

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD YOUTH SYNOD SESSION
HELD APRIL 30, 2011 AT ST. GEORGE'S, ST. CATHARINES**

Introduction of:

Chair and Youth Synod Council Coordinator	Carrie Charters
Chancellor	The Venerable Dr. Stephen Hopkins
MCs	Adam Arkell and Charlotte Irwin-James
Diocesan Staff	Christyn Perkons
Scribe	Jen Harper
Tech Crew	Jamie Barnes and James Beattie
Youth Synod Coordinators	Mary Gordon and Rob Pawson
Youth Synod Local Planning Coordinator	Brenda Chatterton

Voting Delegates:

Adam Arkell	Rose Hopkins	Jammal Pusey
Dani Atkinson**	Peter Howard	Vanessa Rago
Vanessa Bassett-Bradley	Charlotte Irwin-James	Taylor Rathie
Maddy Bentham	Breanna Kehoe	Nathalie Reid
Erin Buttrum	Danielle Kelly	Hannah Rolfe
Henry Byrnes	Jeremy Kennedy	Raylene Ross
Roy Campbell	Keith Lafortune	Kohdy Rusk
Caitlin Carter	John Lehocki	Ky Rusk
Evan Charles	Mike Lickers	Eric Shelton**
Olivia Chuks	David MacMillan	Ashley Smith
Lauren Clark	Aidan Maloney	Holly Soave
Kristy Coleman	Tricia Manning	Ashley Sparham
Nesta Cooper	Cory McGee	Sam Storm
Lenox Daley**	Lorynn McLean	Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh**
Rowen Daley	Gregory Millar	Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh**
Antoinette DaSilva-Carter	Braden Morgan	Ben Syms-Wilson
Nate Duliban	Bo Moscrip	Lily Vermolen
Andrew Garland	Sarah Noiseux	Zach Vernon**
Josh Gerlofs	Noah Ollmann	Will Wells
Bre Gordon	Quinton Osmond-Ward	Ryan Williams
Christopher Green	Ciara Pittaway	Connor Wilson
Eric Greene	Emily Power	Mitchell Witteveen
Becky Halliwell	Carolyn Pugh	Diana Wood
Dayna Hayward	Sloane Pukarowski	

** Youth Synod Council Members

Adult Observers:

Alicia Archbell	Small Group Leader
Sam Archbell	Small Group Leader
James Beattie	Small Group Leader
Belle Daley	Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee
Steph DeForest	Small Group Leader
Donna Ellis	Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee
Rev. Canon Rob Fead	Rector, St. George's St. Catharines
Matt Granville	Youth Ministry Leader, St. John, Niagara Falls
Keith Halliwell	Small Group Leader
Jen Harper	Small Group Leader
Laura Harrison	Small Group Leader
Ben Holtam-Prodger	Diocesan Volunteer
Barbara Jean Lick	Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee

Phil Jones	Small Group Leader
Reverend Val Kerr	Vice Rector, St. George's St. Catharines
Venerable Bruce McPetrie	Archdeacon of Lincoln
Rev. Canon Marni Nancekivell	Secretary of Synod
Pat Ruggles	Small Group Leader
Anna Ryder	Small Group Leader
Sarah Scapinello	Small Group Leader/Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee
Rev. Elliott Siteman	Director of Youth & Family Ministry, St. Luke's Burlington
Jane Wyse	Diocesan Staff

Chancellor's Charge:

- Steve welcomed the delegates to Youth Synod, told them a bit about his role, and encouraged them to function at their best during the Synod Proper sessions.
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Bishop's Message:

- Christyn Perkons read a heartfelt letter from + Michael, expressing his regrets about missing Youth Synod this year due to a previous commitment.
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- Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh reported back on General Synod.
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Motion to Give Rights to the Floor for Observers:

Alicia Archbell	Keith Halliwell	Rob Pawson
Sam Archbell	Jen Harper	Pat Ruggles
James Beattie	Laura Harrison	Anna Ryder
Belle Daley	Barbara Jean Lick	Sarah Scapinello
Steph DeForest	Phil Jones	Elliott Siteman
Donna Ellis	Val Kerr	Jane Wyse
Rob Fead	Bruce McPetrie	
Matt Granville	Marni Nancekivell	

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

The house granted overwhelming consent.

