

The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada
Provincial Council
September 19-22, 2013
Corner Brook, Diocese of Western Newfoundland

Minutes

Present:

The Rt. Rev. Claude Miller (Fred), Metropolitan; Margaret Jenniex (CNL), Prolocutor; The Rev. James Pratt (Mtl), Clerical Secretary; James Sweeny (Que), Lay Secretary; Eric Dryden (Mtl) Treasurer; Charles Ferris (Fred), Chancellor; **Central Newfoundland:** The Rt. Rev. David Torrville, Winston Walters; **Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador:** The Rev. Eli Evans; **Fredericton:** The Rev. Cathy H.A. Laskey; **Montreal:** Lynn Shepherd; **Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island:** The Rt. Rev. Sue Moxley, The Rt. Rev. Ron Cutler, Jennifer Campbell; **Quebec:** The Rt. Rev. Dennis Drainville; le rév. Yves Samson; **Western Newfoundland:** The Rt. Rev. Percy Coffin; The Rev. Tanya White; **Youth:** Rueben Bonnell (CNL).

Regrets: The Rt. Rev. Barry Clarke (Mtl); The Rt. Rev. Cyrus Pitman (ENL); The Ven. John Clarke (NSPEI), Deputy Prolocutor; Victoria Westcott (ENL); Antoinette Lynch-Joseph (alternate - Mtl).

Guests (in person): The Rt. Rev. Leonard Whitten, The Rt. Rev. Donald Young, The Ven. Shawn Samson, The Ven. Alan Perry, The Ven. Sandra Tilley, The Ven. John Meade, Cynthia Haines-Turner, Jennifer Michelin, Mike Thornhill.

Guests (via Skype connection): The Rt. Rev. Michael Hawkins, The Rt. Rev. Darren McCartney, The Ven. Geoff Peddle, Mark Dunwoody, Jake Robinson.

Thursday, September 19

The meeting began with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, with the Rt. Rev. Percy Coffin celebrating. A large number of clergy, choristers and laity from the host diocese attended. Before the Eucharist, the Chancellor certified that a quorum of members was present, and the Metropolitan declared the meeting of Council open. The Metropolitan delivered the Presidential Address at the Eucharist.

After the Eucharist, Council reconvened in the parish hall of the Cathedral. The session was called to order by Prolocutor.

The Metropolitan introduced guests, both those present and those to be joining later in person or by Skype.

Motion 1

Moved by: The Rev. Eli Evans (ENL)

Seconded by: James Sweeny (Qc)

That the privileges of the House be extended to guests, namely, The Rt. Rev. Donald Young, The Rt. Rev. Leonard Whitten, The Rt. Rev. Darren McCartney, The Rt. Rev. Michael Hawkins, The Ven. Sandra Tilley, The Ven. Shawn Samson, The Ven. John Meade, The Ven. Alan Perry, The Ven. Geoff Peddle, Cynthia Haines-Turner, Jennifer Michelin, Mark Dunwoody, Jake Robinson, and Mike Thornhill.

Carried.

Motion 2

Moved by: Reuben Bonnell (CNL)

Seconded by: Jennifer Campbell (NSPEI)

That the minutes of the 2012 meeting of Provincial Council be adopted as presented.

Carried.

Correspondence. James Sweeny read letter of resignation of the Ven. Bruce Myers as Provincial Communications Officer. Prolocutor asked the Secretaries to send a letter of thanks.

Motion 3

Moved by: Lynn Shepherd (Mtl)

Seconded by: The Rev. Tanya White (WNL)

That the reports be received as presented.

Carried.

Motion 4

Moved by: The Rev. James Pratt (Mtl)

Seconded by: Charles Ferris (Fred)

Regulation 3.1 Forms of Certificates of Election, Consecration and Installation of Bishops (pursuant to Canon 3, s. 23)

Under the authority of Canon III, section 23, the Provincial Council, on the recommendation of the Provincial House of Bishops, prescribes the following Forms relating to the election of Diocesan Bishops:

- a) Certificate of Election, Form 3A
- b) Certificate of Consecration, Form 3B
- c) Certificate of Installation, Form 3C

Carried.

