

# **MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH**

## **PRELIMINARY MEETING HELD AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN ON WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2015 AT 18H00 UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF THE BISHOP OF PORT ELIZABETH, BISHOP BETHLEHEM NOPECE, AND A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE SYNOD EUCHARIST, AND THEREAFTER AT THE PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, WALMER FROM THURSDAY 21 TO SATURDAY 23 MAY 2015**

### **1. OPENING**

After the Synaxis of the Eucharistic liturgy and the Collect for Synod, the Bishop took the chair and opened the Preliminary Meeting.

### **2. GREETINGS**

The Bishop brought messages of greeting from: The Archbishop of Cape Town and the Metropolitan of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa; the Bishop of Mpumalanga, Revd Dr Daniel Kgomoso; the Bishop of Table Bay, Garth Counsell; the Bishop of St Mark the Evangelist, Martin Breytenbach; the Bishop of Mthatha, Bishop Sithembele; the Bishop of Johannesburg, Steven Moreo

Greetings were brought by the following ecumenical guests: the Bishop of George, Brian Marajh; Major Margaret Stafford of the Salvation Army; Bishop Andile Mbete of the Methodist Diocese; Mr Trevor Jennings of the Transformation Christian Network; Bishop Lunga ka Siboto of the Episcopal Ethiopian Church; Revd Howard Hans of the United Presbyterian Church.

Greetings were also brought by the Honourable Phumulo Masualle, Premier of the Province of the Eastern Cape.

### **3. APPOINTMENT, ELECTION, AND APPROVAL OF SYNOD OFFICERS, AND TIMES OF SYNOD, REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SCRUTINY**

The Diocesan Secretary proposed that this item be the first order of business for Thursday morning. Seconded: The Provost, The Very Revd Sharon Nell

### **4. QUORUM OF SYNOD**

The Bishop called on the Diocesan Registrar, Mr L W de V Schärages, to declare that a quorum was present both in the House of the Clergy and in the House of Laity. The Registrar declared that such a quorum was indeed present in both houses.

### **5. CONSTITUTION OF SYNOD**

The Bishop declared the Twenty-third session of the Synod of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth duly constituted.

## **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Two announcements were made:

1. Synod will commence at 08h30 at St John's Walmer.
2. Finger supper after the service at St Saviour's Church in Villiers Road, Walmer.

Synod is to resume on Thursday 21 May at 08h30 with Morning Prayer at St. John the Baptist.

After the ministry of the Word, and the recitation of the Nicene Creed, the Bishop delivered his Charge.

## **7. PRESIDENT'S CHARGE TO SYNOD 2015**

### ***THEME : THINGS DONE & STILL TO BE DONE – DISCIPLING***

***In the name of God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life! Amen***

***“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”***  
***(Jn. 17:18-19)***

***“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.***

***“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”***  
***(Acts 20:28, 35)***

### ***THE HOPE OF OUR CALLING***

In all our operations **hope** is necessary in every condition we find ourselves. The frustrations that bring the miseries of poverty, sickness, unemployment, lack of service delivery, poor governance, fraud, captivity, crime, conceit, retaliation and xenophobic attacks would without this comfort of hope be untenable. Hope begins in the darkness of sin and shame and marvelous light of Christ who is the hope of the world today, and has consecrated people to Himself for His service in the world.

***This is a great privilege*** to stand in His presence and serve Him as a kingdom of priests, ransomed people for God from every tribe, language, people and nation and shall reign on earth (Rev.5:9-10). We are sent into the cruel crooked world, yet we are preserved and protected by God not for any comfort zone, but for mission and evangelism, ministry and discipling, looking first and foremost after ourselves and the flock of Christ out of a generous heart.

***We need to commit ourselves wholly to this one thing***, to bring hope to the world and country. South Africa and the continent must be saved. The invitation is to accept Christ as Lord and Saviour, for each churchgoer to be a true worshipper of the Father (Jn.4:23-24). Commitment to Christ means participating fully in His character, to be like Him, and grow in His all embracing love (*Gk.agapē*) compassion (*Gk. splanchnizomai*) and care (*Gk.*

*epimeleia*); from one degree of glory to another, even by the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Cor.3:17-18). Transformation of our life and character takes place in conformity with the set standards of God, not of this world. Then our engagements will bear fruit as we operate not from fear, but from power, love and sound mind. Then Africa will be saved!

### **WELCOMES and WELL DONES**

***It is our privilege to welcome*** with joy all our guests present here this evening as we begin the business of our Synod. The Body of Christ is far wider than we can imagine. Of these we wish to welcome in a special way a fellow worker, the Bishop of George, Bishop Brian Marajh, who will be leading Bible studies during this session of Synod. Our beloved predecessor Bishop Eric Pike and Joyce, Bishop Lunga Magqwagqwa ka Siboto and Nozuko from the Ethiopian Episcopal Church within association with us. From Ecumenical partners Bishop Andile Mbetse and Thembakazi from the Methodist Church, Bishop Vincent Zungu from the Roman Catholic Church, also from the Bishops' Prayer Meeting, Pastor Mvusi Gwam also chairperson of Transformation Christian Network and Zukiswa, with Mr Trevor Jennings and Anita, the Revd Howard Hans and Bukelwa from the Presbyterian fold, Senior Pastor Neville Goldman our beloved co-worker from the Assemblies of God Church in Algoa with his wife Roji; From the Salvation Army, Majors Jeff & Margaret Stafford; From the Metro Council of Churches (S.A.C.C) the Zionist Bishop Zandisile Magxwalisa; and Archdeacon Zweli Tom as convener of Nelson Mandela Bay Consultation of Christian Churches (NMBCC).

We also welcome delegates, who come from Parishes of our Diocese. Thank you, for taking time to come and deliberate on things that matter most to our Master, Jesus Christ.

***The time to mobilize*** the forces of Christ's army, with love, has dawned against the Islamic militancy we see in North and West Africa and the Middle East. We deplore with sadness the kidnapping of young girls by the Boko Haram at war with Nigeria, and the maiming of innocent civilians. At home we say 'no to xenophobia and the killing of foreigners and looting of their businesses and burning of their homes' in the strongest possible terms. Those who do these things must be aware that other fellow South Africans are sojourners in other lands and countries in our global family. God has made of one blood all nations of humankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way towards Him and find their being as they live and move in Him to have their being (Acts 17:26-28).

We receive with joy appreciation with thanks to the Almighty the news of the appointment of ***Mr Danny Jordaan as the next Mayor of Mandela Metro*** as the fourth mayor in six years; together with his new leadership viz. Mr Bicks Ndoni, Lutho Suka and Ms Maria Hermanus who is always visible among people. Congratulations! However, being President of South Africa Football Association at the same time may stretch him too far. The wisdom is to resign if he takes this difficult municipality to govern seriously.

Further to this ***political parties need to understand that the office of the mayor***, including that of the Premier and President, is an institution to service the people of God with integrity diligence and honesty without interference from them. We shall continue our

support especially with prayer every Tuesday in the mayor's office at 08h00, and visit the council at least twice a year. We pray for God's blessings on the outgoing Mayor Ben Fihla and his entourage. We offer diligently and daily our prayers for the Premier of the Province Mr Pumulo Masualle and President Gedleyihlekisa Zuma that God will continue to speed them in the enormous tasks of governance together with their ministers, and pledge our support in partnership with local governments for good godly governance, service delivery education health social services and fight against corruption. We reserve our privilege to prophesy and give counsel with criticism whenever the Holy Spirit moves us to do so.

Still on politics, ***we congratulate the newly elected Democratic Alliance leader Musi Maimane*** and wish him God's blessings in his new position, with all its challenges. Our prayers go to him and his wife and family with his leadership and, ***all political parties.***

***From around the diocese*** we note a great sense of appreciation to the people of God in various parishes; the Churchwardens' Forum, congregations and clergy who voluntarily heard the call of God to be Shepherds of His people committed to their charge and leadership by the Bishop. Ministry, mission and evangelism, discipling nurturing and pastoral care with love and compassion, reaching out to the needy and poor of our communities takes place here. It is a twenty four hour call and sacrificial service, wherever the call may be.

We note with thanksgiving to God the work done among ***young people*** in their various organisations, with their leadership portfolios, especially the spiritual mentoring and guidance given by the Revd Dr Ruby Zauka as chaplain to the young. Keep it up young people!

***For all organisations*** we appreciate the fervent growth we see with Canon Greg Moses helping us in monitoring their smooth running. In Mother's Union Christian Family Life we give thanks for Mama Mazoe Nopece's leadership as outgoing President, congratulating her as Vice President of ACSA Mother's Union. We warmly welcome with joy the new MU President Mama Ntuthu Ngqoza with the two Vice Presidents, Ms Mita Chubana and Mrs Nomsa Mtila, and wish them well in their new roles of leadership. With the Anglican Women's Fellowship we appreciate leadership displayed by Mrs Lungsi Ntlokwana and her team in conducting their business in a good Christian manner in a mood of love and fellowship. For the chaplains Revd Vincent Mdidimba and Provost Sharon Nell we note our appreciation for work well done. We welcome Canon Phumla Mtila as new President of Bernard Mizeki with lots of work to be done in shaping their diocesan Constitution. Thanks to Revd Jacob Plaatjies as chaplain of Church Men's Society with their Leadership.

***The Legal Fraternity*** with the Registrar Mr Roger Schärages and the Chancellor Advocate Daryl Newton make us proud and walk tall among God's people for constantly guiding us in proper observance of Canon Law in these days of 'rights', clamoring rather than taking up 'responsibilities' among our clergy and people, diminishing the Law of Christ's reconciliation processes (cf Mtt.18:15-20), too proud to apologise when called to order and sense of duty. Thank you gentlemen, keep up the good work for God and His church.

***To the Revd Nicolette Leonard*** for the healing work at the House of Resurrection Haven Children's' Home, a ministry which continues excellently; together with the donors and the

members of the Board, keeping the light of compassion, love and pastoral care burning, bringing hope to the less fortunate and needy infected and affected by HIV/Aids. Revd Sipambo Ludidi and Canon Linda Ncaca are working as coordinators for Health and Welfare Ministries and as portfolio leaders. Keep up the good work!

***Our special thanks go to Mrs Frankie Simpson***, the Publishing Team and to Mr Neville Lobb the chairperson, for good management and editing of the lindaba newsletter. With many working on ***various committees of the Diocesan Council***, Business Forum with Messer's Dave Kirby and Doug Swanson advising and giving counsel on financial matters. We are also indebted to members of Trusts Board, Diocesan Finance Committee and Building and Advisory Committee. Thank you very much for your unwavering support.

We appreciate the job well done with excellence by ***the diocesan staff***, with Mr Peter Hopper the Diocesan Secretary-Treasurer; the Bishop's Executive Secretary Mrs Adelé Erasmus, Mrs Miriam Stiemens the Bookkeeper, Ms Busi Gwentshu as Benefits Administrator and Ms Debbie Vencencie the Receptionist/Administration, and last but not least with 'over and above' parochial duties the Bishop's Executive Officer, The Very Revd Sharon Nell. Our special thanks to Mrs Jenny Cowling for still willingly stepping in when the need arises to help at the Bishop's office. The diocese thanks you all so much; without you our operations would not have been so professionally carried out. Keep up the good work with God's blessings in all you do!

We remain indebted in our operations ministry with pastoral care to the ***Bishop's Consultative Council*** especially to the Dean, the Provost, Archdeacons and both Clerical and Lay Canons in their ministry of sitting in confidence, giving counsel to the Bishop amidst so many challenges of our political freedom, entitlements and rights without responsibilities, lack of vision and planning with laxity. Without you, our leadership would be even more challenging.

