

**Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of 140<sup>th</sup>  
Synod of the Diocese of Niagara  
April 5, 2014 at Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton**

The Right Reverend Michael Bird called Synod to order at 9:30 a.m.  
Seated at the head table were Bishop Michael Bird and Chancellor Robert Welch.

Report of the Credentials Committee Report

Canon Robert Welch reported that as of 9:25am 148 out of the eligible 206 lay delegates had registered, representing 72% of all eligible delegates in the Order of the Laity, and, 75 out of 102 clergy delegates had registered, representing 73 % of all eligible delegates in the Order of the Clergy.

**MOTION:** Canon Robert Welch/The Reverend Bill Mous  
**'THAT the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted.'**

**CARRIED.**

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE were extended to Ms. Lana Lowe and Mr. Tim Web of Canterbury Hills.

ELECTION OF SYNOD SECRETARIES

**MOTION:** Canon Robert Welch/Ms. Connie Price  
**'THAT the Reverend Canon David Anderson and Mrs. Carol Summers be elected the Honorary Secretaries of Synod at the sessions of this Synod.'**

**CARRIED.**

MINUTES OF THE 139TH SYNOD

**MOTION:** Mrs. Carol Summers/The Reverend Canon David Anderson  
**'THAT the minutes of the 139th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, as found on pages 144 through 154 of the Journal of Proceedings be now approved.'**

**CARRIED**

Report of the Agenda Committee

Bishop Michael Bird advised that the presentation by the Chair of the Canterbury Hills Board would precede the presentation about the Sale of the Property.

**MOTION:** Canon Christyn Perkons/Ms. Brenda Brownlee  
**'THAT the agenda as presented by the Agenda Committee be adopted.'**

**CARRIED**

RECEPTION OF REPORTS

**MOTION:** The Reverend Bill Mous/Canon Christyn Perkons

**'THAT all reports found in the Convening Circular and obtained at registration be received.'**

**CARRIED**

SYNOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Michael Bird acknowledged that Canon Marni Nancekivell has been unwell and was unable to attend Synod and that he looks forward to her return as Secretary of Synod later this spring.

Bishop Michael Bird welcomed The Reverend Nirmal Mendis and The Reverend Elizabeth Sipos to their first Synod; and welcomed The Reverend Daniel Tatarnic back from the Diocese of Toronto.

Bishop Michael Bird made several announcements related to upcoming events in the life of the diocese.

OPENING WORSHIP

The Very Reverend Peter Wall led delegates in a service of Morning Prayer that included the installation of Members of the Diocesan Servers Guild .

CANTERBURY HILLS PROPERTY

Paul Haycraft, Chair of the Board gave a report outlining the status of operations of Canterbury Hills and the decision to cease the operation of the Conference Centre after October 2014.

Canon Christyn Perkons gave a presentation outlining the history of Canterbury Hills, and the proposal to sever the Canterbury Hills property into 3 separate parcels to enable a portion of the property to be sold to the Hamilton Conservation Authority. The Diocese has negotiated a long term lease with HCA in the event the sale proceeds that would allow all current use of the property by diocesan and rental groups so there would be no discernible impact on programming and enjoyment of the property.

**MOTION:** Canon Christyn Perkons/Mr. Paul Haycraft  
**'that Synod approve the sale of part of the property known as Canterbury Hills, legally known as Part Lot 45, Concession 1 to 2, Ancaster, Ontario, and having 60 acres more or less as shown outlined in red and designated as "Parcel 3" in the sketch found within the Convening Circular, to the Hamilton Conservation Authority for the price of \$200,000 conditional upon a signed Property Occupancy Agreement.'**

**CARRIED**

BREAK

Bishop Michael Bird asked delegates to offer prayers for the people of St. Elias Ukrainian Catholic Church, Brampton, destroyed by fire on the morning of Synod.