1. GREEN ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS: the Green Accreditation Program is a program created by the Greening Niagara Committee to measure ecological initiatives in parishes. It gives guidance to parishes working towards “greening” their current activities through simple actions such as turning out lights/lowering the thermostat to the “green” procedures deployed at parish events;

AND WHEREAS: gold, silver and bronze titles are awarded to any church that completes numerous aspects of the accreditation program;

AND WHEREAS: the Niagara Home Challenge is similar to the Green Accreditation Program in its intent with a focus for encouraging “greening” practices at home;

AND WHEREAS: Youth Synod has historically been a strong and influential voice for environmental change.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will strongly advocate for their parishes to engage with the Green Accreditation Program in 2011 by approaching the Corporation and the Parish Council with materials about the program.

2. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will complete the Niagara Home Challenge and report their 18 points of initiative results to their parish, Youth Synod Council and Greening Niagara.
3. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will report any action on the Green Accreditation and Niagara Home Challenge programs to the Youth Synod Council through any of the following mediums: Youth Synod Council blog, email, Facebook group, Youth Synod reporting group, communication with Youth Ministry staff.

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

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

- Motion as a stepping stone for the amazing work our diocese already does
- **Point of clarification:** where can we learn more about the 18 points of initiative that we're supposed to follow with this program?
 - Diocesan website under the Greening Niagara headline
 - Should this pass, everyone would get a copy of it
- Becky Halliwell – question: What is the Niagara Home Challenge?
 - A checklist, similar in spirit to the Greening Niagara Committee, that uses a point system to encourage home owners to follow certain initiatives
- We need to accept the whole motion – if not, it won't be strong enough to make the impact we want to have
- Tricia Manning – schools are following suit, every little bit helps
- Charlotte Irwin-James – don't think so big that you begin to forget about the little actions that make a big difference as well

In Favour: 69

Against: 2

Motion **CARRIED**

2. CHRISTIANITY AND ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

WHEREAS: according to the Centre for Social Justice, aboriginals on reserves in Canada live in conditions similar to or worse than those in underdeveloped countries;

AND WHEREAS: the Anglican Church of Canada is in the process of healing and reconciliation in response to the many years of institutionalized abuse of Aboriginal children in residential schools;

AND WHEREAS: Isaiah prophesied that the chosen servant of God -- Jesus, upon whom we model our own actions -- "will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth" (Isaiah 42:4), and as such we must continue to strive for justice in our own communities.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Delegates to Youth Synod 2011 will ask their parishes to use the liturgical resources found on the Anglican Church of Canada web site honouring National Aboriginal Day (June 21st).
2. Delegates to Youth Synod 2011 will create and sign a banner for KAIROS's Roll With the Declaration Campaign to show our support of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the Government of Canada.

Moved by: Dani Atkinson, St. John the Evangelist, Thorold

Seconded by: Zach Vernon, St. Christopher's, Burlington

- Mover: Christians played a large role in the past of stripping Indigenous people of their human rights, and this motion is designed to make amendments for our actions
- Against:
 - Have we already given enough? Is there a possibility that Natives are now in a position where they can 'milk' the government for more than what they need/deserve?

- This motion assumes that we're not doing anything already. For example, weekly allowances for students not attending school on reserves, attendance records, graduation rates, etc.
- **For:**
 - Natives have suffered the loss of who they were and what they had due to residential schools – we need to make amends for what we've done
 - Yes, we've apologized, but that doesn't mean its solved
 - More than we can visualize was stripped: students were taken young, not allowed to speak to their families, developed with no concept of family, are now parents, often abusing drugs to forget the demons in their heads, and we are the generation that has the power and the opportunity to raise this issue up and lead the government in a meaningful way
 - We need to own the history of our culture while they are rediscovering the traditions and cultures of theirs – our history has caused this pain
- Suggestion to vote clause by clause:
 - Mover: Henry Byrnes, St. Christopher's, Burlington
 - Seconder: Becky Halliwell, St. Matthias, Guelph
 - In Favour: 37
 - Against: 32
 - **Voting WILL be clause by clause**
- **Proposed Amendment:** All delegates will take into consideration aboriginal rights and educate themselves on the hardships they face on a day to day basis (such as taking an elective at university/college towards Aboriginal rights/spirits)
 - Moved by: Ashley Smith
 - Seconded by: Lily Vermolen
 - This **amendment is FRIENDLY!**
- Mover: We need to take responsibility for the fact that we contributed to this problem, and educate ourselves about the issues that Aboriginal people have experienced as a result of our actions