***We cannot fail to thank the priests*** for their support as we seek to lead in God's mission. We sincerely value the support you give to us (together with your spouses), the vision of Christ planning and calling people and to a living relationship with the Lord. We remain delighted with the outreach programmes in parishes seeking to build and live the kingdom values in partnership with schools, police service, in '***inguqu***' as we see from St Stephen and others annually since four years ago in the fight against crime, participation and assistance in School Governing Bodies (SGB's).

## ***TRANSFORMING GOSPEL***

***We have a transforming gospel*** to preach which addresses the realities of everyday life issues of commitment to Jesus Christ and acknowledging him as Lord and Saviour, equal education to all South African children with accessible amenities and resources, poverty and unemployment, access to health services, medicine and care, standardized homes of brick and mortar, free from crime with safety and security. This is the gospel Jesus entrusted to His disciples before His Ascension into heaven. It is the gospel of 'hands on' proclaimed with one voice by the Church both in the city of Port Elizabeth as the gateway to the rest of our land and continent, to the furthestmost parts of the global family with a vision and strategy that translates into ministry action.

**The vision** is to encapsulate in both Luke 4:16ff and Mtt.25:31ff calling for a visible action of operation to free those who are oppressed by lack of opportunity, partnership in entrepreneurships and the free market due to oppressive structures where the call of the majority human need is swallowed up by greed and fraudulent practices carried out by the minority *elite* and *those who enrich themselves* within governing authorities. Yet there are those who are honest in our governing authorities, working with a lot of pain and frustration. They need our support in upholding the legacy of selfless leadership, with an eye on the poor of Tata Nelson Mandela and other liberation stalwarts, and never to neglect it. This is sad in the true sense of the word! However, like St. Paul we do not lose hope and are not deterred (cf.2Cor.4:1ff). We pray continually without ceasing.

**The call** remains from ages past for Christians to speak with one voice, interpreting the Biblical message for the hope of the world in a practical way. People from our pews need to go home in a better frame of mind and spirit than when they first entered the doors of places of worship, with the gifts of the Holy Spirit viz. wisdom and understanding, discernment and inner strength, knowledge and true godliness, with the fear of the Lord clearly interpreted. They need to be stirred up with a new beginning to wrestle with the real issues and challenges of community and family life that seek to destroy happiness and good life as intended by the Creator. This is what true discipleship is. This is the gospel we should preach.

### **AND THE HALF YET TO BE TOLD**

**The story of long ago becomes our story** from the day we first believed. Half of the gospel story we seem to preach is a personal one focused on maintenance and the 'salvation of my soul' only, which keeps us and our parishioners in cosy comfort zones without any intent of the vision that transforms homes and society. The other half of this gospel story must be 'lived' in practical everyday life. The two great apostles, Peter and Paul, challenged their hearers to follow their example and put the theory of the story of salvation into praxis by putting on (*Gk. enduō*) the Lord Jesus without making provision for the flesh to gratify its desires (1 Peter 1:13ff cf. Rom.12:1ff; 13:14). There were times where they called each other to order (Gal. 2:11ff). The call to practical living of the gospel is to be done by the disciples of Jesus with all its joys and cost in a sacrificial living (Mk.8:34ff et //s). Will the disciples we make die for the Lord? This is the crux of commitment to the service of Jesus Christ, our King Priest and Prophet. God blesses us to be happy, but never to compromise the demands of the gospel.

**The church in the City of Port Elizabeth** began this journey to practical living when we released Pastor Neville Goldman and Archdeacon Zweli Tom to visit all the sixty wards to mobilize Church participation in Ward Councils. We face with power, love and sound mind the giants in the current reality of our life in areas of Education, Health Services, Poverty and Unemployment, Governance – Corruption and Service Delivery. In every church or venue of worship there must be three desks visibly displayed to the believers as they enter which should be served by two educationists, two health workers and social workers sitting side by side, visibly participating in worship, together with other believers. The aim is to educate people about their moral obligations and accountability on holy and right living, prayer intent, faithfulness, integrity, good morals and sound doctrine with diligence both at

home as well as a work ethic, eating habits, environmental, social concerns and gender issues within the community just as the Early Church would do; teaching them to be responsible for their healthy living (cf. Acts 2: 42-47).

***From our pews there are a lot of resourceful persons*** who will not only tithe their money, but also their time and talent. I am reminded of the late Professor Steve De Gruchy at a workshop on development in Johannesburg sponsored by H.O.P.E. Africa. Thanks to them and Canon Dalene Mark for much work they do in ACSA, challenging the church to make use of lay ministers, some of whom are well lettered for this practical ministry to the communities of the earth. We need to look at pilot parishes from which equipped disciples will carry the message further.

### **WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE WE LAST MET**

- Ministry in our diocese goes on. Most exciting is the launch of the Transformation Process with an Act of Commitment as follows:

***We are all part of God's Church. We believe in the Triune God father, Son and Holy Spirit.***

***We are all part of the family of God as the Diocese of Port Elizabeth Anglican faith community. We acknowledge that we are called by God to be part of this community.***

***As part of the Family of God within the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, we commit ourselves to the Transformation Process of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth. Today we commit ourselves and will strive in the power of the Holy Spirit, for:***

- 1. Transformative leadership that serves by articulating the vision, motivating and empowering; making the systems work well through good planning and equipping people for their roles.***
- 2. Professional skilled management within an appropriate management structure.***
- 3. Integrated Financial Management and Administration systems and Effective Efficient Administration in the Diocese with Parish levels.***
- 4. Adding value to people's lives across the spectrum through spiritually, biblically nurtured informed engagement and being appreciated and affirmed as such.***
- 5. Decentralized Parish Transformation Management and Coordination for Mission and Evangelism, making disciples who make other disciples.***

This process is reviewed every year for progress till 2017, after which, having assessed our operations we will still continue until we function as Jesus would do during His earthly ministry.

- ***The visit of the Archbishop of Cape Town*** during our Family Weekend last year was very spiritually uplifting. We had no choice but not to over-work him. Sadly we could not finish some parts of the programme as intended. He fitted in well among us, many thanks to the organizing committee!

- **Archdeacons have been rotated as follows:** Archdeacon Zweli Tom for the Bay; Archdeacon Hazel Goodfellow for Kariega. Their parish Incumbency will not change, until ordered otherwise. Tsitsikamma and Karoo remain the same. We are very grateful to them for the great support they give in this, over and above service for God and the diocese. With much appreciation!
- **It is with regret and sadness that a priest in our Diocese** has been brought under discipline, a process which has been prolonged for three years. He has appealed to Cape Town in terms of Canon 42. We await the results of this appeal. Pray for us and this family in seeking God's mercy, justice and love among clergy, and God's people in all parochial congregations for the extension of God's kingdom first and foremost.
- **In our world and country we are saddened by the frustration** we see from our people in terms of service delivery and lack of good godly governance, integrity and honest political leadership of Tata Nelson Mandela's stature. This frustration has gone to "**hate of thy neighbour**" and xenophobic attacks like we've never seen before. As we've said earlier on, this is deplorable in strongest terms that could be found. We cannot live like this in Africa. On the other hand foreigners must be law abiding and do the right thing. Lack of discipline and wrong doing is punishable both in church and state. Let us be human and live the love of Jesus Christ.
- **Women, children and the elderly continue to be our concern.** They suffer the most when it comes to sexual exploitation, human trafficking and wrong doing. It is shocking for a nun of 87 years in Ixopo Convent to be raped and murdered by young men of less than thirty years. Our media is filled with sad and chilling stories of abduction and murders of women and children, like that of the Riebeeck school teacher in Uitenhage. Our condolences and continued support with prayers go to the families and friends. Sadly men also suffer some abuse and kidnapping from women, particularly in retaliation. Domestic violence continues to plague our homes. We believe the church's mission as said earlier should concentrate at homes. This strategy changed the Roman Empire to 'Holy Roman Empire', of course, may the victims of these, and many incidents known and unknown to us, rest in peace and rise in glory!
- **Eskom load shedding** continues to frustrate homes and businesses in particular. Let us continue to pray for this service organisation of our land with many others defaulting, and assist where possible. On a lighter note we also see our clerics load shedding on vestments during divine services to their ordinary suits and pants.
- **From the Synod of Bishops' Pastoral Letter** we are pleased to highlight the importance of Theological Education and Training of clergy. This is relevant to the needs of God's people and the selfless leadership of putting God first, others next and self last, uniting churches, people and nation. We congratulate the Revd Dr. Vincentia Kgabe, the principal of the College of The Transfiguration, the first female to be appointed to the position in our Church. May the Lord fill her with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom to make fruitful decisions and energy to accomplish her duties.

- ***We congratulate Revd Mike McCoy*** who has been appointed as director of the School of Ministry at COTT and is due to start in August 2015, Lord willing. We wish him God's blessings together with Lorna and family in this new calling.
- ***As the Anglicans Ablaze met*** in Johannesburg we were honoured by the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and his wife Caroline. His address was received with a standing ovation. The Bishops and their spouses were invited to spend some time with him and his wife. A visit was made to the church in Alexandria, as well as in the house where the late State President Nelson Mandela first lived when he arrived in Johannesburg. We continue to uphold the Archbishop of Canterbury in our prayers -- that God will give him good health and wisdom in all the Anglican Communion decisions he makes and in sorting out problems that threaten to rip our church apart. We assure him of our love and blessings.
- ***Election of the Bishop of Highveld*** was referred to Synod of Bishops when their Elective Assembly failed to elect. SOB met on the Feast of St Mark the Evangelist April 25, 2015 at Wits University Business School; and we elected under the guidance of the Holy Spirit Dean Charles Mthetheleli of the Cathedral of St Mary's in the Diocese of Johannesburg. Congratulations to him, his wife and family for the call to the ministry of bishop in the church of God!
- ***We uphold the sanctity of marriage*** as a divine institution between one man and one woman in an exclusive lifelong union and partnership as ordained by God in the creation narratives (Gen.1-2), and affirmed by ACSA in Canon 34 of Holy Matrimony. Anything beside this is sinful and requires the grace of God to repent.
- ***Homosexuality practice and preference*** can never be right according to the scriptures, and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA) Synod of Bishops (SOB) is far from being united on the issue of blessing same sex unions. Guidelines on this preference have been issued and sent to all clergy and Churchwardens and the Legal Fraternity. If you did not get the guidelines ask your priest or the Bishop's Executive Secretary, Mrs Adelé Erasmus. We are called to a love that transforms us with compassion and care to bear the character of Christ, the only person who gives us a new character. Ours is not to judge but to understand the struggle that homosexual orientated people bear. This can only be dealt with in humility and obedience of the Word with a surrendering faith.
- ***The ongoing training of clergy*** in clergy schools and forums continues, together with those who have graduated from Theological Education by Extension College, viz. Revds Vincent Mdidimba Hons.B.Ed. (Unisa), Claire-Anne Mary Phelps B.Th. with distinction, Mziwoxolo Patrick Nodwele Dip.Th. Min, Abosede Olabisi Fadeyi-Adetuberu Higher Certificate in Theology, Samantha Lynn Eagles Dip.Th. Ministry, Relton Hewitt Groepe B Th Ministry. From Pretoria University we congratulate Revd Churchwarden Mgedezi B.Th. Hons.
- ***An Internship training*** and curacy period of four years in two parishes after both Fellowship of Vocation and Ordinands Fellowships has to take place for each candidate /cleric to equip in skills, professionalism and effective relevant ministry.

This is not without setbacks as some young clergy still need a watchful eye and mentorship as they tend to relapse from what they have been trained, to gossip, authoritarianism and abrasiveness in their operations.

