

**REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION
HELD MAY 6, 2006 AT ST. JOHN'S, ANCASTER**

Introduction of:

Chair	Jackie Pidduck
Chancellor	The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins
MCs	Stephanie DeForest and Evan Rudderham
Diocesan Program Consultants	Christyn Perkons and Joyce Wilton
Secretary	Bill Mous
Youth Synod Coordinator	Courtney Evers
Youth Synod Council Coordinator	The Reverend Stephen Murray
Youth Local Planning Coordinators	The Reverend Canon David Pickett, The Reverend Pam Guyatt, Bruce Schaefer, Jane Evans

Voting Delegates:

Alicia Archbell**	Nick Head-Petersen**	Adam Peck
Elliott Armstrong	Brenda-Lee Henry**	Carolyn Pugh
Mac Armstrong**	Kyla Hitchcock	Christine Pugh**
Maggie Armstrong	Ben Holtam-Prodger	Al Rathbone
Stuart Armstrong	Maggie Howes	Chris Richard**
James Beattie	Emma Hughes	Graham Robertson
Sarah Bird	Monica Hughes	Julian Rossiter
Steff Browning	Emily Irwin-James	Evan Rudderham
Emily Bruch	Kait Kenel	Christopher Saayman
Adam Carriere	Catherine Lamoureux	Cody Slote-Roberts
Rebekah Clause	Jessica Letman	Ashley Smith
Kira Conibear	Barbara Jean Lick	Emma Smith
Kyle Conibear	Michael Lickers	Katelyn Smyth
Jenn Cumming	Erika Lindey	Katharine Sobschak
Jeff Cummings	Adrienne Lolic	Chelsea Stewart
Steve Cummings	Scott Lorimer	Erin Stewart**
Jeff Deegan	Clair Macaulay-	Lindsay Stewart**
Stephanie DeForest	Newcombe	Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh**
Marc Delisio	Jay MacKinnon	Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh**
Rebecca Donaldson	Danielle McCallum	Hilary Svatos
Hilary Finch	Kyle McCooley**	Jennifer Sweet
Andee Fisher**	Christopher McDevitt	Andrew Szucs
Mathew Fisher	Thomas McDevitt	James Theisen
Alexis Freeman	Sambath McNaughton	Trevor Trotman
Corey Freeman	Justin Michael	Alexander Urquhart
Kaitlin Gibson	David Micks	Rebecca Vedell
Alex Glass	Todd Miles	Sarah Vedell
Dave Gould	Katrina Mio	Zak Ward
Trish Gould	Allison Mondloch	Pam Wettlaufer
Billy-Jim Green	Kate Murphy	Ashley Yaworski
Monica Griffin	Graham Nicolls	Laura Zargi
Karen Haycraft	Sarah Noiseux	
Linda Haycraft	Katie Peach	

**** Youth Synod Council Members**

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Other Adult Observers:

Derek Anderson	Divinity Student
Jay Blackwood	Small Group Leader/Youth Ministry Committee
The Ven. Lynne Corfield	Archdeacon of Brock
Rev. Sandy Copland	Regional Dean, Undermount
Rev. Dianne Distler	CSD Synod Council Representative
Courtney Evers	Youth Synod Coordinator
Pepe Feud	Cuban Observer
Lisandra Garcia	Cuban Observer
Mary Gordon	Small Group Leader/Youth Ministry Committee
Matthew Griffin	Small Group Leader
Jane Caulfield	Youth Ministry Committee
Jenny Harper	Youth Synod Coordinator's Assistant
Matt Koovisk	PWRDF Youth Council
Rev. Patricia Lucy	Diocesan Outreach Committee
Kim Martignago	St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls
Rev. Kathy Morgan	Regional Dean, Mohawk/Youth Ministry Committee
Rev. Stephen Murray	Motions Development Team Coordinator
Beth Murray-Davis	Small Group Leader
Rev. Stuart Pike	Regional Dean, Lincoln
Tom Robinson	Past Youth Synod Chair
Pat Ruggles	Small Group Leader/Youth Ministry Committee
Rob Shearer	NIDUS
Jane Stewart	Diocesan Staff
Ailed Villalba	Cuban Observer

Tech Crew:

Jon Simkins Church of the Incarnation, Oakville

Chair's Opening Remarks:

- Youth Synod is a **real** opportunity to have a **real** impact on our community through our ideas and discussions
- We have lots of fantastic motions and we need the process to progress smoothly so that we are able to address as many motions as possible
- The Chair outlined some helpful considerations in speaking to a motion
- We need to respect each other and recognize the need for safe space during the debates; thus clapping and heckling should be avoided
- As Anglicans we need to learn to respect the diversity of opinions and perspectives held by each other; conversation enables our future together
- Listen and reflect on where God is calling us to be; speak from our hearts
- We need to be accountable for what we actually say what we are going to do

Motion to Give Rights to the Floor for Observers:

"that the observers listed above be granted rights to the floor.."

