

NORTHUMBRIA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on February 27 at
St. Paul's Anglican Church, Antigonish

Present: Archdeacon Peter Armstrong, Rev Elliott Siteman (Chair), Rev Aiden Kingsbury, Rev Dawn Leger, Florence Baker, Judy Hartling, Eric Hayne, Keith Horton (Lay Chair), Vickie Keith, Ruth Kingsbury (Treasurer), Pauline Liengme (Secretary), Bernard Liengme, Marie Veinotte, J Barton Wainwright.

Apologies: These had been received from Rev Darroch Fagan, Rev Melissa Frankland, Mona Anderson and David Harrison.

1. *The meeting opened with prayer and introductions.*
2. *Minutes of the meeting held on November 14th, 2009 were approved (Pauline /Keith).*
3. *Old Business:*

Re: Nov 4a) It had not been possible to have Rev Gary Thorne to this meeting. It was decided that he should be asked to a future meeting. More discussion took place later.

Re: Nov 4b) Thanks had been sent to John Clarke

*Re: Nov 5b) Vicki had explored busses for Exhibition Park. We could hire a bus from MacTours in New Glasgow for \$950 plus HST. St Georges would be hiring their own bus, which would leave us with a 40 seat bus. So far we have 31 people expressing wiliness to come. **MOTION:** That we book the 40 seat bus for the trip to Exhibition Park. (Dawn/Eric). This was agreed unanimously. **ACTION:** Vickie.*

*Elliott told the meeting that the Diocese has money which we could use to pay for the bus. After discussion, it was decided that we should charge a small fee, with special provision for families. **MOTION:** The charge for the bus should be \$10 per person, \$20 per family of any number. (Dawn/Bernard). This was agreed.*

*There would be concessions at Exhibition Park but there were also box lunches which could be ordered from the 2010 organisers at a cost of about \$10. This information would be relayed to parishioners and numbers for both bus seats and box lunches should be in by April 7th, at which time the fees would be collected. **ACTION:** Parishes*

There was some discussion about the time we should leave Antigonish and the pick up point. It was decided that we should leave the Mall parking lot in Antigonish at 10.30, picking up at Cowan Street Irving (Exit 21) at 11.15. Vickie would contact the Mall manager to check that this would be possible.

The 2010 committee wanted the choir, servers and layreaders who would be taking part to be at Exhibition Park for noon.

*A choir practice/workshop for this region would be scheduled for a date in March or April with either Joel Pratt or Paul Halley in attendance. **ACTION:** Elliott*

Re: Nov 6) The signing officers were now in place.
4. *Financial Report:*

Ruth said that the website fee had been paid (Re: Nov 5i), and that she would be meeting with Pauline to arrange a system for the finances.

5. *New Business:*

a) Diocesan Council Report: The Bishop's Action Appeal had been launched (copy attached, or website www.nspeidiocese.ca/action_appeal/index.html). It was hoped that this would build on the Leap for Faith Campaign. A major component was to create an endowment for the Bishop's stipend.

b) Allotment/Stipend Communication. A year book had been published from 1850 – 1988, which listed the parish commitment and fulfillment, and it had been suggested that this should be revived. The meeting felt this would be a good idea as some parishes have just learned that they have been in arrears for between 5 – 7 years, even though the office thought they were paid up. The meeting felt that we should ensure that we are accountable, but that "old" arrears should be so marked. We must be careful that any figures given can be clearly understood so that parishes are not judged, either positively or negatively, and the spirit of this initiative is carefully preserved.

*c) Back to Church Sunday: this would be on September 26th, 2010, and the idea is to invite someone to your church – a neighbour, an interested person or a previous parishioner. There were many possibilities and we should try and "go that extra mile". Each congregation should decide if it wishes to take part and, if so, how they would like to do it. Some resources may be purchased by the Diocese for our use and there is a website www.backtochurch.co.uk for other information. **ACTION:** Parishes.*

d) Explore and More Children's Festival: This would be on June 19th from 1.15 – 3.15 at the cathedral in Halifax. It would be aimed at Sunday School teachers and children but was not exclusive to such.

e) Budget Consultation Survey: there had only been 115 replies, which was not enough to get a true reflection of people's attitudes and wants. It showed apathy more than anything else. If anyone wants a copy, they can contact Elliott.

