

2006 DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

Representatives from Regions

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| Mrs. Patricia Davis | Brock |
| Ms. Gill Tucker | Brock |
| The Venerable Lynne Corfield | Brock |
| Mr. John Lawrence | Greater Wellington |
| Mrs. Susan Pulleyblank | Greater Wellington |
| The Venerable Thomas Greene | Greater Wellington |
| The Reverend Dorothy Hewlett | Lincoln |
| Mr. John Palmer | Lincoln |
| The Venerable Bruce McPetrie | Lincoln |
| The Reverend Canon David Pickett | Mohawk |
| Mr. Carl Sneyd | Mohawk |
| The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones (until February 2006) | Mohawk |
| The Venerable James Sandilands (from March 2006) | Mohawk |
| The Reverend Suzanne Craven | Trafalgar |
| Mr. Mitch Banks (from May 2006) | Trafalgar |
| The Venerable Michael Bird | Trafalgar |
| Mr. Robert Tilbury | Undermount |
| Mrs. Carol Burnell | Undermount |
| The Venerable Robert Leckey | Undermount |

Representatives of Divisions of Ministry

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| The Reverend Dianne Distler | Congregational Support |
| Mr. Ross Gillett | Ministry Support |
| Mr. Bill Mous | Outreach |

Canterbury Hills Representative

Mrs. Nancy Miller

Financial Advisory Committee Representative

Mr. Gordon Reed

Bishop's Appointees

Ms. Cindy Blades
Mrs. Beth Kerley (from February 2006)
Mr. Graham Nicolls
Mr. Ian Pratt

Members by Office

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| The Right Reverend D. Ralph Spence | Bishop |
| Mr. Rob Welch | Chancellor |
| Mr. Terry Jackman | Vice-Chancellor |
| The Venerable Marion Vincett | Executive Officer |
| The Very Reverend Peter Wall | Dean |
| The Reverend Dr. Steve Hopkins (until February 2006) | Secretary of Synod |
| The Reverend Dr. Richard Jones (from March 2006) | Secretary of Synod |
| Mr. Robert McKinnell | Treasurer |

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

This report summarizes the actions of the Synod Council from the November 2005 Synod to the Synod Council meeting of October 3, 2006 inclusive. Nine meetings were convened. Attendance averaged 85%.

Membership

- all changes in membership were in accordance with Canon 1.9 and the election of members and alternate members by Synod in November 2005

Residential Schools Agreement

- authorize the Bishop and the Diocesan Chancellor to do all things necessary to give effect to the Agreement in Principle entered into on November 20, 2005 between Canada, as represented by the Hon. Frank Iacobucci, Plaintiffs, as represented by the National Consortium, Merchant Law Group and other legal counsel, The Assembly of First Nations, The General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, The United Church of Canada and Roman Catholic Entities, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, authorizes the Bishop and the Diocesan Chancellor to:
 - (a) execute all documents necessary to amend the Settlement Agreement entered into on March 11, 2003 between the Government of Canada, The General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada, The Missionary Society of The Anglican Church of Canada, and The Anglican Church of Canada Resolution Corporation, in accordance with section 8.1 of that Settlement Agreement, so as to incorporate provisions no less favourable than those in any settlement agreement concluded by the Government of Canada with any denomination or church entity other than the Anglican Entities with respect to IRS Abuse Claims arising from Indian Residential Schools; and
 - (b) instruct legal counsel for the purpose of giving the consent of the Diocese of Niagara to be added as a defendant for the purpose of the certification of any class actions from all claims covered in the class actions and to the making of any settlement orders required to give effect to any final settlement agreement between the parties to the Agreement in Principle of November 20, 2005

