

**MINUTES OF THE 2nd Session of the 133rd
SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA
HELD NOVEMBER 15 to 17, 2007 IN HAMILTON**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2007

CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL, HAMILTON

The Synod Eucharist was held in the Cathedral. The Bishop delivered his Charge to Synod.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007

CHEDOKE HALL, HAMILTON CONVENTION CENTRE

Registration began at 8:00 a.m. Bishop Spence called Synod to order at 9:00 a.m. Seated at the head table were Bishop Ralph Spence, Bishop Michael Bird, Chancellor Robert Welch, and The Venerable Marion Vincett.

The Synod began with worship.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Chancellor Robert Welch reported that, as of 9:00 a.m., November 16, 2007, 192 out of 272 eligible lay delegates had registered, representing 70.59% of all eligible delegates in the order of laity, and 86 out of 116 eligible clergy delegates had registered, representing 74.14% of all eligible delegates in the order of clergy.

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

CARRIED.

NEW MEMBERS OF SYNOD

The Bishop welcomed:

- The Reverend Michael Deed, St. Christopher's, Burlington
- The Reverend Katherine Feher, Church of the Nativity, Hamilton
- The Reverend Paul Sherwood, St. Paul's, Dunnville & The Dunn Parish
- The Reverend Elizabeth Huether, St. Thomas, St. Catharines

WELCOME TO THE DEACONS REPRESENTING THE COLLEGE OF DEACONS

- Richard Beaudoin, Anne Crawford, Ronald Pincoe

WELCOME DIVINITY STUDENTS:

The Bishop welcomed Mr. Matthew Griffin, Ms. Lucinda Landau, Ms. Sheila Van Zandwyk.

WELCOME GUESTS

The Bishop welcomed:

- Mr. Fred Allen (Technical Producer)
- Mr. Christopher Grabiec and Mr. John Janisse (Diocesan Webmasters)

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Privileges of the House were extended to:

- Ms. Kathryn Davies (Auditor)
- Mrs. Judy Conning (Finance Budget Sub-Committee)
- The Reverend David Long, Director of Ministry Support

MINUTES OF THE 2006 SYNOD

**MOTION: The Reverend Ian Chadwick/Mrs. Carol Summers
THAT the minutes of the 2006 session of the 132nd Session of
Synod, as found on pages 5 through 12 of this Convening
Circular be now approved.**

CARRIED.

MINUTES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 2007 SYNOD

**MOTION: The Reverend Ian Chadwick/Mrs. Carol Summers
THAT the minutes of the 2007 1st session of the 133rd Session of
Synod, as found on pages 13 through 17 of this Convening Circular, be
now approved.**

CARRIED.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Canon Robert Welch advised members that motions could be found on pages 3 and 4 of the Convening Circular. Additional motions handed out at registration, pages 4a, b, c, should be included in the delegates Convening Circular. Two additional Memorials were also distributed at registration and should be inserted in the delegates Convening Circular, pages 119 and 120.

REPORT OF THE AGENDA AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller, Chair of the Synod Planning Committee, gave his report and outlined procedures. He referred to the agenda, printed on yellow paper and found at the front of the convening circular, page 1. Resolutions/Notices of Motions can be found on page 3 and 4 of the convening circular. Delegates also received a package at registration that includes additional motions.

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 4:00 pm on Friday. It will be determined when best to deal with new motions. Motions from the floor, which can be dealt with at this Synod session, will be presented on the screens.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

CARRIED.

RECEPTION OF ALL REPORTS

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller/
The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones
THAT all reports found in the Convening Circular and obtained at
registration be received.**

CARRIED.

DIOCESAN COURT

The Bishop announced his appointment of three lay and three clergy members of Synod to serve on the Diocesan Court:

Mrs. Susan Little, Mr. Ian Smith, Ms. Gill Tucker, The Reverend Kevin Bothwell,
The Venerable Lynne Corfield and The Venerable Bruce McPetrie.

The Diocesan Chancellor is automatically a member of Diocesan Court.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller made announcements.

TRINITY COLLEGE CORPORATION

**MOTION: The Venerable Marion Vincett/
 The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones
 **THAT the representative from the Diocese of Niagara to the
 Corporation of Trinity College be the Reverend Joe Asselin (clergy)
 for a term of two years.****

CARRIED.

(Please note: the Venerable Tom Greene, Reverend Jeff Ward (clergy), Dr. Gordon Askwith, Mrs. Margaret Reid, Mr. Robert Reid (lay), are continuing members of the Corporation of Trinity College.)

SYNOD COUNCIL ELECTION

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones/Canon Robert Welch
 **THAT this Synod elect the regional members of Synod Council and
 alternate regional members for the 2008-2009 term, as outlined on
 the nominations sheet, found on page 119 of this Convening
 Circular.****

CARRIED.