The Ven. Shawn Samson introduced table discussion on question: “If you had to work together with another area or diocese, what is the one ministry area that you would choose for that?” Discussion took place at tables.

The session concluded with the saying of the Grace.

Friday, September 20

Council resumed with Morning Prayer and a discussion on John 15:1-17 led by the Rt. Rev. Dennis Drainville.

The Ven. John Meade presented the diocesan report of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland. This was followed by plenary discussion, much related to the Joint Committee and its history and operations. Then Council broke into table discussions on the diocesan reports on the questions:

1. Share a good news story. How, in your diocese, deanery or parish, has there been new growth and bearing fruit?
2. What opportunities do you see in your diocese?
3. What challenges do you foresee? How can the Province help?

After a short break, the Ven. Sandra Tilley and the Rev. Eli Evans led mid-morning devotions on Luke 13:6-11.

Charles Ferris introduced the discussion on “Mission Together”. The task group looked at mission within Canada beyond just sending money to the national church for the Council of the North. Bishop Sue Moxley then talked about working together on a common mission project, within Canada rather than internationally, and introduced Bishop Michael Hawkins, Chair of the Council of the North, joining via Skype, who began by talking about the operations of the CoN and the challenges of ministry in the North. The focus is not on serving people, but on equipping people in the North to serve in their communities. He hopes to build mutually enriching relationships north to south, parish-to-parish, involving both clergy and laity building relationships between communities, and not “old-fashioned sponsoring” by which a parish in the south sends money and resources to a parish in the north in a one-way exchange.

Bishop Moxley then introduced questions for discussion: 1) Can you identify any parishes in your diocese that may have the ability and/or energy to engage in parish-to-parish sharing? 2) What form could the mark of mission minded activity practically take in your diocesan grouping? The Council then broke into regional groupings for discussion. Council then returned to plenary for a summary of discussions and initial discussion on Notice of Motion 1. The working group took the comments to make some revisions to the wording of the motion.

Motion 5

Moved by: The Rt. Rev. Sue Moxley
Seconded by: The Rt. Rev. Dennis Drainville

That the Dioceses in the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC) form three groupings, namely, the Quebec Dioceses of Montreal and Quebec; the Maritime Dioceses of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and Fredericton; and the three Newfoundland Dioceses of Western Newfoundland, Central Newfoundland and Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador and That during the next year each of these groups will hold within their group at least one joint mission-minded activity aimed at developing the marks of mission within their diocesan group.

Carried.

Mid-day prayers were led by the Diocese of Montreal, a bible study (Gospel-based discipleship model) on Col. 3:1-14, and Council broke for lunch.

Council resumed after lunch. The Rev. Cathy Laskey introduced the topic of “Building Vital Youth Ministry” and introduced the panelists, Mark Dunwoody (via Skype), Jennifer Campbell, Reuben Bonnell and Jennifer Campbell,

Mark Dunwoody spoke about the proposed Train-the-Trainer event. The event is being planned for June 2014 in Montreal. Participants would go back to their dioceses and run training events in the summer or fall of 2014 for youth leaders in their dioceses. In November 2014, there would be an evaluation of the diocesan events, and planning for further follow-up as needed. Leadership team will include Mark, Judy Steers, and one or two more trainers. Bishops and dioceses need to buy in with support in recruiting participants and in supporting their work in the dioceses after the program. An administrative/logistics team is needed to support the event.

Motion 6

Moved by: The Rev. Cathy Laskey (Fred)
Seconded by: The Rt. Rev. Sue Moxley (NSPEI)

The Provincial Council affirms Resolutions 27 and 28 passed by the 2012 Provincial Synod that a Youth Leader Train-the-Trainer event shall be held in 2014, and, further, that each Diocese within the Province is requested to contribute to the cost of this event by paying the expenses of at least one trainer on a ‘shared pool’ basis.

Carried.