Elections & Appointments

- appointed The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones as Secretary of Synod of the Diocese of Niagara
- elected the following to serve as the Synod Council Coordinating Team: The Venerable Lynne Corfield, Mr. John Palmer, Mr. Carl Sneyd, Mr. Bob Tilbury, and The Very Reverend Peter Wall. (The Bishop and Secretary of Synod are ex-officio members.)
- designated the Synod Council Coordinating Team as the Nominations Committee for Niagara's delegates to General Synod 2007 and approved the nominations process
- authorized the following as signing officers: The Right Reverend D. Ralph Spence, Diocesan Bishop; The Venerable Marion Vincett, Executive Officer; The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones, Secretary of Synod; Mr. Robert McKinnell, Treasurer; The Reverend David Long, Director of Human Resources; The Very Reverend Peter Wall, Dean; Ms. Debbie Young, Assistant Treasurer
- required that the signature of one of the following must appear on cheques: the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, or the Executive Officer

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL (continued)

- elected members of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation as follows:
Mr. Seymour Wigle, Mrs. Joyce Frank, Mr. Andrew Bucknall, Mr. James Sweetlove (January 2006 - 2009), Mr. Gord Archbell (Jan. 2006 – 2007)
- elected Mr. James Sweetlove as President of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation and Mr. Andrew Bucknall as Vice-President for one-year terms
- elected members of the 2006 Financial Advisory Committee as follows:
Mr. Kirk Boyd, Ms. Judy Conning, The Reverend Darcey Lazerte, Mr. Tom Poirier, Mr. Gordon Reed, Mr. Ian Smith, Mr. David Ricketts, Mr. Peter Swire, Mr. David Watson
- elected members of the 2006 Audit Committee, as follows:
Mr. Gord Archbell, Mr. Peter Carroll, Mr. Ed Crighton, Mr. Jim Newman, Mr. David Page, Mr. Ian Smith, Mr. Peter Swire
- approved the following names to the Management Board of the All Saints Mission for a term of one year, renewable by Synod Council; Mr. Jock Ainsley and Mrs. Donna Parkhill, All Saints Mission, Niagara Falls; Mrs. Carol Ann Sage, Christ Church, Niagara Falls; Mr. Ross Gillett, St. John, Niagara Falls; Mr. Derrick Naylor, Holy Trinity, Niagara Falls
- appointed The Venerable Lynne Corfield to the Task Force on Compensation.
- Synod Council concurred with the appointment of the Right Reverend Ann Tottenham as Assistant to the Diocesan Bishop
- appointed Mr. Robert Reid as the facilitator to All Saints Mission, Niagara Falls

Policy Matters

- the Confidentiality Policy and the Confidentiality & Privacy Statement received be approved and recommended to parishes
- the Policy on Rectories be adopted by the diocese and included in the When all Else Fails Manual and published on the diocesan website
- received the Final Report from The Task Force on Compensation, with appreciation

Parish Matters

- Synod Council requested that The Reverend John Ripley, Diocesan Administrator, All Saints Mission, Niagara Falls, proceed at his discretion and that he report back to Synod Council with what further support is required by council
- approved the application by St. Columba's, St. Catharines, to the Anglican Foundation, in the amount of \$16,000
- authorized the Incumbent and Churchwardens of St. Simon's Anglican Church, Oakville to enter into a 10 year lease agreement with TELUS Mobility for the erection of a Telecommunications Tower
- approved St. Aidan's Anglican Church, Oakville to enter into a one-year License Agreement with the Ontario Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- received a report from the East Hamilton Planning Group and showed their support and encouragement working towards a Collaborative ministry in East Hamilton
- Synod Council gave assent to the voluntary amalgamation of Grace Church, Hamilton and St. Mary's, Hamilton effective September 5, 2006

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL (continued)

Property Matters

- approved the sale of St. James, Port Colborne rectory located at 336 Catharines Street to Sheila and Joseph LeBlanc for \$150,000 to close no later than 6:00 p.m. on January 31, 2006
- accepted the Diocesan User Group Insurance Plan and made it mandatory that no outside individual or group shall be allowed to use church property for a non-parish function without proof of liability insurance
- supported, in accordance with the provisions of Diocesan Canon 4.5. for the establishment and amalgamation of parishes, the establishment of the new parish of St. James and St. Brendan's in Port Colborne, Ontario, as named by the Bishop, at the site of the present St. James
- approved, in principle, the sale of St. Barnabas Rectory on Queenston Street, St. Catharines to Edwin King for \$200,000 to close mid August 2006, subject to a successful severance by the Committee of Adjustment in the City of St. Catharines, and authorize the Secretary of Synod to conduct an electronic poll when a closing date has been confirmed
- approved the St. Alban's purchase and redevelopment of 195 Tragina Avenue North subject to the appropriate City of Hamilton approvals and permits