- **We attended Gafcon II** in Nairobi with Mazoe, Archdeacon Mark Derry, Revd Dave Doveton and Canon Phumla Mtila. This fellowship of evangelicals within the Anglican Communion was attended by over one thousand delegates from all over the world. We continue to affiliate to the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans and have made our friendship ties and links with those who stand by the truth of the gospel as revealed in the Scriptures both in England Mainstream, Anglican Church of America, Australia and with the rest of Africa and the Global South.
- **The Southern Anglican Mission Society** has taken root, gradually forming partnerships with East Mountain training programmes on church planting as recently witnessed by the visit of Rev Jon Shuler on the 'New Anglican Awakening' on church growth, living the apostolic gospel; and Mark Dye a lay minister from Kenya on 'preaching the gospel that makes disciples and church planting'. They addressed Clergy Forum from 16-17 April 2015 in our diocese. We look forward to a long term relationship with them in our mission strategy and evangelistic outreach programmes.

#### **NEW CLERGY WHO HAVE JOINED THE DIOCESE:**

Charles Church - From Pretoria  
Neil Scott - From the Diocese of Christ the King  
Hazel Goodfellow - From the Diocese of Grahamstown

#### **ORDAINED IN THE DIOCESE:**

##### **To the Diaconate:**

Vivian Malloy	2012
Rachel Ssekimpi	2012
Charles van der Westhuizen	2012
Johannes Visagie	2012
Bisi Fadeyi-Adetuberu	2013
Rene de Wet	2013
Rowan Jacobs	2013
Sarah Jacobs	2013
Claire Phelps	2013
Mziwoxolo Nodwele	2013
Wayne le Roux	2014
Zweliyazuza Madlingozi	2014
Siyabulela Tshatshu	2014

##### **To the Priesthood:**

Nombulelo Dwane	2013
Relton Groepe	2013
Pamela Goodwin	2014

Rowan Jacobs 2014  
Johannes Visagie 2014  
Thomas Maulgas 2014  
Claire Phelps 2014

**LEFT THE DIOCESE:**

Gill Bowman - Cape Town  
Rob Penrith - Grahamstown DSG Chaplain  
Rene de Wet - Cape Town

**RETIRED:**

Ruthell Johnson  
Welile Kani  
Terry Beadon  
Mthetheleli Vena

**CALLED TO ETERNITY:**

Eric Kleb  
Leon Foster  
Sipho Tokota  
Archbishop Philip Russell  
George Bode  
Tony Kriel  
Michael Gale  
Mzamo Gojela  
Doreen Collett  
Mcebisi Xundu  
Solomon Nkesiga (died in his homeland of Uganda)  
Alan Stansbury

**LAY:**

Dennis Burkinshaw - former Diocesan Secretary/Treasurer  
Ruth Burkinshaw - widow of Mr Dennis Burkinshaw  
Nozipho Tokota - widow of Revd Sipho Tokota  
Mrs Ruth Bacon

***Rest eternal unto them grant O, Lord;  
And let light perpetual shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace,  
And rise in glory! Amen, Alleluia!***

## **FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT**

My dear friends in the Lord ***this ministry is the business of Christ***, calling for our total commitment to God's love, compassion and care as a priority in all our operations. Like Paul the Apostle writing his second letter to the Corinthian Church, unlocking one of the great Christian secrets of life and ministry to believers all around the globe, that God's power is channelled through human weakness, he says:

"Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced disgrace and underhanded ways. We refuse to practise cunning or ***to tamper with God's word***, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to all who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, but we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies." (2 Cor. 4:1-4; 7-10).

Let us not lose heart, but make disciples who make other disciples, as Christ has mandated us.

***Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.***

***We commend you to the mercies and love of God, Alleluia!***

***Bishop Bethlehem Nopece, Port Elizabeth. 2015 A.D.***

At the end of the Eucharist, Synod adjourned for a finger supper in the St Saviour's Church Hall.

## **THURSDAY 21 MAY 2015**

After Morning Prayer at 08h30 and Bible study groups at 09h15, Synod resumed at 10h30 in the St John's Parish Hall.

The Bishop led Synod in the prayer, the singing of the Veni Creator and the Nicene Creed.

### **8. QUORUM**

The Registrar declared that this Synod had a quorum present both in the House of Laity and in the House of Clergy.

### **9. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SCRUTINY**

The Registrar reported as follows:

The Committee of Scrutiny has, in terms of Chapter II, Paragraph 8 (a) and (b) of the Acts of the Diocese, scrutinized the qualifications of lay representatives, and presents the following report:

### **10. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SCRUTINY**

Comment on election of lay representatives and their alternates in terms of Ch II. Paragraph 8(b) of the Acts of the Diocese-2015.

1. Notice of the meeting to elect lay representatives was given after the date specified in terms of the Acts (Ch. III, para. 3) by the following Parishes. Latest date for notice to be given was 16 March 2015

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Notice given on:</u>
St. Matthias	5 April 2015
St Paul	20 April 2015
Sundays River Valley	No date shown but election date was 26 April 2015
St James, Cradock	8 April 2015
St Ninian's	26 April 2015
St Peter's, Zwide	No date shown but election date was 22 March 2015
St Philip	22 March 2015
St Luke	5 April 2015
St Mark & St John	5 April 2015
St Mary Magdalene	12 April 2015
Parish of the Good Shepherd	17 March 2015

2. The following parishes elected less than the required number of alternate lay representatives. Alternates shall be equal in number to the lay representatives already chosen (Ch III, para2).

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Elected:</u>
Parish of Alexandria	None (should be 2)
St Mathias	One only (should be 2)
Sundays River Valley	None (should be 2)
Great Fish River Parish	None (none should be 1)
Great Karoo	None (should be 2)
Karoo Parish (St Boniface)	One only (should be 2)
St Ninian's	None (should be 2)
St Barnabas	None (should be 2)
St John the Baptist	One only (should be 2)

St Andrew	One only (should be 2)
St Katharine	One only (should be 2)
St Mary Magdalene	None (should be 2)

3. Certificates of election of lay representatives were not received from the following parishes. (Ch III, para13)

St Katharine --- only one lay representative certificate received. A second lay rep. Mrs Pam Joubert was appointed by email due to the fact that they originally elected a clergy person as one of the lay reps. I do not think that Mrs Joubert was elected at a formal meeting called in terms of the Acts.

4. The period between the issue date of the notice of meeting and the meeting date was less than 7 days (Ch. III, para. 4) in the case of the following parishes:

St Paul's	Date of notice of meeting 20 April
	Date on which meeting was held 26 April

5. The following parishes failed to submit their certificate of election to be received by the Diocesan Secretary by the date specified on the election certificate and in terms of the Act (Ch. III, para 13) (21 April, 2015)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Date received:</u>
St Paul's	28 April 2015
Sunday's River Valley	28 April 2015
St James-Cradock	24 April 2015
Great Karoo parish	4 May 2015
St Ninian's	4 May 2015
Holy Trinity	22 April 2015
All Saints-Kabega Park	22 April 2015

6. The certificate of qualification to act as a lay representative for the Parish of St Paul's was not signed. It should have been signed by the Rector (Ch. III, para 11).

7. The certificate of election of lay representative Mr Thembakazi Mbotya for the Church of Ascension was not signed by anybody.

8. The certificates of election of the two lay representatives for St Ninian's, Somerset East were not signed. The certificates of qualification were not completed at all for the two representatives.

9. The certificates of election of the two lay representatives for St Mark and St John's were not signed.

10. The certificate of election of lay representative Mr Stephen Gerald Naidoo of the parish of St Simon of Cyrene was not signed.

11. The certificates of qualification for both alternate lay representatives for St Paul's were not signed.

12. The certificate of election of alternate lay representative Mr Lusizo John for Church of Ascension was not signed. The date of notification of the meeting nor the date on which the meeting was held were not entered on the form.

13. On the notification of election of lay representatives and of alternate representatives for St John's the rector stated that Mrs Brenda Hill was the elected alternate. However there was no accompanying election and qualification form for Mrs Hill.
14. The date of notification of meeting nor the date on which the meeting took place was shown on the alternative lay representative's forms for St Peter's, Zwide. The "signature" on the forms appears to have been printed and not signed. The printed name is M E Belu who is not the rector or priest in charge and therefore should not be shown as signatory of the certificate of qualification. Similarly ME Belu is shown as the signatory on the certificate of election but it is not known if he was indeed chairman of the meeting.  
These remarks also apply to the election forms for the lay representatives (as opposed to the alternative lay representatives).
15. The certificate of election for alternate lay representative Mr Ronald McDonald of Good Shepherd parish was not signed.
16. The completed election and qualification certificates for the election of lay representatives and of alternative representatives were received by the Diocesan Secretary less than four weeks prior to the date set for the session of Synod.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Date of receipt:</u>
St Paul	28 April 2015
Sundays River Valley	28 April 2015
Great Karoo parish	4 May 2015
St Ninian's	4 May 2015

It is the opinion of the Committee that none of the breaches of the Acts is in fact material to such a degree that any representative be denied his/her seat and accreditation as the representative of the Parish, the Registrar asked therefore that Synod condone the breaches.

Synod voted to accept the two representatives of St Ninian's, Mrs Pam Joubert as a representative of St Katharine, and that Revd Graham Soudien will deputise for Revd Dave Doveton of St Philip and St Barnabas who is indisposed.

The report was **ACCEPTED**.

**The President welcomed Bishop Brian Marajh to Synod.**

## **11. APPOINTMENT, ELECTION, AND APPROVAL OF SYNOD OFFICERS, AND TIMES OF SYNOD**

### **NOMINATIONS**

The Agenda Committee proposed that the following be nominated to fulfil specific functions at Synod. All nominees were duly elected.

#### **Secretaries of Synod**

The Revd Claire Phelps  
Mrs Jenny Watson

**Agenda Committee**

Revd Dr Eddie Daniels  
Mr Peter Hopper  
Adv. Lee-Ann Ah Shene

**Synod Manager**

Mr Allan Anderson

**Synod 2015 Press (Media) Secretary**

Mrs Frankie Simpson

**Committee of Scrutiny – Synod**

Mr Roger Schärge  
Mr Charles Qoto  
Archdeacon Zweli Tom

**Synod 2015: Time Keeper**

Mr Randolph Koen

**Minute Scrutineers**

Archdeacon Mark Derry  
Mr Charles Qoto

**Chairman of House of Laity**

Mr Roger Schärge

**Prolocutor**

The Dean, The Very Revd Dudley Greenshields

**Chairperson of Synod**

Adv. Darryl Newton

**12. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

The Agenda and times as set out below were adopted.

