

**MINUTES OF THE 2nd SESSION OF THE
135th SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA
HELD SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010 IN HAMILTON**

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CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL, HAMILTON

Registration began at 8:00 a.m. Bishop Bird called Synod to order at 9:00 a.m. Seated at the head table were Bishop Michael Bird and Chancellor Robert Welch. The Bishop welcomed everyone to Synod.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Chancellor Robert Welch reported that, as of 9:00 a.m., March 13, 2010, 148 out of 235 eligible lay delegates had registered, representing 63% of all eligible delegates in the order of laity, and 80 out of 109 eligible clergy delegates had registered, representing 73% of all eligible delegates in the order of clergy.

**MOTION: Canon Robert Welch/The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones
THAT the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted.
CARRIED.**

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

No Privileges of the House were extended.

NEW MEMBERS OF SYNOD

The Bishop welcomed:

- The Reverend William Alakas, Holy Trinity, Welland
- The Reverend Javier Arias, St. Luke's & San Gabriel Congregation, Hamilton
- The Reverend Trevor Jones, Holy Trinity, Hamilton
- Canon Dr. Brian Ruttan, Interim Pastor, St. Thomas, St. Catharines

WELCOME TO THE DEACONS REPRESENTING THE COLLEGE OF DEACONS

- Ronald Pincoe, Jane Rokeby, Irene Walback

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 135TH FIRST SESSION OF SYNOD
(NOVEMBER 2009)**

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Ian Chadwick/Mrs. Carol Summers
THAT the minutes of the 2009 session of the 135th Session of
Synod, as found on pages 3 through 9 of the Convening
Circular, be now approved. CARRIED.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

No new motions received.

REPORT OF THE AGENDA AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller, Chair of the Synod Planning Committee, gave his report and outlined procedures. Resolutions/notices of motions found on page 2 of the Convening Circular.

A mover and a seconder to a resolution or motion will be allowed a total of six minutes to speak. Speakers to a motion will be allowed two minutes each. A "warning" bell will be sounded when 20 seconds are remaining in the speaker's allotted time; and a bell will be sounded to indicate the end of the allotted time. New motions not included with the Convening Circular package or handed out at registration are to be delivered to the Secretary of Synod as soon as possible

and prior to 10:00 am. It will be determined when best to deal with new motions. Motions from the floor, which can be dealt with at the Synod session, will be presented on the screens.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller/
The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones
THAT the agenda as presented by the Agenda Committee be
adopted. CARRIED.**

RECEPTION OF ALL REPORTS

**MOTION: The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones/Canon Robert Welch
THAT all reports found in the Convening Circular and
obtained at registration be received. CARRIED.**

SYNOD COUNCIL ELECTION

**MOTION: Canon Robert Welch/The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones
THAT this Synod elect Mr. Jake Hildebrandt as the Lincoln
Regional Member of Synod Council for the 2010-2011 term.
CARRIED.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller made announcements.

WORSHIP

Synod morning worship began.

BISHOP'S CHARGE

Bishop Michael Bird addressed Synod and delivered the Bishop's Charge.

2010 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mrs. Judy Conning, Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee and Mr. David Eccles, Chair of the Finance Budget Sub-Committee of the Financial Advisory Committee, delivered the budget presentation on the Proposed 2010 Budget.

**MOTION: Mrs. Judy Conning/Mr. David Eccles
THAT this Synod approve the 2010 proposed budget.
CARRIED.**

VISION PETAL LEADERS PRESENTATION

The Vision Petal Leaders made a presentation. Members of the group are Ms. Christyn Perkons, Mr. Jim Newman, The Reverend Bill Mous, The Reverend Stephen Murray, The Reverend Thomas Vaughan and The Reverend Canon Dr. Margaret Murray.

Governance

Bishop Michael told Members of Synod that a Governance Working Group had been formed with the following mandate:

Mandate for the Governance Working Group

1. A review of how Synod and Synod Council meets and what are the responsibilities involved. This review would include reflecting on the frequency of meetings, agenda items and the agenda planning process, number of delegates or members, other matters pertaining to decision making in the Diocese.

2. A review and possible updating of the Diocesan Canons.
3. A review of the Regional Divisions within the Diocese and the state of Regional Councils and other forms of gathering and clustering in the regions.
4. A review of the role of Archdeacons and Regional Deans.
5. A review of the role and ministry of the Bishop, the Dean, the Executive Archdeacon and the Secretary of Synod.
6. A review of the current state of standing committees and divisions of ministry in the Diocese.
7. To make recommendations with regard to how, and to whom, these committees report on their work and to offer suggestions as to how that work can be better supported by Synod Council and Synod Office Staff.
8. To make recommendations about the process of helping parish members better understand their place in the life of the Diocese.

In all these discussion the overarching goal is to allow the leadership, the ministry, the structures and committees of the Diocese to support the work of articulating and living out our Diocesan Visio

Bishop's Financial Task Force

The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones, Chair of the Bishop's Financial Task Force, gave Members of Synod background on how the Task Force was formed and on the progress they have made to date. The Bishop's Financial Task Force reports to Synod Council. The group is looking at the following issues that the diocese is facing financially:

- Parish Receivables and Collections and cash flow issues for the Synod.
- Financial Services to Parishes such as Payroll and Insurance.
- Balance Sheet improvement and accounting, looking at all the assets and liabilities of the Synod including property assets.
- Budget Process and ability to resource the Diocesan vision over the longer term, this would include discussion of DM&M rates and multiyear budgeting strategies.
- Stewardship and Fundraising options for the Synod and Parishes.

Recommendations to Synod Council are being formulated in each of these areas.

PAYROLL PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT

The Venerable Michael Patterson withdrew the Payroll Pre-Authorized Payment motion.

BISHOP'S ASSENT

Bishop Bird gave his assent to all actions of the Synod. He thanked everyone that helped in the organization of Synod.

Bishop Michael Bird closed the session with the Blessing and the 2nd Session of the 135th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara was prorogued at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones, Secretary of Synod

Mrs. Karen Nowicki, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of Synod

Mrs. Carol Summers, Honorary Lay Secretary

The Reverend Canon Ian Chadwick, Honorary Clerical Secretary