The house granted overwhelming consent.

1. MUTUAL RESPECT FOR DIFFERING UNDERSTANDINGS OF SCRIPTURE

WHEREAS: In North America, those who understand the Bible as the literal truth often feel discriminated against and outnumbered by their brothers and sisters with a more relative understanding;

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AND WHEREAS: Appearing inflexible and narrow-minded is characteristic of both groups in the heat of discussions, and often stems from passionately arguing and defending one's opinion;

AND WHEREAS: While discussions about biblical interpretation/understanding at Youth Synod and other events can be passionate and heated, and participants often feel deeply connected to their own beliefs; it is desirable that when the discussions end, participants view each other as worthy of respect, and act without prejudice toward each other.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The members of Youth Synod recognize that a respect for our differences in opinion and theological understanding underpins the diversity of the Anglican Church.
2. The members of Youth Synod will act respectfully towards each other regardless of individual understandings of biblical interpretation.
3. The members of Youth Synod will encourage people to act respectfully towards each other at other church-wide events such as Synod regardless of individual understandings of biblical interpretation.
4. Youth Synod 2006 requests the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee to include biblical studies in Diocesan Youth events whenever possible.
5. A Memorial be forwarded to Diocesan Synod requesting that time for Bible Study be included in the agenda of all Synod gatherings of more than one day.

Moved by: Mac Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga

Seconded by: Andee Fisher, St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls

- This motion intended to provide a better understanding of all of our interpretations
- This motion should be seen as unifying the diversity within the Anglican Church

Procedural Motion

James Beattie asked the house for permission to vote for this motion clause by clause.

The house overwhelmingly supported this request.

Clause 1: The members of Youth Synod recognize that a respect for our differences in opinion and theological understanding underpins the diversity of the Anglican Church.

This clause was passed unanimously without a formal count of votes.

Clause 2: The members of Youth Synod will act respectfully towards each other regardless of individual understandings of biblical interpretation.

- Respect is the foundation of Youth Synod, so is this not redundant
- This motion will set an excellent example for Diocesan Synod

This clause was passed unanimously without a formal count of votes.

Clause 3: The members of Youth Synod will encourage people to act respectfully towards each other at other church-wide events such as Synod regardless of individual understandings of biblical interpretation.

This clause was passed overwhelmingly without a formal count of votes.

Clause 4: Youth Synod 2006 requests the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee to include biblical studies in Diocesan Youth events whenever possible.

- This might discourage participation at Youth Synod, as biblical studies do not sound fun
- Perhaps an model similar to NYC, where biblical studies are subtly interwoven into the program

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Friendly Amendment: that the word “optional” be added; so that the motion read as “Youth Synod 2006 requests the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee to include options biblical studies in Diocesan Youth events whenever possible”.

Moved by: Emma Smith, St. Christopher’s, Burlington
Seconded by: Lindsay Stewart, St. Christopher’s, Burlington

- Who would lead the biblical studies? Youth Ministry Committee volunteers
- There are other youth ministry venues for biblical studies
- The amendment loses its power with the addition of the word “optional”
- Education is important so that we can fully understand the Bible and how it informs our faith
- Optional biblical studies will lead to further division amongst delegates and our Church
- The optional nature of this motion might prevent participation of people who would at first be opposed to participating but could perhaps find it to be quite helpful

IN FAVOUR: 22

OPPOSED: 72

This clause was defeated.

Clause 5: A Memorial be forwarded to Diocesan Synod requesting that time for Bible study be included in the agenda of all Synod gatherings of more than one day.

- There are better things to do during Youth Synod than read the Bible, as most people do this as part of their daily life
- We shouldn’t tell people what to do
- Youth Synod delegates should not have a role in planning/scheduling of the event
- Context is important; Youth Synod would provide an excellent context for Youth Synod

Unfriendly Amendment: that the word “encouraged” replace the word “included”; so that the motion reads as “a memorial be forwarded to Diocesan Synod requesting that time for Bible study be encouraged in the agenda of all Synod gatherings of more than one day”.