Clause 1:	In Favour: 48	Against: 21
	• This clause was	CARRIED
Clause 2:	In Favour: 45	Against: 23
	• This clause was	CARRIED
Clause 3:	In Favour: 55	Against: 12
	• This clause was	CARRIED

Motion **CARRIED**

3. VISUAL ART PROGRAMMING IN YOUTH MINISTRY

WHEREAS: there is little visual art involved in current youth ministry activities, though much of youth ministry's focus is self-expression and self-awareness;

AND WHEREAS: everyone has the ability to be creative, and even those who do not consider themselves to be artists can apply creativity in their own areas of specialization;

AND WHEREAS: religious themes/subject matter have been depicted in art for thousands of years, and art has played an integral part in the cultural perception of God, religion and religious figures.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2011 delegates ask each Niagara Youth Conference to include art workshops or art-related activities.
2. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will commit to participating in art and other activities in which they may not typically be interested at youth ministry events and programs.

3. A gallery of Youth Ministry art will be displayed at the Synod Office, as well as digitally on ZipSqueal, with a curator to be appointed by Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee.

Moved by: Lenox Daley, All Saints, Hamilton

Seconded by: Zach Vernon, St. Christopher's, Burlington

- Mover: Art is everyone, anyone can be an artist. Trying something that you don't like or don't know if you like is important. Keep an open mind.
- Seconder: Art has changed Christianity!
- **In Favour:**
 - We've all already been drawing on the tables... imagine having that online!
 - We could become famous!
 - It gives us something to relate to, and to connect to spiritually
 - God gives us unique talents and abilities – these talents aren't immediately known to us, but we can find them in unexpected ways, leading to fulfillment and joy
 - There are so many ways to create art! Photography is another great option!
- **Against:**
 - The amendment changed the spirit of the motion
- **Point of Clarification:** The position of the curator will be a volunteer position
- **Point of Clarification:** Does this include drama and music? *NO! But you can write your own motion... and then someone did. Hurray, democracy & freedom of speech!*
- **Point of Clarification:** Do we have the space to do this in the Synod Office? *YES!*
- **Point of Clarification:** If this is passed, will it be optional to participate in the art stuff? *NO! You will have to do it.*
- **Proposed Amendment:** We should also be encourage to express art in an audible and dramatic way, and also be encouraged to post original recordings and videos on Zipsqueal
 - Moved by: Evan Charles
 - Seconded by: Breanna Kehoe, St. George's Thorold
 - **This amendment is FRIENDLY!**
- Mover: There are lots of ways to get art involved in art at NYC. It doesn't have to be a workshop; it could be chalk drawings, etc.

In Favour: 67

Against: 3

Motion **CARRIED**

4. FAITHBOOK

WHEREAS: social networks such as Facebook have given us a resource to complement our already extensive and complex communities at school and work, but are often underutilized by church communities;

AND WHEREAS: we are now in a position as members of the church to take our faith to the wide world of the internet with Facebook and social networking acting as the catalyst for this change;

AND WHEREAS: social networks have given our church a new medium in which to engage in thoughtful and insightful conversation about our faith experiences, the church and God;

AND WHEREAS: youth attendance in church has dropped significantly in recent years with many looking for alternatives which better suit their lifestyles and spiritual needs.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Delegates to Youth Synod 2011 commit to sharing their faith with their social networks through Facebook and across the internet.

2. Delegates to Youth Synod 2011 will encourage those that are technologically able to participate in a Facebook page for their own parish community, engaging church members in activities and discussion throughout the week.

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

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

- Mover: Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton
 - We want to take our faith outside of the building we're in each week
 - Most of us have a Facebook account, a lot of us don't go to church regularly
 - We can use Facebook to develop/grow our faith
- Secunder: Sarah Noiseux, St. Thomas, St. Catharines
 - It's a way for us to connect – we can learn about everything that's going on
- **In Favour:**
 - This is easy, it's a great way to represent who you are. We need to DO it.
 - Offers the opportunity for folks going away to university or college to find a way to connect with others, or to find churches in their new area
 - It's easy to connect the church to Facebook by making a Facebook page, allowing others to 'like' the page, be kept updated
 - It's a way to show more of how you feel about certain issues, and connect it to your faith (i.e. I am a person of Christian faith, and I support gay rights)
 - We worry about people who are ignorant commenting on what we post, but if we don't post what we believe, they're not going to learn... the ignorance continues
- **Against:**
 - Others have dealt with problems due to things they have posted on Facebook (judgment from others, disagreements)
 - Some have posted what they think, and gotten rude/disrespectful feedback from others – it hurts, and it's hard to brush off.
 - Worried it will lead to Christian-bashing, easily, faceless, etc.
 - Don't be afraid to show who you are: people who matter don't mind, and people who mind don't matter.
- **Point of Clarification:** What if someone doesn't have Facebook? How is this motion action-based for them? *You can converse through email, responding to YouTube videos, contacting people electronically to share and discuss your faith*
- **Point of Clarification:** When you say 'sharing your faith', what does that mean? *It can encompass a number of things. You can post that you're Christian or you can keep up connections with people you know from youth events, there's lots of ways to do it.*

