

Northumberland Regional Council
Minutes of the meeting held May 11, 2013 at St Paul's, Antigonish

Present: Rev'd Peter Armstrong, Bob Belyea, Jennifer Chapman, Harry De Mone, Rev'd Darroch Fagan, , Dave Harrison, Keith Horton, Vickie Keith, Rev 'd Aiden Kingsbury, Ruth Kingsbury, Bazil Knorr, Rev'd Evelyn Knorr, Bernard Liengme, Pauline Liengme, Nancy MacDonald, Jennifer Parsons, and Rev'd Mark Petty,

1. Darroch+ opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Regrets: Florence Baker, Elaine Bushell, Betty Grover, Judy Hartling, Margaret Herdman, Raymond Rudolph, and Rev'd Rebecca Sample.
3. Approval of Agenda: Additions to the agenda: 5b) Visit of the Bishop, 9 – Handouts from Dave and Mark+.
With the addition of these items, the agenda was approved (Ruth/Keith).
4. Minutes of the meeting held November 17, 2012: These were approved (Aidan+/Dave).
5. Old Business:
 - a) Visits to Rural Parishes by Regional Dean: Darroch+ said that he has visited Liscomb/Port Bickeron and Three Harbours and surveyed the buildings. He will have reports soon. He still has to visit St Mary's in Bayfield and then Mulgrave. Aidan offered to accompany Art Bourée if Darroch+ was unavailable.
 - b) Visit of Bishop Ron April 2 – 4. The Bishop had informal talks with most of the clergy and enjoyed a quiet day in Stellarton. People who went enjoyed the day with him. Some people did not know this was open to all. The event was hastily arranged and it was agreed that better communication was needed in such cases.
6. Reports:
 - a) Treasurer: The report is attached. St George's asked about the cost of annual dues, which are \$25. The report was accepted (Bernard/Ruth).
 - b) Regional Dean: Darroch told the meeting that there had been a meeting at the new Diocesan Centre, where they were given a tour. They had looked at one problem in the Region, one that had been solved, and one that is still a problem. They also looked at staffing changes at the Synod Office and also the Risk Management seminar, which most clergy have now attended. The focus now is on looking at the requirements for all licensed clergy so that people's vulnerability can be assessed for everyone's benefit. A policy is being developed which will be for all lay leaders in Parishes and it is possible this will be ready for Synod.
At the moment there are 13 Parishes looking for a new incumbent, stretching from Neil's Harbour to Yarmouth. Two are in our Region.
Darroch+ stressed the importance of a written agreement if Parishes allow their buildings to be leased by others.
 - c) Diocesan Council: Pauline reported on several "housekeeping" motions at DC and said that a major discussion was continuing about changing the health care payments to a 55/45

split, 55% being paid by the subscribers. Aidan+ asked if Associate Priests contribute to the plan, as some of them were not yet 65. Pauline did not know, but would try and find out. The full DVD of the DC meeting can be seen on the Diocesan Website.

- d) Bishop's Advisory Council: Peter+ mentioned that the BAC was looking into Canon 25 to see how best to get a true picture of a Parish using the Parish Profile, Covenants etc.
- e) Clericus: Darroch+ said Clericus is supportive of the Regional Dean's work.

7: Discussion on Synod resolutions:

The meeting looked at Resolutions 12, 6, 7, 11, 19, 17, 18, 20, and 22 in that order. The main concern seemed to be that resolutions which have a financial implication on the Diocese as a whole, in particular the allotment, do not give the relevant financial information and, therefore, a reasoned analysis cannot be made. After discussion, the following motion was proposed: **MOTION:** That all future resolutions to Synod shall include a statement of the financial implication or impact should the resolution be accepted. (Bernard/Ruth). This was unanimously agreed, and Pauline was directed to inform the Executive Secretary of Synod as soon as possible. *[from Secretary – done. Motion rewritten as **It is moved that** all future resolutions to Synod shall include a statement of the financial implication, or impact, that will result if the resolution be accepted. This complies with Synod regulations.]*

Comments on resolutions: (I am assuming you have the actual resolution in front of you)

12 – Mostly a rural problem; however if rectors are being asked to visit more people (frequent request in rural parishes) and to keep the mileage down, they cannot do both. The possible allotment increase of .1% is bearable but not enthusiastically received. We should remember that there may be costs associated with urban ministry that rural ministries do not have, and we must strive for fairness.