Reuben Bonnell then spoke about his perspective as a youth on governance in the church. By being unfamiliar with all the intricacies of how the church operates, he feels the freedom to think big unrestricted by structures or rules. Often in the church, there is a “go-to” youth who is tapped for

everything, and we need to be conscious about including as many youth as possible. Second, there needs to be more attention to “in-between” youth who don’t fit into any specific age group or program. When youth move (off to university, or to a new community because of work), a formal referral would be helpful to keeping them connected and valued. Youth need to be invited personally, and communication about and promotion of youth events need to be better. Finally, the church needs to look at the gifts that youth bring (academic interests, energy) and nourish those gifts.

Next Jennifer Michelin spoke about communications – information doesn’t always get to the people who need it. There need to be clear lines of communication and people taking responsibility for it. Isolation in rural communities is also an issue, where there are insufficient numbers for a youth group, and the church should be looking at “virtual youth groups” or other ways of bringing youth together.

Finally Jennifer Campbell talked about the awkwardness of being a 20-something recent university graduate in the church, too old for a youth group or student fellowship, but not having much in common with the adults who make up most of the other groups in the church. She also stressed the need for better communication.

Mark Dunwoody then offered remarks about the lack of young people in the church. We don’t budget enough toward youth, in many areas there simply aren’t many youth, youth are pulled in many different ways, youth are very mobile and don’t stay in one city very long, youth workers tend to have very short tenures (average is 18 months), and youth are insufficiently involved in decision-making about youth ministry and youth events.

Council then broke into regional groups to consider the questions: 1) Identify at least one way that our current governance structure allows involvement of youth, that we are not taking full advantage of? (What is the opportunity?) 2) Dream big? What is at least one way that youth could be involved in church governance, if the necessary changes in governance were made?

There was discussion of timing of Provincial Synod and Council to be convenient to youth. For university students, September is difficult because classes are just getting started. Later in the fall runs into exams. Jennifer Campbell suggested that June (as with scheduling for the Train-the-Trainer event) is after school ends, would be better for youth.

Cathy Laskey concluded with thanks to the participants.

Motion 7

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

Seconded by: Lynn Shepherd (Mtl)

1. That this council, request the Dioceses within the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC) to identify at least one parish or other Anglican community within their Diocese to be considered for a pilot project of Parish-to-Parish sharing with a parish or other Anglican community within the jurisdiction of the Council of the North.

2. The Provincial Executive in collaboration with the Council of the North, shall establish the pairing of the parishes.
3. This Parish-to-Parish sharing may include, but is not limited to, shared social networking, the sharing of liturgy, the sharing of prayer through prayer cycles ,youth gatherings, and face-to-face meetings and gatherings.

Carried.

The Prolocutor concluded the afternoon session with announcements concerning transportation to supper and the evening hospitality suite. She also read a message from John Clarke, who is at his father's bedside, and the Metropolitan offered prayer for John and his family.

Supper was served at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels in Corner Brook, with skits presented by members of that parish and music by the Sharecroppers.

During supper, the Prolocutor read a citation from the Metropolitan, and the Metropolitan presented the first Province of Canada Award of Merit to the Ven. Alan Perry for his years of dedicated service as Member, Clerical Secretary, Prolocutor and member of the Governance Working Group.

Saturday, September 21

Council reconvened with Morning Prayer led by the Diocese of Central Newfoundland.

Shawn Samson introduced the first session, "Restructuring for Mission", and welcomed Archdeacon Geoff Peddle via Skype. Geoff started by summarizing his statistical report and took questions on it. He stressed the need for better statistical reporting across the church in order to give synod offices and planners a better picture of demographic trends. Theological reflection on the data is called for, to better understand what is going on. To use the language of marketing, market share has declined, in some cases considerably, but among those who remain we have strong connections.

Shawn then spoke about refocusing and restructuring, first summarizing the responses to questionnaires sent to the bishops and executive officers over the summer (Appendix __). The important aspects of diocesan life to retain were identity and relationships. He then asked table groups to discuss specifics of how administration and ministry can be improved.