Moved by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias, Guelph
Seconded by: Kait Kenel, Christ Church, Flamborough

This is simply a softer way of saying the same thing.

IN FAVOUR: 23

OPPOSED: 70

The amendment was defeated.

Point of Privilege

Matthew Griffin raised a question about the power of this body to legislate action on Diocesan Synod.

The Chancellor replied by stating the no action of this body is binding upon Diocesan Synod, however, it is feasible for Synod to do some biblical study should it choose to do so.

- We’ve just defeated a clause about Bible studies at Youth Synod so how can we request Diocesan Synod do the same?

IN FAVOUR: 8

OPPOSED: 84

This clause was defeated.

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2. BLESSING OF SAME GENDER UNIONS

WHEREAS: The blessing of same gender unions and the full integration of the gay and lesbian community into the parishes of the Diocese of Niagara and the Anglican Church of Canada have been topics of discussion and dissension for the last thirty years

AND WHEREAS: The 130th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara voted 67% in favour of asking the Bishop to “grant clergy permission to exercise their discretion in blessing the relationships of gay or lesbian couples who have been married civilly, once they with their congregations have petitioned the Bishop for permission to be a “blessing community”

AND WHEREAS: The 37th Session of General Synod (2004) passed a motion that “affirmed the integrity and sanctity of committed adult same sex relationships”

AND WHEREAS: Several Youth Synods of the Diocese of Niagara have passed motions with overwhelming support that affirm the full integration of gays and lesbians into our parishes and the blessing of the same gender unions

AND WHEREAS: The 37th Session of General Synod (2004) deferred consideration of a motion affirming the authority of diocesan synods to authorize the blessing of committed same sex unions until the 38th Session of General Synod (2007), June 19 – 25, 2007

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2006 affirms that the blessing of the unions of committed same sex partners is both just and righteous, and that to withhold this blessing is to continue discrimination against gays and lesbians as well as perpetuating the brokenness of the community of Christ Jesus.
2. A memorial is to be sent to the 133rd Session of Diocesan Synod affirming the support of Youth Synod 2006 for the Bishop to “grant clergy permission to exercise their discretion in blessing the relationships of gay or lesbian couples who have been married civilly, once they with their congregations have petitioned the Bishop for permission to be a “blessing community”.
3. A memorial is to be sent to the 133rd Session of Diocesan Synod recommending that a vote be allowed on the matter of the blessing of the unions of committed adult same sex partners so that the work of the Holy Spirit as reflected in the mind of the Diocese of Niagara can be made clear to the 38th Session of General Synod.
4. A statement is issued to the Niagara Anglican by Youth Synod Council on behalf of Youth Synod 2006 encouraging parishes to engage in respectful, civil dialogue about the issue of blessing same gender unions before the 133rd Session of Diocesan Synod on November 25, 2006 so that delegates do not impede discussion or motions on the grounds that their parish has not discussed the issue.
5. A memorial is sent to the 38th Session of General Synod affirming the support of Youth Synod 2006 of the Diocese of Niagara for authorizing the “local option’ at the diocesan level for the blessing of the unions of committed adult same sex partners.

Moved by: Evan Rudderham, St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton

Seconded by: James Beattie, Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton

Discussion from the Floor

- This motion came before Youth Synod last year
- We have no right to deny gay and lesbian couples participation in the Church
- Dialogue is important on this issue; hence it is important to continue to send memorials to Diocesan Synod
- “What’s so funny about peace, love and understanding?”
- Clergy should be able to bless same gender unions offsite should their parishes not choose to become blessing communities
- This motion ties in to the previous motion about mutual respect of people’s beliefs

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- We should be able to approve the sanctity of all relationships – not just relationships involving adults, heterosexuals
- Respect for opinions does not necessarily imply that we need to morally agree with those opinions

Procedural Motion

Kyle McCooley asked that the question be called.

The house overwhelmingly supported this request

IN FAVOUR: 88

OPPOSED: 6 The motion was carried.

3. 30 Hour Famine

WHEREAS: The 30 Hour Famine is a significant fundraiser for World Vision that helps families in the Third World countries who are struggling;

AND WHEREAS: We live in a society that encourages dieting and various forms of starvation;

AND WHEREAS: Participation in the 30 Hour Famine may contribute to the beginning of an eating disorder or put pressure on people that are already ill;

AND WHEREAS: There are multiple alternatives for fundraisers that can help World Vision's cause;

AND WHEREAS: Positive alternatives to the 30 Hour Famine could include food drives, dance-a-thon, rice lunches and auctions.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Delegates of Youth Synod encourage their parishes to find alternate ways of raising money for World Vision that do not involve a famine.