**PROGRAMME FOR INDABA SYNOD 2015**

**THEME: THINGS DONE & STILL TO BE DONE – DISCIPLING**

<b>WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY</b> Venue : Cathedral	<b>THURSDAY, 21 MAY</b> Venue : St John's	<b>FRIDAY, 22 MAY</b> Venue : St John's	<b>SATURDAY, 23 MAY</b> Venue : St John's
	08h30 Morning Prayer led by Archdeacon Mark Derry 09h15 Bible Study  10h00 Tea  10h30 Opening of Synod & (including saying of Nicene Creed & singing of Veni Creator) 10h45 Report of Quorum present	08h30 Morning Prayer led by Archdeacon Hazel Goodfellow 09h15 Bible Study  10h00 Tea  10h30 Opening of Synod & (including saying of Nicene Creed & singing of Veni Creator) 10h45 Report of Quorum present	08h30 Morning Prayer led by Dean Dudley Greenshields 09h15 Bible Study  10h00 Tea  10h30 Opening of Synod & (including saying of Nicene Creed & singing of Veni Creator) 10h45 Report of Quorum present

	10h50 Appointment of the Officers of Synod 11h15 Consideration of the Agenda Presentation & Reading of Petitions Notice of Motions Notice of Questions First Reading of Measures Asking of Questions  12h00 Midday Prayer – led by Mr Roger Schärge  12h05 Continuation of above Agenda	10h50 Consideration of the Agenda 11h00 Confirmation of Minutes 11h15 Elections  12h00 Midday Prayer – led by Mr Roger Schärge  12h05 Elections Continued 12h30 Motions/Measures/Questions	10h50 Consideration of the Agenda 11h00 Confirmation of Minutes 11h15 Answering of Questions Debate on Measures Debate on Motions  12h00 Midday Prayer – led by Mr Roger Schärge
	13h00 Lunch	13h00 Lunch	13h00 Lunch
	14h00 Indaba Groups	14h00 Indaba Groups	14h00 Approval of Minutes
	15h15 Tea	15h15 Tea	15h30 Closure of Synod (Divine Worship in Church)
	15h45 Explanation concerning Minutes Continuation of Notice of Motions, Answering of Questions, Debate on Measures	15h45 Election Results  16h00 Continuation of Notice of Motions and of Questions	
18h00 Opening of Synod & Bishop's Charge	17h30 Evening Prayer led by Archdeacon Zweli Tom	17h30 Evening Prayer led by Archdeacon David Grobbelaar	
20h00 Supper	18h00 Committee of Synod (second reading of Measures)	18h00 Committee of Synod	

### **13. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

Revd Sipambo Ludidi brought before Synod a motion arising from the Bishop's charge:

#### **1. SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE**

Proposed: Revd Sipambo G. Ludidi

Seconded: Mzwandile A. Mvumbi

This Synod,

- (a) observing how vital sanctity of marriage is in maintaining "the life-long Union and partnership as ordained by God in the creation narrative (Gen.1-2)..."
- (b) the fact that the education system of our country seems to work against this by introducing children as young as ten years of age to using condoms that are to be supplied by schools.

- (c) this would introduce children to multiple concurrent liaison partners instead of waiting till one is ready to indulge in sexual activities in full responsibility of his/ her action.
- (d) that the HIV/AIDS is never controlled by using condoms but abstinence is the Christian principle for our young ones.

Therefore this Synod

- (i) Respectfully request the Bishop to address this issue with other church leaders in the Eastern Cape and even beyond.
- (ii) Condemns any more attempts that would lead to jeopardizing the Sanctity of Marriage.
- (iii) calls upon the Christians to prayerfully engage with local schools and other stakeholders to avoid this.

## **2. MOTION OF APPRECIATION**

Proposed: Archdeacon David Grobbelaar

Seconded: The Dean - The Very Revd Dudley Greenshields

This Synod congratulates the following three worshipping communities of:

- a) St Faith, Hankey
- b) United Church, St Francis Bay
- c) St Andrew's , Storms River Village

on the establishment of newly consecrated church buildings in the Tsitsikamma Archdeaconry since our last Synod.

## **3. SEEKING AND TRAINING OF PERSONEL FOR 'HEARINGS FOR HEALING - ENABLING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT'**

Proposed: Frankie Simpson

Seconded: Archdeacon Zweli Tom

That this Synod

Noting:

1. Because of the hurts felt by the people of our country caused by bad governance, bad service delivery, xenophobia, and much more, the Church Unity Commission (CUC) has begun inaugurating "Hearings for Healing – enabling peace and development" – Chapters are already functioning in KwaZulu Natal and in Gauteng;
2. That the CUC approached the Nelson Mandela Bay Consultation of Christian Churches (NMBCCC) to set up similar platforms for such hearings within the areas of their jurisdiction;
3. That to do so the parishes within those areas will need to come on board by encouraging clergy and members to be trained to be used as counsellors, trainers and in other positions that may be necessary;

Therefore resolves

- a) That this Synod affirms the CUC initiative on "Hearings for Healing – enabling peace and development";
- b) Respectfully asks the Bishop and clergy to seek out members of their congregations who can be trained as counsellors and facilitators;

- c) That the names of these people be forwarded to the NMBCCC through Archdeacon Zweli Tom by the end of August so that training can begin in time for the first hearings;
- d) That Diocesan Council together with the Archdeacons monitor that this is being done.

#### **4. THE EQUALISATION OF HOUSING SUBSIDIES**

Proposed: Frankie Simpson  
Seconded: Archdeacon Zweli Tom

That this Synod

Noting:

1. That more and more of the clergy are opting to buy their own homes;
2. That these clergy are receiving housing allowances from their parishes;
3. That this diocese has no restriction on the amount claimed / paid to clergy for their housing allowance;
4. That this causes inequality in the package received by clergy within the diocese;
5. That, in some cases, it also causes problems with meeting diocesan assessments;

Therefore resolves

To respectfully request that the Finance Committee be tasked to set a limit on the amount that clergy can claim for housing allowance on the basis of:

- i.i) - equivalence of reward between those living in rectories compared to those living in private accommodation receiving housing allowances;
- i.ii) - the benefits afforded those staying in rectories to be quantified eg rates and taxes, water, sewerage, refuse removal, electricity, telephone, internet connection, domestic services, garden services, short term home content insurance, alarm system, etc.;
- i.iii) - a further comparison on taxability between staying in a rectory and receiving a fully taxable housing allowance to be undertaken;

These benefits to be assessed and reviewed annually and the housing allowance to be adjusted accordingly;

That this be introduced at the beginning of the next financial year.

These motions were accepted as part of the Agenda.

#### **14. NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

No questions were put forward.

## **15. FIRST READING OF MEASURES:**

Adv. Darryl Newton read the following Measures:

### **1. TO ALLOW THE COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESAN RETIREMENT ACCOMMODATION FUND TO LET UNOCCUPIED PROPERTY TO PERSONS WHO DO NOT QUALIFY AS APPLICANTS AT TIMES WHEN THERE ARE NO QUALIFYING APPLICANTS WHO WISH TO TAKE UP OCCUPATION OF THE SAID PROPERTY.**

Proposed: The Dean-The Very Revd Dudley Greenshields

Seconded: The Provost – The Very Revd Sharon Nell

#### ***THE PRINCIPLE***

1 Clause 18(g) of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese sets out which category of persons shall qualify as applicants for assistance from the Diocesan Retirement Accommodation Fund.

2 The categories are:-

18(g)(i) Any bishop of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa

18(g)(ii) Any person in Holy Orders who exercises spiritual functions under the authority and spiritual jurisdiction of a bishop or holds a bishop's licence or permission to officiate in the Church of the Province of Southern Africa

18(g)(iii) Any full time stipendiary lay-worker licensed in the Diocese

18(g)(iv) The widow/widower of any such bishop, cleric or lay-worker

3 Occasions have arisen in the past, whereby, retirement accommodation has been unoccupied due to the fact that qualifying applicants who have been approved by the committee are not ready to take up the vacant accommodation. For instance an approved applicant may have indicated that he/she would like to take occupation of such a property from their retirement date which might be several years in the future. Under such circumstances where there is no immediate qualifying applicant the committee request authority to let such property to third parties who would not normally qualify as applicants.

4 The letting of a vacant property may continue in this manner as aforesaid until the property is required for use by a qualifying applicant. The purpose of this request is to ensure that a steady flow of rental income continues, instead of the said property standing unoccupied for a period of time with all the attendant risks and loss of income resulting from the property being unoccupied.

#### ***THE PROPOSAL***

A. Add as clause 10 to Schedule A (RULES GOVERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DIOCESAN RETIREMENT ACCOMMODATION FUND) of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese the following:-

10 In the event that a property becomes vacant and there is no qualifying applicant who requires accommodation at the time the vacancy occurs the committee may let the property to a non-qualifying third party provided that the lease of such property shall be structured to terminate prior to the date upon which a qualifying applicant has indicated a need for retirement accommodation.

The Principle of this Measure was put and accepted.

## **2. TO RECORD IN THE ACTS OF THE DIOCESE THAT THE FIRST CHARGE ON PARISH INCOME SHOULD BE THE PAYMENT OF THE MONTHLY STIPEND AND GENERAL ASSESSMENTS**

Proposed: The Dean - The Very Revd. Dudley Greenshields

Seconded: Archdeacon David Grobbelaar

### ***THE PRINCIPLE***

1 At Synod 2006 a measure was proposed the principle of which was: "Whereas this Synod recognises that the essential ministry of the church takes place in the parish and therefore the first charge on the parish income should be to pay for its ministry staff and service costs".

Revd. RC Penrith asked that utilities be more clearly defined. The principle was put and referred to the Committee of Synod.

The committee reported to the Diocesan Synod and proposed the following wording be substituted for the then existing paragraph 13 (d) (iv) of chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese. It should be noted that this paragraph 13 of chapter IV deals with one of the functions of Diocesan Council, in this case to have care and oversight of finances.

"to ensure that payment of the determined annual sum be made by the parish to the Diocesan Secretary-Treasurer in monthly instalments by the 25th of each month, and that the payment of the stipend portion of the assessment and the water, lights and telephone costs of the parish, be the first charge on all parochial income".

The measure in the form of the above wording was put and carried and has been written into the Acts.

2 This wording mentions the stipend portion of the assessment as being the first charge (together with water, lights and telephone) on all parochial income. The wording clearly excludes the general assessment as being part of the determined annual sum.

3 It is felt that the wording in its present form should be changed to incorporate both the stipend and the general assessment as being the first charge on all parochial income.

4 Furthermore we believe it is unnecessary to include reference to water, lights and telephone costs in the paragraph. Naturally these costs have to be paid but then so do other costs such as wages/salaries for lay workers, internet connection, alarm systems and so on and none of the aforementioned need take priority over the other. The intention of this paragraph is to stress that the first charge on parish income should be the aforementioned assessments. There is no intention thereafter to dictate how other operational cost should be prioritised.

### ***THE PROPOSAL***

A Delete the present wording of paragraph 13 (d) (iv) of chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese and substitute the following:

To ensure that payment of the determined annual sum, being the stipend assessment and the general assessment, be made by the parish to the Diocesan Secretary-Treasurer by the 25th of each month and that this payment be the first charge on all parochial income".

The Principle of this Measure was put and accepted.

**3. TO FORMALISE IN THE ACTS OF THE DIOCESE THE REQUIREMENT THAT DURING A PERIOD OF INTERREGNUM THE PARISH MUST CONTINUE TO PAY ITS STIPENDIARY ASSESSMENT.**

Proposed: The Revd Canon Relton Groepe

Seconded: Archdeacon Zweli Tom

***THE PRINCIPLE***

1. There is no provision in the Acts of the Dioceses which provides unambiguous guidance regarding the payment of the parish stipendiary assessment during a period of interregnum.
2. In the Churchwardens' Handbook clause (h) under the section dealing with interregnums states "As in the case of cleric's long leave, the parish must continue to pay its normal assessment to the diocese".
3. The provision in the churchwardens' handbook in this regard is not law but has been part of a code of practice of the Diocese since its inception in 1970.
4. The Diocesan Council had recommended that the policy contained in the Churchwarden's handbook now be formalised and written into the Acts of the Diocese.

***THE PROPOSAL***

Add as clause 14 to section B of Chapter IX of the Acts of the Diocese the following:-

(e) During a period of interregnum the Parish shall continue to be responsible for the payment of the stipendiary and general assessment. In this case the stipendiary assessment will comprise only the basic stipend and will not include any service allowance, medical aid subsidy or pension fund contribution. The Bishop through the Archdeacon is to provide ministry during the said interregnum.

The Principle of this Measure was put and accepted.

**4. EXTENDING THE QUALIFICATION FOR APPLICANTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE DIOCESAN RETIREMENT ACCOMMODATION FUND.**

Proposed: The Dean - The Very Revd. Dudley Greenshields

Seconded: The Provost - The Very Revd Sharon Nell

***THE PRINCIPLE***

1. Clause 18(g) of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese sets out which category of persons shall qualify as applicants for assistance from the Retirement Accommodation Fund.
2. The categories are:-
  - 18(g)(i) Any bishop of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa.
  - 18(g)(ii) Any person in Holy Orders who exercises spiritual functions under the authority and spiritual jurisdiction of a bishop or holds a bishop's licence or permission to officiate in the Church of the Province of Southern Africa.
  - 18(g)(iii) Any full time stipendiary lay-worker licensed in the Diocese.
  - 18(g)(iv) The widow/widower of any such bishop, cleric or lay-worker.