The regional slate is as follows:

Members to serve for 2008-2009:

Brock	The Reverend George Henry, Deacon
Greater Wellington	Mrs. Susan Pulleyblank
Lincoln	Mr. John Palmer
Mohawk	The Reverend Canon David Pickett
Trafalgar	The Reverend Suzanne Craven
	Mr. Mitch Banks
Undermount	Mr. Paul Clifford

Alternate members for 2008:

Brock	Mrs. Sue Hannah
Greater Wellington	Mrs. Judy Conning
Lincoln	Ms. Pauline Smith
Mohawk	Mrs. Pat Hyslop
Trafalgar	Mrs. Mary Bishop
Undermount	Mr. Russell Kelk

REDUCING THE EFFECT OF SEASONAL FLU

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones/
 The Venerable Marion Vincett
 **THAT this Synod encourage parishes to consider doing all
 they can to reduce the effect of seasonal flu in our churches.****

CARRIED.

2006 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MOTION: Mr. Kirk Boyd/Mr. Robert McKinnell
THAT the audited financial statements for 2006, as found on pages
48 through 57, be accepted.**

CARRIED.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

**MOTION: Mr. Kirk Boyd/Mr. Robert McKinnell
THAT the Auditor's Report, as found on page 47, be accepted.**

CARRIED.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

**MOTION: Mr. Kirk Boyd/Mr. Robert McKinnell
THAT KPMG be appointed as auditors for fiscal year 2007.**

CARRIED.

2008 BUDGET

Mrs. Judy Conning, Chair of the Finance Budget Sub-Committee of the Financial Advisory Committee, and Mr. Robert McKinnell, Diocesan Treasurer, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the Proposed 2008 Budget.

**MOTION: Mr. Kirk Boyd/Mr. Robert McKinnell
THAT this Synod approve the 2008 proposed budget.**

CARRIED.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS SETTLEMENT FUND

**MOTION: Mr. Kirk Boyd/Mr. Robert McKinnell
THAT this Synod approve the transfer of excess funds donated
to the Diocese of Niagara's commitment for the Residential
Schools Settlement Fund to the Anglican Church of Canada's
Healing and Reconciliation Fund by the Diocesan Treasurer.**

CARRIED.

SYNOD COUNCIL

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones/
The Venerable Marion Vincett
THAT the Synod Council Report, having been fully considered, be
now finally approved, and that all the decisions, agreements and
documents entered into and signed on Synod's behalf since the last
session of Synod, be hereby ratified and confirmed.**

CARRIED.

ENERGY BREAK

The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller made announcements and acknowledged the contribution of FaithLife Financial in sponsoring the morning break.

DR. CHRISTOPHER LIND – ECOJUSTICE

Dr. Christopher Lind, guest speaker, was introduced. He facilitated a presentation to delegates on EcoJustice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller made announcements.

The Reverend Canon Michael Patterson addressed Synod delegates letting them know of a radio ad campaign, "You Mean More", that would be aired on several different

radio stations throughout Niagara until December 24th.

GRACE AND LUNCH

The Reverend Canon Lucy Reid, Guelph Chaplaincy, said Grace and lunch was served at the delegate tables.

DR. CHRISTOPHER LIND – ECOJUSTICE

Dr. Christopher Lind, guest speaker, continued after lunch. In the afternoon delegates participated in Bible Study.

GREENING NIAGARA

**MOTION: Mr. Russell Kelk/The Reverend Laura Marie Piotrowicz
THAT this Synod call upon each parish in the diocese to curtail green house gas emissions by setting targets for reducing energy consumption and asks that achievements be reported to the annual Vestry meeting of the parish; and**

THAT this Synod further request our Bishop to appoint a committee to support and encourage this work by developing a Green Parish Accreditation Program along the lines of that developed by the Diocese of New Westminster in 2006.

**AMENDMENT: Ms. Alicia Archbell/Mr. Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh
THA this Synod call upon each parish in the diocese to identify current levels of green- house gas emissions and reduce them by 15% over the next year and asks that achievements be reported both to the annual vestry meeting of each parish and to Synod; and**

THAT this Synod further request our bishop to appoint a committee to support the work by developing a green parish accreditation program along the lines of that developed by the Diocese of New Westminster in 2006 and that each parish form a committee to work to this end in the parish

CARRIED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Canon Dr. Rick Jones, Secretary of Synod, made announcements and acknowledged the contribution of Pollard Windows in sponsoring the afternoon refreshment break.

ENERGY BREAK

The Youth led delegates in an Energy Break.

COADJUTOR BISHOP MICHAEL BIRD

Coadjutor Bishop Michael Bird gave an address to Synod delegates.

BISHOP RALPH SPENCE

Bishop Ralph Spence made a presentation to The Venerable Marion Vincett and thanked her for her ministry in the diocese.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Canon Dr. Rick Jones, Secretary of Synod, made announcements.

The Bishop closed the session with prayer. Synod was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

A reception was held prior to dinner from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The evening dinner was a tribute to Bishop Ralph Spence.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007

CHEDOKE HALL, HAMILTON CONVENTION CENTRE

The Bishop called the session to order. The morning worship began at 9:00 a.m.