Motion 8

Moved by: Charles Ferris (Fred)

Seconded by: Winston Walters (CNL)

That the Provincial Executive and the Province of Canada Governance Working Group (PCGWG) requests that Executive Officers of the seven Dioceses within the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC) complete an evaluation of their administrative work and relationships within the EPC and report back to the next Provincial Council meeting, and that such report may contain

recommendations for the sharing of resources, including administrative functions.

After some discussion, Council took a coffee break.

After the break, Winston Walters offered a word of thanks on behalf of Council to Bishop Don Young, as he had to leave to attend to business in his parish. Bishop Young thanked Council for inviting him to participate, and stated that it was the most productive and enjoyable Provincial Synod or Council meeting he had attended in the course of his ministry, and that he had been eager to get up in the morning to come to the morning session.

The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island led Bible study on Matthew 7:12-22.

A revised version of the Motion was substituted by the mover and seconder.

Motion 8 revised

Moved by: Charles Ferris (Fred)

Seconded by: Winston Walters (CNL)

That the Provincial Executive requests that Executive Officers and/or related staff of the seven Dioceses within the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC), gather within their geographical cluster and/or provincially in order to share their current work and relationships, to investigate potential areas of sharing and report back to the Provincial Executive before the next provincial Synod.

Carried.

Cynthia Haines-Turner then introduced the topic “Educating for Change”. The Metropolitan gave a history and summary of the 12-12-12 program in the Diocese of Fredericton. The Rev. Cathy Laskey, a participant in the first phase of the program, shared her experiences of the program and the benefits she has received from it. The Metropolitan then took questions and comments.

Motion 9

Moved by: The Most Rev. Claude Miller (Fred)

Seconded by: The Rev. Cathy Laskey (Fred)

That the Provincial Council commends the Diocese of Fredericton’s 12-12-12 Post-Ordination Program for implementation by the Dioceses of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC) and that this step be taken in cooperation with the Provincial Executive, the Province of Canada Governance Working Group and one or more of the three Anglican theological colleges/schools located in the EPC – The Montreal Diocesan Theological College (McGill U); Queen’s College (MUN) and the Atlantic School of Theology(AST).

At the suggestion of Bishop Sue Moxley, accepted by the mover and seconder, the words “the Province of Canada Governance Working Group” were struck.

Carried as amended.

Cynthia Haines-Turner then introduced the Rt. Rev. Darren McCartney (via Skype). Bishop McCartney spoke about the difficulties of training clergy and lay leadership in the North, and his vision for an ongoing training program for the Diocese of the Arctic. He then opened it up to questions and comments. Cynthia Haines-Turner then asked regional groups to discuss the questions: 1) Can you identify any personnel in your diocese that may have the ability and/or energy to engage in South-to-North Post-Ordination training programs? And would your diocese be willing to make the necessary financial commitment?

Motion 10

Moved by: Charles Ferris (Fred)

Seconded by: The Rt. Rev. Sue Moxley (NSPEI)

That the Dioceses of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC), in conjunction with the Provincial Executive and the Council of the North, investigate, develop and deliver South-to-North/North-South; training programs whereby the Dioceses of the EPC and the Council of the North will identify persons with the necessary skill sets in the EPC and persons in the geographical area of the Council of the North to teach to and to learn from one another.

After discussion, Council requested the task group to consider revisions to the motion in light of comments.

The Prolocutor made a final call for notices of motions. The secretaries reported that three notices of motion had been received.

Council resumed after lunch with mid-day devotions led by the Diocese of Western Newfoundland.

A revised version of the motion was presented by the mover and seconder.

Revised Motion 10

Moved by: Charles Ferris (Fred)

Seconded by: The Rt. Rev. Sue Moxley (NSPEI)

That the Dioceses of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC), in conjunction with the Provincial Executive and the theological training institutions within the Province, explore options for South-North/North-South theological training, and to report back to the next meeting of the Provincial Council.

Carried.

