

**The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada**  
**Provincial Council**  
September 25-28, 2008  
Diocese of Quebec

**Minutes**

**Thursday, September 25**

Following the afternoon Executive meeting, twenty-nine(29) members and five(5) guests registered in the Hotel Classique, Ste. Foy (Quebec).

**Present:** The Most Rev'd Bruce Stavert(Qc), Metropolitan; The Rev'd Alan T. Perry(Mtl), Prolocutor; Margaret Jenniex(CNF), Deputy Prolocutor; Canon Charles Ferris(F'ton), Chancellor; Eric Dryden(Mtl), Treasurer; John Moores(WNF), Lay Secretary; Wayne Hamlin(NSPEI); The Right Rev'd David Torrance(CNF); Rick Olsen(ENL); The Venerable James Bennett(Mtl); Matthias Osborne (WNF); Christopher Ketch (F'ton); Tina Oppong (Mtl), Youth\*; The Rev'd Lorna Baird(Qc); Joan Gibb(Qc); The Rev'd John Watton(CNF); Winston Walters(CNF); Jeffrey Petten(ENL), Youth; The Right Rev'd Sue Moxley(NSPEI); The Rev'd James Pratt(WNF); The Right Rev'd Cyrus Pitman(ENL); The Rev'd Roger Whalen (ENL); The Right Rev'd Percy Coffin(WNF); The Venerable John Clarke(NSPEI); The Right Rev'd Dr. Claude Miller(F'ton); The Very Rev'd Keith Joyce(F'ton); Amanda Stephenson(Mtl); The Rt. Rev'd Dennis Drainville (Qc); The Rt. Rev'd Ron Cutler (NSPEI); The Rt. Rev'd Barry Clarke (Mtl) **Guests:** The Rev'd Peter Yeung (Prolocutor of the Province of Rupert's Land); A. L. Chapman (NSPEI); Rob Marsh (Church Army); David Eramian (Mtl); The Ven. Michael Pollesel (General Synod)

\*arrived Friday morning

The Metropolitan called the meeting to order at 8:50 pm. In welcoming everyone to Quebec City, Archbishop Stavert noted that the city was celebrating its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

With a quorum confirmed by the secretaries (29 registered), the Metropolitan declared the Provincial Council meeting opened.

The first order of business was to elect a clerical secretary. Archbishop reminded council of the reason for this.

**Motion 1:**

Moved By: The Rt. Rev'd Percy Coffin(WNF)

Seconded By: Mathias Osbourne(WNF)

That The Rev. James Pratt be nominated for the position of Clerical Secretary.

There were no further nominations. A call for further nominations ceased on a motion by The Rev. Keith Joyce.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion 2:**

Moved by: Margaret Jenniex (CNF)

Seconded by: The Right Rev'd Barry Clarke(Mtl)

That the Courtesies Committee be Christopher Ketch, John Watton and Joan Gibb.

**Motion carried.**

The Metropolitan introduced Mr. Peter Simons, chair of the local coordinating committee, who welcomed members and made various housekeeping announcements.

The Treasurer, Eric Dryden, made an announcement concerning costs for spouses.

**Motion 3:**

Moved by: Wayne Hamlin (NSPEI)

Seconded by: The Rt. Rev'd Claude Miller (F'ton)

That the minutes of the 2007 session of council be adopted as presented, with a correction on page 7 (that Ron Stevenson is the current chancellor of General Synod).

**Motion carried.**

Correspondence.

The Metropolitan reported that there is no correspondence to be acted upon.

**Motion 4:**

Moved by: Amanda Stephenson (Mtl)

Seconded by: The Ven. James Bennett (Mtl)

That the reports be received as presented.

**Motion carried.**

**Motion 5:**

Moved by: Charles Ferris (F'ton)

Seconded by: The Rev'd Alan Perry (Mtl)

That section 3.2 of the Sexual Misconduct Policy be replaced by the following:

3.2 Sexual Assault

3.2.1 For the purposes of this policy, a "sexual assault" is an assault, which happens in circumstances of a sexual nature and violates the sexual integrity of the person who is assaulted.

