

Meeting of the Greater Chapter of the Archdeaconry of Fredericton
Thursday, March 19th 2009
At Christ Church (Parish) Church

Adopted 19 May 2009

1) Open

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the chair, Archdeacon Geoffrey Hall. Representatives in attendance from each of the 17 parishes in the Archdeaconry for a total attendance of 76 (clergy, wardens, synod delegates and substitutes). The Archdeaconry Diocesan Council lay member, Heather Carr, attended the meeting. Archdeaconry clergy member, The Rev'd Canon Jon Lownds, was away on sabbatical. The Regional Dean of York, The Rev'd Karman Hunt and the Regional Dean of Fredericton, The Rev'd Bruce MacKenna were at the meeting.
Archdeacon Hall opened the meeting with the Collect for Synod 2009. Diocesan Council members in attendance and the Regional Deans were introduced.
- Nominations or volunteers for meeting secretary were requested. Mary Robinson (Douglas and Nashwaaksis) was elected.
- The agenda was reviewed.
- Reference to Regulation 4-1 – Regional Governance was made and copies provided. The Regulation outlines the function of the Archdeaconry Greater Chapter.
- Those gathered worshiped together led by Rev'd Arza-Kwaw with Rev'd Paul Ransom on guitar and Alice Boyd on piano leading the music. The scripture read was Matthew 6: 6–8 in the context of Taize Evening Prayers.

2) Archdeaconry Updates

- Chris Mathais (Parish of St. Mary) gave an update on a series of meetings (Nov. 2007-Dec. 2008) involving wardens and clergy of the parishes in Fredericton North (Douglas and Nashwaaksis, Bright, Marysville and St. Mary, York). He noted that there had been 5 meetings beginning in 2007 to the end of December 2008. There had been good discussions, and sharing of things happening that were encouraging and also challenges that the parishes were facing with an exploration of ways the parishes could work together. The parish representatives appreciated getting to know each other. There would likely be further discussions of the possibility of becoming closer between All Saints and St. Mary's.

3) Synod Preparations Overview

- Archdeacon Hall spoke about four current main initiatives. He explained that we are a diocesan church and that the diocesan budget and the ministry it reflects are things we have found easier to do together than apart. These things were very ably outlined in the Narrative Budget as published in December's N.B. Anglican. He reviewed previous proposals of Synod 2007, the changes from the floor, and motions that led to the formation of the current Task Forces.
- Diocesan Council requested a coordination of the four initiatives by the Sharing Ministry Task Group: the Budget Task Force, Diocesan Planning Study, the Rural and/or Struggling Parishes Task Force and results of a visit from Bishop Salmon, retired Bishop of South Carolina in August 2008 to the Clergy Conference. The Task Group is working to coordinate formulate recommendations to a number manageable for Synod. There will be another Greater Chapter meeting in mid May. He called on those present to take the information from Greater Chapter back to the parishes and noted that prayer was a very important aspect in our Synod preparations.

4) **Diocesan Council Elections and Nominations for Provincial and General Synod**

- One clergy and one lay member of the Diocesan Council are elected in each of the seven archdeaconries. Council member Heather Carr briefly outlined the structure of Diocesan Council and the seven Archdeaconries in the Diocese, the Diocesan Mission and Vision, the meeting schedule, the Diocesan Council Teams and the duties of the Diocesan Council members. Nominations were received. The REV'D Canon Bill MacMullin elected by acclamation; Ms. Martha Jo Hoyt by vote. P Ranson and I. Wetmore counted ballots.
- Nominations for delegates to Provincial and General Synod are being received up until the deadline at the meeting of Synod. By request, Archdeacon Hall clarified the nature of the ecclesiastical Province of Canada comprising of the seven dioceses east of Montreal.

5) **Consideration of Reports to Synod 2009**

Small groups considered the following questions and reported back:

- a) What are the signs of recent progress and greater optimism in your parish?
- b) What, in the three reports, speaks to us most strikingly about our situation?
- c) What recommendations, in the three reports, would we find the most challenging to implement? Why?

Notes from the verbal presentations are included in Appendices 1, 2 and 3. The small group verbal reports are grouped by response in Appendices 1 and 2 . These were done by volunteers recruited by the Rev. Bruce MacKenna. Appendix 3 is a summary by group of verbal reports as well as notes from the reporting form done by the recording secretary.

6) **Close**

Archdeacon Hall closed the meeting reminding us that the church is a grass roots organization and we need to get together. He stated he was encouraged. Archdeacon Hall thanked those who participate, the Regional Deans and Christ Church Parish Church for hosting the meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday evening, May 19th, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church in Devon.

Submitted by Mary Robinson
April 30, 2009

Geoffrey Hall, Chair