Charles Ferris introduced the speakers for the Safe Church panel: Mike Thornhill, Vice President for Eastern Canada of Ecclesiastical Insurance, Jarvis deCondé (on speakerphone) and Jack Walworth (via Skype). Charles called to Council's attention that the motion has been amended from the original draft, as all of the dioceses are already at some point in the process, and therefore the provincial model will be put forward as a "best practices" model rather than a recommended policy.

Jack Walworth noted that over the past decade there has been an increasingly negative public perception toward all the churches, and we need to implement policies and safeguards as one way of regaining trust. Safe Church is a set of policies, standards, procedures and forms. One important (and new) component is risk management at all levels. Leadership at the provincial level is very important in encouraging all levels of the church to implement policies. Collaboration is essential, because the dioceses on their own cannot cover every possibility, and by sharing we can avoid gaps.

Mike Thornhill then spoke about Ecclesiastical's work with various denominations. The background for the proposed policy comes from past court decisions. Diocesan policies should pay attention to the diocesan context for implementation. Implementation needs to be broken down into discreet and clear tasks, so that people are not overwhelmed.

Jarvis deCondé emphasized that the result – implementing procedures to create and maintain safe spaces and reduce the likelihood of abuse and misconduct – is non-negotiable, and we need to find the best way to get there.

Motion 11

Moved by: The Most Rev. Claude Miller (Fred)

Seconded by: Charles Ferris (Fred)

That the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada adopt the Provincial Safe Church Regulation, including a Revised Provincial Misconduct Policy and a Revised Provincial Privacy Policy.

In discussion, it was clarified that the policy applies only to the Province and to provincial events, and does not supercede diocesan Safe Church policies or the equivalent.

Carried.

Subsequently, there was discussion on the need to reduce the policies from the thick, detailed manuals to a concise guide that is easy for volunteers in parishes to read, understand and follow.

The Prolocutor asked James Sweeny to discuss the provincial web site. To date, it has been for primarily internal purposes, to inform members of Synod and Council about upcoming meetings, for posting documents for the meetings, to move toward paperless meetings. Recently it has been tweaked to allow easy access to archival materials from past meetings. With this meeting of Council, we have started using Skype and Google. Technology allows us to reduce costs involved in face-to-face meetings. Synod voted last year to hold only one meeting during the triennium, even though we downsized to reduce costs.

Motion 12

Moved by: James Sweeny (QC)
Seconded by: The Rev. Yves Samson (QC)

That all the Dioceses of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC) acquire the technology for Video Conferencing or enter into agreements with agencies that have that technology to enable council meetings on a more regular and economical basis.

Carried.

After a short break, Council reconvened.

Motion 13

Moved by: Reuben Bonnell (CNL)
Seconded by: Jennifer Campbell (NSPEI)

That the Provincial Executive create a directory of university chaplaincies and parishes near post-secondary institutions to better connect with post-secondary students, and to create a link on the provincial website to be further communicated to dioceses and parishes.

Carried.

Motion 14

Moved by: Reuben Bonnell (CNL)
Seconded by: The Rt. Rev. Sue Moxley (NSPEI)

That Provincial Council strongly encourages the dioceses to include youth representation on their diocesan council and diocesan committees.

Carried.

The Metropolitan then took the chair and spoke about the road ahead, working toward the 2015 Synod. We need leadership and hard work in the coming months to implement the decisions of this meeting. He asked all members of Council to spend time in prayer and discernment to see where his or her role in the coming months will be. The Executive will continue to meet monthly.

Council broke into regional groups to discuss “Next Steps”.

Cynthia Haines-Turner, in her capacity as Deputy Prolocutor of General Synod, offered her perspective. The joint aspect was inspiring. The smaller Council of General Synod, without representation from each diocese, needs to do a better job of communicating back to the dioceses and will work at being more deliberate in that. The Coordinating Committee structure shows promise.

All of us need to look around and see who in our diocese has gifts which can advance the work of the national church, and to bring these people to the attention of the national committees. The new structure will only work if people across the church are willing to get involved in the national church.

She then asked those who were at General Synod/Joint Assembly to share their reflections.