Moved by: Karen Haycraft, Church of the Epiphany, Oakville

Seconded by: Chris Saayman, St. Mark's, Orangeville

- The famine does not even approximate the experience of starving people
- If the famine is done properly; problems around anorexia should not happen
- Anorexia Nervosa is not caused by one incident; but rather by many pressures
- This is not a famine; it is more a fast
- The motion lacks information about alternative forms of fundraising
- 30 Hour Famines excludes youth with special dietary and health needs
- Such events encourage youth to take positive action in order to raise money for a desperate need
- "Walk a mile in someone else's shoes"; hence 30 Hour Famines provide a useful experience for youth
- 30 Hour Famines are a poor way to build empathy for countries dealing with hunger
- The event raises important awareness about important issues affecting Third World countries
- Makes a connection for youth between hunger and the reality of others in the world
- The event is a social opportunity with an important social justice component
- 30 Hour Famines are important and unique from other fundraiser
- The event gives a false idea of starvation
- This motion is about being creative; finding alternatives to raising money for people suffering from chronic hunger

IN FAVOUR: 47

OPPOSED: 49 The motion was defeated.

REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

4. MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

WHEREAS: “The goal of the... [Make Poverty History] campaign is to give a voice, to ring church bells and cell phones, on campuses and in coffee shops for an historic pact to fight the global AIDS emergency and end extreme poverty. We believe that allocating an additional ONE percent of the [Canadian] budget towards providing basic needs like health, education, clean water and food, would transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation of the poorest countries”;

AND WHEREAS: the Make Poverty History campaign supports the “the right of developing countries to pursue their own development agendas, putting their people’s interests first, and actively involve civil society and the poor, particularly socially excluded group in the formation of national development priorities, policies and plans”;

AND WHEREAS: the Make Poverty History campaign calls upon governments to adopt the promises in the global Millennium Declaration and apply the Millennium Development Goals to the national context, and to exercise the right to determine at national level policies and practices that benefit the majority of citizens, and to resist potentially damaging, externally driven conditions imposed by international institutions and agreements;

AND WHEREAS: the campaign wants to make sure that trade rules and policies ensure the right of developing countries to pursue their own development agendas, putting their people’s interest first;

AND WHEREAS: In Matthew 25: 37 – 41, it says, “...Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? ...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”, and in Luke 6: 34-35, it says, “...If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is it to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.”

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2006 advocates that the federal government provide an additional one percent of the budget to provide basic needs like health, education, clean water and food to transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation of the poorest countries, by sending a letter such as the accompanying one to the Finance Minister.
2. Youth Synod members address the same issues in emails to the Prime Minister and federal Members of Parliament through the Make Poverty History website:
<http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/e/home.php#click> by May 10, 2006.
3. Youth Synod 2006 directs Youth Synod Council to create or offer an AIDS awareness workshop, and aid in the dissemination of AIDS education material to parishes.
4. Each Youth Synod delegate will personally take action to be involved in and continuously support one or more organizations that advocate for those who have AIDS or support those with AIDS such as PWRDF, AIDS Action Halton, or AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County.

Moved by: Andee Fisher, St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls

Seconded by: Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton

The motion was opened with a video from the Make Poverty History website.

- We can make a change and act in the world
- 83% of people are uneducated about poverty issues
- Every three seconds someone dies of poverty
- How do we ensure that the money we give goes to the people in need and not the government?

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- While a global perspective is important, we need to recognize that poverty exists and needs to be addressed in Canada
- The budget has already been passed by the federal government so this motion is futile at this time
- Where is this money going to come from? Agriculture, among others, is an important need for additional funding in our own country

Friendly Amendment: *that the phrase “and the poor in our country” be added to the first clause so that the motion reads as: “Youth Synod 2006 advocates that the federal government provide an additional one percent of the budget to provide basic needs like health, education, clean water and food to transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation of the poorest countries and the poor in our country by sending a letter such as the accompanying one to the Finance Minister”.*

Moved by: Al Rathbone, St. Stephen’s, Hamilton

Seconded by: Nick Head-Petersen, St. David & St. Patrick’s, Guelph

- AIDS does not imply poverty and vice versa
- How practical is it for us all to be directly involved in this movement

IN FAVOUR: 85

OPPOSED: 8 The motion was carried.

