah Antoine	Deirdre Henry	Jammal Pusey
Alicia Archbell	Rosie Hopkins**	Al Rathbone
Stephen Arkell	Peter Howard	Taylor Rathie
Stuart Armstrong	Charlotte Irwin-James	Isabelle Reid
Dani Atkinson	Janine Jackson	Nathalie Reid
Maddy Bentham	Emily Johnson**	Katrice Rennie
Peter Beottcher	Alan Jones	Tom Rolfe
Steff Browning	Emma Keefe	Kohdy Rusk
Tiffany Burns	Breanna Kehoe	Vanessa Sarjeant
Erin Buttrum	Danielle Kelly	Eric Shelton
Henry Byrnes	Jeremy Kennedy	Ashley Smith**
Rachel Carrick	Barbara Jean Lick	Emma Smith
Lauren Clark	Mike Lickers	Kate Smyth
Lenox Daley**	Aidan Maloney	Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh**
Antoinette DaSilva-Carter	Tricia Manning	Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh**
Nate Duliban	Chris McDevitt	Patrick Taylor
Monica Farrar-Germaine	Cory McGee	Monica Volkov
Mat Fisher	Lorynn McLean	Will Wells
Andrew Garland	Justin Michael**	Dale Wilbur
Josh Gerlofs	Emily Moar	Kyle Wilkinson
Scott Gillies	James Noble	Ryan Williams
Bre Gordon**	Sarah Noiseux**	Connor Wilson
Monica Griffin	Quinton Osmond-Ward	Diana Wood**
Becky Halliwell	Kelsey Penney	Beth Wright
Dayna Hayward	Louisa Pike	Marissa Yott
	Carolyn Pugh	Sabrina Yott
	Joseph Pugh	

** Youth Synod Council Members

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Other Adult Observers:

Sam Archbell	Small Group Leader
The Right Reverend Michael Bird	Bishop of Niagara
Carrie Charters	Small Group Leader
The Venerable Lynne Corfield	Archdeacon, Brock
Belle Daley	Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee
Steph DeForest	Small Group Leader
The Reverend Dianne Distler	Regional Dean, Undermount
Donna Ellis	Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee
Keith Halliwell	Small Group Leader
Jen Harper	Small Group Leader
Laura Harrison	Small Group Leader
Ben Holtam-Prodger	Staff Assistant
Bronte Johnston	St. Andrew's Grimsby
Phil Jones	Small Group Leader
The Reverend Aaron Orear	Regional Dean, Trafalgar
Rob Pawson	Small Group Leader
Pat Ruggles	Small Group Leader
Anna Ryder	Small Group Leader
The Venerable Jim Sandilands	St. James, Dundas
Sarah Scapinello	Small Group Leader/Youth Ministry Committee
Chris Smith	St. Andrew's, Grimsby
The Reverend Max Woolaver	St. Andrew's, Grimsby
Jane Wyse	Diocesan Staff

Motion to Give Rights to the Floor for Observers:

Sam Archbell	Donna Ellis	Anna Ryder
Bishop Michael Bird	Jen Harper	Sarah Scapinello
Carrie Charters	Keith Halliwell	Jane Wyse
Belle Daley	Laura Harrison	
Steph DeForest	Phil Jones	
Archdeacon Lynne Corfield	Reverend Aaron Orear	
Reverend Dianne Distler	Rob Pawson	
	Pat Ruggles	

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

The house granted overwhelming consent.

1. UNIVERSITY CHAPLANCIES MOTION

WHEREAS: Living away from home for a post-secondary education is often a pivotal time in one's life, offering tremendous change and opportunity.

AND WHEREAS: In such a period of momentous change, it's often wise or even necessary to seek spiritual guidance.

AND WHEREAS: Living away from home often means moving away from one's home parish.