3. Occasions have arisen in the past, whereby, a person who has not fallen into one of the categories of qualifying applicants listed above, has applied for assistance from the Fund. In the case of such an applicant where special and compelling circumstances exist the committee feel that they should have discretion to accept such an applicant for assistance.

### ***THE PROPOSAL***

- A. Add to paragraph 18(g) of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese the following sub-clause:-

18(g) (v) Any person not falling under clauses 18(g)(i) to 18(g)(iv) whom the committee, having considered any special and compelling circumstances which exist relating to that person, consider to be a suitable candidate for assistance.

The Principle of this Measure was put and accepted.

### **5. TO CLARIFY THE WORDING IN THE ACTS CONCERNING THE CONTRIBUTION PAID TO THE DIOCESAN MEDICAL AID SCHEME BY THE DIOCESE AND BY THE MEMBER.**

Proposed: Archdeacon Mark Derry

Seconded: The Dean - The Very Revd Dudley Greenshields

### ***THE PRINCIPLE***

1. Schedule B, paragraph (iv) of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese sets out the amount which the Diocese shall pay for medical aid benefits being 75% of the average medical aid cost and also the sets out a formula for calculating the amount to be paid by a member of the Diocesan medical aid scheme.
2. Logically if the Diocese is to pay 75% then the member should pay 25%. However the manner in which the abovementioned formula is phrased results in a situation whereby members pay slightly less than 25% and the Diocese pays slightly more than 75%.
3. Furthermore it is not clear what is meant by the phrase "average medical aid cost". Normally an employer would agree to pay a percentage of the cost of a particular medical aid option. For example if a medical aid offers an option with maximum benefits, a second option providing a lower level of benefits and say a third option providing only limited benefits, then the employer would agree to pay say 50% or 75% of the second option (the middle of the road option) for each family member regardless of which option the member had opted to join.
4. It is proposed that the wording of the Acts be amended to make it clear that the Diocese will pay exactly 75% of the medical aid cost for each member based on the most popular membership option chosen by members and regardless of the option chosen by a particular member. In other words if the member chooses to belong to the most expensive option the subsidy from the Diocese would only be that applicable to the member had he elected to be a member of the most popular membership option (this would probably be the "middle" option).
5. This in fact is the position which prevails at present but the wording in the Acts is cumbersome and not precise.

## **THE PROPOSAL**

A. In schedule B of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese, delete paragraph (iv) and insert the following as a new paragraph (iv):-

“The Diocese shall pay 75% of the medical aid cost for each member, such cost to be based on the option chosen by the majority of the members of the Diocesan medical aid scheme. The member shall pay the balance of the cost remaining after calculation of the aforementioned Diocesan cost. Clergy and Diocesan staff who are members or dependants on other medical aid schemes shall not be required to pay the above.”

The Principle of this Measure was put and accepted.

## **16. ASKING OF QUESTIONS**

There were no questions asked.

## **17. MOTIONS**

### **AGENDUM 6: ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIOCESAN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DESK**

Proposed: The Revd Canon Jogra Gallant

Seconded: The Revd. N Leonard

That this Synod

Noting:

- 1.1 The positive social development work taking place at different parishes within the Diocese;
- 1.2 The potential benefits to the Diocese in having this work co-ordinated under a unit structure in the Diocese;

Therefore resolves

- a) That this Synod receives the social development report on the collective work that is taking place at parochial level;
- b) To respectfully request that this Synod begins a process towards the establishment of a Social Development Desk at Diocesan level;
- c) That a representative working group be appointed to take the process forward into the establishment of a complete Diocesan Social Development strategy
- d) That HOPE Africa be requested to facilitate the strategic Planning process for the Social Development department.

Revd Canon Jogra Gallant proposed the following amendment to replace (d) of the Proposal:

- (d) That we link and collaborate with HOPE Africa in the process of establishing a Social Development Desk and Strategy.

Proposed: Revd Canon Jogra Gallant

Seconded: Revd Nicolette Leonard

The amendment was accepted.

Archdeacon Zweli Tom proposed that the following replace clause (d) and the amended clause (d) become clause (e)

d) That the Canon for Social and Economic Development champions the process.

The Proposer and Seconder of the motion accepted the amendment.

The amendment was put and accepted.

**Synod paused for prayer at noon, led by the Registrar Mr Roger Schärages.**

**Synod resumed at 12h10.**

The Motion was put and accepted.

### **AGENDUM 7: CLERGY WELLNESS**

Proposed: The Revd. Dr E Daniels

Seconded: The Revd. N Leonard

That this Synod

- 1 Humbly recognising that the work of the Bishop and Clergy is taxing on both a professional as well as a personal level;
- 2 Aware of the immense challenges that Clergy continue to face in balancing ministry, prayer, rest and re-creation;
- 3 Gives thanks for the generosity of the laity and Diocesan leadership for the ways in which clergy are cared for in this Diocese;

Therefore resolves

- a) To request the Bishop to constitute a committee to address the issue of clergy wellness;
- b) That the committee should present a budget to Diocesan Council to implement a Clergy Wellness Programme to deal with the issue;
- c) That the committee compile a directory of professional resources to address spiritual, physical, financial and related issues.

The motion was put and accepted.

The President brought greetings from the retired Bishop of Johannesburg, The Rt Reverend Brian Germond.

**Synod adjourned for lunch at 12h55 after the Bishop said Grace.**

**Indaba groups met at 14h00 followed by tea at 15h15.**

**Synod resumed at 15h40.**

**The President welcomed the Mayor of Colesberg, Miss Nombulelo Hermans, who was attending Synod as a Lay Representative.**

## **18. MOTIONS CONTINUED**

### **AGENDUM 8: AHA MOVEMENT**

Proposed: Archdeacon Zwelidumile Tom

Seconded: Mr Kalipa Sinxoto

That this Synod

Noting:

1. That Kairos Southern Africa, in November 2014, launched a Church's response to poverty, unemployment and inequality;
2. that the initiative is called the "AHA MOVEMENT";
3. that the initiative captures the thrust of the resolutions adopted by 85 Christian leaders at Rustenburg in 1990;
4. That the initiative has the full support of the South African Council of Churches;
5. That the initiative carries the spirit of resolutions 7 and 8 of the Diocesan Synod 2012;

Therefore resolves

1. To embrace the spirit of the AHA Movement
2. To participate in the conversations to be championed by the movement in our regions on poverty, unemployment and inequality.
3. To respectfully request the Diocesan Bishop to mandate the Canon for Social and Economic Development to co-ordinate and facilitate conversations in our Archdeaconries on poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The motion was put and accepted.

### **AGENDUM 21: STANDING WITH THE CHURCH AND ALL BELIEVERS IN IRAQ, SYRIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA, IN THE FACE OF SEVERE AND BARBARIC ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND TERROR AT THE HANDS OF ISIS**

Proposed: The Revd Canon David Stansbury

Seconded: Mr Xhanti Mhlontlo

That this Synod

1. Noting with sadness, the continued spate of attacks on Christians in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East, by ISIS. These brutal attacks on Christian communities and churches, has resulted in the loss of thousands and thousands of lives and the eradication of many Christian communities.
2. Noting with disgust and sadness, the murdering of Christian children in Iraq, by ISIS, under the banner of cleansing the Middle East of Christianity.
3. Noting with sadness, the clear aims of ISIS to eradicate Christianity in the Middle East; having almost achieved this in Syria whilst presently engaging in eradicating Christianity in Iraq.

4. Noting with shame, the deafening silence of our own government and indeed our own Anglican Church of Southern Africa, with regard to these continued terror attacks on Christians in the Middle East, especially in Iraq. This is especially shameful when these terror attacks, apart from being persecution against Christians, amount to no less than gross violations of the basic human rights of freedom of religion and the sanctity of life.

Therefore resolves

1. To respectfully ask the Bishop and this Synod to write an open and public letter to our State President and Central Government, condemning these terror attacks by ISIS in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East and to ask our State President and Government, as world-wide ambassadors for the Bill of Human Rights, to intervene and themselves to condemn these terror attacks by ISIS on the basis of the violation of Human Rights and violence against children.
2. To respectfully ask the Bishop and this Synod to make public in the press, this Synod's outrage and condemnation of this continued violence against Christians in the Middle East and to express our solidarity with this part of the Body of Christ, facing severe persecution at this time.
3. To respectfully ask the Bishop and this Synod, to set aside one day a week or at least once a month, as a day of prayer and fasting for the persecuted and suffering Church of Jesus in Iraq and Syria and indeed the Middle East and many parts of Africa.

The motion was put and accepted.

**The delegates unanimously stood as an act of solidarity with the persecuted Christians.**

**The President asked that everyone would pray for the persecuted church each day.**

## **AGENDUM 22: CREATING SPACE FOR EVERY EXPRESSION AND STYLE OF WORSHIP WITHIN OUR DIVERSE DIOCESAN FAMILY**

Proposed: The Revd Canon David Stansbury

Seconded: The Revd Canon Andrew Watt

That this Synod

1. Recognising that our Diocese is a diverse Christian Community: diverse in language, culture, backgrounds, churchmanship, traditions and styles of worship;
2. Recognising that each and every expression and style of worship, within our diverse Diocesan Family, is valuable and equally important to our corporate expression of worship and therefore that each and every expression and style of worship should be catered for where possible
3. Noting that in our Diocese we have different expressions of worship: Anglo Catholic, Traditional, Evangelical and Charismatic;
4. Noting that services in our local parishes vary vastly in duration (length of time) and in the manner in which the APB Liturgy is used;
5. Acknowledging that this Diocese has already pioneered work in this regard, as seen in the new liturgies being experimented with for Confirmation Services and the 'Institution of Rectors' Services.

Therefore resolves

1. To humbly and respectfully ask the Bishop and this Synod to reconstitute the Diocesan Liturgical Committee to intentionally include men and women, who represent the breadth and depth of our churchmanship and styles and expressions of worship;
2. To humbly and respectfully ask the Bishop and this Synod, to mandate this reconstituted Diocesan Liturgical Committee, to make recommendations to the Bishop and the relevant Diocesan structures, relating to changes that could be made to allow our services to be more inclusive of all our different styles and expressions of worship.

Zukisa Jeyi of the Diocesan Council supported the motion but asked whether this would be part of a Provincial initiative or only Diocesan. The proposer will address this question at the end of debate.

Revd Canon Relton Groepe said that the consciousness we exercise when being ministers of the Gospel is more important than 'how we do church.' He suggested that we need to consider how we reinvent ourselves as the true church of Jesus Christ. It is the Gospel that attracts the believer.

**Point of Order:** Revd Dr Eddie Daniels asked for an extension on the debate as Revd Canon Relton Groepe had opened up a new avenue of debate.

**The President ruled that debate would continue on this motion when Synod resumes on Friday 22 May 2015.**

**The President announced that Morning Prayer would start at 8h30 on Friday 22 May 2015, led by Archdeacon Hazel Goodfellow.**

**The President asked that Synod pray for The Revd Dave Doveton who is unwell. He also shared a request from the Bishop of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist to pray for Revd Jack Udulumo of that Diocese who is unwell.**

**Synod adjourned for the day at 17h25. Delegates went to Evening Prayer, led by Archdeacon Zweli Tom.**

## **FRIDAY 22 MAY 2015**

After Morning Prayer at 08h30 and Bible study groups at 09h15, Synod resumed at 11h00 in the St John's Parish Hall.

The Bishop led Synod in prayer, the Nicene Creed and the singing of the Veni Creator.