f) KAIROS: There have been cuts to funding for KAIROS, in spite of the fact that the CEDA had recommended a continuation of the grants for the next 3 years. KAIROS has been funded for the past 35 years but the Minister has made the decision not to fund anymore. Discussion followed and there were suggestions given as to why this might be. Maybe it is because KAIROS has been critical of the Government's position on climate change and the 2 state solution of the Middle East; maybe because the organization needs to renew itself in some way after 35 years. Peter MacKay has been contacted but has not returned emails or calls. Roger Cuznor has said he will meet with representatives. There was great disappointment expressed over the cuts. The fact that CEDA had recommended funding and had not raised any concerns about KAIROS, seems to indicate that this is a political move. Dawn suggested we take this to the media and make a big fuss. Peter said that this could backfire and not achieve the

purpose. After more discussion, the meeting decided on a motion. **MOTION:** That a letter is written saying that we express our concern about the sudden cut in funding to KAIROS and would like the decision to be reconsidered. We would also welcome a chance to express this concern to our elected representatives and request a response from this letter. (Peter/Keith). This was agreed. The letter would be copied to the Bishops, MPs, PM, KAIROS etc. Peter would get together with Pauline to compose the letter.

g) Other information:

Bishop Sue passed her job performance review.

The Ministry Committee is putting together a new initiative for October 2010. This would be ready for 2011 Synod.

The AFC reported on loans to Parishes and the clergy health plan review.

As there is a possible move to a temporary site when the Diocesan Centre is demolished, the Archivist has said there may be as much as a 2 year gap without full access to archival material. Parishes should note this.

Diocesan Centre Development: The appeal on the planning decision would be heard the first week in April. There is a letter of intent between the parties involved and it is hope that, after the appeal, things will move ahead.

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Susan Naylor reported on the day of Youth Coordination and Communication. This dealt with safe spaces for youth, ministry to tweens, training for Sunday School ministries. The youth found the day good and informative and felt heard. A Diocesan Youth Conference Committee will be struck soon.

6. *Parish Reports:*

St Bees: *They will be holding a concert on March 21st at 3 pm with the Lunenburg Singers. There will be a freewill offering.*

Liscomb/Port Bickerton: *They had held a successful pancake supper. There is a new organization for children called "Jamming with Jesus" which is proving successful. A Bible Study group "If you want to walk on the water you gotta step out of the boat" is proving exciting. Anglicans are taking part in the Ecumenical Choir which has a concert of April 5th. The Indian Harbour Lake pie sale sold 2200 pies.*

Three Harbours: *They are holding midweek Eucharist services on Wednesdays at 5 pm. They have started the AmazinGrace program, together with Liscomb/Port Bickerton. They had a successful pancake supper. March 20th will be a Mini Retreat: Empty Vessels/Enough for All, at Camp Geddie, Merigomish. Two children will be going to the PEI retreat for children.*

St. Georges: *They have a concert of operatic singers at 7.30 pm on April 8th as a fund raiser for outreach. Tickets \$10, \$8 and \$5. On March 1st the ACW will be giving their 300th cake to people undergoing chemotherapy. There will be a celebration which will include the bakers, the recipients and the oncology staff and there will be a blessing on*

March 7th. A study group will be meeting throughout Lent at 7 pm on Thursdays, followed by Compline.

7. *Other business:*
 - a) *David Harrison requested Parishes to send photos of their churches for the website.*
 - b) *Pauline asked that members with email let her have their address, particularly now that the new Regional Council members had been elected. Members were also asked to ensure that non-email members that they know about get the minutes if possible and to let her know mailing addresses if need be.*
 - c) *Parochial returns are now due with parish information sheets. Elliott must have a copy by the end of March and is willing to give help and advice if needed.*
8. *Date/Place of next meeting: This would be at Halfway Cove at 10.00 am on Saturday, May 15th. It is hoped that Gary Thorne will be at this meeting and that it will be followed by a workshop on same sex blessings and Intentional Listening.*
9. *Adjournment: Motion to adjourn (Aiden). (12.00). Grace was said and we enjoyed lunch and fellowship.*