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

AND WHEREAS: The University Chaplaincy programs offering multi-faith spiritual support on campuses in our diocese would not be possible without support from various denominations.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod calls upon Diocesan Synod (and Synod Council) to maintain its financial commitment to the University Chaplaincy programs.
2. Youth Synod delegates, upon attendance at post secondary education institutions, commit to contacting the local chaplain and asking to sit down for a cup of coffee/tea to talk about the work they do as a chaplain

Moved by: Justin Michael; St. Matthias, Guelph

Seconded by: Diana Wood; Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton

Opening Remarks:

- The financial circumstances of the church are tight. The budget at synod proposed a lot of cuts.
- Substantial cuts made to university chaplaincy programs
- Want to send a message to the diocese to say that it's important
- Engage the local chaplain and make sure to utilize the resource

From the Floor:

- Does the motion apply if you go to a university that does not have a chaplain?
 - Next best thing – find a local church
- University chaplaincy won't hold regular worships, but are more available at other times
- How does this apply to universities outside of the province?
 - Seek out whatever resources are available at your university

Closing Remarks:

- University chaplaincy programs don't receive funding from the universities. All the funding comes from the diocese.

Call the Question

IN FAVOUR: 76

OPPOSED: 4

MOTION CARRIED

2. ACCOUNTABILITY MOTION

WHEREAS: by participating in Youth Synod, delegates are responsible to complete the action items of motions passed by the Youth Synod to which they are delegates;

AND WHEREAS: words and action work together, and so the legitimacy of Youth Synod is dependent on what is accomplished, and not only on the motions that are carried;

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

AND WHEREAS: we do not hear many stories, successful or otherwise, about how we are following through on motions. As one example, neither Youth Synod Council nor the Diocesan Youth Ministry staff are aware of any youth group that has completed 1,000 hours of ministry time in support of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, as required by the passage at Youth Synod 2008 of the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Affordable Housing Initiative motion;

AND WHEREAS: it can be easy to forget motions passed at Youth Synod, and we do not report to Youth Synod on the work we do as individual delegates to carry out the work required by the motions we pass.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Those drafting motions make an effort to create motions that seem achievable to delegates in the coming year.
2. *“Delegates take on the responsibility to amend a motion they do not think is accurate.” Friendly Amend*
3. Delegates only vote in favour of motions that they believe can be achieved.
4. Delegates recognize that every passed motion commits them to working on the action required by the ‘Be It Resolved’ clauses.
5. Delegates report their motion-related accomplishments to Diocesan Youth Ministry staff and/or Youth Synod Council in a timely manner.
6. Delegates ask the diocesan Youth Ministry staff to help Youth Synod Council members to put together and send out updates to Youth Synod delegates featuring motion-related accomplishments.
7. Delegates continue to make an effort to act on motions passed by the Youth Synods they have attended in the past.

Moved by: Lenox Daley, All Saints, Hamilton

Seconded by: Sarah Noiseux, St. Thomas, St. Catharines

Opening Remarks:

- Nobody is going to chase you down and demand you follow through.
- If you vote in favour of the motion, you should complete it.
- “Keeping it real”
- Vote for motions that you believe in, and put forward a commitment.

From the Floor:

- Regardless of your vote, you must follow with the majority of the votes.
- Do the past motions apply to the current delegates of Youth Synod 2010?
 - Don’t have to follow through with past motions
- Like to create motions that seem over the top.

1st proposed amendment

“Delegates take on the responsibility to amend a motion they do not think is accurate.”

Moved by: Emily Johnson, St. Christopher’s, Burlington

Seconded by: Zack Vernon, St. Christopher’s, Burlington

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Amendment is friendly

- “Timely Manner” – firms it up somehow and make it less vague
 - Good Intent is important. Creating smart goals. Try to create something that you feel you can take on. Possibly take on a select amount of motions. Point of clarification. Is there an intent that you have to act on everything that is voted on.
 - When the community speaks, that is the decision of the community.
 - Motion is about accountability. When you speak in favour of the motion, you are accountable.
 - Staff required to follow up on what happens as well. Request a revisiting of motions every 5-7 years.
 - Request to refer clause 5 directly to Youth Synod Council
 - Move to vote on motion clause by clause
 - Moved by: Ashley Smith, St. Christopher’s, Burlington
 - Seconded by: Emma Smith, St. Christopher’s, Burlington
- In Favour: Clear Majority

