

Table discussion on Presidential Address

(#1 - Friday evening)

The Metropolitan, The Most Rev. Ron Cutler, asked that groups consider the following questions:

- 1. Does our structure in the Province of Canada support God's Mission at this point in time?**
- 2. Should it simply be a pared down framework to provide for the limited number of administrative functions among these seven dioceses?**
- 3. Without duplicating the work of the dioceses or the General synod, can we provide some measure of leadership in mission? If so what?**
- 4. Do we need to change the structure in order to enable leadership in mission?**

“Leadership must encourage the denomination to ‘sit at the edge of chaos’, not to be so orderly and rule driven that the new cannot emerge, nor to be so full of change that denominational life feels out of control. Leaders must shake things up enough to encourage innovation but without bringing the house down.”
(Michael Moynagh, Being Church, Doing Life, 2014, Monarch Books)

Group One

1. Our current structure does not support God's mission. Motion 23 – from Synod 2015 gave us hope. Using funds for ministry instead of meetings.
2. A limited number of administrative activities require us to meet to accomplish canonical requirements. These tasks can be accomplished through meeting by Skype or another electronic medium. All seven dioceses must have input.
3. If each diocese can speak into their context, identifying ways to be missional and prepared to share their goals with others, then each diocese can choose to be part of a project – or not! Communicating and sharing are essential. The House of Bishops needs to be a visible sign of unity – everywhere.
4. Physical meetings are not essential. We can delegate our Metropolitan and House of Bishops to call us together when we are needed. We were proud of Provincial Synod to cut back on meetings in order to do missional projects, like Train the Trainer.

Group Two

No, not structured for mission.

Provinces have authority, but some of the value is not a high because communication is easier these days.

Restructuring needed in order to better facilitate mission.

Administrative aspects are not necessarily missional.

Concerned more about liability or insurance.

What comes down from Provincial synod to diocese or parishes?

Each diocese already seems to have some kind of safe church thing.

The greatest value seems to be in the breaks. That's when we share ideas, successes, and struggles.

Fellowship seems to be the most valuable thing. The church needs more fellowship across the board.

Provincial Synod could have a coordinator for leadership training.

Program provided by Provincial Synod resources, shared down to diocese, shared down to parishes.

We don't know how to build a parish.

Clergy are going into parishes which already have the "dying" structure. Can't be rebuilt, and we don't know how to replace.

Clergy trying to do new things need resources and ideas from other places. Provincial synod can cast a wide net for new ideas, and share it down.

The church overall is going in the right direction to be more missional. Great desire for it. Partnerships and new ministries.

Older parishioners resistant to change. We need ideas which allow new ministries and opportunities for growth without necessarily disrupting what the older members depend on.

Group Three

- Provincial Synod have no authority to tell but only make recommendations
- Structure of Provincial Synod
- "Why does it exist? What does it do?"
- Necessary from a legality point of view
- Next to none for influence → bears little weight in terms of decision making on a diocesan level
 - Makes recommendations, not decisions
- Trying to locate purpose where there isn't any
- No power
- Just visiting one another

Safe Church

- Lot of this model policy is common sense but we do not always use common sense.

- Does the Provincial Council (Synod) have the wherewithal to create a Safe Church Policy?
- The Provincial Council covers so many cultural groups?
- How can the structure be paired down?

Constitution of Provincial Council may need to be reordered.

Any changes to the Provincial Council structure have to be done over 2 meetings.

There is some value in smaller group structure of the Provincial Council.

It is important to share ideas.

We have to meet the needs of the people.