### **19. QUORUM**

The Registrar declared that this Synod had a quorum present both in the House of Laity and in the House of Clergy.

### **20. MOTIONS**

Debate resumed on the following motion:

#### **AGENDUM 22: CREATING SPACE FOR EVERY EXPRESSION AND STYLE OF WORSHIP WITHIN OUR DIVERSE DIOCESAN FAMILY**

Proposed: The Revd Canon David Stansbury

Seconded: The Revd Canon Andrew Watt

That this Synod

1. Recognising that our Diocese is a diverse Christian Community: diverse in language, culture, backgrounds, churchmanship, traditions and styles of worship;
2. Recognising that each and every expression and style of worship, within our diverse Diocesan Family, is valuable and equally important to our corporate expression of worship and therefore that each and every expression and style of worship should be catered for where possible
3. Noting that in our Diocese we have different expressions of worship: Anglo Catholic, Traditional, Evangelical and Charismatic;
4. Noting that services in our local parishes vary vastly in duration (length of time) and in the manner in which the APB Liturgy is used;
5. Acknowledging that this Diocese has already pioneered work in this regard, as seen in the new liturgies being experimented with for Confirmation Services and the 'Institution of Rectors' Services.

Therefore resolves

1. To humbly and respectfully ask the Bishop and this Synod to reconstitute the Diocesan Liturgical Committee to intentionally include men and women, who represent the breadth and depth of our churchmanship and styles and expressions of worship;
2. To humbly and respectfully ask the Bishop and this Synod, to mandate this reconstituted Diocesan Liturgical Committee, to make recommendations to the Bishop and the relevant Diocesan structures, relating to changes that could be made to allow our services to be more inclusive of all our different styles and expressions of worship.

The motion was put and accepted.

The President told Synod that the Province was revising the current Prayer Book. Five people from the Diocese of Port Elizabeth have been appointed to liaise with that Committee. These five persons should work with the Diocesan Liturgical Committee.

## **21. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Mr Charles Qoto proposed that the Minutes of the Opening Proceedings of Synod on Wednesday 20 May 2015 and Thursday 21 May 2015 be accepted. The Minutes were adopted.

## **22. NOMINATIONS**

(The Acts Chapter III)

The following nominations of persons to the various bodies and committees were made:

### **Representatives to Provincial Synod (Paragraph 19)**

#### **LAY NOMINATIONS:**

Daryl NEWTON  
Frankie SIMPSON  
Roger SCHÄRGES  
Charles QOTO  
Nomalungelo NTLOKWANA  
Myron LEONARD  
Nceba MADLAVU  
Nomvuyo XHALLIE  
Peter HOPPER

#### **CLERGY NOMINATIONS:**

Zwelidumile TOM  
Claire PHELPS  
Sharon NELL  
Fumanekile KULA  
David STANSBURY  
Pumla MTILA  
Zola NANANA  
Dudley GREENSHIELDS

### **Representatives for Advisory Committee for Elective Assembly (Paragraph 27)**

#### **LAY NOMINATIONS:**

Daryl NEWTON

Nomalungelo NTLOKWANA  
Nceba MADLAVU  
Zukisa JEYI  
Rodney WHITE  
Myron LEONARD  
Charles QOTO  
Xhanti MHLONTLO

**CLERGY NOMINATIONS:**

Eddie DANIELS  
Vincent MDIDIMBA  
Hazel GOODFELLOW  
Mark DERRY  
Jogra GALLANT  
Nicolette LEONARD  
Joshua KOENING  
David STANSBURY

**Representatives to Provincial Standing Committee (Paragraph 28)**

**LAY NOMINATIONS:**

Roger SCHÄRGES  
Charles QOTO  
Khalipa SINXOTO  
Nomalungelo NTLOKWANA

**CLERGY NOMINATIONS:**

Sharon NELL  
Eddie DANIELS  
Jogra GALLANT

**Nominated Members of the Diocesan Trusts Board (Paragraph 30)**

Daryl NEWTON  
Charles QOTO  
Nceba MADLAVU  
Doug SWANSON  
Mazoe NOPECE  
Ernie SHARP  
Myron LEONARD

**Nominated Members of the Board of the Diocesan Benevolent Fund (Paragraph 38)**

**LAY NOMINATIONS:**

Debbie MZINYATI continues in office

Larry POW CHONG  
Mazoe NOPECE  
Sipokazi GXOYIYA  
Jane COWAN

## **CLERGY NOMINATIONS:**

Mark DERRY continues in office

Elliot BANZANA  
Claire PHELPS  
Samantha EAGLES  
Ruby ZAUKA

### **Appointment of a Qualified Auditor (Paragraph 41)**

The Diocesan Secretary moved that PKF (P.E.) Inc. Chartered Accountants (S.A.) be re-appointed.

This appointment was unanimously agreed upon.

## **23. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

### **1. SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE**

Proposed: Revd Sipambo G. Ludidi

Seconded: Mzwandile A. Mvumbi

This Synod,

- (a) observing how vital sanctity of marriage is in maintaining "the life-long Union and partnership as ordained by God in the creation narrative (Gen.1-2)..."
- (b) the fact that the education system of our country seems to work against this by introducing children as young as ten years of age to using condoms that are to be supplied by schools.
- (c) this would introduce children to multiple concurrent liaison partners instead of waiting till one is ready to indulge in sexual activities in full responsibility of his/ her action.
- (d) that the HIV/AIDS is never controlled by using condoms but abstinence is the Christian principle for our young ones.

Therefore this Synod

- (i) Respectfully request the Bishop to address this issue with other church leaders in the Eastern Cape and even beyond.
- (ii) Condemns any more attempts that would lead to jeopardizing the Sanctity of Marriage.
- (iii) calls upon the Christians to prayerfully engage with local schools and other stakeholders to avoid this.

It was agreed that debate would continue when Synod resumed.

**Synod adjourned for lunch at 13h10 after the President said Grace.**

**Indaba groups met at 14h00.**

**Synod resumed at 14h50**

## **24. THE SECOND READING OF MEASURES**

The Chancellor, Adv. Darryl Newton, read Measures 1 - 5 as amended by the Committee of Synod.

## **25. QUESTIONS**

Myron Leonard brought the following question:

The last Synod adopted the motion on inclusive language which included inter alia:

1. The use of inclusive gender Bibles and Psalters
2. Sharing resources, inclusive-language liturgies and hymnals/songs, within the Diocesan family.
3. The monitoring of implementation was to be carried out by Archdeacons and reports supplied to the Diocesan Council.

Question: What progress has been made in relation to the implementation of this motion?

## **26. VOTING**

The President explained the voting process. Voting for the various bodies took place in houses.

## **27. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE CONTINUED**

Debate continued on the motion for

### **1. SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE**

Proposed: Revd Sipambo G. Ludidi

Seconded: Mzwandile A. Mvumbi

This Synod,

- (a) observing how vital sanctity of marriage is in maintaining "the life-long Union and partnership as ordained by God in the creation narrative (Gen.1-2)..."
- (b) the fact that the education system of our country seems to work against this by introducing children as young as ten years of age to using condoms that are to be supplied by schools.
- (c) this would introduce children to multiple concurrent liaison partners instead of waiting till one is ready to indulge in sexual activities in full responsibility of his/ her action.
- (d) that the HIV/AIDS is never controlled by using condoms but abstinence is the Christian principle for our young ones.

Therefore this Synod

- (i) Respectfully request the Bishop to address this issue with other church leaders in the Eastern Cape and even beyond.
- (ii) Condemns any more attempts that would lead to jeopardizing the Sanctity of Marriage.
- (iii) calls upon the Christians to prayerfully engage with local schools and other stakeholders to avoid this.

After debate the President requested that the proposer redraft the motion with Revd Nicolette Leonard and Xhanti Mhlontlo.

## **2. SEEKING AND TRAINING OF PERSONNEL FOR ‘HEARINGS FOR HEALING - ENABLING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT’**

Proposed: Frankie Simpson

Seconded: Archdeacon Zweli Tom

That this Synod

Noting:

1. Because of the hurts felt by the people of our country caused by bad governance, bad service delivery, xenophobia, and much more, the Church Unity Commission (CUC) has begun inaugurating “Hearings for Healing – enabling peace and development” – Chapters are already functioning in KwaZulu Natal and in Gauteng;
2. That the CUC approached the Nelson Mandela Bay Consultation of Christian Churches (NMBCCC) to set up similar platforms for such hearings within the areas of their jurisdiction;
3. That to do so the parishes within those areas will need to come on board by encouraging clergy and members to be trained to be used as counsellors, trainers and in other positions that may be necessary;

Therefore resolves

- a) That this Synod affirms the CUC initiative on “Hearings for Healing – enabling peace and development”;
- b) Respectfully asks the Bishop and clergy to seek out members of their congregations who can be trained as counsellors and facilitators;
- c) That the names of these people be forwarded to the NMBCCC through Archdeacon Zweli Tom by the end of August so that training can begin in time for the first hearings;
- d) That Diocesan Council together with the Archdeacons monitor that this is being done.

The President said that he was in meetings with The Revd Paul Verryn, the former Methodist Bishop of Johannesburg, with regards to the subject of this motion.

The motion was put and accepted.

**The President announced that Morning Prayer would start at 8h30 on Saturday 23 May 2015, led by the Dean, The Very Revd Dudley Greenshields.**

**Synod adjourned at 16h25. Delegates went to Evening Prayer, led by Archdeacon David Grobbelaar.**

## **SATURDAY 23 MAY 2015**

After Morning Prayer at 08h30 and Bible study groups at 09h15, Synod resumed at 10h30 in the St John's Parish Hall.

The Bishop led Synod in prayer, the Nicene Creed and the singing of the Veni Creator.

### **28. QUORUM**

The Registrar declared that this Synod had a quorum present both in the House of Laity and in the House of Clergy.

### **29. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Archdeacon Mark Derry proposed that the Minutes of Friday 22 May 2015 be accepted. This proposal was seconded by Mr Ernie Sharp.

The Minutes were adopted.

### **30. ELECTION RESULTS**

#### **1. Representatives to Provincial Synod (Acts of the Diocese, chapter III paragraph 19)**

##### **CLERGY**

Dudley GREENSHIELDS  
David STANSBURY  
Fumanekile KULA  
Zwelidumile TOM

##### **ALTERNATES**

Zola NANANA  
Sharon NELL  
Claire PHELPS  
Phumla MTILA

##### **LAITY**

Daryl NEWTON  
Roger SCHÄRGES  
Charles QOTO  
Myron LEONARD

##### **ALTERNATES**

Frankie SIMPSON  
Peter HOPPER  
Nceba MADLAVU  
Nomvuyo XHALLIE

The Dean, The Very Reverend Dudley Greenshields, and Archdeacon Zwelidumile Tom, offered to step down in favour of female representation at Provincial Synod. The Registrar explained that should those who have been elected to attend Provincial Synod be unable to attend or wish to step down at a later stage, then an alternate shall be given the opportunity to attend in their stead.

#### **2. Advisory Committee (Acts of the Diocese, chapter III, paragraph 27)**

##### **CLERGY**

Eddie DANIELS  
Mark DERRY  
David STANSBURY  
Nicolette LEONARD

##### **ALTERNATES**

Joshua KOENING  
Vincent MDIDIMBA  
Hazel GOODFELLOW  
Jogra GALLANT

**LAITY**  
Daryl NEWTON  
Myron LEONARD  
Rodney WHITE  
Charles QOTO

**ALTERNATES**  
Xhati MHLONTLO  
Zukisa JEYI  
Nceba MADLAVU  
Nomalungelo NTLOKWANA

3. **Representatives to Provincial Standing Committee (Acts of the Diocese, chapter III, paragraph 28)**

**CLERGY**  
Eddie DANIELS

**ALTERNATE**  
Sharon NELL

**LAITY**  
Roger SCHÄRGES

**ALTERNATE**  
Charles QOTO

4. **Members of the Diocesan Trusts Board (Acts of the Diocese, chapter III, paragraph 30)**

Charles QOTO  
Daryl NEWTON  
Myron LEONARD  
Mazoe NOPECE

5. **Members of the Board of the Diocesan Benevolent Fund (Acts of the Diocese, chapter III, paragraph 38)**

**CLERGY**  
Mark DERRY continued in office  
Ruby ZAUKA

**ALTERNATES**  
Claire PHELPS

**LAITY**  
Debbie MZINYATI continued in office  
Larry POW CHONG

**ALTERNATES**  
Mazoe NOPECE

**31. QUESTIONS**

In answer to the question put forward on Friday 22 May:

The President answered: No progress has been made in this regard. The process will be referred to the Diocesan Council again.