Closing Remarks:

- Facebook group with a message board where you can discuss motions
- Can approach Youth Ministry Committee anytime

Call the Question

Clause 1:

IN FAVOUR: 75
OPPOSED: 0
CLAUSE CARRIED

Clause 2:

IN FAVOUR: 74
OPPOSED: 3
CLAUSE CARRIED

Clause 3:

IN FAVOUR: 73
OPPOSED: 3
CLAUSE CARRIED

Clause 4:

IN FAVOUR: 63
OPPOSED: 13
CLAUSE CARRIED

Clause 5:

- Motion to refer where the clause goes to – ie. Youth Synod Council
In Favour: 49
Opposed: 28

Clause referred to Youth Synod Council

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Clause 6:

IN FAVOUR: 71

OPPOSED: 3

CLAUSE CARRIED

Clause 7:

IN FAVOUR: 78

OPPOSED: 6

CLAUSE CARRIED

3. FAITH-BASED DECISION MAKING MOTION

WHEREAS: in decision making at the parish and diocesan level, it often seems as though decisions are driven by political considerations and a concern with being practical and realistic rather than being driven by our faith and the example of Jesus Christ;

AND WHEREAS: we are easily caught up in concerns about money, buildings, pleasing people, etc;

AND WHEREAS: we are also easily distracted by church politics (that is, leaders or parishioners relating to one another through a dysfunctional power dynamic);

AND WHEREAS: we can also be swayed by the mainstream media's take on particular issues;

AND WHEREAS: all of these distractions and other agendas cloud our judgement and draw us away from our faith perspective and distort our response to God's call;

AND WHEREAS: everyone, when making decisions, needs to inform themselves about issues and the politics involved, and balance that information with their sense of how God and their faith is calling them to act.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That Delegates of Youth Synod 2010 ask their rectors to preach a sermon about balancing practical concerns and common opinion with faith considerations when making decisions, particularly about church matters and Youth Synod Council will provide an accompanying letter for any delegate who wants one when s/he makes this request of their rector.
2. Delegates of Youth Synod 2010 will try regularly to start conversations with their friends and family about issues relating to politics and faith.
3. Delegates of Youth Synod 2010 will try regularly to start conversations with their friends about how they incorporate their faith perspective into decisions they make.
4. Delegates of Youth Synod 2010, when making any decision, will try to do what they think is faithful, and not what is expedient.

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

Seconded by: Lenox Daley, All Saints, Hamilton

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Opening Remarks:

- This issue is not addressed enough in church. Make decisions based on faith and not convenience
- “WWJD?” “Lovin JC”

From the Floor:

- Talk to your friends
- Different types of friends serve different purposes
- Balance the faith based decisions vs. financial decisions
- Some people don't want to feel accountable for their faith

- Move to vote on motion clause by clause
Moved by: Emily Johnson, St. Christopher's, Burlington
Seconded by: Henry Byrnes, St. Christopher's, Burlington
In Favour: 47
Opposed: 25
Carried

- About integrity as a person. You know when you feel uncomfortable in a situation
- You need to speak up if you disagree – otherwise it may be classified as gossip
- Make a stand for who you are.

1st proposed amendment

“Start conversations with your friends”

Moved by: Carolyn Pugh, St. George's, Guelph

Seconded by: Patrick Taylor, Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton

Amendment is friendly

- If you walk a good life, then people will see what that's about.
- Look at whether you are proud of a clause at the end of the day
- Take the challenge and be proud of what we do
- When the issue is brought up in conversation, be considerate of other people's views
 - Listen to other opinions about their religions
- People are too nervous to talk about their faith – take the first step

Closing Remarks

- At the end of the day, your friends are still your friends

Call the Question

Clause 1:

IN FAVOUR: 72

OPPOSED: 5

CLAUSE CARRIED

Clause 2:

IN FAVOUR: 61

OPPOSED: 16

CLAUSE CARRIED

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Clause 3:

IN FAVOUR: 48

OPPOSED: 30

CLAUSE CARRIED

Clause 4:

IN FAVOUR: 65

OPPOSED: 8

CLAUSE CARRIED

ENERGY BREAK

- Didja Know: The food in front of the head table was collected by all of you! Woohoo! At the end of the weekend, it's heading to St. Matthew's house to be distributed to those in need. Thank you!

4. YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

WHEREAS: the current composition of committees and taskforces of the Diocese of Niagara currently have little youth involvement, and thus a significant number of members of the diocese are unrepresented;

WHEREAS: Youth Synod 2010 does recognize that the following committees have youth members; Outreach (Alicia Archbell), Greening Niagara (Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh) and Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee (Barbara Jean Lick and Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh) whose voices and perspective add value to the work of those groups;

AND WHEREAS: "The Gathering" worship services are a great way for youth to exercise their enthusiasm for youth power, voice and meet their spiritual needs but in reality "The Gatherings" are designed for all ages with only mainly youth attending;

AND WHEREAS: the Bishop affirms the importance of Youth events, and yet some parishes do not send as many delegates to Youth Synod as they can, nor youth delegates to Synod.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2010 asks the Bishop to encourage each Diocesan Committee Chair to invite at least one interested youth member (aged 16 to 25) to be part of all major committees, divisions, and taskforces; including but not limited to Synod Council, the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings, each of the Vision Petal Teams, Budget subcommittee, Financial Advisory Committee, Mission Strategy, and that these members submit a short report to Youth Synod each year.
2. That Youth Synod 2010 requests the Bishop to ask Committee chairs to ensure that youth members have a supportive mentor on the committee to which they are invited.
3. Delegates of Youth Synod 2010 invite one adult member of their parish to attend each "Gathering" they attend in the next calendar year.

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

4. Youth Synod 2010 asks the Bishop to celebrate the importance of Youth Synod and its actions, and other Youth Events at Diocesan Synod; and Youth Synod 2010 asks the Bishop to formally invite every delegate to diocesan synod to attend the 2011 Youth Synod as an observer.

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

Seconded by: Bre Gordon, Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton

From the Floor:

- Try to seek alternate way to get youth involved in ministry
- What if the church doesn't have any youth?
 - If we invite them to youth oriented events.
- Delegates should have parents attend youth events as well
- Find an effective way of inviting lay people as well as clergy to Youth Synod
- How far are the youth willing to go?
- Clarification on clause 1: What does the report entail?
 - Any form of media that will benefit the clause
- Adults see youth as pretty intimidating at youth events
- What are our roles as individuals?

1st proposed amendment

"...delegate to diocesan synod to attend..."

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

Seconded by: Henry Byrnes, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Amendment is not friendly

- Even if you invite all delegates, the chances of them all coming are slim
- How are you going to fit all lay people and clergy into Youth Synod space?
- We could hold Youth Synod at the convention centre if need be
- Possible podcasts of Youth Synod to the rest of the diocese

Proposed amendment to amendment

"...such that space would allow"

Moved by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias, Guelph

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

Amendment is not friendly

- Implies that people are not allowed to come because of lack of space
- Fire Hazards?
- Faith based decision making vs. space limitations
- We should be all about inclusion
- There are times when we need to gather together in like minded groups

In Favour: 27

Opposed: 49

Amendment defeated

- Grant rights to the floor to only those who want them.
- Having people observing her is a huge push. We feel strongly about youth ministry, and want to share what with others

In Favour: 61

Opposed: 9

Amendment carried

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

- Concerns about getting youth on larger committees. We might be bordering on tokenism.
- Going out of our way to put youth on committees if they are not passionate or engaged.
- Some counsels do not want youth to attend.
- Motion to vote clause by clause
Moved by: Matt Fisher, St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls
Seconded: Andrew Garland; St. Paul's, Caledonia

In Favour: 22
Opposed: 52
Motion Defeated

- How are committee members going to ensure that youth have a supportive mentor

Closing Remarks:

- Committees mean something to the diocese so they should mean something to us

Call the Question

IN FAVOUR: 64
OPPOSED: 10
MOTION IS CARRIED

5. PRO-PIRACY AMONG YOUTH SYNOD DELEGATES MOTION

WHEREAS: "Piracy" is the name given to the illegal distribution of copyrighted materials, whether by the uploading and downloading of files using the Internet, or by sharing a burned CD/DVD with friends at school or work, or using other technical means to republish media items;

AND WHEREAS: Everyday, many people pirate music, episodes of television shows, movies, video games, programs and books, in order to consume these various forms of entertainment in the manner and at the times of their choosing;

AND WHEREAS: Musicians and bands such as Radiohead (*see fact sheet*) have clearly stated that piracy is not hurting their bottom line but rather helping to expand their audience to include people who wish to sample their works before then purchasing them;

AND WHEREAS: According to a study done by the New York Times (*see fact sheet*), box office revenues for movies of all genres are making more money in the last ten years than in any previous time period, despite the advent of piracy;

AND WHEREAS: We as the consumer have the right to see, hear and read our entertainment when and however we wish and should not be bound by companies which wish to hold back and withstand the change that is happening around them;

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

AND WHEREAS: In Mark 6:30-44, Jesus turns a few loaves of bread and some fish into enough food to feed thousands much like the media pirates of today take a single media item and turn it into a file that feeds the appetite of millions of consumers around the globe.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Every Youth Synod delegate, with the resources to do so, pirate at least 10 different media items over the next year, and then purchase the item legally if they wish to keep a copy after sampling the item.
2. Delegates to Youth Synod educate themselves about different aspects of piracy and help educate their friends and families.
3. Delegates from Youth Synod 2010 will attend one concert in the year and purchase one piece of merchandise to support the artist more directly.

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

Opening Remarks:

- People desire to consume more media than they are able to afford
- God loves a cheerful giver
- Gift economy – the idea that you can pay as much or as little as you want, with the intention that the gift is giving good art
- The intention of the motion is not to mindlessly download as much as possible, but rather, to download things that you want or think you might want to sample
- The law in Canada is that if you don't sell for profit, it's legal, but if you were to accept money for what you offer, that would be illegal

From the Floor:

- Music is legal to download, but television and movies are NOT legal to download
 - As well, ratings for television shows do not reflect the amount of downloads
- Stealing – sin? Thou shalt not steal
- Some of the whereas clauses apply to the United States, but does not include Canadian content
- If you like a show, make a point of it to buy it on iTunes, it's not expensive.
- Exercise some discretion in regards to this motion
- Radiohead did what they did after they made it.
- Support hard working musicians but do not drain income through piracy
- Pirating hurts the economy. Places like Blockbuster and other stores will suffer.
- Spirit of motion is about supporting the artist, not the corporation. There are ways to rip off the companies without ripping off the artists
- Shows seen on network websites are legit
- Speak of the negative aspects of piracy as well as positive aspects

Motion to table motion until afternoon session

Moved by: Stuart Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga
Seconded by: Kate Smyth, St. James, Dundas

Motion is now tabled until the afternoon session

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

- Larger bands will make their money back, smaller bands will be hurt from piracy.
- Why do you want us to pirate it? Radio, YouTube and commercials are readily accessible
 - May not be able to find everything on YouTube or Grooveshark, etc.
- Them Crooked Vultures
- “Sampling” is not downloading. Sampling is MySpace, YouTube, Grooveshark, etc.
- It doesn’t matter if you are an independent label or large label. Everything you record with them is their property. Is it okay if they crush your album in a compacter?
- One group has determined this topic not appropriate as a Youth Synod motion. If we continue with this motion, it may not reflect well on the diocese as a whole. “This is over our heads”
- Move to vote on clause by clause
In Favour: Clear majority

- This issue is an ongoing global struggle.
- The reference to Mark’s Gospel is not applicable to this situation

- Motion to refer the first Clause to Youth Synod Council
Moved by: Rosie Hopkins, St. Christopher’s, Burlington
Seconded: Eric Shelton, Holy Trinity, Fonthill

- Motion to refer the first clause to Youth Synod Council and the Diocesan Lawyer
In Favour: 60
Opposed: 7
Motion Carried