REPLACEMENT OF CANON 1.9

**MOTION:** The Reverend Bill Mous/The Venerable Dr. Steve Hopkins  
**'THAT Canon 1.9 be replaced as follows:**

1. **There shall be a Synod Council of the Diocese of Niagara consisting of the following members:**
  - (a) **The Diocesan Bishop who shall chair, unless the Bishop appoints an alternate chair;**
  - (b) **The Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop, if any;**
  - (c) **The Chancellor;**
  - (d) **The Vice-Chancellor, if any;**
  - (e) **The Dean;**
  - (f) **The Treasurer;**
  - (g) **The Executive Officer, if any;**
  - (h) **The Secretary of Synod;**
  - (i) **Any person holding a director-level position with the Synod office;**
  - (j) **Any regional archdeacon duly licensed;**
  - (k) **One lay representative from each of the regions elected for a two-year term in such manner as determined by the Synod Council;**
  - (l) **One representative, either clergy or lay, from each of the regions elected for a two-year term in such manner as determined by the Synod Council;**
  - (m) **One representative elected by each of the Diocesan Vision groups as defined by Synod Council, at its first meeting following the conclusion of the Diocesan Synod, for a one-year term;**
  - (n) **One representative elected by the Canterbury Hills Board of Directors, for a one-year term, at its first meeting following the conclusion of the Diocesan Synod, provided that the Board of Directors may elect an alternate representative who may attend, and vote at, meetings of the Synod Council should the Board's elected representative be compelled to be absent;**
  - (o) **One representative elected by the Financial Advisory Committee, for a one-year term, at its first meeting following the conclusion of the Diocesan Synod, provided that the Financial Advisory Committee may elect an alternate representative who may attend, and vote at, meetings of the Synod Council should the Committee's elected representative be compelled to be absent; and**
  - (p) **Four individuals appointed by the Diocesan Bishop annually, at least two of whom are members of Synod.**
  
2. **An alternate representative may be elected from each of the regions who shall serve as a member of the Synod Council in the event of an elected member's**

resignation or inability to attend the meetings of the Council. Such alternate representative shall serve out the balance of the member's term and shall have voting privileges.

3. There shall be standing committees of the Synod Council, as follows:
  - (a) The Coordinating Team of Synod Council, consisting of the Diocesan Bishop and the Secretary of Synod, one of whom shall chair the Coordinating Team, and not less than five of its members to be elected annually by the Synod Council at its January meeting. The Coordinating Team shall meet between sessions of the Synod Council at the call of the Secretary of Synod.
  - (b) The Financial Advisory Committee, consisting of the Treasurer, and not less than seven members, to be elected by the Synod Council for a two-year term, renewable once.
  - (c) The Audit Committee, consisting of the Treasurer, and not less than six and not more than ten members, to be elected by the Synod Council for a two-year term, renewable twice.
  - (d) The Human Resources for Ministry Committee, consisting of the Bishop, the Treasurer, the Secretary of Synod, the Director of Human Resources, not less than three and not more than five members appointed by the Bishop, and up to three members elected by the Synod Council for a two-year term, renewable twice.
  - (e) Other standing committees as mandated by Synod Council.
4. The Synod Council shall, between sessions of the Diocesan Synod, exercise generally the executive powers of the Diocesan Synod conferred by An Act to Incorporate the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, 1876, and amendments thereto, except those of a legislative character.
5. The Synod Council shall submit to each Annual Session of the Diocesan Synod a report of its proceedings since the last Annual Session of the Diocesan Synod.
6. The Synod Council may delegate to the Financial Advisory Committee the right to appoint a financial institution in Canada as the custodian of the funds of the Synod and all securities, except mortgages, upon such terms as may be agreed upon by such financial institution and the Financial Advisory Committee, provided that the accounts of the Synod shall be kept in the name of the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara.
7. The Synod Council shall, at its first meeting following the conclusion of the Diocesan Synod, appoint signing officers for the Diocese, such signing officers to include the Bishops of the Diocese, the Secretary of Synod, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, and any other individuals as shall be designated at that time by the Synod Council, provided that two signatures shall be affixed to all cheques and bills of exchange, one of which must be that of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, or one other person appointed by Synod Council, and provided further that such signing officers as appointed pursuant to this section shall be authorized, in the name of the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, to