Motion **CARRIED**

5. HALF-TIME POSITION FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

WHEREAS: a half-time position was removed from Youth Ministry in the diocesan budget this year;

AND WHEREAS: the half-time position plays a pivotal role in the Diocesan Youth Ministry support and programming;

AND WHEREAS: volunteer positions are significant in diocesan work, but the guidance brought forth by a second paid position is key in the continuing work that this Diocesan Youth Ministry does;

AND WHEREAS: if we are to continue being one of the most progressive and active dioceses with regard to high quality youth ministry in Canada then we need the Diocese to recommit to this position.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That Youth Synod 2011 will sign a petition to be sent to the Diocese of Niagara to restore the funding in the 2012 budget for the half-time Youth Ministry Consultant

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

Seconded by: Rose Hopkins, St. Christopher's, Burlington

- Mover: Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton
 - This is a no-brainer. It's a small amount of money, but a huge outcome
 - We can't keep this exclusive to volunteer positions. We need this position to tie it all together
- Secunder: Rosie Hopkins, St. Christopher's, Burlington
 - We love the people that organize these events for us. They can't do it alone. We need to have support for them from the half-time position.
- **In Favour:**
 - This position is really needed. Discussion Closed.

In Favour: Unanimous

Against: None

Motion **CARRIED**

6. DECRIMINALIZATION OF SEX TRADE RELATED ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS: the sex trade has always been legal in Canada and has a long standing status as a known profession through history, including attention from Jesus, who reminds the Apostles that tax collectors and prostitutes were among the first to follow John the Baptist (Matthew 21:32);

AND WHEREAS: Sections 210, 212 and 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada prohibit activities related to the sex trade: the prohibition of bawdy houses, procuring a person to engage in prostitution or living on the avails of the prostitution of another and communication in public for the purpose of prostitution;

AND WHEREAS: Sections 210, 212 and 213 are intended to keep sex workers safe, but make conditions more dangerous because sex workers are unable to screen clients properly or have another person present for protection;

AND WHEREAS: an Ontario Court ruled to decriminalize these laws because of the safety concerns of the sex workers, but the government appealed this ruling based on the argument that the state has "no responsibility to protect" sex workers because they knowingly engage in dangerous work;

AND WHEREAS: decriminalization of Sections 210, 212 and 213 will help to de-stigmatize sex work, which will lead to safer practices.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2011 delegates support the judgment of Justice Susan Himel of the Superior Court of Justice, dated September 28, 2010 regarding the decriminalization of Criminal Code Sections 210, 212 and 213. This support will be sent in letter form, from Youth Synod Council to the Members of Parliament who represent the Niagara region.

Moved by: Dani Atkinson, St. John the Evangelist, Thorold

Seconded by: Nathalie Reid, St. John's the Evangelist, Thorold

- Mover: Dani Atkinson, St. John's the Evangelist, Thorold
 - The laws make sense in theory, but don't make sense in practice. We can see why people would have put them in place.

- The bawdy house law means that they can only go one place one time, they can't have people they know drive them to their clients, and they have to be in an enclosed space (such as a car), which is dangerous, as they could easily disappear at any time
 - We treat immigrants better than prostitutes, provided they have better jobs than prostitutes. They get rights and security too.
 - Can your moral conscience let you live with the fact that you know these people are not safe?
- **Seconder: Nathalie Reid, St. John's the Evangelist, Thorold**
 - We're not endorsing prostitution. We want to do what we can to keep them safe, and make sure they are protected as they engage in their job choice
 - It could be a safer place to work, to live, we are trying to save them from themselves
- **Things to think about:**
 - This job isn't a necessity
 - Legalization and decriminalization are different things... don't forget that!
 - If we're worried about people being forced into prostitution, why are we treating the symptoms and not the cause? Amendments anyone?
- **In Favour:**
 - The state has no business in the bedroom of people
 - It's the world's oldest profession
 - Everyone's a person – we don't have the right to judge
 - We're concerned about morals and free health care – but if they're being forced into this, we need to be considerate of that
 - This is a compassionate motion
- **Against:**
 - Human trafficking is significantly increased in countries where prostitution is already legalized/decriminalized