- Pirating is downright immoral
- Regardless of whether the motion is carried or not, people won’t change what they do

Final Comments:

- Merchandizing is one major way for artists to make profits

Clause 2:

IN FAVOUR: 47

OPPOSED: 28

MOTION CARRIED

Clause 3:

IN FAVOUR: 40

OPPOSED: 35

MOTION CARRIED

6. GLOBAL CITIZEN MOTION

WHEREAS: In order to carry out Prophetic Social Justice Making, areas of injustice must first be identified;

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

AND WHEREAS: Youth Synod motions frequently aim to make delegates more aware of issues evolving in the local, national and international community;

AND WHEREAS: Youth Synod only meets once a year and so is often unable to address issues that require a timely response;

AND WHEREAS: In Micah 6:8, God calls upon us, “to act justly and to love mercy.”

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Delegates to Youth Synod 2010 commit to watching, hearing or reading the news once a day for every day that they have access to media (TV, internet, newspaper, etc.) in order to make themselves aware of developing issues.
2. Delegates to Youth Synod 2010 commit to educating themselves on issues of social justice via news sources and the internet to a level of understanding where they would feel comfortable speaking intelligently about the subject in conversation.
3. Delegates to Youth Synod 2010 commit to spreading awareness about issues of social justice via conversation with friends, social networking sites, school clubs or, potentially, motions to Youth Synod or to Diocesan Synod.
4. Delegates to Youth Synod 2010 commit to dedicating at least two hours a month towards social justice issues of their choosing other than those brought forward at Youth Synod 2010

Move by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias, Guelph

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

Opening Comments:

- Have delegates think actively and critically outside of Youth Synod. To go out of their way to be aware of what is going on. Be passionate, research it, be educated.
- TV Show vs. change the world
- We don't know about things until they influence us.

From the Floor:

- Popular news channels are very biased. When researching, try to find the 'other side'.
- Don't forget the accountability motion here, folks!
- We can easily access news through a variety of sources – even Twitter!

Closing Remarks:

- Take a personal responsibility on issues outside of Youth Synod
- If you aren't going to support two hours a month, then don't bother voting

Calling the Question

IN FAVOUR: 74

OPPOSED: 1

MOTION CARRIED

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

7. HOMELESSNESS MOTION

WHEREAS: “the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you cared for me, I was imprisoned and you visited me.’” (Matthew 25:34-37)

AND WHEREAS: a previous Youth Synod passed a motion committing delegates to an overwhelming and unachievable amount of time working against homelessness, and Youth Synod has not heard success stories about what work happened as a result of that motion;

AND WHEREAS: homelessness remains a serious problem for our communities;

AND WHEREAS: it is possible for youth, collectively, to actively engage in the community for at least 500 hours to build relationships with other people around them and in their community over the course of one year;

AND WHEREAS: people are more inspired to support and act on behalf of people they know rather than be motivated by statistics;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod delegates commit to seeking out relationships with people they would not otherwise know, to break down the barriers of social norms. Delegates will work to see someone for who they are, not what they are, or what they have.
2. Delegates return next year and report what they have learned about people who live in poverty or homelessness as a result of the relationships they have built.
3. *“Delegates recommit to the 1000 hours as collective groups laid out in the affordable housing motion from 2008 towards building relationships with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness ongoingly.”*

Moved by: Thomas Rolfe, St. John’s Ancaster

Seconded by: Kelsey Penney, Christ’s Church, Woodburn

From the Floor:

- Request a list of resources made available
- “Homelessness” has been mis-interpreted
- Why has the 1000 hour mark dropped to 500?

1st proposed amendment

“Delegates recommit to the 1000 hours as collective groups laid out in the affordable housing motion from 2008 towards building relationships with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness ongoingly.”