5. **DIOCESAN-WIDE YOUTH MISSION TRIPS**

WHEREAS: We are citizens of the world and our world has become a global community;

AND WHEREAS: The Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Niagara are members of an international communion;

AND WHEREAS: Churches that participate in and encourage their youth to take part in international mission trips are vibrant and thriving;

AND WHEREAS: International travel is a means of sharing our gifts and learning about the culture and experience of our brothers and sisters in Christ in different parts of the world;

AND WHEREAS: Many of our parish youth groups do not have the critical mass necessary to facilitate various events.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This Youth Synod supports the concept of youth mission trips and endorses the creation of a diocesan level program for mission trips abroad.
2. This Youth Synod asks the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee to work with the Outreach Committee in the development of such a program.

Moved by: Lindsay Stewart, St. Christopher’s, Burlington

Seconded by: Kyle McCooey, St. Paul’s, Fort Erie

- This will give an opportunity for experiential learning
- We would like to know the will of the house for the possibility of investing time and effort into organizing a trip
- Such a trip will make the prayers we say each week for our prayer partners much more personal
- Where is the money coming from for this trip?
- No one would be excluded as a result of finances
- Details are lacking
- Mission trips can have a profound impact on one’s experience of faith
- We are a worldwide community and this would facilitate this relationship

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Friendly Amendment: that a 'be it resolved' clause be added as follows: "that areas on Zipsqueal and in the Niagara Anglican facilitate discussion and convey information regarding mission trips, both actual and proposed".

Moved by: Nick Head-Petersen, St. David & St. Patrick's, Guelph

Seconded by: Stuart Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga

The motion passed overwhelmingly.

6. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

WHEREAS: The Supreme Court of Canada has interpreted section 15 of the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** to prevent discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, and both the **Ontario Human Rights Code** and the **Canadian Human Rights Act** forbid discrimination on those grounds;

AND WHEREAS: The Ontario Human Rights Code does allow religious groups to discriminate on the basis of creed. The **Canadian Human Rights Act** allows discrimination in employment if it is based on a *bona fide* occupational requirement;

AND WHEREAS: Some religious groups, including the Anglican Diocese of the Arctic, have interpreted this as meaning that they may discriminate in employment based on sexual orientation (as well as pre-marital and extra-marital sexual activity);

AND WHEREAS: The Anglican Church strives to be an accepting community where all people can draw together to worship Jesus Christ;

AND WHEREAS: The right to judge people does not belong to the church, but is reserved for God. Jesus himself said, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged." (NRSV, Matthew 7:1).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2006 sends a memorial to Diocesan Synod recommending that the Diocese of Niagara adopt an anti-discrimination policy that applies to both parishioners and non-ordained employees and volunteers prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Moved by: Christine Pugh, St. George's, Guelph

Seconded by: Kyle McCooley, St. Paul's, Fort Erie

- We are all equal under the eyes of God and have no right to judge other people
- How would you feel if you were restricted from working in the Church because of your sexuality?
- The following scriptural passages were read: Romans 1:24-27; Leviticus 18:4-5, 22
- The Bible was not written by God, but rather by people
- Jesus said spread the word; but we should still be able to reprimand others
- There are many other forms of discrimination in the Church; not just on the basis of sexual orientation
- We should not impose our beliefs on other parts of the Church; including the Diocese of the Arctic
- God delights in diversity
- The Bible also says women should not be heard, but we've moved beyond that; hence the Bible is not written in stone
- The Church should be a safe space and welcoming to all
- Pre-marital sex is not acceptable and should not be included in this motion
- It's about love not *who* we love
- Leviticus 19; Romans 8. Examples from the Bible that are no longer followed

The motion passed overwhelmingly.

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7. ECUMENISM

WHEREAS: In *The Bible* it states: “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6, New International Version) and: “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, New International Version);

AND WHEREAS: We are not baptized into a denomination, but into the Christian community. The World Council of Churches recognizes the validity of all baptism in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (<http://wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/faith/bem3.html>);

AND WHEREAS: A greater number of people working together as a body towards a cause will accomplish more at a faster rate than small groups working towards the same goal.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2006 delegates will challenge their parish to actively engage other local faith communities in at least three events within the next year.
2. Every delegate will invite a member of a different faith community to their church to experience a service, and will also participate in a service of another faith community.
3. The Youth Synod 2006 challenges Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee to include up to four youth observers or participants of other faith communities in their events.

