

Northumberland Regional Council
May 31, 2014
St Paul's, Antigonish

Present: Florence Baker, Rev Sue Channen, Jennifer Chapman, Darroch Fagan, Judy Hartling, David Harrison, Rev Marilyn Haugen-Srand, Marg Herdman, Keith Horton, Aidan Kingsbury, Ruth Kingsbury, Rev Evelyn Knorr, Bernard Liengme, Pauline Liengme, Raymond Rudolph
Regrets: Rev Peter Armstrong, Vickie Keith, Marie Nickerson, Gerry Punke

The meeting was opened with a worship service in the church.

All present introduced themselves.

01-05-14 Pauline Liengme moved the adoption of the agenda with amendments. Aidan Kingsbury seconded the motion. MC

02-05-14 Marg Herdman moved the adoption of the amended minutes. Bernard Liengme seconded the motion. MC

Reports from the Parishes:

ACPC: Dave Harrison presented a report which is attached.

All Saints: Nothing to report

Strait-Chedabucto: Nothing new and exciting to report.

Liscomb: Gospel concert at Indian Harbour Lake

Liscombe has a solstice tea

Sherbrooke: Once the village opens there will be 2 services a week. Working with the administrator on the historic church. A play featuring Joseph Alexander (who walked the eastern shore in the 1840's) and an ecumenical choir. Three young people who are with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) are volunteering here

Three Harbours: Chair lift, which is running, still needs to be evaluated by the engineer (a provincial grant for 66% of the cost).

Reminder to pay the insurance (eg Country Harbour lost its roof to a windstorm).

Concerts with a band – well attended.

St. Mary's Bayfield – with suppers / suppers / suppers! Friday knitting circle. Three concerts during the summer, including Musique Royale. Knitting circle on Friday nights.

Holy Trinity will have a concert in September.

Report of the Regional Dean:

There has been plenty of on the job training. Rev Sue would like to attend PC meetings in each parish as it helps with familiarization. She did a walkthrough of the rectory in New Glasgow. The meeting of the Regional Deans is June 11 – 12. Rev Sue indicated that it is a privilege for her to be involved and she is looking forward to helping as she can. She has worked for CIBC for 25 years and has an educational background in law and chemistry.

Report from the Diocesan Council:

See attached written report from Pauline Liengme.

Report of the Treasurer:

03-05-14 Bernard Liengme moved adoption of the Financial Report. Keith Horton seconded. MC
(See attached)

Vital Church Maritimes Conference Report:

Rev Sue presented on behalf of Rev Peter Armstrong who was absent.

The conference was held in February. In the UK parishes have been exploring different forms of worship, some which worked, others not. The good news of Jesus is to be taken to the people where they are, not necessarily in church buildings. There is a different sense of God's presence when there is a gathering.

There are 3 groups of people identified:

- people already involved (inherited)
- people open to the word of God, but not in church (de-churched)
- people who are determined not to be involved (closed de-churched people) – those that have been hurt by messengers of God.

How do we reach people in group 2?

- likely good experiences in the past
- often busy with family and jobs
- moved from where they had grown up
- the shift to weekly attendance with fixed liturgy is too big a cultural shift
- do know they have spiritual needs

How do we package for open de-churched?

Important questions:

- What is our civic community really like?
- Where do people gather?
- Do they gather?
- How can we help them meet their needs with the Christian community and the gospel?

Fresh Start: parallel with inherited church

Keith Campbell:

- seniors apartments
- weekly gathering for chat
- gathering for craft and tea
- end with prayers
- concerns about health / loved ones
- guessing that these seniors are de-churched
- no longer able to participate because of disabilities, etc.

Other examples:

- messy church
- after school program
- pub gathering
- Sundays for undies (?????)

Ivany Report:

- importance of small congregations to continue to help nourish their community
- Nova Scotia must be better at welcoming newcomers
- people are warm and friendly, but there needs to be more

Jesus taught His friends to:

- strive for excellence
- but still ok to fail
- try things

- start small, not to do everything all at once
- ask how we are doing; encourage one another
- what would your church be like for a person from away coming into church for the first time?
- Ritual practice of communing with each other (quiet, internal prayer)
- how to stay true to traditions

Looking at children and youth

- complex, multiage, sources of authority
- no right answer
- confirmation at age 15
- Bishop Ron has recommended that the priest and bishop can decide when people are ready (often lose youth by age 15)
- Lutheran – 2 years preparation (1 for biblical and 1 for catechism)
- a need to get children involved, have them comfortable
- help parents communicate with family in the home
- intergenerational approach

04-05-14 Pauline Liengme motioned acceptance of the reports. Ruth Kingsbury seconded the motion.
MC

Notice of Proposed Resolutions to Go to Synod:

Rev Aidan Kingsbury: He has made the suggestion that, in November, the Regional Council look at the opportunity of preparing a resolution requiring two bishops.

There was no business arising.

05-05-14 Rev Sue nominated Rev Aidan as the clergy representative to Diocesan Council for a 2 year term. The motion was seconded by Rev Darroch. MC

Pauline Liengme would like to bring forth a future motion on the issue of Regional Dean and time allotment. See attached.

Rev Sue discussed having the annual meetings completed by the end of February and the issues associated with this and the climate in our region. Possibly take this to Synod.

Rev Evelyn agreed to move Music and Spirituality.

Bernard Liengme suggested that a presentation be scheduled for the beginning of a meeting.

It was agreed to table the issues surrounding summer visitors.

Education for Ministry:

There are five students graduating. The program is for anyone, lay people included. Six people are needed to run a course. The program, developed in Tennessee, runs for 2 – 2 1/2 hours per week from September to June for 4 years. Costs include registration (\$350) plus books. Anyone can become a mentor and start their own group. Dave Harrison is the new co-ordinator for the diocese. Contact Dave if interested.

Lay Readers:

The AGM is being held next Saturday at St. Peter's Birch Cove, beginning at 9 am. Lay reader

training videos should be reviewed.

ACW Board:

There was an offer from ACW Provincial Board that support would be available in any way that it might be needed. Northumbria is the only region that does not have an annual meeting.

Next Meeting: September 6, 2014

SafeR Church

06-05-14 Florence Baker motioned adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Herdman