## **32. MEASURES**

### **AGENDUM 1: TO ALLOW THE COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESAN RETIREMENT ACCOMMODATION FUND TO LET UNOCCUPIED PROPERTY TO PERSONS WHO DO NOT QUALIFY AS APPLICANTS AT TIMES WHEN THERE ARE NO QUALIFYING APPLICANTS WHO WISH TO TAKE UP OCCUPATION OF THE SAID PROPERTY.**

Proposed: The Dean-The Very Revd Dudley Greenshields

Seconded: The Provost – The Very Revd Sharon Nell

#### ***THE PRINCIPLE***

1. Clause 18(g) of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese sets out which category of persons shall qualify as applicants for assistance from the Diocesan Retirement Accommodation Fund.
2. The categories are:-
  - 18(g)(i) Any bishop of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa
  - 18(g)(ii) Any person in Holy Orders who exercises spiritual functions under the authority and spiritual jurisdiction of a bishop or holds a bishop's licence or permission to officiate in the Church of the Province of Southern Africa
  - 18(g)(iii) Any full time stipendiary lay-worker licensed in the Diocese
  - 18(g)(iv) The widow/widower of any such bishop, cleric or lay-worker
3. Occasions have arisen in the past, whereby, retirement accommodation has been unoccupied due to the fact that qualifying applicants who have been approved by the committee are not ready to take up the vacant accommodation. For instance an approved applicant may have indicated that he/she would like to take occupation of such a property from their retirement date which might be several years in the future. Under such circumstances where there is no immediate qualifying applicant the committee request authority to let such property to third parties who would not normally qualify as applicants.
4. The letting of a vacant property may continue in this manner as aforesaid until the property is required for use by a qualifying applicant. The purpose of this request is to ensure that a steady flow of rental income continues, instead of the said property standing unoccupied for a period of time with all the attendant risks and loss of income resulting from the property being unoccupied.

#### ***THE PROPOSAL***

- A. Add as clause 10 to Schedule A (RULES GOVERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DIOCESAN RETIREMENT ACCOMMODATION FUND) of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese the following:-

10 In the event that a property becomes vacant and there is no qualifying applicant who requires accommodation at the time the vacancy occurs the committee may let the property to a non-qualifying third party, as adjudged suitable according to the criteria set by the committee. Provided that the lease of such

property shall be structured to terminate prior to the date upon which a qualifying applicant has indicated a need for retirement accommodation.

Zukisa Jeyi asked what the criteria were for 'non-qualifying' applicants. The Dean, The Very Reverend Dudley Greenshields, answered that the criteria were firstly that the applicant was a Christian and secondly had the ability to pay the rent.

The Measure was put and accepted.

## **AGENDUM 2: TO RECORD IN THE ACTS OF THE DIOCESE THAT THE FIRST CHARGE ON PARISH INCOME SHOULD BE THE PAYMENT OF THE MONTHLY STIPEND AND GENERAL ASSESSMENTS**

Proposed: The Dean - The Very Revd. Dudley Greenshields

Seconded: Archdeacon David Grobbelaar

### ***THE PRINCIPLE***

- 1 At Synod 2006, a measure was proposed, the principle of which was: "Whereas this Synod recognises that the essential ministry of the church takes place in the parish and therefore the first charge on the parish income should be to pay for its ministry staff and service costs".
- 2 Revd. RC Penrith asked that utilities be more clearly defined. The principle was put and referred to the Committee of Synod.
- 3 The committee reported to the Diocesan Synod and proposed the following wording be substituted for the then existing paragraph 13 (d) (iv) of chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese. It should be noted that this paragraph 13 of chapter IV deals with one of the functions of Diocesan Council, in this case to have care and oversight of finances.
- 4 "to ensure that payment of the determined annual sum be made by the parish to the Diocesan Secretary-Treasurer in monthly instalments by the 25th of each month, and that the payment of the stipend portion of the assessment and the water, lights and telephone costs of the parish, be the first charge on all parochial income".
- 5 The measure in the form of the above wording was put and carried and has been written into the Acts.
- 6 This wording mentions the stipend portion of the assessment as being the first charge (together with water, lights and telephone) on all parochial income. The wording clearly excludes the general assessment as being part of the determined annual sum.
- 7 It is felt that the wording in its present form should be changed to incorporate both the stipend and the general assessment as being the first charge on all parochial income.
- 8 Furthermore we believe it is unnecessary to include reference to water, lights and telephone costs in the paragraph. Naturally these costs have to be paid but then so do other costs such as wages/salaries for lay workers, internet connection, alarm systems and so on and none of the aforementioned need take priority over the other. The intention of this paragraph is to stress that the first charge on parish income should be

the aforementioned assessments. There is no intention thereafter to dictate how other operational cost should be prioritised.

### ***THE PROPOSAL***

A Delete the present wording of paragraph 13 (d) (iv) Of chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese and substitute the following:

“To ensure that payment of the determined assessments in equal monthly instalments shall be made by the parish to the Diocesan Secretary-Treasurer by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month. This payment shall be the first charge on all parochial income”.

The Proposer asked that the Measure be withdrawn as a more effective Measure would be brought at the next Synod.

The seconder agreed to the withdrawal of the Measure.

The President emphasised the fact that we are a family belonging to the Anglican Communion. Although ministry takes place in the parish situation, the parish is not an independent entity. The financial and spiritual obligations in daily operations are both matters of faith.

The Measure was withdrawn.

### **AGENDUM 3: TO FORMALISE IN THE ACTS OF THE DIOCESE THE REQUIREMENT THAT DURING A PERIOD OF INTERREGNUM THE PARISH MUST CONTINUE TO PAY ITS STIPENDIARY ASSESSMENT.**

Proposed: The Revd Canon Relton Groepe

Seconded: Archdeacon Zweli Tom

### ***THE PRINCIPLE***

1. There is no provision in the Acts of the Diocese which provides unambiguous guidance regarding the payment of the parish stipendiary assessment during a period of interregnum.
2. In the Churchwardens' Handbook clause (h) under the section dealing with interregnums states: “As in the case of cleric's long leave, the parish must continue to pay its normal assessment to the diocese”.
3. The provision in the Churchwardens' Handbook in this regard is not law but has been part of a code of practice of the Diocese since its inception in 1970.
4. The Diocesan Council had recommended that the policy contained in the Churchwardens' handbook now be formalised and written into the Acts of the Diocese.

## **THE PROPOSAL**

Add as clause 14 to section B of Chapter IX of the Acts of the Diocese the following:-

(e) During a period of interregnum the Parish shall continue to be responsible for the payment of the assessments. In this case the stipendiary portion of the assessments will comprise only the basic stipend and will not include any service allowance, medical aid subsidy or pension fund contribution.

Nceba Madlavu asked for clarification on the term interregnum. The Registrar responded that the term meant 'between reigns' (Lt. 'inter' and 'regnum') to mean the period when a parish is without a priest due to death, transfer etc.

**Synod paused for prayer at 12h00 led by the Registrar, Mr Roger Schärages, followed by the Prayer for Africa.**

The Measure was put and accepted.

## **AGENDUM 4: EXTENDING THE QUALIFICATION FOR APPLICANTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE DIOCESAN RETIREMENT ACCOMMODATION FUND.**

Proposed: The Dean - The Very Revd. Dudley Greenshields

Seconded: The Provost – The Very Revd Sharon Nell

## **THE PRINCIPLE**

- 1 Clause 18(g) of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese sets out which category of persons shall qualify as applicants for assistance from the Retirement Accommodation Fund.
- 2 The categories are:-
  - 18(g)(i) Any bishop of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa
  - 18(g)(ii) Any person in Holy Orders who exercises spiritual functions under the authority and spiritual jurisdiction of a bishop or holds a bishop's licence or permission to officiate in the Church of the Province of Southern Africa
  - 18(g)(iii) Any full time stipendiary lay-worker licensed in the Diocese
  - 18(g)(iv) The widow/widower of any such bishop, cleric or lay-worker
- 3 Occasions have arisen in the past, whereby, a person who has not fallen into one of the categories of qualifying applicants listed above, has applied for assistance from the Fund. In the case of such an applicant where special and compelling circumstances exist the committee feel that they should have discretion to accept such an applicant for assistance.

## **THE PROPOSAL**

- A. Add to paragraph 18(g) of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese the following sub-clause:-

18(g) (v) Any person not qualifying under clauses 18(g)(i) to 18(g)(iv) whom the committee, having considered any special and compelling circumstances, consider to be a suitable candidate for assistance.

The Proposer asked Synod to note that “Church of the Province of Southern Africa” would be updated to “Anglican Church of Southern Africa” in the next printing of the Acts.

The Measure was put and accepted.

**AGENDUM 5: TO CLARIFY THE WORDING IN THE ACTS CONCERNING THE CONTRIBUTION PAID TO THE DIOCESAN MEDICAL AID SCHEME BY THE DIOCESE AND BY THE MEMBER.**

Proposed: Archdeacon Mark Derry

Seconded: The Dean - The Very Revd Dudley Greenshields

***THE PRINCIPLE***

1. Schedule B, paragraph (iv) of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese sets out the amount which the Diocese shall pay for medical aid benefits being 75% of the average medical aid cost and also sets out a formula for calculating the amount to be paid by a member of the Diocesan medical aid scheme.
2. Logically if the Diocese is to pay 75% then the member should pay 25%. However the manner in which the abovementioned formula is phrased results in a situation whereby members pay slightly less than 25% and the Diocese pays slightly more than 75%.
3. Furthermore it is not clear what is meant by the phrase “average medical aid cost”. Normally an employer would agree to pay a percentage of the cost of a particular medical aid option. For example if a medical aid offers an option with maximum benefits, a second option providing a lower level of benefits and say a third option providing only limited benefits, then the employer would agree to pay say 50% or 75% of the second option (the middle of the road option) for each family member regardless of which option the member had opted to join.
4. It is proposed that the wording of the Acts be amended to make it clear that the Diocese will pay exactly 75% of the medical aid cost for each member based on the most popular membership option chosen by members and regardless of the option chosen by a particular member. In other words if the member chooses to belong to the most expensive option the subsidy from the Diocese would only be that applicable to the member had he elected to be a member of the most popular membership option (this would probably be the “middle” option).

This in fact is the position which prevails at present but the wording in the Acts is cumbersome and not precise.

## **THE PROPOSAL**

- A. In schedule B of Chapter IV of the Acts of the Diocese, delete paragraph (iv) and insert the following as a new paragraph (iv):- “The Diocese shall pay 75% of the medical aid cost for each member, such cost to be based on the option chosen by the majority of the members of the Diocesan medical aid scheme. The member shall pay the balance of the cost remaining after calculation of the aforementioned Diocesan cost.”

The Measure was put and accepted.

### **33. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE CONTINUED**

**The motion for Sanctity of Marriage was amended as follows:**

#### **2. SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE**

Proposed: Revd Sipambo G. Ludidi

Seconded: Mzwandile A. Mvumbi

This Synod,

observing how vital sanctity of marriage is in maintaining "the life-long Union and partnership as ordained by God in the creation narrative (Gen.1-2)..."