Financial Matters

- the audited financial statements, as presented, be accepted
- that KPMG be appointed auditors of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara for the fiscal year 2005
- authorized the Diocesan Treasurer to allocate up to \$200,000 from the residual sale proceeds of Niagara Falls parishes; St. Stephen's, All Saints, St. Martin's Parish Hall, to assist with Personnel Transition and Severance costs that exceed the 2005 budget, if needed
- endorsed the resolution approved by the Financial Advisory Committee at their November 22, 2005 committee meeting; that any parish initiated reassessment of their DM&M payments be limited to the financial statements in the immediate preceding three years from the current year of the request; and that the Financial Advisory Committee endorses the Diocesan Treasurer's present practice of limiting the review to three years as indicated above
- approved a grant of up to \$7,500, from the proceeds of the sale of the Washington Street property to be used for the proposed heating system improvements at St. Aidan's, Oakville
- that the publishing of the Receivables in the Niagara Anglican be postponed one month and that Synod Council requests the Stewardship and Financial Development committee to review and suggest ways on how to present this information to parishes in a positive way
- approved the transfer of \$40,000 to Church of the Transfiguration, St. Catharines for receivable debt reduction from New Church Development
- referred the request to have all assets and liabilities, including real property and trusts of the merged parishes, St. James and St. Brendan, Port Colborne, transferred to the new parish, to Synod Staff and the people of the new parish
- requested from St. James and St. Brendan, that further detailed financial information be brought back to Synod Council for consideration by December 5, 2006

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL (continued)

- approved the request from St. James, Fergus to borrow \$20,000 from its Rectory Fund for Capital projects
- Synod Council tabled the discussion on Disposition of Proceeds from Parishes
- received the Final Report from The Task Force on Compensation, with appreciation
- approved the report of the Compensation Sub-Committee to increase stipends by 2% for 2007, recommend to parishes an increase of 2% for housing allowances, and a 2% increase for lay church workers, a further increase of at least 1% was recommended in stipends for clergy living in rectories
- approved that the proposed DM&M formula change be presented at the 2006 Synod Session for discussion and a motion for approval be presented

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones
Secretary of Synod

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

When I heard that Jim Newman was to be the new Director of Stewardship and Financial Development (S&FD) for the Diocese of Niagara I was delighted. Knowing Jim and his fine work, I felt confident that he would do a super job of building on the solid foundation that had been laid by his predecessor, The Reverend David Ponting.

In offering my congratulations, encouragement and support to Jim, I found myself being invited to join the Diocesan S&FD committee when he took the helm in September of 2005.

From the start of his position in September 2005, Jim found himself extremely busy responding to calls for help with Stewardship matters and he was quick to give help where needed. This meant that throughout the year Jim has worked with 62 parishes in various capacities as they have utilized his expertise in financial matters. Jim has also visited 5 of the 6 Regional Clericus meetings, has provided Sunday morning preaching at many parishes, as well as several Diocesan workshops...not to mention his involvement with many other committees and campaigns.

For many of us, while in the midst of responding to a heavy work load, it is hard to lift our heads up and scan the horizon for where we need to move next. In the midst of all this activity Jim met frequently with the S&FD committee to both report on his activities and to ask for input and advice. He also saw the need for a day of Visioning and Strategic Planning which was held in March, 2006 with Malcolm Ramsay as our facilitator.