In Favour: 56

Against: 13

Motion **CARRIED**

7. KAIROS

WHEREAS: KAIROS unites 11 churches and religious organizations (including the Anglican Church of Canada) in faithful action for ecological justice and human rights. They fight to defend dignity and human rights for all, to inspire Canadians to seek climate justice and join together across denominations in worship that inspires faithful justice (<http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/who-we-are/>);

AND WHEREAS: Minister for International Co-operation Bev Oda, upon receiving a document from CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) approving the \$7 million funding for KAIROS, directed that the word “not” be handwritten into the document, effectively forging the document to indicate that funding was being denied with the consent and recommendation of CIDA officials;

AND WHEREAS: KAIROS supports local groups in Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East working on indigenous rights, migrant justice, building relationships through human rights action and ending slavery and torture.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will “Like” KAIROS on Facebook and follow their work through social media updates, sharing those updates with their own social networks.
2. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will support KAIROS actions (see Take Action on the KAIROS website).
3. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will fundraise for KAIROS in their parishes.

4. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will send letters to their MPs and the to-be-elected Prime Minister to ask for KAIROS' funding to be reinstated.
5. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will write letters to the editors of their local newspapers and explain to friends, family and their parishes why KAIROS' work is important and should be supported.

Moved by: Eric Shelton, Holy Trinity, Fonthill
 Seconded by: Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton

- Mover: Eric Shelton, Holy Trinity, Welland
 - The bottom line is that the document was altered in a way that was unacceptable to us
- Seconder: Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton
 - We're at risk of sacrificing 36 years of hard work
 - Our government has turned a blind eye to this – we need to hold them accountable, so that no more documents are altered to fit the needs of a small number of people
- **Things to think about:**
 - If we're writing a letter, are we writing it ourselves, as a group, or is it a template that we can get? It will be made available to you on Zipsqueal, but you can personalize it as you wish
 - Why was the funding cut? It didn't meet the agencies new priorities, but only a few vague ideas were listed *that seemed to be in line with what KAIROS does*
- Suggestion to vote clause by clause:
 - **Mover:** Evan Charles, St. Luke's, Burlington
 - **Seconder:** John Lehocki, St. James & St. Brendan, Port Colborne
 - In Favour: 50
 - Against: 19
 - **Voting WILL be clause by clause**
- **In Favour:**
 - It can be really simple to fundraise, though envelopes in the church (such as PWRDF) that can be collected
- **Against:**
 - Fundraising can be really difficult to do in small parishes, it takes lots of time and resources that many people don't have, and so won't do

Clause 1:	In Favour: 52	Against: 9
	• This clause was CARRIED	
Clause 2:	In Favour: 50	Against: 9
	• This clause was CARRIED	
Clause 3:	In Favour: 15	Against: 54
	• This clause was not CARRIED	
Clause 4:	In Favour: 54	Against: 13
	• This clause was CARRIED	
Clause 5:	In Favour: 40	Against: 26
	• This clause was not CARRIED	

8. OPEN TABLE

WHEREAS: Jesus died for everyone, and so communion is for everyone;

AND WHEREAS: Jesus welcomed everyone to his table and so everyone should be welcome at our table;

AND WHEREAS: God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34);

AND WHEREAS: We are continually discussing and looking for new ways to share our faith and model what we believe, so when people come to church to share in worship we should fully include them.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. 2011 Youth Synod send a memorial to Diocesan Synod that the youth support an open table that welcomes all people no matter their beliefs.
2. Youth Synod 2011 reaffirms its convictions that Jesus welcomes all to the table, to share in the bread and wine in open communion without condition.