The Bishop thanks delegates for a wonderful evening the previous night. He also extended a special thank you to Karen Nowicki for all her work organizing Synod.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones made various announcements.

CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL CAMPAIGN

The Very Reverend Peter Wall, Dean of Christ's Church Cathedral, spoke to delegates about the 'Preserve to Serve' Campaign that was kicked off in September.

SAME GENDER BLESSINGS

The Reverend Canon Dr. Rick Jones, Secretary of Synod, announced the rules around the discussion of same-sex blessing.

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Dr. Margaret Murray/
 Ms. Marilyn Robbins**

THAT this Synod request the Bishop to allow clergy, whose conscience permits, to bless the duly solemnized and registered civil marriages between same-sex couples, where at least one party is baptized, and to authorize rites for such blessings.

**AMENDMENT: The Reverend Dianne Distler/Mr. Russell Kelk
 THAT this Synod request the Bishop at a time of their discretion, to allow clergy, whose conscience permits, to bless the duly solemnized and registered civil marriages between same-sex couples, where at least one party is baptized, and to authorize rites for such blessings.**

DEFEATED.

Point of Order, Mr. Ross Gillett asked if the vote could be standing and recorded. Chancellor Robert Welch told delegates under the Rule of Order that the results of a Standing Vote would be recorded. The Question was Called. Bishop Ralph Spence asked for prayers before the vote. The motion was re-read by the seconder of the motion, Ms. Marilyn Robbins.

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Dr. Margaret Murray/
 Ms. Marilyn Robbins**

THAT this Synod request the Bishop to allow clergy, whose conscience permits, to bless the duly solemnized and registered civil marriages between same-sex couples, where at least one party is baptized, and to authorize rites for such blessings.

CARRIED.

The vote was counted by orders.

Clergy 82 for, 32 opposed

Lay 157 for, 40 opposed, 2 abstained

The Bishop commented that there would be a lot of consultation in the days ahead in Canada and in the World Wide Communion to put a process in place.

EPISCOPAL OVERSIGHT

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall/Mrs. Betty Ann Bushell
THAT this Synod call upon all bishops as Christ's leaders and
pastors to work tirelessly to rebuild trust, and to work for
healing and reconciliation during times of conflict; and**

**THAT bishops from other dioceses or provinces not be
permitted to exercise Episcopal oversight or ministry within
the Diocese of Niagara without the expressed permission of
the bishop of Niagara. Parishes and clergy seeking Alternative
Episcopal Oversight may only do so with the approval of the
incumbent Bishop of Niagara, who may invite and appoint a
bishop from within the Anglican Church of Canada for a pre-
determined period of time to provide temporary pastoral and
sacramental oversight.**

**AMENDMENT: The Reverend Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall/
Mrs. Betty Ann Bushell
THAT the Synod call upon all bishops as Christ's leaders
to work tirelessly to rebuild trust, and to work for
healing and reconciliation during times of conflict; and**

**THAT Bishops from other dioceses or provinces not be
permitted to exercise Episcopal oversight or ministry
within the Diocese of Niagara without appointment by
the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of
Ontario and consent of the Bishop of Niagara; and**

**THAT parishes and clergy seeking alternate Episcopal
oversight shall only do so with consent of the Bishop of
Niagara and appointment of such Bishop by the
Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario,
such appointment to be for a pre-determined period of
time to provide temporary pastoral and sacramental
oversight.**

CARRIED.

Mr. Dave Wilson, St. George's, Lowville, requested that an amendment be made to the motion to include adopting the Windsor Report. Chancellor Robert Welch ruled that this would be a separate motion. Mr. Dave Wilson accepted the Ruling of the House.

OTHER BUSINESS

INTERIM CLERGY

**MOTION: Mrs. Jean Round/Mr. Richard Taylor
THAT Diocesan Synod give interim clergy a vote at Diocesan
Synods during the parish appointment.**

Chancellor Robert Welch spoke to the motion. This would involve a Canon change and

suggested that the motion be referred to the Chancellor and the Director of Interim Ministry.

**MOTION: Canon Robert Welch/The Very Reverend Peter Wall
THAT this motion be referred to the Chancellor, Robert
Welch, the Director of Interim Ministry and Synod Council.
CARRIED.**

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SETTLEMENT FUND

**MOTION: The Reverend Canon Dr. Cathie Crawford Browning/
The Reverend Canon Nissa Basbaum
THAT this Synod directs the Diocesan Treasurer to;
1) Pursue all parishes including those which did not
sign covenants to collect their fair share of the
Residential School Settlement Fund, in order that all
over payments by parishes benefit native people and;
2) To report back to this Synod next year.
CARRIED.**

BISHOP'S ASSENT

ASSENT

Bishop Spence gave his assent to all actions of the Synod.

The Venerable Marion Vincett led in the closing worship.

Bishop Michael Bird closed the session with the blessing and the 2nd Session of the 133rd Synod of the Diocese of Niagara was prorogued at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones, Secretary of Synod

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

Mrs. Carol Summers, Honorary Lay Secretary

The Reverend Ian Chadwick, Honorary Clerical Secretary