Therefore

- a) Respectfully request the Bishop to address this issue of sanctity of marriage with church leaders within the Diocese of Port Elizabeth.
- b) Condemns any endeavours that seeks to jeopardize the Sanctity of Marriage.

This motion was put and accepted.

**Synod adjourned for lunch at 13h00.**

**Synod resumed at 14h00.**

### **34. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE CONTINUED**

#### **THE EQUALISATION OF HOUSING SUBSIDIES**

Proposed: Frankie Simpson

Seconded: Archdeacon Zweli Tom

That this Synod

Noting:

1. That more and more of the clergy are opting to buy their own homes;
2. That these clergy are receiving housing allowances from their parishes;
3. That this diocese has no restriction on the amount claimed / paid to clergy for their housing allowance;
4. That this causes inequality in the package received by clergy within the diocese;
5. That, in some cases, it also causes problems with meeting diocesan assessments;

Therefore resolves

- i. To respectfully request that the Finance Committee be tasked to set a limit on the amount that clergy can claim for housing allowance on the basis of:
  - a. equivalence of reward between those living in rectories compared to those living in private accommodation receiving housing allowances;
  - b. the benefits afforded those staying in rectories to be quantified e.g. rates and taxes, water, sewerage, refuse removal, electricity, telephone, internet connection, domestic services, garden services, short term home content insurance, alarm system, etc.;
  - c. a further comparison on taxability between staying in a rectory and receiving a fully taxable housing allowance to be undertaken;
- ii. These benefits to be assessed and reviewed annually and the housing allowance to be adjusted accordingly;
- iii. That this be introduced at the beginning of the next financial year.

Revd Robin Behrens proposed an amendment to (i) of the proposal:

“To respectfully request that the Finance Committee be tasked to investigate the amount that clergy can claim for housing allowance on the basis of: ...”

Archdeacon Mark Derry seconded this proposal.  
The amendment was put and accepted.

Revd Dr Eddie Daniels proposed an amendment to the proposal:  
That (iii) of the proposal be deleted

Robin Behrens seconded this proposal.  
The amendment was put and accepted.

Revd Canon Andrew Watt expressed concern that what might initially be guidelines could become regulation without the necessary debate.

The motion was put and accepted.

### **35. REPORTS**

**i. HEALTH AND WELFARE – Linda Ncaca**

It was moved that this report be received

**ii. ANGLICAN WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP - Mrs Nomalungelo Ntlokwana**

It was moved that this report be received

**iii. DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED BY ARCHDEACONRIES**

(The Acts Chapter IV Paragraph 9. (b))

Elected Representatives not in the report:

**The Bay Archdeaconry**

Revd Claire Phelps

Mr Randolph Koen

The Diocesan Council members elected by Archdeaconries schedule was accepted with the addition of the representatives for the Bay Archdeaconries.

- iv. **DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL - Mr Zukisa Jeyi**  
It was moved that this report be received
- v. **RETIREMENT ACCOMMODATION FUND - The Very Revd Dudley Greenshields**  
It was moved that this report be received.
- vi. **DIOCESAN BENEVOLENT FUND - The Very Revd Dudley Greenshields**  
It was moved that this report be received.
- vii. **GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY & BOYS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY - Mrs Nobantu Makunga**  
Archdeacon Zweli Tom said that this is to be taken as information shared with the Diocese and not an official report as this Society has not been accepted as an official Diocesan Organisation.  
  
Revd Canon Relton Groepe moved that this information be received.
- viii. **THE HOUSE OF RESURRECTION HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME - The Revd Nicolette Leonard**  
It was moved that this report be received.
- ix. **TRAINING FOR MINISTRIES - The Revd Canon Andrew Watt**
  - a. **LAY MINISTRY - Revd. Zola Nanana**
  - b. **FELLOWSHIP OF VOCATION AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT CONFERENCE - The Very Revd Sharon Nell**
  - c. **ORDINANDS - The Revd Fumanekile Kula**
  - d. **TFM - INTERNSHIP TRAINING - Archdeacon David Grobbelaar**
  - e. **DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING FOR MINISTRIES: CONTINUING CLERGY EDUCATION – The Revd Dave Doveton**
  - f.  
It was moved that these reports be received.
- x. **ST MARY MAGDALENE GUILD - Ms Boniswa Poni**  
It was moved that this report be received.
- xi. **CHURCH MENS' SOCIETY - Mr Rodney White**  
It was moved that this report be received.
- xii. **MOTHERS' UNION CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE - Mrs M.C. Nopece**  
It was moved that this report be received.
- xiii. **SELF- SUPPORTING CLERGY - Revd Fumanekile Kula**  
It was moved that this report be received.
- xiv. **DIOCESAN COUNCIL – Mr Peter Hopper**  
It was moved that this report be received.
- xv. **DIOCESAN TRUSTS BOARD – Mr Peter Hopper**  
It was moved that this report be received.

Question:

Archdeacon Mark Derry asked for further information regarding the sale of Parsonsvele.

The Registrar responded:

Two offers were received and an offer of R13,6 million accepted. The particulars of the offer were enjoined by confidentiality. R33 200pm was being paid in municipal rates and was one of the primary reasons for selling the property.

The money has been invested at 6.47%. It is still to be decided by Trusts Board as to how the money will be invested. Investment falls under the restriction of the purpose of the original grant.

7.5 ha of land have been retained and needs to be surveyed. This land is on the side which is still developable.

A vote of appreciation was brought by Ernie Sharp for the writing off of debt owed by parishes.

xvi. **CHANGE OF DIOCESAN NAME – The Revd Sipambo Ludidi**

It was moved that this report be received with the correction in spelling of “Diocese of iBhayi”

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Diocesan Secretary to move that this schedule be approved.

The reports were accepted in *en bloc*.

**The Registrar proposed that Synod goes into Conference**

Proposed: The Registrar, Roger Schärages

Seconded: The Chancellor, Adv. Daryl Newton

The secretaries of Synod were unanimously voted in as Secretaries of Conference.

**MOTION TO SYNOD**

Proposed: The Dean – The Very Revd Dudley Greenshields

Seconded: Margaret Rumsey

That this Synod, aware of the two earthquakes of more than 7.5 on the Richter Scale that occurred in the same district of Nepal within a very short space of time and the devastation this has caused:

1. Sends condolences to the President and people of Nepal for the loss of life and the injuries caused to people. We express our shock at the destruction caused to homes, buildings and businesses.
2. Wishes to assure the President and people of Nepal of our prayers, and ask him to notify us, through the Nepalese embassy, of any practical help that we could offer.

The motion was put and accepted.

## **OMNIBUS OF MOTIONS**

Proposed: The Dean, The Very Revd Dudley Greenshields

Seconded: The Provost, The Very Revd Sharon Nell

That this Synod:

1. Expresses thanks to our Bishop for the way in which he presided at Synod and for his inspirational Charge;
2. congratulates our Bishop on the occasion of the 18<sup>th</sup> year of his consecration on the 30<sup>th</sup> May and for his 14<sup>th</sup> year as Bishop of Port Elizabeth;
3. sends greetings to our Metropolitan, Archbishop Thabo praying for God's wisdom and grace for all the challenges he faces, courage to maintain Biblical faith and thanks him for his visit to the Diocese in November last year;
4. extends thanks to Bishop Brian from the Diocese of George for agreeing to preach at our Morning Prayers and for the inspirational messages and challenging discussion questions;
5. sends congratulations to our new Mayor, Counsellor Danny Jordaan wishing him well with his new appointment and prays for God's blessing on him;
6. sends greetings to the Premier of our Province, Mr Pumulo Masualle, praying God's wisdom for the challenges he faces;
7. sends greetings to the monthly Bishop's prayer meeting for our city;
8. thanks the Diocesan Secretary/Treasurer and the staff of the Diocesan Office for a job well done and declares that the Diocesan Office will be closed on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June so that the staff may have a well-earned rest;
9. thanks the Synod Manager, Mr Allan Anderson, and the staff of St John the Baptist for all the work they did and the cheerful way in which it was done;
10. thanks the Archdeacons for leading Morning and Evening Prayer during Synod;
11. extends thanks to the Rector, Wardens, Councillors and Parishioners of St. John's for allowing us the use of their facilities for Synod and for all the help they have provided, for all the music during Synod, for the closing service and for the Diocesan Choir for singing;
12. extends thanks to the Provost, Wardens, Parish Council and Choir from the Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin for the opening Eucharist on Wednesday;
13. thanks the Rector, Wardens, Parish Council and Caterers from St Saviour's for providing the finger supper on Wednesday evening;
14. thanks the Mother's Union for providing lunch on Thursday;
15. thanks the Rector, Wardens, Parish Council and Caterers of St. Stephen's for providing the lunch on Friday;
16. thanks the Rector, Wardens, Parish Council and Caterers of St. Francis Xavier for providing the lunch on Saturday;
17. thanks the Anglican Women's Fellowship for providing morning and afternoon teas for Synod on Thursday;
18. thanks the Mary Magdalene Guild for providing morning and afternoon teas for Synod on Friday;

19. thanks the Anglican Youth Fellowship for providing morning tea at Synod on Saturday;
20. extends thanks to the Bernard Mizeki Guild for their kind donation to the costs of catering at Synod;
21. thanks the Bishop's Executive Officer, The Very Reverend Sharon Nell, and all those involved in making our Synod run so smoothly;
22. expresses thanks to Mrs Frankie Simpson for the "Synod Synergy" during Synod and for her hard work relating to the iindaba;
23. expresses thanks to the legal team for giving up of their time to attend Synod and for always doing this so willingly;
24. expresses thanks to the car guards and the ladies who worked in the kitchen;
25. expresses thanks to the scrutineers, Archdeacon Mark Derry and Mr Charles Qoto for their sterling job;
26. wishes Revd Mthetheleli Vena good health and a well-earned retirement;
27. wishes Archdeacon Ste Rini, Revd's Sipambo Ludidi and Michael Julius well as this is their last Synod before they retire next year.

The Provost, The Very Reverend Sharon Nell proposed an addition:

"Thanks the Dean for his hard work and leadership during Synod and everything leading up to Synod."

Proposed: Sharon Nell

Seconded: The Registrar – Mr Roger Schärages

The motion was put and accepted.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF CONFERENCE:**

Archdeacon Mark Derry moved that the Minutes of Conference had been scrutinised and be accepted. Seconded by Mr Charles Qoto.

**The Registrar moved that Conference returned to Synod. The Chancellor, Adv Daryl Newton seconded the proposal.**

#### **xvii. SCHEDULE OF PARISHES (The Acts Chapter VIII Para 1)**

The Diocesan Secretary moved that this schedule be approved.  
The Schedule of Parishes was accepted.

#### **xviii. CLERGY ROLL**

**The following alterations were noted:**

##### **Omissions:**

Charles Church	1991
Neil Scott	
Keith Knipe (R)	

Dave Doveton  
Michael Julius 1990

**Corrections:**

Howard Lancaster 1970 is not an Honorary Canon of the Diocese.  
Nombulelo Dwane 2012 is a priest not a deacon.

The Clergy Roll was accepted with the alterations.

**xix. SCALE OF STIPENDS (The Acts chapter II Para 7 (h))**

The Diocesan Secretary moved that this schedule be received.

This scale of stipends was accepted as tabled.

**Synod moved into the church at 15h30 for the closing Eucharist.**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes for Saturday 23 May 2015 had been scrutinized, and were confirmed as a correct record.

**PROMULGATION**

At Divine Worship in the Church of St John the Baptist, the Bishop ratified and promulgated the proceedings of the Twenty-Third Session of the Diocesan Synod, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. He then dissolved Synod.