Moved by: Ryan Williams, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Seconded by: Breanna Kehoe, St. John's, Thorold

- Mover: Ryan Williams, St. Christopher's, Burlington
 - We're asked to feed the hungry – we're doing this spiritually
 - How can we grow our church if we don't include others who are interested?
 - Jesus died to forgive our sins, so why would we discriminate?
- Secunder: Breanna Kehoe, St. John's, Thorold
 - We should do as Jesus did; welcome everyone to the table
- **Things to think about:**
 - Should we write a letter, or do something active to show how we feel about this?
Encouraging an amendment, perhaps?
- **Point of Clarification:** Do you have to be baptized to receive communion? No, but it has been debated
- **Proposed Amendment:** 2011 send a memorial to Diocesan Synod that the youth support an open table that welcomes all people, no matter what their beliefs
 - Moved by: Becky Halliwell, St. Matthias, Guelph
 - Seconded by: Zach Vernon, St. Christopher's, Burlington
 - **This amendment is FRIENDLY!**
- **In Favour:**
 - There is one church, one God. Others should be welcome, we can learn from others, and we shouldn't discriminate amongst other faiths
 - Jesus welcomed everyone to his table
- **Against:**
 - None

In Favour: 69

Against: 1

Motion **CARRIED**

9. FAIR TRADE NIAGARA

WHEREAS: Labour practices in many countries where coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar and other commodities lead workers to be abused, exploited and given unfair compensation for their labour;

AND WHEREAS: Our Christian faith calls us to work for justice and equity amongst all people. Paul writes in the Second letters to the Corinthians: "it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance may be for your need in order that there may be a fair balance." (2 Corinthians 8:13-14);

AND WHEREAS: Supporting and purchasing Fair Trade products encourages the growth of Fair Trade economies and could promote meaningful change toward justice and fair compensation for workers in developing countries;

AND WHEREAS: The 2003 Youth Synod passed a motion asking each delegate to encourage their parishes to use only Fair Trade coffee for all church functions;

AND WHEREAS: A number of churches have not implemented Fair Trade policies as recommended, demonstrating that our work on this issue is not yet complete.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will encourage their parishes to switch to Fair Trade tea, coffee, cocoa and other products.
2. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will advocate that the Diocesan Synod and Canterbury Hills use Fair Trade products and cease the use of other coffee and tea.

Moved by: Roy Campbell, St. Elizabeth's, Burlington

Seconded by: Zach Vernon, St Christopher's, Burlington

- Mover: Roy Campbell, St. Elizabeth's, Burlington
 - We need to demonstrate to non-fair-trade companies that fair-trade is a viable and economically stable system
 - We are called to do unto others as we do unto them – we need to work for the good of others who have less than us
- Secunder: Zach Vernon, St. Christopher's, Burlington
 - It tastes better, plus it's not mainstream which is cool. But it would also be cool if it WAS mainstream so that more people would drink it, and it would have a bigger impact.
- **Proposed Amendment:** Youth Synod 2011 delegates will advocate that the Diocesan Synod and Canterbury Hills use Fair Trade products and cease use of other coffee and tea
 - Moved by: Mitchell Witteveen, St. John the Evangelist, Thorold
 - Seconded by: Henry Byrnes, St. Christopher's, Burlington
 - **This amendment is FRIENDLY!**
- **In Favour:**
 - How can we drink coffee knowing the circumstances under which it was created?
 - Churches can have folks donate fair trade products to help with the cost of things – it's a realistic solution
 - Children are often employed to pick the cocoa beans of the chocolate we eat, and the coffee we drink
 - Fair trade products seem to be getting more affordable as more people become aware of it
 - We spend a ton on other stuff – Tim Horton's coffee, etc. that we can afford to give up non-fair-trade products, and donate that money to the church
- **Against:**
 - A lot of churches were not in the financial mess that they were in when we started this
 - We tried this already – how is 'encouraging' going to change anything this time, if it didn't the last time?

In Favour: 62 Against: 7

Motion **CARRIED**

10. YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH

WHEREAS: many youth in the Niagara diocesan community want their voices to be heard in their parishes and at the diocesan level;

AND WHEREAS: youth attendance at Sunday church services (among youth who consider themselves to be affiliated with a church) and participation in the life of the faith community has been steadily declining over the years;

AND WHEREAS: a church community can be the focusing point of one's week; providing support, spiritual guidance, and a safe place to explore faith questions; offering opportunities to connect with God and opportunities to learn more about one's faith;

AND WHEREAS: in order to change a community, you have to be an active part of that community.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will attend church a minimum of twice a month.
2. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will actively represent their own liturgical and spiritual needs within their parishes and the diocese by participating in programs or committees and conversing with their rectors.