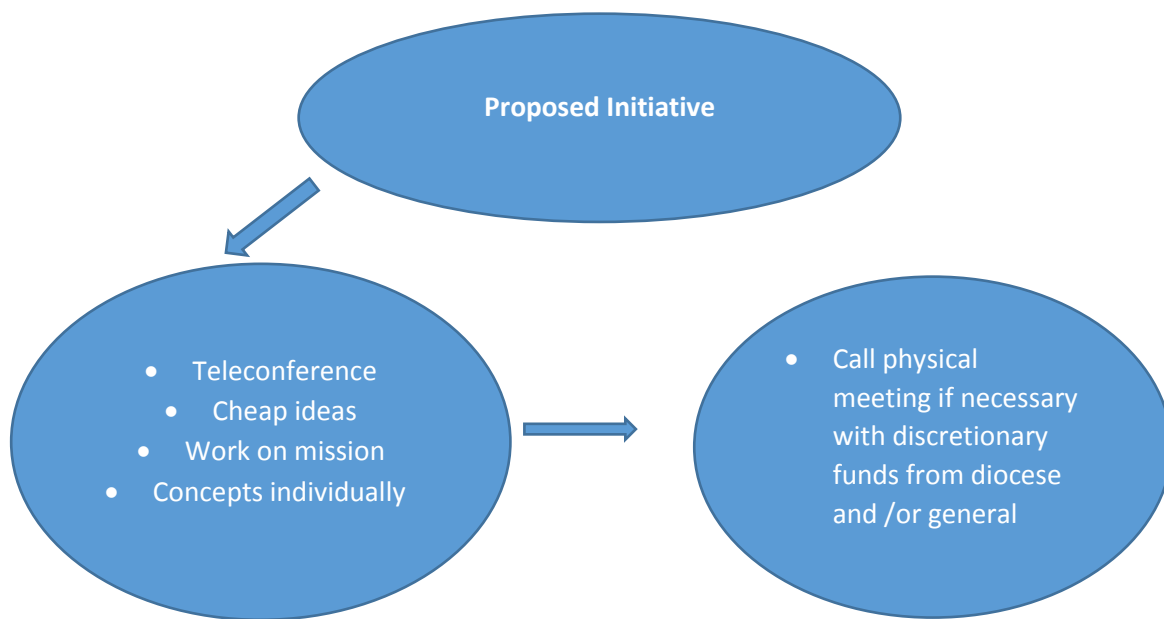
Networking is important.

Some feel this Provincial Council does not meet needs.

Youth has aided our voice per diverse – need more.

We see Provincial Council as networking group.

One possible idea from one person:



Group Four

- 1) Not particularly. Bishops meet and work together. Share experience. Communicate about problems. But questions about the purpose for many years. Good thing to become mission

focussed. Too much time on process and structure. Discussions at many levels. Examine new ways of being synod. Dioceses so different. Work of mission and ministry is being done but just not at provincial synod.

- 2) Maintain in a pared-down structure in case National Synod collapses. Value in the bishops meeting. What is the experience of the other provinces?
- 3) Sharing ideas as most of the diocese in the province have large rural areas. Question of relationship with the indigenous communities in the various dioceses. Population primarily rural so what is our mission locally and how can we share resources. Gospel based discipleship (available online.) There are ways to connect, ie technology, sharing broadcast services, podcasts. Local leadership is being raised up. Question of how to train local people. People who are not locally raised tend not to stay. Cultural differences are challenging.
- 4) Conference not business synod on a specific topic. Annual synod alternating business and program. Is the money well spent? What do we take home from the synod that is helpful.

Group Five

- #3 Mission is very close to the ground.
- Support5 to the Dioceses
- Do we have 7 different ways?
- Where you are different people, different ways. Have to meet the people where they are.
- How does the Provincial structure blend into the parishes
- Would Provincial Synod make a difference
- We need a structure from the top down so we can all work
- Parishes are shrinking and we are becoming more like the world. Are they taking us in
- Look up to what all are up to
- The gap has to be top down
- Provincial Synod is their entrance
- To a point, limited role is more or less
- Fellowship – experiences, stories...
- The Spirit is going to lead us and it could be a very different road that we are going to travel on
- Is there a role; are we doing God's Mission
- Mission – Where are we going, are we in the Church
- Can we keep affording to fun our Church in this way
- What is going God's mission; are we structured to spend money on these meetings, or just Synods
- Safe Church; we can work together
- Does the structure need to happen
- Share resources with all
- Mission field – go out into the people in the areas
 - Education = Programs. Can be done at

- Take a look at structure
- General Synod Bishops =
- Provincial Synod =
- How many missions could we be doing
- Mission

Group Six (Dream Team)

Q1) Does the Provincial Structure support the mission of God at the regional level?

Not many in our Dioceses are aware of what Provincial Synod is/does.

Pair down the numbers is making it more of an exclusive group.

Programming at a provincial synod provides some guidance helpful.

Networking is so valuable.

Pair down is efficient in the policy sense. There is opportunity for more to go on... learning opportunities.

Q2) Establishes an informal environment for discussions to take place more freely without being swayed by convictions through a formal decision-making process. Less tension filled.

A new model.

Q3) How do you equip diocese to do mission?

A place for learning. Developing learning cohorts.

Provincial Synod providing a place developmental programming and training providing concrete learning for lay and clergy to take back to Diocese.

Cost Effective opportunity for bringing in Key note speakers, gurus....

Q4) YES!!!!!!!