Our goal for the day was to work with the vision of how we would **develop a culture of effective stewardship** in the Diocese of Niagara. Our plan for the day was to define the short and long term goals required to effect the change and get us from where we are to where we want to be within three years. The starting place was all of the material that was gathered from the Stewardship Forum at our Diocesan Synod in November of 2005. You may have wondered if anyone ever pays attention to what is said and done at Synod, well now you know, yes, indeed we do! Malcolm led us through an effective and enthusiastic workshop where we re-examined the S&FD priorities and discussed ways to move our diocese **from a theology of scarcity to a theology of abundance.**

In April, 2006 Bob McKinnell, Jim Newman and myself attended the Canadian Gift Planners Conference in Calgary. It is clear to me that we as a church need to continue to take this aspect of Stewardship very seriously as we are being left behind in the dust of hospitals and universities who have massive departments going after major gifts. Many of the people who are approached and who become major donors are in fact already sitting in our pews, however, we it seems, did not ask them for a gift! This was a major wake up call to me, and we have a wonderful tool to begin this work by simply utilizing the Legacy Planner that was developed and made available by this committee last year. I would encourage you and your parish to 'make haste while the sun shines' and place your order for Legacy Planners TODAY!---Then get them into the hands of your parishioners immediately!

**REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (continued)**

In October, 2006 with regret Jim Newman's retirement from the position of Director of Stewardship in Niagara was announced. Jim recently experienced a heart attack, and although he is now well on the way to a full recovery he has decided to retire again. In his very busy one year in this position Jim managed to accomplish all of the above mentioned items and, along with his committee, developed many incredibly useful stewardship tools including:

- The Healthy Parish Checklist
- The Parish Assessment Tool
- Narrative Budgeting Tool
- The Proportional Giving Guide

He also made numerous enhancements to the Diocesan Stewardship Program, the Planned Giving Program, the Diocesan website, and was a regular contributor to the Niagara Anglican. You will continue to see Jim at diocesan gatherings, and he remains an active and committed member of Christ's Church Cathedral. Many thanks to Jim for his wonderful leadership and vision during the past year as Director of S&FD.

Committee Members:

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| The Reverend David Anderson | All Saints, Ridgeway/St. John, Ridgemount |
| The Venerable Lynne Corfield | St. John's the Evangelist, Niagara Falls |
| Ms. Vicki Hodgkinson | St. Matthias, Guelph |
| Mrs. Kim Johnston | Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton |
| The Reverend Patricia Lucy | St. Paul's, Glanford |
| Mr. Ian Pratt | Church of The Redeemer, Stoney Creek |

Staff Support:

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| Mr. Jim Newman (September 2005) | Director of Stewardship and Financial Development |
| Mrs. Karen Nowicki | Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary |

Thanks to the following members whose terms ended in 2005/2006

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| Dr. Gordon Ross (Chair) | St. Jude's, Oakville |
| The Reverend Darcey Lazerte | St. Simon's, Oakville |
| Mr. Chub Baxter | St. John's, Winona |
| Dr. Stan Hatcher | St. Alban's, Glen Williams |

Respectfully submitted,
The Venerable Lynne Corfield, Chair

REPORT OF THE MISSION STRATEGY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mission Strategy and Planning is a Committee of Synod Council. Its primary purpose is to provide advice to the Bishop, management staff and parishes on parish development issues.

The Church finds itself in a crucial period of revitalization and redevelopment to enable it to continue to engage in mission and ministry within our diverse communities in the post-modern age. Last year, our Bishop gave us a clear vision and mission to this end. The building blocks are: Evangelism, Leadership and Stewardship but this work cannot be done by Niagara in isolation. We need to pay attention to creative initiatives and conversations happening elsewhere within the Anglican Communion and beyond. This committee has worked to engage parishes and areas within the diocese which are involved in reorganization to look at the bigger picture and to think outside of the box as they seek answers to the challenges they face. The following areas are those which have received our most intense support this year.

Niagara Falls

The Anglican parishes here have undergone many changes over the past two years. Holy Trinity, Chippewa, St John the Evangelist, Stamford and Christ Church, Niagara Falls continue to become stronger, partly as the result of the reorganization that took place in 2004-2005. All Saints was disestablished at that time but, because of its location, seemed to present an opportunity for the Niagara Falls parishes to work together in joint mission to the tourist area near the casinos and the Falls. To that end, Bishop Ralph asked that we find a way of encouraging that engagement. Canon 4.5(7) on Parish Administration was taken out and dusted off and has been used to create a Mission Church at All Saints under the direction of a Diocesan Administrator and a Management Board with representation from all four churches. This is the first time that Niagara has used this canon in this manner and the Rev. John Ripley, who took on the role of diocesan administrator, has been grateful for the support and advice he has received from the Mission Strategy team in this new and challenging work.