3.2.2 These definitions and principles shall be considered when applying this definition and this policy:

3.2.2.1 An 'assault' happens when one person intentionally applies force or threatens to apply force to another person without that other person's consent

- 3.2.2.2 The assault will be "aggravated" if the person who is assaulted is wounded, maimed or disfigured or his or her life is endangered.
- 3.2.2.3 In deciding if an assault is sexual, many factors may be considered including the part of the body touched or threatened to be touched, the situation in which it occurred, the words and gestures of the person alleged to have committed the assault and any words and gestures of the person alleged to have been assaulted.
- 3.2.2.4 Gender is not relevant to a determination of whether a sexual assault has occurred.
- 3.2.2.5 Sexual Offences are described in Part V and Part VIII of the Criminal Code of Canada and some of those offences are:
- aggravated sexual assault;
  - bestiality;
  - incest;
  - inviting a person under the age of sixteen to touch for a sexual purpose;
  - sexual assault;
  - sexual assault with a weapon or sexual assault causing bodily harm;
  - sexual exploitation which is sexual interference or invitation by a person in a position of trust or authority;
    - a. towards a young person,
    - b. towards a person in a relationship of dependency or
    - c. towards a person with a mental or physical disability; and
  - sexual interference which is sexual touching of a person under the age of sixteen
- 3.2.3 NOTE: Consent is understood to be non-coercive. It is not consent if a complainant consents, under threat, to be involved in an activity of a sexual nature or one, which affects the sexual integrity of the person. It is not consent if the consent of a complainant is obtained by fraud or by the influence of a person in authority (such as a counselor, pastor or guardian) over the complainant. Also, the law may prevent a person from consenting because of mental or other incapacities or age. It is not consent if the complainant is under the age of 16 years unless certain legal exceptions apply, including a defined closeness in age between the complainant and the person alleged to have committed the sexual assault. However, if a person alleged to have committed a sexual assault is able to show he or she had an honest belief of consent, he or she might not be convicted of sexual assault.

Background to motion:

This amendment to the definition of 'sexual assault' reflects changes in the Criminal Code of Canada that raise the age of consent from 14 to 16 years in relation to certain offences, including a change in the meaning of 'consent'. It also clarifies the definition of assault and replaces the word 'victim' with the word 'complainant' in the Note on 'consent'.

**Motion carried.**

The Metropolitan introduced guests:

The Ven. Michael Pollesel, General Secretary, and his wife Ginny

The Ven. Peter Yeung, Prolocutor of the Synod of the Province of Rupert's Land.

Capt. Rob Marsh, Church Army

Mr. Anthony Chapman, chancellor of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

Mr. David Eramian, chancellor of the Diocese of Montreal

Mr. David Blair, chancellor of the Diocese of Quebec (to be present later in the weekend)

**Motion 6:**

Moved by: The Rt. Rev'd Sue Moxley (NSPEI)

Seconded by: The Very Rev'd Keith Joyce (F'ton)

That the privileges of the House be extended to these guests.

**Motion Carried.**

Business concluded for the evening at 9:15 pm. A reception followed in the hospitality suite.

**Friday, September 26**

Council reconvened at 9:00 am with Morning Prayer led by the Diocese of Montreal.

Bishop Dennis Drainville led Council in Bible study on John 6:1-15.

The Metropolitan delivered the Presidential Address.

After a break, the Prolocutor took the chair.

Archbishop Bruce Stavert, Bishop Dennis Drainville, Lorna Baird and Joan Gibb presented the report of the Diocese of Quebec.

Bishop Percy Coffin presented the report of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland.

Bishop Barry Clarke presented the report of the Diocese of Montreal.

Following the presentations, the Metropolitan resumed the chair.

The Rev'd Alan Perry presented on the topic of governance and structures. He presented the letter to Michael Pollesel dated May 23, 2008 and the background behind it. The letter is not an official response of Provincial Synod, as that would have required that Synod be convened, but merely the unofficial comments of the Executive. He also presented his paper "The Constitutional Framework of the General Synod" and responded to questions and comments.

Midday prayer was led by the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

The afternoon was spent exploring Quebec, with dinner at Le Poisson d'Avril.

**Saturday, September 27**

Morning Prayer was led by the Diocese of Western Newfoundland.

