

Northumberland Regional Council  
March 1, 2014 at St Paul's, Antigonish

Present: Rev Peter Armstrong, Florence Baker, Pauline Liengme, Bernard Liengme, Marie Nickerson, Margaret Herdman, Judy Hartling, Vickie Keith, Keith Horton, Ruth Kingsbury, Rev Aidan Kingsbury, Rev Sue Channen

Regrets: Rev'd Evelyn Knorr, Dave Harrison, Gerry Punke, Jennifer Chapman

Rev'd Peter opened the meeting with a prayer.

01-03-14 Pauline moved approval of the agenda. Rev'd Peter seconded. MC

02-03-14 Keith moved the approval of the minutes of the November 16, 2013 meeting. Florence seconded the motion. MC

Old Business:

There was a request for Rev'd Evelyn to organize a Music and Worship Workshop for the May meeting. ACTION: Marg

New Business:

Rev'd Peter suggested that a review of the SafeR Church program be presented as part of the September meeting. This could be a sharing of experiences from different churches or parishes.

03-03-14 Bernard moved the adoption of the Treasurer's Report. (See attached) Florence seconded. MC

04-03-14 Pauline moved the adoption of the Diocesan Council Report. (see attached) Ruth seconded. MC  
Rev'd Peter asked if there were optimism that the full amount of the money would be raised for the VSST. Pauline indicated that the total amount is expected to be reached.

BAC: Rev'd Peter indicated that there has been some discussion as to what we want people to be doing (ie competencies) when first ordained. These competencies can be applied to both stipendiary and non-stipend. Rev'd Peter can send a copy of the information. Speak with him.

Clericus: Clericus has informally gathered three times since the last regional meeting. There was a social event to say good-bye to Mark Pretty and to welcome Sue Channen. There have been some communication issues, with resulting confusion re dates for meetings.

Regional Dean: At the last meeting with Bishop Sue, a report on the health of the regions was requested. Information was returned to Rev Darroch and Rev Peter for review.

Questions were asked about the SafeR Church program and where we are in respect to this. We need to be prepared for audits at the end of 2014. We are still trying to understand who in the parishes will be asked to provide documentation. Everyone is at risk who is doing work in the church and for the church. Bullying and sexual issues are concerning. The first webinar took place on Wednesday, February 26. There has been no confirmation, but this could turn into a monthly event. Screening for those who are volunteers in the community for the parishes and the diocese. There is lots of material on the Diocesan website. The Cape Breton Region is hosting a workshop on SafeR Churches for their parishes in May. Northumbria is possibly hosting one in September.

Many questions for the parishes / regions. Who needs a police check? The intention is to be positive, to work at supporting each other. Insurance companies have been demanding this; it is part of a bigger picture. It will be the biggest job from now until December 2014.

05-03-14 Rev Peter moved the adoption of the last three reports. Rev Darroch seconded the motion. MC

Parish Reports:

Liscomb / Port Bickerton: Things are going well in the parish with Rev Marilyn, the Lutheran minister. An invitation should be extended to her for future regional meetings. Liscomb is holding a pancake supper, Port Bickerton is hosting a chowder supper and there are celebrations for the World Day of Prayer on Friday. Doing well with 3/4 time.

Three Harbours: Sue Channen, the new minister, was welcomed. The Christmas service went well. St. Mary's has brunches, St. Paul's has the Samaritan Soup program. Epistles continue at St. Paul's, with Mayann Francis coming in April. Lay readers have been very involved. Pauline is directing a presentation called "Clowns" on March 21, 22, 23. Sixteen children are involved, with proceeds going to Ruanda. World Day of Prayer is being celebrated on Friday.

Strait-Chedabucto: There was no report given.

St. George's: The only item reported was that there are sixty days to finish the parish profile.

ACPC: There are no big trips for young people this year. Instead there are some smaller activities, among which is a visit to Halifax to assist in the soup kitchen.

All Saints: Presently working on a visioning event. A brick wall has been hit with different responses to this. Some people think that the parish has "smashed", others that creative thinking has to emerge. There have been interconnections with SafeR Churches. Tomorrow, March 2, Bishop Sue will be visiting the parish. Extra sustenance through Lent, with extra mid-week services, is happening. A pancake supper and a sauerkraut meal have been planned.

A question was asked about weather and its effect on annual meetings. It was suggested that a solution would be to have the budget approved at the December or January meeting, with the proviso that it could be amended at the annual meeting.

Discussion about who should be conducting and leading the regional meetings. It was decided that lay people should run the meeting and that it would be good to have more lay people attending the regional meetings.

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 31

06-03-14 Bernard moved adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Herdman