Moved by: Erin Stewart, St. Matthew’s, Burlington

Seconded by: Chris Richard, St. James, St. Catharines

- Working cooperatively permits us to do so much more in our communities
- Interaction with other faith communities opens our eyes to new ways of doing things
- We live in a multicultural country and by expanding our knowledge of other people’s faith, we enhance our own spiritualities
- We should encourage people who have no faith to come to our churches too
- By voting against this motion, we are not necessarily saying that we are against working cooperatively as a Christian church

Friendly Amendment: *that the words “be strongly encouraged to” be added into the second clause, so that the clause reads as: “Every delegate be strongly encouraged to invite a member of a different faith community to their church to experience a service, and will also participate in a service of another faith community” and that the third clause reads as: “The Youth Synod 2006 challenges Youth Synod Council to include as many youth observers or participants as possible of other faith communities in their events”.*

Moved by: Lindsay Stewart, St. Christopher’s, Burlington

Seconded by: Graham Nicolls, St. Christopher’s, Burlington

The motion was passed overwhelmingly.

8. WATER: LIFE BEFORE PROFIT

WHEREAS: Youth Synod should be a place where the youth sets an example for others to follow;

AND WHEREAS: Youth Synod members should be leaders in helping to conserve a valuable resource, water;

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AND WHEREAS: KAIROS: Canadian Churches Working Together for Justice and Peace, of which the Anglican Church of Canada is a member, has designated as its 2005-2006 justice initiative “Water: Life Before Profit” stating “Our call to action is that water, a sacred gift connecting all life, just remain in public hands, not be turned into a commodity for private profit. Only through a public-public partnership with local democratic control will all people have access to water, with security maintained, treaty rights and international human rights agreements respected, and ecological care assured”;

AND WHEREAS: The use of single use plastic water bottles has greatly increased the amount of non-biodegradable landfill, keeps water that is disposed of in those bottles out of the water cycle for many years, and research calls into question the safety of the bottles due to chemical leaching.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Single use water bottles will not be used at diocesan youth events. As an alternative, the delegates at Youth Synod should be encouraged to use Nalgene water bottles (HDPE not Lexan) and refillable/washable cups.
2. Diocesan staff be directed to offer Nalgene (HDPE not Lexan) water bottles for purchase at youth events like Youth Synod, NYC, YLTP.
3. Youth Synod Council 2006-2007 will continue to promote and encourage the conservation and preservation of water and look into more ways to make clean water available.

Moved by: Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton

Seconded by: Mac Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga

- Water should not be a profit-making enterprise
- By using Nalgene bottles we are also conserving our resources and reducing waste
- Why Nalgene (HDPE) and not Lexan bottles?
- Lexan has been shown to be of lesser quality
- Water conservation is important; Nalgene bottles use three or four times the amount of plastic compared to disposable bottles of water
- One Nalgene used over a long period of time can make a significant reduction in the amount of plastic water bottles needed
-

Friendly Amendment: that a ‘be it resolved’ clause be added as follows: “that Youth Synod delegates be strongly encouraged to raise awareness of this issue in school or other public forums”.

Moved by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias, Guelph

Seconded by: Kait Kenel, Christ Church, Flamborough

- Water left in disposable water bottles upon disposal is removed from the water cycle
- Most water that is bottled is the same water that comes from our taps
- The water expiration date on bottled water is because of the chemicals from the plastic leaching into the water

The motion passed overwhelmingly.

9. Wal-Mart / Sweatshops

WHEREAS: People in Third World countries are being underpaid and abused-physically, psychologically and sexually in Wal-Mart sweat shops;

AND WHEREAS: People who work in sweatshops make less than one dollar a day which is not enough to support their families;

AND WHEREAS: Working conditions in sweatshops are dangerous to the health of the workers such as: air quality ventilation, poor or no training.

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. All youth ministry events will not purchase any merchandise/ materials from Wal-Mart.
2. All Youth Synod delegates and staff will be asked to sign a petition and/or write a letter to Wal-Mart and ask them to improve international working conditions.
3. All youth events charge an additional amount (\$5 suggested) to sponsor a child in a third-world country through a selected agency (PWRDF, World Vision) thereby providing an economic option to child labour.

Moved By: Kyle McCooey, St. Paul's, Fort Erie

Seconded By: Sarah Bird, St. Luke's, Burlington

- \$5 is insignificant for Canadians yet can be so meaningful for a child in need.

