

REPORT OF BROCK REGIONAL COUNCIL

Brock Region encompasses the half of the Niagara Peninsula that includes Dunnville, Wainfleet, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Fonthill and Welland. All the parishes are represented at meetings the first Wednesday of the month, each at a different parish even though distances can be daunting. This exercise has made our region “smaller” in the sense that we know our region better and has offered us opportunities to visit and learn first hand about other parishes.

The format of most meetings is a presentation by a guest speaker on either a topical subject or an activity of the Church which needs support or wider understanding. These are followed by a brief social period with refreshments, after which we attend to the business portion of the meeting.

An important element of the business meeting is the report from Synod Council which updates parishes on the various matters of concern from the Diocese and any proposed changes to Canon law or policies and the budget intentions. The parishes also share their upcoming events and activities, including the successes of the previous month. We invite each parish representative to send information to the chair or secretary electronically, if possible, so all member churches can be kept apprised of events. Churches are then in a better position to support other parishes in our region. The business portion of the meeting is also an opportunity for parishes to discuss new ideas and discover new ways in which to grow.

This year, we have continued to discuss the “Response to the Windsor Report” and the committee which was struck, continued meet to discuss and plan an event for the region with the intent of presenting the issues in a manner that promoted more dialogue while maintaining unity amidst diverse opinions. This has been a more challenging task than originally thought but the committee will continue this work in the fall when we reconvene. An additional setback has been changes in the make up of the committee. A PWRDF presentation, as well as information presented by diocesan staff, etc., have provided valuable information to the council. Members spent the spring arranging presentations for our upcoming year. As has become our tradition, we held our June meeting, to celebrate the arrival of summer and our hiatus as well as the contributions of the members of our council, with a pot luck supper at the lakeside home of Bill and Helen Coons.

We are looking forward to another successful and informative year.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Patricia Davis, Chair

REPORT OF UNDERMOUNT REGIONAL COUNCIL

*Ch-ch-ch-changes, (turn and face the strain)
Ch-ch-changes, Don't want to be a richer man
Ch-ch-ch-changes, (turn and face the strain)
Ch-ch-changes, Just gonna have to be a different man
Time may change me, But I can't trace time*

*I watch the ripples change their size, But never leave the stream
Of warm impermanence, So the days float through my eyes
But still the days seem the same, And these children that you spit on
As they try to change their worlds, Are immune to your consultations
They're quite aware of what they're going through*

David Bowie

Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes.....

The Bishop has asked the Archdeacon of Undermount, in 2004, to oversee the development of a mission and ministry plan for the region that addresses several concerns. As part of the Mandate, Regional Council has been supporting and assisting him in this task.

All of the 12 Tribes are rethinking their purpose in the community – their mission and ministry in the community and making visible efforts to be a stronger presence in the community.

Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes.....

- The Reverend David Anderson is now the Rector of St. John's, Hamilton
- All Saints is considering redevelopment
- Christ's Church Cathedral, St Luke's, and All Saints are talking about how to link their ministry together
- St. Peter's is working ecumenically with St. Giles United, Ryerson United, New Westminster Presbyterian and the Joshua Center on outreach ministries
- St. Mary's and Grace have amalgamated and combined their forces to become The Hamilton East Ministries and are now one of T.H.E.M. until a new name is decided upon
- St. Alban's and Faith Lutheran are also part of T.H.E.M. in that they worshiped together over the summer as one and still remain in conversation
- Stoney Creek Anglican Ministries - Redeemer and Our Saviour vote to amalgamate in the middle of October and the hope is that they will become one and will create a new ministry and mission together
- St. John's, Winona is very much part of the Stoney Creek Anglican Ministry, as we explore shared ministry

Lots of exciting, new, thrilling ch-ch-ch-changes....

The representatives from each parish share with one another the everyday joys and struggles of parish life offering the support of the larger community. The blessing of being on Regional Council is learning that much more can be accomplished when we work together as a team rather than as individual tribes....oh, so much more...more than we can ask or imagine...

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Burnell, Chair

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHIVIST

I would draw the attention of all members of Synod to Diocesan Canon 2.6 regarding Archives and Archivist. With the closure and disestablishment of some parishes in recent years, I have received much material which is not of an archival nature. This could best be disposed of in the parish concerned. Canon 2.6 states what should be sent to the Diocesan Archivist. A revised Guide for parishes depositing records in the Diocesan Archives is being made and will be included in a future clergy mailing. I am available at Cathedral Place wither in person or by leaving a phone message and will respond as soon as possible. Please keep your parish copies of original register of Baptisms, Confirmation, Marriages and Burials in a safe and accessible place. Also encourage someone knowledgeable of the parish to be the Parish Archivist who will be responsible for these important records. This person would relieve busy parish secretaries and clergy.