Bishop Ron Cutler led a Bible study on Luke 9:1-11.

Report from Lambeth

Bishop Barry Clarke: Pre-Lambeth retreat was led by Abp. Williams was on God's Mission and a Bishop's Discipleship in the Cathedral itself. He found it a Spirit-filled experience and a good opportunity for renewal. 3 elements: deeply spiritual; educational; missional.

Bishop Dennis Drainville discussed process and debate over proposed Anglican Covenant. He reported that there was broad agreement on basis of covenant in relationships, but wide divergence over structures and means of resolving disputes (Sec. 3 and Appendix of St. Andrews Draft). He saw the process of developing a covenant will not be an easy one, and expressed a personal opinion against centralizing tendency put forward by many.

Bishop Percy Coffin: discussed the Bible study groups, which studied the "I am" statements in the Gospel of John. He appreciated the heart-to-heart conversations and hearing understandings from different cultures and contexts.

Bishop Ron Cutler related how the bulk of work was done in Indaba groups. Parliamentary method hasn't solved problems but made them more difficult. The Indaba groups were based on consensus instead. He found it a wonderful way to address difficult and emotionally charged issues, with listening to each other and allowing all to speak. It was not about winners and losers but about hearing each other and being heard.

Bishop Cy Pitman told how worship was a powerful and uplifting experience; and the music was outstanding.

Bishop Claude Miller described the London day as "challenging irony". For him, it was his first ever protest march; and he found it interesting to note the reactions of spectators.

Bishop Sue Moxley stated that the symbol for her was hearing Lord's Prayer said in all languages. She told how everyone came out of it with new commitment to some action. The "Reflections" document gave everyone something to take home. There is a need to understand structures, and to understand differences in structures among provinces. The Anglican Consultative Council is the only instrument of communion with legislative authority, to admit or expel member provinces.

Bishop David Torraville stated that his hope before the conference was 'That bishops would go to wait on the Holy Spirit and not to advise her.' He felt that that happened and that media reports did not accurately reflect what went on; and we need to take what we hear and read in the media with scepticism.

Archbishop Bruce Stavert stated that the important part of conference was listening to each other. Most bishops went to visit dioceses within the United Kingdom and Ireland for several days before Lambeth as another way of building relationships. Bishops' spouses had their own conference and activities; Diana found it a valuable experience. Several Canadians were very involved behind the scenes and made valuable contributions to the conference.

Questions and discussion followed.

One issue: some people see diversity as a problem, some see it as a strength of the Communion.

Mid-day Prayer was led by the Diocese of Central Newfoundland.

Council sang `Amazing Grace` for the Amazing Grace Project and took up a collection for the Council of the North.

After lunch, Council resumed with the Prolocutor in the chair.

Charles Ferris opened the discussion on Governance and the Mission of the Church by framing the issues. Panelists were Bishop Sue Moxley, Archdeacon Peter Yeung, Chancellor David Eramian, Chancellor Anthony Chapman, and the Rev`d Alan Perry.

Bishop Moxley: Described the mandate and work of General Synod Working Group. Questions being asked: Do Declaration of Principles, Constitution and Canons still serve the mission of God in the world? Very little support for its work – seems to be unwillingness of dioceses to give up control. Also looking at structure as it relates to mission and ministry among aboriginal communities: where does national indigenous bishop fit into the structure

Peter Yeung: expressed his opinion that maybe General Synod needs to be abolished in favour of more local control and decision-making. Much can be done more economically and better by provincial synods.

David Eramian: Questions need to be asked in each diocese as well; some are looking at their own structures, some are not. Structure should allow church at all levels to be effective in its mission. Being over-structured, over-committed can hinder mission.

Anthony Chapman: Discussed how Nova Scotia PEI has been looking at structure, especially in supporting and providing resources to parishes. `Soft` functions (sharing of experiences) are often more important than `hard` functions. Task forces with specific focus are often more valuable than standing committees.

Alan Perry: Some discussions are driven solely by financial needs, and can be short-sighted. Some of the mission of the church is behind the scenes (such as ACPO, ecclesiastical courts) that do not directly impact mission but are very necessary to supporting mission.

After presentations by the panel, there were questions and discussion from the floor.