Procedural Motion

Kira Conibear asked the house for permission to vote for this motion clause by clause.

The house overwhelmingly supported this request

Clause 1: All youth ministry events will not purchase any merchandise/ materials from WalMart.

- Wal-Marts in Canada are different from those in the United States
- People in sweatshops would be getting paid less because of boycotting the products they make
- Wal-Mart has a 70% profit margin
- The Gap and other companies make use of sweatshops for their clothes
- As a student, Wal-Mart provides an affordable alternative for clothing

IN FAVOUR: 42

OPPOSED: 52 This clause was defeated.

Clause 2: All Youth Synod delegates and staff will be asked to sign a petition and/or write a letter to Wal-Mart and ask them to improve international working conditions.

- Is there an example or sample letter available to delegates?
- By voicing our lack of support for Wal-Mart's current business practices, Wal-Mart is more likely to change those practices

IN FAVOUR: 76

OPPOSED: 11 This clause was carried.

Clause 3: All youth events charge an additional amount (\$5 suggested) to sponsor a child in a third-world country through a selected agency (PWRDF, World Vision) thereby providing an economic option to child labour.

- This money should go to support the Canadian Anglican work through PWRDF and not World Vision
- This clause provides good alternatives to the 30 Hour Famine
- We all need to make a commitment to donating \$5
- This would be a great start to Making Poverty History

This clause was carried overwhelmingly.

REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Friendly Amendment: that a 'be it resolved' clause be added as follows: "All Youth Synod T-shirts be made in a non-sweatshop environment, and furthermore all delegates and staff and host parishes acknowledge and follow past boycotts that have been passed at Youth Synod (eg. Coca Cola, Tim Horton's)".

Moved by: Marc Delisio, St. George's, St. Catharines

Seconded by: Alex Urquhart, St. Paul's, Dunnville

Clause 4: All Youth Synod T-shirts be made in a non-sweatshop environment and furthermore all delegates, staff and host parishes acknowledge and follow past boycotts that have been passed at Youth Synod (eg. Coca Cola, Tim Horton's)

IN FAVOUR: 48

OPPOSED: 40 This clause was carried.

10. ACCESSIBILITY IN PARISHES

WHEREAS: Many parishioners of the Anglican Church of Canada are aging, and some find it hard to attend church because of their inability to access their parishes easily, or to take part in the service due to challenges with sight or hearing;

AND WHEREAS: Only 58% of the parishes in the Niagara Diocese are accessible to those with physical disabilities, and even fewer have hearing assistance or accommodation for the visually challenged;

AND WHEREAS: Children with special needs, such as ADD as well as physical or mental disabilities, are often not provided the support needed in Sunday School, and teachers may not have the experience or information needed to properly care for these children.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod request Synod Council to undertake a study out of which will be developed an action plan that will ensure that parishes in the Diocese of Niagara will become more accessible to those who are physically challenged. Such an action plan should address making buildings wheelchair and walker accessible as well as the provision of hearing assistance and visual assistance.
2. Youth Synod requests that Youth Synod Council advocate for the translation of one or more of the services of Communion from the Book of Alternative Services into Braille; permission for such translation having already been requested and received from ABC Publishing by fundraising seed money for the project, by applying for funds through the National Youth Initiative and by requesting that the Diocese contract with a Braille translator for this purpose.
3. The Diocese of Niagara Resource Centre is requested to provide resources and instruction for Sunday school teachers to better understand and integrate children with special needs as well as information to parishes about resources and training in Braille and sign language.

Moved by: Mac Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga

Seconded by: Lindsay Stewart, St. Christopher's, Burlington

- Wheel chair accessibility, and accessibility in general can mean the world to people with accessibility needs
- Where is the money coming from to fund this initiative?
- Providing Sunday School teachers with resources around ADD is very important
- Accessibility issues in some older church are extremely difficult to address

The motion was carried overwhelmingly.

REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

11. Multiple Amendments

WHEREAS: Youth Synod allows only one amendment per motion;

AND WHEREAS: Although efficient, this can lead to a less effective motion.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Youth Synod Proper Rules of Order be amended to allow a maximum of three amendment per motion to increase the efficiency of Youth Synod Motions.

Moved by: Adam Carriere, St. Peter's, Hamilton

Seconded by: Chris Saayman, St. Mark's, Orangeville

“that this motion be referred to the Youth Synod Council”

Moved by: Karen Haycraft, Church of the Epiphany, Oakville

Seconded by: Rebecca Vedell, St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton

The motion was carried unanimously.