Moved by: Lenox Daley, All Saints, Hamilton

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

- Mover: Lenox Daley, All Saints, Hamilton
 - It's tough to go to church when you feel like your voice isn't being heard, but I'm not always going to be in Youth Ministry, and I recognize that I need to go to church and be noticed and make my ideas heard so that I can contribute to the way the church is, and get involved
- Secunder: Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton
 - Book it out in your schedules – it's do-able!
 - You can't know who is in your church or what they believe or think or do if you're not there to experience it
 - A faith journey isn't always easy. Sometimes, you need to make a sacrifice, work it out, and carry on.
- **Point of Clarification:** Are we talking Sunday mornings? *Nope, not necessarily. It can be youth groups, alternative services, meeting with people at the church, lots of options*
- **Some things to think about:** Get your priorities in order. Get off your couch. Take some action.
- Suggestion to vote clause by clause (2 clauses):
 - **Mover:** Charlotte Irwin-James, St. John's the Evangelist, Niagara Falls
 - **Secunder:** Adam Arkell, St. Georges, St. Catharines
 - In Favour: 25
 - Against: 41
 - **Voting WILL NOT be clause by clause**
- **Proposed Amendment:** Youth Synod 2011 delegates are asked to invite a friend to join them at church a minimum of once a month
 - Moved by: John Lehocki, St. John's, Ancaster
 - Seconded by: Christopher Green, St. Cuthbert, Oakville
 - **This amendment is UNFRIENDLY**
 - **In Favour:**
 - It's just an invite – your friends can say no
 - You could invite a friend from Youth Synod – hurray!

- You could offer a friend multiple invitations, so that it fits with their schedule, or give them another chance to say YES.
- **Against:**
 - You're trying to get people in the church, let alone start recruiting others. This amendment changes (read: extends) the intent of the original motion
 - We're going to run out of friends.
 - This is one friend a month, every month, for the rest of your life
 - **In Favour:** 18
 - **Against:** 46
 - This motion is **NOT CARRIED**
- **In Favour:**
 - If you go to church and tell them what you want, they will listen to you
 - Church is a great place to hang out, talk with people, it's fun!
 - An hour a week, twice a month is not a big deal – you can do it!
 - Interact with kids, make it fun for them, encourage them to want to be here
 - You can express your faith freely, in a way you often can't elsewhere
 - The Diocese is not going to want to support our request for the half-time position if people think that youth aren't present in the church. If we're not seen, we're not there.
- **Against:**
 - It's hard to commit to year-round – we go to cottages, have Sunday morning sports commitments, and so we don't want to commit to something we are unlikely to be able to do on a regular basis
 - We don't want to make going to church a task for people... they may leave completely, because they don't want to do it
 - We need to allow people, wherever they are in their faith journey, to allow people to come to church when they need to and want to, and not to harden our hearts by judging them on when they choose to join in
 - Worship needs to be accessible to everyone, not because they are present in the church all of the time, but because the church is always available to anyone when they need to come back

In Favour: 56 **Against:** 12

Motion **CARRIED**

11. WORSHIP COMMITTEES

WHEREAS: worship committees in churches are an effective way to communicate ideas about worship and develop worship can meet the needs of particular faith communities;

AND WHEREAS: everyone should be able to voice their own opinion about the ways in which worship does or does not meet their needs and have the ability to participate in developing worship that meets their spiritual needs.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will start or join worship committees to fully implement the “Life Changing Worship” petal of the Bishop’s Vision and commit to developing liturgy that they believe will engage people not currently attending church while meeting the needs of current parishioners.
2. Youth Synod 2011 delegates will encourage their worship committee to access the considerable resources available from the Synod Office and the Life Changing Worship team.

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

Seconded by: Carolyn Pugh, St. George’s, Guelph

Referral for Worship Committee Motion to Youth Synod Council

In Favour: 68 **Against:** 1

Motion **CARRIED**

Closing Remarks

Carrie Charters, Chair:

Thank you for your participation today. It was my first time as Chair. It was not the easiest task in the world. (*Applause*) My point was that your involvement has made it so easy and you are also attentive to the process. I appreciate that. You also challenged me a little about those amendments and making that fun. Thank you for showing me the process.

I also have two roles here. I am the Chair but I am also the Youth Synod Council Coordinator. I would like to call on the following individuals to stand up: Dani Atkinson, Lenox Daley, Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh, Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh, Eric Shelton and Zach Vernon. Could you please give these fine young people a round of applause? (*Applause*) This group, small but mighty, has been such a joy to work with and have made my 2011 so much better than it would have been without them. They have been so much fun to be with every month. They have prepared many of the motions that you have heard today. So I do hope that many of you who were engaged with this process will consider participating in Youth Synod Council yourself. If you are interested, I would love to speak to you about it. And thank you again to you - you have done great work.