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

Seconded by: Emma Smith, St. Christopher’s, Burlington

Amendment is friendly

- Some churches don’t have enough youth to be able to accomplish the 500 hour mark
- Some places won’t allow you to volunteer
- Original 1000 hours was designed to be unattainable

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

- Request to refer to Youth Synod Council
- Moved by: Alan Jones, St. George's, Georgetown
- Seconded by: Eric Shelton, Holy Trinity, Fonthill
In Favour: 39
Opposed: 36
Motion Carried

Motion is referred to Youth Synod Council

8. YOUTH SYNOD AND SYNOD TIME MANAGEMENT MOTION

WHEREAS: Past Youth Synods have spent time during the Saturday night social watching movies, engaging delegates in passive entertainment rather than assisting them to get to know one another more deeply;

AND WHEREAS: Jesus taught his disciples to love one another as he loved them (John 13.34-35), and was present with them, and we need to grow in relationship to one another in order to fulfill that commandment;

AND WHEREAS: Diocesan Synod agendas give much time to speakers and presentations, yet the Generous Culture of Stewardship petal explicitly asks us to try innovative ways of meeting;

AND WHEREAS: Jesus taught by encouraging others to ask questions and to engage with him and with one another.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Youth Synod planning team be directed to plan all social times to encourage interaction between delegates that will lead them to better know one another and grow in relationship and love for one another.
2. All future Youth Synod delegates be required to fill in specific evaluations that ask for input to help plan events and socials for the following Youth Synod.
3. Members of Youth Synod who are also youth delegates to Diocesan Synod be supported by Youth Synod Council in bringing a motion to the floor of Synod to allow less time to be given to information-providing sessions at Synod; and for more time to be given to activities which engage delegates with one another, and with God in worship.

Moved by: Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints Hamilton

Seconded by: Diana Wood, Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton

Opening Statement:

- Intended to rethink the way some activities are accomplished
- Couldn't name one 1st year delegate at Youth Synod
- Connect speakers to what the delegates are trying to accomplish

From the Floor:

- What is the point of information provided in the 2nd clause.
 - Asks all delegates to fill in an evaluation about the weekend – be more specific

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

- We are here to make changes in the world. And we have to sacrifice a little bit, our social time has to suffer a bit to make the world a better place
- Diocesan Synod budget time allotment was less than an hour. The rest were speeches

Closing Statement:

- Synod is designed to be engaging

IN FAVOUR: 62

OPPOSED: 12

MOTION IS CARRIED

9. ANTI-VIOLENCE MOTION

WHEREAS: Violence, according to dictionary.com, is defined as a rough or injurious, physical force, action, or treatment, and an unjust, or unwarranted exertion of force or power

AND WHEREAS: Violence is illegal

AND WHEREAS: In the Bible, it is stated that we should “do unto others, as we’d have them do unto us” (Luke 6:31)

AND WHEREAS: Violence can include, but is not limited to, bullying, physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual assault and abuse;

AND WHEREAS: Youth violent crimes have risen 30% since 1991 (Statistics Canada)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Delegates to Youth Synod 2010, are committed to non-violence, and will speak up against violence they witness at the time of occurrence, or if deemed unsafe, will instead speak to the appropriate authorities.
2. Delegates to Youth Synod 2010, within a six month timeframe, will educate themselves and others, about local resources to assist those affected by violence.

Moved by: Breanna Kehoe, St. Johns, Thorold

Seconded by: Trisha Manning, St. Johns, Thorold

Opening Statement:

- We have a choice if we want to participate in violence or stand against it
- Violence is not a joke

From the Floor:

- What do you want us to do to educate ourselves?
 - Kids Help Phone, Start a group against violence
- Does this refer to only unorganized violence?
 - If you go into a contact sport, you understand that you could be hit or thrown
 - Aimed at un-organized violence
- It’s not as easy as calling Kids Help Phone. Resources are not as readily available as some may think.

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

- Exercise caution when dealing with clause 1.
- This is about providing resources.

Closing Statement:

- If there is a threat against your life and are not told to go to the authorities, you can still let other people know what happened.
- This isn't about educating yourself, it's about keeping yourself safe
- It really is what you can do to help.