6 & 7 – the changes in representation from Parishes would lower Synod attendance and, therefore, the costs. The division of lay:clergy would still remain favourable to the laity.

11 & 19 – Raffles maybe, lotteries questionable, other gambling no. Addictive gamblers can be affected by “Roll up the Rim” and we should remember this. How many Parishes already hold raffles and the like?

17 – this looks like a change in wording, but it does have wider implications. Delegates are advised to read it very carefully. There seems to be a disconnect between the resolution and the commentary.

18 – who will this help? Do we have anything to deal with problem laity? Training and resources are needed to help here, and there is a resource being worked on now.

20 – (may end up as two resolutions) using principal to pay bills is always inadvisable. Exemption from the allotment will be costly to all. If fund raising income is exempt the allotment increase would be high.

22 – it would seem to be a fair way to balance housing allowances on the one hand with rectory expenses on the other. However, the possible allotment increase may be unacceptable. Overall comments; we all want a decrease in our allotments. We should consider looking first at our income and then only budgeting to that amount. It is felt that there are many good ideas for change, but, without the financial implications, they are useless. We should be thinking about our mission as Anglicans rather than always thinking about money. Aidan+ suggested a

Regional fund raiser – we should bet on whether resolutions 11 & 19 will pass! Darroch+ asked this be recorded.

8. >From our Churches: in view of the time, Pauline asked that each Church email her a short paragraph about their activities. She will attach them to these minutes.
9. Other Relevant Business:
 - a) Dave gave out information about the Lay Readers meeting in Stellarton and the Annual Conference/retreat at Bethany.
 - b) Mark+ gave out posters about “Christianity, the evolving story”, a conference at SMU on August 15 – 17. More information at www.ccpchalifax2013.eventbrite.ca
 - c) Darroch+ reported that Rev’d Rebecca would be leaving for Edmonton in July. It was decided that we would mark both this occasion, and Rev’d Melissa’s departure, in some way. **MOTION:** That we send best wishes to Rev’d Rebecca and Rev’d Melissa as they leave their Parishes. (Peter+/Harry). Bernard would liaise with Liscomb and Three Harbours.

Nancy played a song called “Hope” by Jaylene Johnson, produced by Anglican Video to promote the Anglican Church of Canada's Marks of Mission.

10. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn (Evelyn+).

Evelyn+ said the final prayer and Grace and a light lunch was enjoyed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: September 7. Pauline to find a speaker from DC.

FROM OUR CHURCHES:

Strait Chedabucto:

In recent month our parish has:

Enjoyed a wonderful Palm Sunday with Bishop Sue present.

Spiritual Lent services, Holy Week and joyful Easter Services.

A small group of parishioners took a trip to PEI to attend the Ordination (Priesting) of the Rev'd Margie Fagan to celebrate with her and her family this wonderful occasion.

We have an on-going Lay Readers/Adult Education series taking place in the Parish with 8 attendees.

Participated in the Regional Retreat with Bp. Ron.

Recent fundraisers are Ham & Potato Scallop Dinner, a Bottle Drive, and our ongoing Ceilidhs.

Three Harbours:

Our biggest news is the resignation of Rev'd Rebecca. She is relocating to Edmonton to become a n Armed Forces Chaplain at the base in the city. She was at pains to assure us this was a domestic move, and not one that she desired to make to get away from us!! That was most gratifying, but does not make the parting any easier. She leaves us on July 14. This has rather overshadowed everything else we have been trying to do as, naturally, our thoughts are on the forthcoming Parish Meeting. We are continuing with our Good Samaritan Sundays, where we eat together, and prepare extras to take to shut-ins. We are also awaiting the results of a grant application to enable a chair-lift to be installed for our basement. Too many of us are finding stairs a problem these days. Our layreaders (2 active, 1 part time, 1 retired and 1 in the process of relocating) are intending to attend the AGM in Stellarton and preparing for the inevitable extra work that we will be doing after July 14. We ask for your prayers.