Closing Remarks

Observer's Reflections

Lynne Corfield

- Impressed with variety of motion, passion, and depth of knowledge
- Challenge: Pick your favourite motion and ask for an appointment with your Rector to seek their help in bringing it to the congregation

Dianne Distler

- Very proud to represent Diocesan Youth Ministry on Synod Council

Stuart Pike

- Thanks for having us; impressed with your keenness; now the energy and ideas need to be carried through in your parishes

Matt Koovisk

- So proud to be a young adult in the Anglican Church and be able to be here to absorb the ideas this weekend

Chancellor's Closing Remarks:

- Excellent number of speakers – especially first time delegates
- Amendments should be used sparingly; to permit you to vote in favour of a motion and not for wordsmithing
- Happy to see the non-discrimination motion passed; but perhaps it was done for the wrong reasons. Employed language of the U.S. Constitution/Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and not the Bible (equality vs. dignity); inclusion is not an absolute value, but honouring the work of the holy is an absolute value
- Scripture is foundational to our community as Christians, and paying attention to it should not be optional. We need to own the language of the Bible and acknowledge the difference between the Word of God and that of Pierre Trudeau
- How is God remaking us in this community; to help us to live our lives for those who are weak and marginalized
- Go home and speak with your rectors; don't let the work stop here

REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Jackie Pidduck, Chair

- We need to invite people to our events but also to make that opportunity attractive and engaging for those who participate
- Working abroad is a wonderful learning opportunity but we need to be aware of the privileges and values we carry with us when we travel to other places; so that we do no harm
- We need to tell our stories; when you carry out the actions of these motions, you need to share what you're doing with others – especially to the Program Department and Youth Synod Council and by doing so you will provide a wonderful example for others who can be empowered to do it too

The Chair closed the 18th annual Youth Synod.

Christyn's Update of Last Year's Motions:

One Tonne Challenge

- This motion was not forwarded to Diocesan Synod. This got lost in the work of creating Youth Synod Council (YSC), and my expectation is that any such business will be carried out by Youth Synod Council in the future
- Delegates might want to reflect on what impact they had in their families in terms of energy reduction, and I would encourage anyone who's interested to write an article for the Niagara Anglican about the subject
- If your parish has taken energy reduction steps, would you please email to your YSC representative or christyn.perkons@niagaran.anglican.ca

Formation of Youth Synod Council

- Youth Synod Council now exists; after Regional Deans met with interested youth from their region in the fall, members were selected and the YSC began meeting in January
- Much of their work to date has been focused on motions but their scope will broaden with subsequent meetings
- If you have issues for the YSC to consider, please forward them to your YSC representative or christyn.perkons@niagara.anglican.ca

HIV/AIDS

- The Program Department has had no reports about HIV/AIDS educational events nor about youth getting involved in local or global support organizations. If you have any information about participation in these educational or support endeavours, again, please share it with your YSC representative

Support for Youth Ministry

- Youth Ministry programs were fully funded for 2006 and Joyce Wilton and Christyn Perkons moved moneys around to provide a small budget for regional youth ministry work that is now ongoing in Greater Wellington, St. Catharines, Hamilton and Stoney Creek
- No reports have been received of delegates contributing \$1 a month to youth ministry in their parish nor of volunteering at youth events in the parish. Again, if you have something to report in this regard, please contact your YSC representative or christyn.perkons@niagara.anglican.ca

Missile Defence Plan

- No reports have been received of delegates writing to local representatives
- Youth Synod did send a letter to the Prime Minister asking the Canadian government to ban Canadian corporations from bidding on contracts that support the MD Plan; no reply was received

REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH YOUTH SYNOD SESSION (continued)

Refugee Appeal Process

- Youth Synod members did sign the Refugee Rights petition and it was forwarded to Amnesty International
- No report has been received of delegates taking action in their parish
- Saadia and her son were permitted to return to Canada and they were reunited with husband/father shortly after Youth Synod 2005

Windsor Report

- Apologies to Youth Synod 2005 that this memorial was not sent to Diocesan Synod 2005

Stereotyping

- No report has been received on delegates taking action on this motion

Chaplaincy in Schools

- This motion was referred to YSC who has not yet considered it

Support for Sudan

- Youth Synod delegates signed a petition which was forwarded to the Prime Minister's office
- No report as to action taking by delegates in encouraging their parishes to sign the petition and forward it to their MP
- No report on action taken by delegates with regard to fundraising for relief to Darfur