Undermount

Bishop Ralph gave the Archdeacon of Undermount a two year mandate to work at a strategic plan for his area. That two year mandate will be completed at the end of 2006 and there has been much activity in this region during the past two years. Mission Strategy has been keeping a close watch on developments and offering support and advice to those engaged in the activities as necessary. A crucial strategic move was to offer the Archdeacon trained volunteer consultants who could act as facilitators of the process in both East Hamilton and in Stoney Creek. Dr. Fred Hall in East Hamilton and Mr. Robert Morrow, in Stoney Creek, have been of the utmost value in moving these conversations forward in a positive and objective manner. The tried and trusted use of trained interim priests in this kind of transitional area has also proven positive once again, thanks to Canons William Thomas and Eric Mills. Two of the parishes in east Hamilton (Grace and St. Mary's) have already contracted to amalgamate this fall and intend to work collaboratively with the Faith Lutheran congregation towards a shared Anglican-Lutheran ministry in the years to come.

Revitalization of ministry in any given area does not always mean amalgamation as Archdeacon Marion Vincett learned forcefully on her short sabbatical trip to England last fall. Her experiences there taught her, and us, that there are many different ways of being Church in today's world and that sometimes a parish needs to be more

REPORT OF THE MISSION STRATEGY COMMITTEE (continued)

intentional about engaging with its community and willing to sacrifice its traditional building in order to remain faithful to its mission. The Undermount Region has been the primary focus of this work thus far but other areas of the diocese may yet benefit from this kind of creative thinking.

Port Colborne

St. James' and St. Brendan's, Port Colborne became one parish in June 2006. Canon Jim Powell sought our advice and encouragement as he faced the challenge of working with these two congregations to achieve this positive end. His role as a change manager, has been crucial both in Niagara Falls and Port Colborne. Jim continues to be a valued member of our team at Mission Strategy despite his retirement from full-time ministry.

Consultations with other Dioceses

This committee has, collectively, considerable experience and wisdom around parish amalgamations and closures. Some of this learning has been incorporated into presentations for groups outside Niagara. Canon Rick Jones, who remains our Chair, has been in demand from dioceses like Toronto, Ontario and New Westminster as a speaker and coach in this and other areas of strategic planning. And the Parish Viability Tool, developed by Mr. Jim Newman and a task force primarily from this group, has engendered great interest beyond our borders.

The Leadership Conference

This year, we shall revive the Niagara tradition of a one-day Leadership Conference for parish leadership teams across the diocese. Twenty workshops are being offered for this event and most of these will be led by our own Niagara leaders. The Mission Strategy group has enthusiastically supported and encouraged this project and will evaluate its strengths and weaknesses when it is over. The Survive and Thrive Campaign gave us an Education and Training endowment to enable such events. We have a duty to ensure that those funds are well spent. Judging by the number of requests to attend that we have had from other dioceses, we think we are on the right track!

The Future

While we are aware that there are still areas of our diocese where parishes are shrinking and probably need to look at some sort of shared ministry with their neighbours, we are also eager to concentrate our efforts on growth and new mission opportunities - for example, in encouraging the development of multi-cultural ministries. In order to grow, we must not be afraid to experiment and to look outside of the safe confines of our traditional parish structures. The Diocesan Mission Strategy Committee intends to continue to support forward-thinking parish leaders at whatever stage their parish finds itself in its lifecycle.

Committee members:

Ms. Catherine Cumming
The Reverend Canon Robin Graves
The Reverend Dr. Steve Hopkins
Mr. Bob McKinnell
The Reverend Canon
Dr. Margaret Murray

Mr. Jim Newman
The Reverend Canon Michael Patterson
The Reverend Canon Jim Powell
The Reverend John Ripley
The Reverend Canon Kristine Swire
The Venerable Marion Vincett

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones, Chair