Calling the Question

IN FAVOUR: 63

OPPOSED: 9

MOTION CARRIED

10. FOLLOW UP

WHEREAS: Situations in the world change as time passes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Youth Synod Council, review past motions that constrain the actions of delegates to see if circumstances have changed – to remove those constraints if appropriate.
2. Youth Synod Council make a public list on the Diocesan website, listing the motions passed at Youth Synod.

Moved by: Barbara Jean Lick, St. Thomas, St. Catharines

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

Opening Statement:

- Keep us updated on motions that we have passed
- Things change and Nike now passes labour laws – no need to boycott Nike anymore

From the Floor:

- Resources are available on ZipSqueal as well as past motions already
- Would past motions on the site also list the date that it was passed?
 - Yes
- Can get out of control quickly if we try to follow up on all previous motions.
 - Things sit there until something happens to them
 - Include sunset clauses and time limits

Calling the Question

IN FAVOUR: 76

OPPOSED: 1

MOTION CARRIED

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

11. APPRECIATION FOR THE MINISTRY OF JOYCE WILTON MOTION

WHEREAS: Joyce Wilton has served this diocese faithfully for over 25 years as an energetic youth ministry worker in Guelph, an active lay person, a gifted musician, an advocate for volunteers, a champion of safe church practices, and a beloved diocesan youth ministry program consultant;

AND WHEREAS: through her creative and passionate ministry she has affected and transformed the lives of thousands of youth in our diocese;

AND WHEREAS: Joyce has been a tireless advocate for empowering youth and young adults in all areas of leadership in our church, and a prophet for our diocese;

AND WHEREAS: Joyce has announced her intention to resign from her current position at the end of July.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This Youth Synod recognizes Joyce's immeasurable contribution to the lives of countless youth and to the life of our diocese by making her an honorary delegate of Youth Synod for life.
2. Youth Synod delegates commit to spreading the word about the celebration of Joyce's ministry that will take place at the Cathedral on June 27 at 3:00pm and plan to attend as a sign of appreciation for all Joyce has gifted us with through her ministry.

Moved by: Alicia Archbell, St. Elizabeth, Burlington

Seconded by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias, Guelph

Opening Comments:

- Motion pretty much speaks for itself.

Call the Question

IN FAVOUR: 87

OPPOSED: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Closing Remarks

Phil Jones, Observer:

- Thank delegates for understanding and respect for magnitude of the decisions that were made there; all points were covered.
- In 2009, we passed a motion about bullying, which asked us to provide bullying workshops at some Youth events; at NYC 2010, we'll be providing such a workshop.

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

The Venerable Dr. Steve Hopkins, Chancellor:

- 43 different delegates spoke; 10 different observers spoke.
- The most important motion that was passed is the faith-based decision-making and great to see it modeled in the Synod proper sessions. It is far too easy to make decisions based on money, expediency, habit, convenience or fear. But when we align ourselves with the teachings of Jesus, that will bring life to others and that is where we are called to be.
- The nature of the homelessness motion to form genuine relationships is difficult but is something to strive for.
- Very impressed with the debate of the Accountability motion and the clarity the delegates showed of our commitments to each other showed true maturity.
- The budget is like playing with Lego, you have a limited amount of pieces and using the pieces correctly is about mission and purpose. The youth play a very important role in helping clarify that mission and purpose.

The Right Reverend Michael Bird, Bishop:

- A word of appreciation for this Youth Synod paying tribute to Joyce Wilton.
- Sincere thanks to the other Diocesan staff and other volunteers who bring this Youth Synod together.
- Feels a very special connection to the youth of this diocese and especially the support provided to the Diocesan Vision. He is encouraged by the language of the Vision being used in the debate.
- What the bishop appreciates most is that in all the youth programming there is a real spirit here that no matter who you are and no matter what you bring, you are unconditionally accepted. That is the true witness to the gospel message and hope is alive in the Diocese of Niagara. It is incredibly important that we take this message into the world and community around us.

The Reverend Bill Mous, Chair:

- Would like to thank everyone and in particular the Bishop, the Chancellor and the MC's. They each make Bill's job at the head table much easier.
- And with that, Youth Synod 2010 is called to a close!