Remember to print names on all parish registers and documents as well as signing so that future archivists can decipher these signatures.

I have a file on each present and former parish in the Diocese which contains some interesting material for future histories of the parish. Are you saving pictures also?

I had occasion recently to visit St. John's Church in Ancaster where a very interesting Archive Room has been set up under the careful supervision of Canon Philip Jefferson. Such a place in every parish, where facilities permit, would be ideal for record keeping. Canon Jefferson would be please to show you around.

Part of my responsibility as Diocesan Archivist is to ensure the safe keeping of all diocesan and parish records and registers. These should not be kept in parishioner's homes despite their good intentions. Sometimes such records have been thrown out after the death of the person. Public Libraries have "Forgiveness week" for returning overdue books, why not have one in the parish for registers, etc. etc.

Respectfully submitted,
Archdeacon John Rathbone, Diocesan Archivist

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Over four years ago the Cemetery Advisory Committee was established to prepare parishes for the newly proposed provincial legislation introduced by the former Conservative government that would significantly influence and alter the current regulations governing cemetery, funeral home, and related operations. The newly elected Liberal government at that time, recognizing the need to overhaul the existing regulations, continued in the process. However, despite its intentions, the process has become mired.

In a recent conversation with an M.P.P. it was hinted that the provincial government may shelve the proposed legislation and begin the process anew. It has become evident that the current regulations must be revised and improved, but the task is a daunting one.

While regulations will undoubtedly be changed in the future, it is important to recognize that parishes currently operating and maintaining cemeteries and columbarium do so under the authority of the present Cemeteries Act (1990) and are mandated to adhere to its regulations.

The Cemetery Advisory Committee welcomes enquiries regarding the interpretation of the Cemeteries Act, and as part of its mandate, is very willing to assist parishes with specific problems and requests they may have. Please forward enquiries to switcher@sympatico.ca or to Canon Steve Witcher in care of the Diocesan Resource Centre.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Reverend Canon Stephen A. Witcher, Chair

PROVINCIAL SYNOD REPORT

The Thirty-second Session of the Ontario Provincial Synod met in Stratford, Ontario, in the Diocese of Huron on October 10-13, 2006 under the chairmanship of the Metropolitan of Ontario, The Most Rev. Caleb Lawrence.

The Synod heard presentations on:

- the relationship of the Provincial Synod to the wider church
- chaplaincy issues
- the Ontario Provincial Commission for Theological Education (OPCOTE)
- the Inter-Faith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC)
- the Windsor Report
- the St. Michael Report
- eligibility of Lutheran clergy to participate in Anglican Synods
- governance in the Anglican Church of Canada

The Primate, the Most Rev. Andrew Hutchison, addressed the Synod on issues facing the national church and the Anglican Communion. Dr. John Godfrey, MP was a guest speaker on "Global Warming and Climate Change".

Actions of the Synod included the following:

- election and installation of a new Prolocutor of Provincial Synod, Mr. Christopher Miller, youth member from the Diocese of Ottawa (the Prolocutor is the vice-president of the Synod; the Metropolitan or Archbishop is the president)
- election of the Executive Council of Provincial Synod (the Niagara members are Bishop Spence, Archdeacon Lynne Corfield, Mr. Ross Gillett)
- consideration of priorities for Provincial Synod until its next meeting in 2009
- provision for a student representative on OPCOTE
- creating a network to facilitate pastoral care for youth moving to new communities for post-secondary education
- encouraging the use of inclusive language in liturgies at Provincial Synod
- encouraging the creation and sharing of resources for the stewardship of the earth
- encouraging advocacy on behalf of the homeless and others in poverty
- encouraging diocese to develop democratic and peer selection processes to name youth members of Provincial Synod
- approving a memorial to General Synod on the eligibility of Lutheran clergy licensed in Anglican dioceses to serve on diocesan, provincial, and national synods
- petitioning the Ontario Legislature to change the legal name of the Provincial Synod
- creating a Taskforce on Jurisdiction and Governance

Provincial Synod will meet next in Timmins in the Diocese of Moosonee in 2009.

The Niagara members of Provincial Synod were:

The Rt. Rev. D. Ralph Spence	Mrs. Susan Little
The Rev. Kevin Block	Mr. Bill Mous
The Ven. Lynne Corfield	Mr. David Ricketts
Mr. Ross Gillett	Mrs. Irene Walback
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Hopkins	The Very Rev. Peter Wall