- a. draw, accept, sign and make all or any bills of exchange, promissory notes, cheques and orders for the payment of money;
  - b. pay and receive all moneys and to give acquittance for the same;
  - c. assign and transfer to the financial institution acting as custodian all or any stocks, bonds and other securities and from time to time to borrow money from such financial institution either by overdrawing the account or otherwise; and
  - d. generally for and on behalf of the said Synod to transact with the said bank any business.
8. The Synod Council, through the Financial Advisory Committee, shall be responsible for the management of all the funds held by or under control of the Synod, and all lands vested in the Synod, and shall take charge of and administer such funds and the proceeds arising from the sales of all such lands in accordance with the trusts upon which they are held, and the provisions of any Canons or By-Laws which the Synod may lawfully enact; and shall invest and take up and re-invest in such securities as are authorized under the Insurance Companies Act, all monies coming into their hands for investment or re-investment, and shall keep or cause to be kept separate and distinct accounts of each and every trust, showing the capital of same. The income received and accruing from the several investments so made of the whole of the said general trust fund shall be divided amongst the several trusts as foresaid pro rata in the proportion borne by each separate trust fund to the general trust fund, after deducting from such receipts, not more than 10% thereof for the expenses of management, investment and administration.
9. The Synod Council shall meet at least six times between each annual session of the Diocesan Synod on such dates and at such places as the bishop shall determine, provided fourteen days notice of any meeting being given. The Secretary of Synod may, upon the written requisition of at least ten members of the Synod Council call a meeting of Synod Council provided fourteen days notice of any meeting being given.
10. A quorum for each meeting of Synod Council exists if and only if there is:
- a. a majority of the members present; and
  - b. fifty percent of those members elected pursuant to Subparagraphs k and l of Section 1 of this Canon.'

**CARRIED**

CATHEDRAL PLACE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

The Venerable Lynn Marchant introduced committee members present and spoke briefly about the Task Force's work to date.

**MOTION:** The Venerable Lynne Marchant/The Very Reverend Peter Wall  
**'THAT Synod approve the terms of reference for the Cathedral Place Property Development Task Force.'**

**CARRIED**

CHRIST CHURCH, WHITFIELD

The Reverend Bill Mous gave a brief overview to members of Synod about the history of Christ Church Whitfield with regards to its ecclesiastical jurisdiction and commended the motion to members as a way of tying up an administrative loose end.

**MOTION:** The Reverend Bill Mous/The Venerable Peter Scott  
**'THAT Synod request the Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario transfer Christ Church, Whitfield, from the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Diocese of Niagara to that of the Diocese of Toronto; and that this Synod provide consent to the Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario in order to make this change.'**

**CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS

**MOTION:** The Venerable Rick Jones/The Reverend Jim Sandilands  
Whereas The Synod will have control over the future of Bagnall Lodge and associated property after Canterbury Hills Board closes down their current operations in October 2014,  
**'THAT Synod Council appoint a task force to explore all the ministry and other options for this Diocesan Asset and that a report of their options be made back to Synod Council.'**

**Friendly Amendment:** Canon Terry DeForest/The Venerable Rick Jones  
**THAT Synod Council appoint a task force to explore all the ministry and other options to Parcel 2 of Canterbury Hills (Bagnall Lodge) and that a report of their options be made back to Synod Council.'**

**MOTION TO REFER:** The Venerable David Pickett/ The Reverend Susan Wilson  
**THAT this motion be referred to Synod Council.'**

**CARRIED**

The Bishop gave his assent to the proceedings of this Synod.

The Bishop led Synod in prayers for the congregation of St. Elias the Prophet Ukrainian Catholic Church whose church building was destroyed by fire.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 140<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Niagara was adjourned at 11:37 am.