

**Meeting of the Greater Chapter of the Archdeaconry of Fredericton
Thursday, May 19th 2009
At St. Mary's, Devon**

1) Open

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the meeting chair, Archdeacon Hall. Archdeacon Hall opened the meeting with prayer.
- Those interested in being recording secretary for the meeting were asked to submit their names. Mary Robinson of Douglas and Nashwaaksis was nominated by Linwood Hupman and was acclaimed.
- It was moved by Heather Carr and seconded by Debbie Edmondson that the minutes of the Greater Chapter of the Archdeaconry of Fredericton meeting of March 19th, 2009 be accepted as circulated. Motion passed.
- Archdeacon Hall outlined how meeting attendees might leave suggestions for future Greater Chapter meetings at the back of the hall after the meeting. He noted that we have much to be thankful for - Synod was first and foremost about being thankful and then moving on as led.

2) Synod 2009

- Canon Fred Scott detailed items that Synod delegated needed to know about Synod 2009. He listed dates, times and places for various parts of Synod and how and where to register as a Synod delegate. He told delegates their name tag was also the ticket for Friday evening's banquet at RNS, reminded the meeting that May 22nd was the deadline to register to be billeted and told how non delegates could obtain a banquet ticket. Fred outlined the banquet agenda and asked that the office be informed if delegates were not planning to attend the banquet since the ticket deadline was May 30th and at that time RNS needed the number of attendees expected.
- Questions from the floor were: Will there be a lunch Saturday? Answer: It will not be provided by Synod. Parking? Fred acknowledged that the parking available at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre was expensive so he listed some options for off site parking. Directions to RNS? Are available on the web site and will be given at Synod. Synod end time? Approximately 3:00 pm Saturday.
- Archdeacon Hall noted that there was a lot of information on the web site and if a delegate did not have access to a computer they could contact their parish priest.

3) Sharing Ministry Task Group

- Archdeacon Hall outlined Diocesan Council's formation of the Shared Ministry Task Force to co-ordinate the receipt of the four major reports at Synod 2009 - Task Force on Rural and/or Struggling Parishes; Task Force on Budget Support; Letting Down the Nets Planning Study, and the visit of Bishop Salmon. He then introduced Jim Morrrell Chair of the Shared Ministry Task Force, SMTF, who summarized his report for the meeting, see attached Appendix 1 for his presentation outline.
- Jim Morell began by reiterating some of the tenets used by Bishop Salmon as he developed the program within his diocese in South Carolina. He described the three reports and gave an overview of their depth, 75 pages of reports and 72 recommendations. The SMTF concluded that the task forces had done great work and that Synod should endorse the reports and send them back to Diocesan Council for implementation, that Synod should memorialize General Synod and ask them to consider adopting the 10-10-10 model as the standard and that Synod should ask the Bishop and Diocesan Council to establish a Task Group to review current diocesan governance structures and process with the aim to improve efficiency and reduce cost.

Questions: A question period followed with replies provided by Jim Morell, Archdeacon Hall and Canon Fred Scott.

Does Synod know about 10-10-10? We can send along the information and see what General Synod does. How can others have a voice at Synod if the motions are referred back to Diocesan Council? There will be opportunities at Synod to divide into Archdeaconries, also, there will be more Archdeaconry Greater Chapter meetings. Diocesan Council will provide lots of opportunity for input.

It seems like there have been two different ways of developing a fund to help struggling parishes have been presented? The motions can be contradictory.

What will be the punitive action taken if all assessments are compulsory? There is no reference to mandatory payment or punitive measures; it is build around developing a new approach. The motion could be amended at Synod.

Archdeacon Hall asked how many in the meeting would like to stay together rather than breaking into small groups and it was the majority so the meeting remained as one group and discussion continued. It was noted that the Spirit of God will make it (change?) doable and Jim Morell noted the reports are about supporting each other. An attendee stated that he could not hear anyone speaking other than Jim Morell.

It has been stated we need systemic changes – What changes? Will the Diocesan Council and Bishop review and bring out systemic changes? We want to have a positive Synod and not bring little diverse things before Synod. Let's study it and have someone else bring in a report. Systemic refers to a lot of things one example is The Rule of Life.

How can we attach a report card so that when Synod is over we won't be back doing the same thing in future Synods? We should hold ourselves accountable. There will be monitoring but I don't know how it will happen exactly.

When Synod affirms it will go to Diocesan Council and they will make decisions? Exactly. I picked out 16 items and would look to see what was most important to get done first. I think leadership training or stewardship training would be first, Diocesan Council will decide. The committee has been asking parishes what they need help with. Because we are supporting each other. Ask Diocesan Council, Ask Bishop, ask Geoff, ask Greater Chapter for help.

It was commented that the flip side would be for parishes to ask what they can offer to help others. Archdeacon Hall related what Rev. Capt. David Edwards had told the Saint John Greater Chapter meeting about parishes helping each other.

Comment was made that historically speaking, the structure we have now of having Synods has not been in place until recently so a substantial change could be considered.

Who on the Task Force can we e mail with suggestions, questions, requests on a regular basis? Jim's Task Force came up with a lot of stuff. We have to have someone to talk to on a regular basis. Archdeacon Hall replied that he could be e mailed. Conversations could be between parishes or in Archdeaconries. Perhaps we need a form of local Task Force.

Comment on Motion 12 – I think it is complimentary rather than contradictory, an emergency fund in these economic times. It is good to support parishes before they are gone.

Comment: Affirming these motions seems to me like passing the buck. Jim Morell's group talked about that but did not want to change the work of the Task Forces. If you have 15 priorities you have none. We have to have a certain amount of trust in our brother and sister Anglicans.

There was a further comment about not being able to hear speakers.

Archdeacon Hall asked if there was anything attendees were excited about coming up at Synod. Replies included Shared Ministry, page 6 "What Our Vision Means," Looking Outward, coming together in unity, putting God and worshipping God first instead of building maintenance.

Archdeacon Hall noted that systemic change was possible and takes time. Six or seven years ago the focus had been on youth and some change has happened in the area of youth.

Several parishes announced upcoming events.

The meeting finished with a lovely service of Evening Prayer led by Archdeacon Hall.

Linwood Hupman moved the meeting adjourn.

Submitted by Mary Robinson
June 22, 2009