The Venerable Dr. Steve Hopkins, Chancellor:

So I kept a homework list and here are the things you committed to do:

1. To advocate for Greening Niagara Home Challenge and report on actions
2. To educate yourselves regarding Aboriginal peoples
3. To advocate for the use of the National Aboriginal Day prayer resources in your parish
4. Share your faith on Facebook
5. To participate in activities at NYC that aren't typically what you are interested in
6. To write letters about KAIROS to your MP and the Prime Minister
7. To like KAIROS on Facebook
8. To encourage your parishes to switch to fair-trade
9. To attend church twice a month
10. To represent your spiritual, liturgical needs and interest by participating in programs and talking to rectors

That is your homework list. Just a couple of comments on resolutions...

I think that we in this diocese need to do more in dealing with the legacy of residential schools and the rights of First Nations and the process of healing, reconciliation and redress. It was interesting to me that the most poignant comments on that issue were people who told stories; when Donna talked about her experience about Justice Camp or when Matt was talking. Because it seems to me the only way we are actually going to get on to this issue is by hearing the stories of First Nations people; being honest about our own story as a colonizing race and dealing the acts of contrition that we need to as a faith community. So I was glad that there was some action on that issue.

In the conversation about participating in activities you wouldn't normally participate in; there was something about that that was quite delightful because part of what goes on here is that we don't do things we aren't good at because we fear the judgment of our peers. And part of what we are trying to do at Youth Ministry events, and in youth ministry everywhere, is to create an alternative culture where people are not judged. So creating a safe space for people to play with their less developed parts of themselves is part of creating this alternative culture in which people are loved and affirmed regardless how good they are at anything. I think there is

something really close to the mission of the church in that resolution and while it was specifically about the arts, there are all kinds of ways some of us have been failures in the eyes of our peers all of our lives. Part of what we are trying to create then is a community where those judgments that people make at school and on your street don't matter because we are living out of a different reality. So I thought there was something profound about that resolution.

I listened with interest to the conversation about being transparent about your faith on Facebook and how that can be a risky. I appreciate too that this is not supposed to be a picnic and Jesus, our hero who we attempt to emulate; he walked to the cross, actually walked to it and through it. So I get that about there are some risks in being transparent and vulnerable about something that is really important to you but I sure hope that we keep taking the risk, learning from the experience and talking to each other about it. I get it - that's scary but I appreciate your willingness to talk about how you are going to be transparent about your faith in the world where you live and I think that is important.

I thought it was great on the motion about KAIROS that you didn't commit to things you knew you couldn't commit to do like the fundraising. I think that was really honest and there is some real integrity in not voting for something that you are not going to do.

I liked the debate about fair trade and the financial issue about that. You know there is part of me that wants to be gung-ho and say - your principles should cost you something. But I know I don't buy fair-trade at home often enough and while it is fine for us to pass resolutions about what our parishes should do - what we do at home is just as important. The comment about that our coffee tasting like slavery - that hit home. We need to get our act together, and if I am honest about it, I have some work to do on it as well.

I was struck by the comment from the speaker who said, "it is hard to say stuff in my home parish." I get that but if no one is saying those hard things, I don't know how we create a community where those things will be said. I also get how it is tough to get to church with work and school and going away to school and it is a temptation on the part of the rest of the church to objectify the youth and kind of make you have to be there in order to realize their dreams for their parish surviving and all that. At the same time, I need to say that we really do need you to be present and talking about what does and doesn't work for you because it is not just about you getting your needs met better in a 'consumer preference' way because catering to consumer preferences will kill the church. But if you are not there talking about what the world looks like, feels like, sounds like to you and your peers then we will just never under how the status quo is not working. So I hope that you are able to talk to lay leaders and clergy in your parishes about what does and doesn't work for you.

I was really happy to hear the open table debate because just a couple of weeks ago, on the threshold of Holy Week, the Canadian House of Bishops issued a statement reaffirming their understanding of the church stance that only those who are baptized may receive communion. I was happy that you voted the way you did to affirm your understand that Jesus welcomes us all without conditions; that God shows no partiality, and I think for us as a faith community that is one of the best ways we can bring our common life into alignment with what God's up to in the world.