Conversation turned to meeting exclusively by teleconference and video conference. While there is a need to use limited financial resources wisely, there is also a need for face-to-face interactions and the informal conversations at those meetings for building relationships and for greater creativity. Those interested in continuing the conversation with Cynthia were invited to do so over supper.

During supper, the Metropolitan called Council to order.

Motion 15

Moved by: The Rev. Yves Samson (QC)

Seconded by: The Rev. James Pratt (Mtl)

That this Provincial Council express its thanks to Bishops Sue Moxley and Cy Pitman on their upcoming retirement from office, for their leadership and contributions to Synod and Council over the years.

Carried.

The Metropolitan made remarks about Bishop Moxley's contributions to the Province, and offered a toast.

After supper, Council reconvened.

Eric Dryden distributed the financial statement, proposed budget and proposed assessments. He then explained the financial statement, and then took questions.

Motion 16

Moved by: Eric Dryden (Mtl)

Seconded by: The Rev. Yves Samson (QC)

To accept the financial statements as presented.

Carried.

The Treasurer then presented the proposed budget for 2013 to 2015 and took questions from members.

Motion 17

Moved by: Eric Dryden (Mtl)

Seconded by: The Rt. Rev. Percy Coffin (WNL)

To accept the budget as presented.

Carried.

The Treasurer then presented the breakdown of assessments to dioceses.

Motion 18

Moved by: Eric Dryden (Mtl)

Seconded by: The Rt. Rev. Sue Moxley (QC)

To adopt the diocesan assessments as presented.

Carried.

The Chancellor reminded bishops that several dioceses have not yet forwarded their nominees for the Provincial Court.

The Metropolitan then invited the guests of Council to offer their reflections.

The Ven. Alan Perry thanked Council for welcoming him back, and for the Provincial Award of Merit. He spoke of the history of the Province as the first self-governing overseas province in the Empire, responsible for its own mission and ministry. Many of the issues discussed this weekend are not new, but have been part of the mission of the Province in the past (education of clergy, mission). It has been a pleasure to be part of the discussions, and to see the life and mission of the Province developing and growing.

The Ven. John Meade thanked Council for inviting him to be an observer. He had the portfolio of local arrangements thrust upon him on June 1, and found it an enjoyable opportunity to enter into new relationships.

The Prolocutor thanked Archdeacon Meade for all his hard work.

Jennifer Michelin thanked the Chancellor for the invitation. She felt she had acquired a much better understanding of the workings of the church, and had a lot that she would bring back to Labrador.

Cynthia Haines-Turner enjoyed the opportunity to try out new technologies, and appreciated Council's thoughts and concerns about General Synod.

The Ven. Sandra Tilley thanked Council for welcoming her, and will convey to Bishop Pitman the

Council's thanks.

Winston Walters offered thanks to the host diocese for the tremendous job and the yeoman service and effort, for the Cathedral and St. Michael's who welcomed us into their midst and fed and entertained us; to the Provincial Executive for their hard work behind the scenes; to the Governance Working Group for their preparation, and for trying their hand at new technologies; to Shawn Samson and Cynthia Haines-Turner for their yeoman work; to the youth for their presentations, for their maturity in thought and action, and for their enthusiasm; to the online presenters, who were good resource people, who challenged us, and who were very patient with technological difficulties; to the staff of the Glynmill Inn for the excellent service; to Archdeacon Alan Perry for his leadership; to the hospitality committee, for giving the opportunity for us to be together in fellowship and laughter; to all members, who have come together from many places to celebrate our commonalities; and to everyone (choirs, cooks, entertainers, etc.) who shared their God-given talents with us.

Motion 19

Moved by: Winston Walters (CNL)

Seconded by: The Rev. Tanya White (WNL)

To give thanks to all named.

Carried.

The Diocese of Fredericton led late-evening prayer.

The Metropolitan gave thanks to all members.

Motion 20

Moved by: Eric Dryden (Mtl)

To adjourn.

The Metropolitan declared Council adjourned and gave a blessing. All joined in singing the Doxology.