

The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara
Minutes of the Meeting of the
Evangelism Working Group
Thursday, April 22, 2004
at 12:00 p.m. in the Niagara Room
Cathedral Place

Present:

Michael Patterson
Robert Hurkmans
Dan Brereton
David Ponting
Jim Newman
Carol Summers

Sue Nicholls
Cindy Blades
Mark Tiller
Dorothy Grant
Gloria Maddox

Regrets:

Beth Kerley
Lynda Mee
John Ripley
Renee Desjardins

John Bowen
Hugh Haney
Trevor Jones

Guest:

Roxanne Lloyd

1. Opening Prayer

Michael opened the meeting with prayer

2. Introductions

Everyone went around the table and introduced themselves.

3. Minutes of March 11th and Matters Arising

- Minutes approved as circulated.

4. Cursillo - Day of Deeper Understanding - Jim Newman

Jim explained what Cursillo was and gave examples of some of the language that is used around the Cursillo movement. Cursillo is a method of Evangelism. Jim is the chair of the education committee. The spring retreat will be held on June 4-6, 2004 and the Fall Retreat November 18-21, 2004. Jim stated that Michael has been asked to speak at the Spring retreat. It is felt that there should be a closer connection between the Evangelism Working Group and Cursillo and the Cursillo Secretariat.

5. Magnetic Church Conference Update - Mark Tiller

The conference will take place on September 24-25, 2004 at St. Christopher's Church, Burlington, On. The facilitator will be Andrew D. Weeks a gifted lay evangelist

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and speaker. Registration will begin on Friday, September 24th at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$35.00 per person or \$30.00 per person for a group of four or more. A mailing will be sent out next week to the Evangelism Contacts in each parish. We will welcome all ELCIC members as well as persons from the Diocese of Huron and Toronto. We need a minimum of 140 people to register. The next meeting of the committee will be held on May 19, 2004 in Geddes Room at 1:00 p.m.

6. Communications - Web Site, Niagara Anglican

Need to keep the lines of communication open. Chris Grabiec of the Dunham Group, the Diocesan web master, is very supportive of Michael using the web site. Michael is being encouraged to write more articles, however with his busy schedule he asked if someone might like to assist him. If anyone has an article that they feel should be printed please submit to Michael. There is a new Evangelism Logo, it is hoped that Diana Hutton of the Niagara Anglican will use it as well as Chris. Coming soon there is a program called Becoming Anglican, Michael and Chris are working on it together. Michael plans on seeking out parishes that have used the NCD program and obtain articles from them.

7. Day for Frightened Anglican - Next Step "Sharing the Tools"

Another day is being planned for the Evangelism Contacts. At the last meeting the question was asked, where do we go from here and once we have the tool kit how do we use it. Jim suggested that something be sent out every 4-6 weeks with one large meeting once a year. A date of November 6th has been set with the meeting being held at St. John's Church, Burlington.

8. Training of "Mentoring" Facilitators

Ministry of Mentoring program is a follow up to the Andrew Weeks Magnetic Church. We have eight people who are going to be trained as facilitators. The training date is September 15, 2004 in the Geddes Room beginning at 1:00 p.m.

9. NCD Update

There are 3 more parishes that are doing or have completed the NCD program, Grace Church, Milton (results back), Christ Church, Flamborough (results came back 6 months ago) and St. John the Divine, Cayuga (started the program but Rector has left, so they are in limbo). Need to encourage more parishes to become involved in this program. To date

10. New Tools - Via Media, Emmaus, Credo

Michael spoke of these tools and others. After the Alpha course there is nothing to follow. Michael spoke of Via Media from the Episcopal Church in the US. It is similar to Alpha but has been designed for the more liberal communities. It follows the same pattern as Alpha using videos that take you through 15 weeks utilizing small groups, Michael is purchasing the right to use it at a cost of \$500.00 US and is going for the

training in Minneapolis in June. Emmaus and Credo are out of the Church of England; we are continuing to research these tools, Emmaus is in response to Alpha and Credo is an introductory course to Christianity 101. There is a book titled "What's So Amazing about Grace" that can be used as program following the Alpha course.

11. Evangelism cooperative - Sharing resources

Michael and John Bowen had lunch and discussed the sharing of Evangelism materials with parishes. Instead of each parish trying to reinvent the wheel there should be common material for all to share. Beside John, there is Dr. Connie denBok who was the keynote speaker at the clergy conference last year and whose expertise is in congregational development and Carol Summers who is our Liaison with General Synod.

12. New Business

Michael went around the table and asked if anyone had new business. He has personally visited over 42 parishes in the eight months he has been here. Mark Tiller is doing a Bible Study; Rob Hurkmans is being ordained in May and an announcement of his appointment is forthcoming. Sue Nicholls is working on Evangelism with her parish St. Philips, Burlington. Dorothy states that Grace Church Waterdown is not in favor of Evangelism.

Michael thanked everyone for their comments and for coming to the meeting. We closed with the saying of The Grace.

13. Next meeting date - location and time

Next meeting June 16, 2004 at 12:00 p.m. in the Geddes Room at Cathedral Place. Lunch will be served.