The Metropolitan introduced the discussion of Shared Episcopal Ministry by presenting the House of Bishops 2005 report and protocol on SEM. To date no parish has requested oversight under the protocol. Because of votes by the synods of Montreal and three other dioceses concerning the blessing of same-sex marriages, there is new relevance to the issue. All issues involved in episcopal ministry (elections, consecrations, jurisdiction, and discipline) are matters for the province, not General Synod, and suggests we might want to consider making this provincial policy. After the Metropolitan`s presentation, the floor was opened for discussion.

Some suggested that recent developments have made it a solution to a problem that no longer exists.

The Metropolitan introduced Archdeacon Michael Pollesel. Archdeacon Pollesel brought greetings and thanks to Council from the Primate and General Synod office. He noted two staff changes: Ellie Johnston has retired and has been replaced by Henriette Thompson; and Dr. Holland Hendrix has just joined the staff as Director of Philanthropy. Planning for General Synod 2010 in Halifax has begun, and the committee is looking toward getting away from business as usual, which may include action by consensus rather than by voting on resolutions. Various groups are looking at the operations of General Synod, including the role of the Primate, the structures and governance of the church, and a strategic plan for mission priorities 2010-19. In recent years, we have allowed side issues to take precedence, and we need to return to our primary purpose of living out our baptismal covenant.

The Metropolitan invited Archdeacon Peter Yeung to share his reflections. Peter offered his thanks for the opportunity to be present. He recommended to clergy the summer colloquia at Virginia Theological Seminary and sabbatical grants offered by the Louisville Institute.

The Metropolitan then invited Rob Marsh to share his reflections. Rob commended Council for its balance of work and play which make meetings enjoyable. He thanked the bishops for their reflections from Lambeth. The discussions on governance have merely scratched the surface and could easily be the subject of a full day of discussion. Taylor College has at present 18 students. Church Army is struggling financially and has had to restructure many of its ministries. In celebration of Church Army's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of work in Canada, there will be a nationwide mission tour with events across the country, accompanied by wheels from a wagon used by the Church Army in the 1930s.

The Metropolitan re-introduced Michael Pollesel for some reflections on the meeting. Michael commended Council for its hospitality and welcome of him, and for the grounding of the meeting in prayer. He challenged Council to be aware of our aboriginal communities and of ways to include them. He commended the atmosphere of respectful listening.

The Metropolitan then offered David Eramian and Anthony Chapman an opportunity to respond. David thanked Council for its hospitality and for the reflections on Lambeth. Anthony also expressed similar thanks, and suggested that the church needs always to look at improving communications and getting the good news out.

**Motion 7:**

Moved by: The Rt. Rev'd Dennis Drainville (Qc)

Seconded by: The Rt. Rev'd Ron Cutler (NSPEI)

That this Council appoint five members to form a working group to explore new ways of being the church in Eastern Canada as a means of helping us to more readily accomplish Christ's mission. This working group will report and make recommendations to Provincial Synod in 2009.

It was suggested that as the motion is similar to another motion for which notice has been given,

the movers would consult on combining.

The Treasurer, Eric Dryden, presented the financial statement. He noted one correction, the `Reserved for H&A Policy` should be `Reserved for Sexual Misconduct Policy`. A question was raised about the reserve for the diaconate, which has not been used in several years. Eric answered that the money, originally about \$20,000, was a designated gift to synod, and the fund cannot be disbursed without the prior permission of the donor, and the donor has not been receptive to recent suggestions for using the funds.

**Motion 8:**

Moved by: The Rt. Rev'd David Torrville (C.Nfld.)

Seconded by: The Rev'd John Watton (C.Nfld)

That the reserve for the diaconate be returned to the original donor.

Moved by: Jeffrey Petten (ENL)

Seconded by: The Very Rev'd Keith Joyce (F'ton)

That the motion be tabled until the next meeting of Council at the 2009 Synod.

**Carried. Motion tabled.**

**Motion 9:**

Moved by: The Rev'd John Watton (C.Nfld.)

Seconded by: Jeffrey Petten (ENL)

That the Metropolitan be authorized to contact the donor and inform him of Council's concern.

**Carried.**

Moved by: Eric Dryden (Mtl)

Seconded by: Wayne Hamlin (NSPEI)

To accept the financial statement.

**Carried.**

Eric then presented the proposed budget for 2008-2010. Alan Perry proposed an adjustment in the amount for ACPO to \$16,000. James Bennett proposed adding \$8000 to contingency.

**Motion 10:**

Moved by: Eric Dryden (Mtl)

Seconded by: The Ven. James Bennett (Mtl)

That the budget be adopted with the changes noted.

**Carried.**

Eric then presented the proposed assessments. He noted that the statistics for assessable diocesan income are several years out of date but are the most recent statistics available from General Synod.



**Motion 11:**

Moved by: Eric Dryden (Mtl)  
Seconded by: The Rev'd Alan Perry (Mtl)  
That the diocesan assessments be adopted as presented.

**Carried.**

**Motion 7 (revised by the mover):**

Moved by: The Rt. Rev'd Sue Moxley (NSPEI)  
Seconded by: The Rt. Rev'd Dennis Drainville (Qc)

That Provincial Council request the Executive to appoint a representative working group within the next month, to prepare a response to the Primate's spring 2008 letter regarding (i) how the structures and legislation of our church at the provincial level serve the mission of Jesus Christ, and (ii) how the mission statements, goals, planning and budgeting of our province serve the mission of Jesus Christ, and to explore new ways of being the Church in Eastern Canada, and to report to Provincial Synod in 2009.

**Carried.**

**Motion 12:**

Moved by: John Moores (W.Nfld.)  
Seconded by: Margaret Jenniex (C.Nfld.)

That Council recognize in a letter of thanks the work that Berdina Ford has done as Clerical Secretary.

**Carried.**

**Motion 13:**

Moved by: The Rev'd John Watton (C.Nfld.)  
Seconded by: Christopher Ketch (F'ton)

That the Council extend its thanks:  
To him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us unstained before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, in his coming, even our Lord Jesus Christ,  
To each member of Provincial Council;  
Our Prolocutor Alan Perry for keeping things running;  
To each of our Youth Delegates;  
To the Executive of Provincial Council for all of your planning and preparation;  
Chancellor of our Provincial Synod Charles Ferris;  
To all of the Governance Panel Speakers and facilitators;  
To Our Bishops, for sharing their experiences, values, concerns and hopes around the Lambeth Conference;  
To John Moores who took over the duties of Clerical Secretary;  
To Margaret Jenniex for tying up loose ends;

To the members of Provincial Synod who elected this Council;  
To our Primate, for his leadership;  
To the people of our Dioceses for making the Church what it is;  
To the General Secretary of our General Synod, Michael Pollesel;  
To Captain Rob Marsh of the Church Army;  
To the Prolocutor of Ruperts Land, the Rev'd Peter Yeung;  
To Chancellor David Eramian of the Diocese of Montreal;  
To Chancellor Anthony Chapman of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island;  
To Bishops Ron Cutler and Dennis Drainville for leading our Bible Studies;  
To Mr. Peter Simons and the Local Arrangements Committee;  
To all of the people who greeted us at the Airport and provided transportation and information.  
To Dean Christian Schreiner and the Family of The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in anticipation of tomorrow's Eucharist;  
To the Hospitality Suite hosts, Keith and Joan Boeckner and Peter Simons and Diana Stavert;  
To the Hotel Staff who treated us with courtesy, patience and smiles during our stay here at the Hotel Classique;  
To any who might have been missed.

**Carried.**

Joan Gibb then presented appreciation to the Metropolitan. Claude Miller presented the Metropolitan a card on behalf of the Province. The Metropolitan then offered a reflection on his years in that role, as this will be his last meeting of Council before his retirement.

**Motion 14:**

Moved by: The Rt. Rev'd Sue Moxley (NSPEI)  
Seconded by: The Rt. Rev'd Dennis Drainville (Qc)

To send a letter of thanks to The Rev'd Randy Lockyer for his service as ACPO chair.

**Carried.**

**Motion 15:**

Moved by: Jeffrey Petten (ENL)  
Seconded by: Joan Gibb (Qc)

To adjourn.

The meeting concluded with Night Prayer led by the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador.