

Report of the Twenty-First Youth Synod Session

Held May 2, 2009 at St. Christopher's, Burlington

Introduction of:

Chair	The Reverend Bill Mous
Chancellor	The Venerable Dr. Stephen Hopkins
MCs	Steff Browning and Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh
Diocesan Program Consultants	Christyn Perkons and Joyce Wilton
Secretary/Tech Crew	Jamie Barnes and Brandon Prodger
Youth Synod Coordinator	Mary Gordon
Youth Synod Council Coordinator	The Reverend Matthew Griffin
Youth Local Planning Coordinators	Simone Griffiths, Rob Pawson, Sandi Smith

Voting Delegates:

Elliott Armstrong	Rosie Hopkins**	Sarah Noiseux
Mac Armstrong	Peter Howard	Katrice Nolan
Stuart Armstrong**	Charlotte Irwin-James	Emily Oliver
Thomas Armstrong	Janine Jackson	Jeremy Phillips
Nick Arseneau	Emily Johnson**	Carolyn Pugh
Dani Atkinson	Jeremy Kennedy	Joseph Pugh
Vanessa Bassett-Bradley	Derek La Hay**	Jammal Pusey
Whitney Bassett-Bradley	John Lehocki	Nathalie Reid
Maddy Bentham	Jess Letman	Laura Robson
Steff Browning	Barbara Jean Lick	Thomas Rolfe
Erin Buttrum	Mike Lickers	Kohdy Rusk
Lauren Clark	Ben Lloyd	Kate Smyth
Lenox Daley	Brandon Lloyd	Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh**
Nate Duliban	Justin Lloyd	Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh**
Alexia Ferraro	Duncan MacKinnon	Patrick Taylor
Hilary Finch	Aidan Maloney	Candice Toth
Mat Fisher	Tricia Manning	Alex Urquhart
Tom Frampton	Chris McDevitt	Lily Vermolen
Andrew Garland	Matt McDonald	Zach Vernon
Bre Gordon	Sarah McDonald	Monica Volkov
Eric Greene	Cory McGee	Rob Warren
Monica Griffin	Fletcher McGee	Will Wells
Richard Griffin	Aley Meade	Dale Wilbur
Becky Halliwell	Justin Michael**	Ryan Williams
Ashley Hatcher	Emily Moar	Connor Wilson
Nick Head-Petersen	Allison Mondloch	Diana Wood
Deirdre Henry	Kevin Murray	Sabrina Yott
Ben Holtam-Prodger	James Noble	

** Youth Synod Council Members

Other Adult Observers:

James Beattie	Small Group Leader
The Right Reverend Michael Bird	Bishop of Niagara
The Venerable Lynne Corfield	Archdeacon, Brock Region
Belle Daley	Youth Ministry Committee
Steph DeForest	Small Group Leader
Donna Ellis	Youth Ministry Committee
Jen Harper	Small Group Leader
Keith Halliwell	Small Group Leader
Laura Harrison	Small Group Leader
Phil Jones	Small Group Leader
The Reverend Kathy Morgan	Regional Dean, Mohawk
Anna Ryder	Small Group Leader
Sarah Scapinello	Small Group Leader/Youth Ministry Committee
Jane Wyse	Diocesan Staff

Chancellor's Charge:

- Over 90 Delegates gathered to focus in the theme "One to Many" – no one person stands alone
- Every person in the room has power to make change; Youth Synod is the place to seize opportunities and to network with others who are passionate about the same issue.
- Introduced Bishop Michael
- Bishop Speaks
 - The Bishop reminded the delegates that last year was his first Youth Synod as Bishop and he didn't feel like he knew much. A year later, he joked that he knows it all.
 - Bishop Michael added that Youth Synod is a place that nourishes him, and that he had been looking forward to joining the delegate for a dose of inspiration. He acknowledged that the work of Youth Synod reinvigorates his own passions about justice.
 - Thanks to everybody for inspiring him.
 - Wished every blessing on the work of Youth Synod and said he was delighted to be here.

The Chair - Call for nominations:

- General Synod meets in Halifax this year
- More information is available with Steph DeForest
- Need to be a delegate to Diocesan Synod to be nominated for General Synod.
- Christyn Perkons has the nomination forms and the voting will be done this afternoon

Norms for Youth Synod

- Encourage to pay attention and listen attentively
- Respect and recognize the need for safe space.
- Respectful open and honest conversation is welcome.
- Reminders about Youth Synod process
 - Motion read in entirety
 - Mover/Seconder to speak
 - Floor open to debate – Go to microphone that best matches your height and speak when the Chair acknowledges you
 - Identify your name and your parish
 - Amendment Zone – Matthew Griffin and Phil Jones as advisors for those writing amendments

Motion to Give Rights to the Floor for Observers:

Phil Jones	Belle Daley	James Beattie
The Venerable Lynne Corfield	Sarah Scapinello	Jen Harper
The Reverend Kathy Morgan	Anna Ryder	Laura Harrison
Steph DeForest	Donna Ellis	Keith Halliwell
	Jane Wyse	

“that the observers listed above be granted rights to the floor..”

The house granted overwhelming consent.

1. CONSUMERISM AND HOW IT RELATES TO STEWARDSHIP IN DELEGATES' PARISHES

WHEREAS: Almost everyone buys many things that we do not really need, and Jesus reminds us that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also (Mt 6.21).

AND WHEREAS: The amount of money spent on unnecessary purchases could be spent on better things, or for other people who need basic necessities.

AND WHEREAS: Stewardship committees are a great way to advocate for, and share stories of, non-consumption with fellow parishioners and friends.

AND WHEREAS: Youth Synod has previously passed a motion against buying bottled water: while environmental in focus, this motion shows our long history of working against consumerism.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Delegates cut back spending on unnecessary items, both major and minor expenses (from a new PS3 game system or a new iPod to a daily Tim Horton's coffee, fast food instead of bringing food with us, hair products) and donate either a personal set amount or percentage of the money that would have been normally spent on minor purchases to their home parishes or other charities.
2. Delegates join or help to form stewardship committees (including at least one youth) and actively and creatively participate in the activities of those committees.
3. Delegates participate in sharing stories about mindful consumerism and why they are not spending this amount of money using the email address: whatididntbuy@gmail.com.

Moved by: Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton
Seconded by: Stuart Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga

Discussion

- *Be mindful of how much money you spend on consumer products vs. donating.*
- *Forgetting that it's not just about money, it's also about skills and talents.*
- *Economy relies on us to consume goods, don't want to pull support from them.*
- *About shopping smart and not buying the wrong things.*
- *Helping the economy.*
- *Our generation is the generation that will make change. It's easier for us to get new messages and concepts. This is wonderful way to get involved and use the money we do have for the greater good.*
- *If it's too easy for you to give, you're not giving enough.*

Procedural Motion

Motion to vote clause-by-clause

In Favour: 62
Opposed: 11
Motion carried.

- *Nickels and Dimes do go a long way. Spare change can do a lot of good.*
- *Need to be careful by voting clause by clause. Depleting power of motion if you pass one and not another.*
- *Raise hand if you think there is something you can give up to make a difference (about 50% raised). "You can't do everything but you can do something"*
- *Voting clause by clause is an easy way out, water down motion.*
- *Question: "What would stewardship committees be doing?"*
 - *Advocacy and information group, but it can be whatever you want it to be.*

Friendly Amendment: Delegates participate in sharing stories about mindful consumerism and why they are not spending this amount of money using the email address: whatididntbuy.ys09@gmail.com.

Moved by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias Guelph

- *What will be done with the stories?*
 - *Purpose of email is to hear their stories, and at future Youth Synods read them out, post on Zipsqueal, put in to action our plans.*
- *Motion is about consumerism and how it relates to stewardship.*

Call the question

Clause 1:

IN FAVOUR: 78 PASSED

OPPOSED: 4

Clause 2:

IN FAVOUR: 63 PASSED

OPPOSED: 16

Clause 3:

IN FAVOUR: 63 PASSED

OPPOSED: 21

2. BISHOP'S VISION/CONNECTION TO YOUTH MINISTRY

WHEREAS: Diocesan youth ministry has embodied a flourishing culture of innovation by modeling and teaching how to take intelligent risks and to try out new ideas in programming, in worship, in leadership, in stewardship, in interpersonal skills, and in myriad other ways;

AND WHEREAS: The actions of Diocesan Youth Ministry show a longstanding track record of commitment to prophetic social justice-making e.g. Youth Synod influencing Diocesan Synod's decision to include issues of social-justice making in its two-day synods, advocating for the full inclusion of gays and lesbians in the entire life of the church and for the ordination of women to the episcopacy, speaking out against sweatshop labour and advocating for fair appeals for refugees, supporting the use of fair trade products, and several poverty reduction motions and actions;

AND WHEREAS: Youth ministry has been a leader in moving toward effective resource management in terms of greening youth ministry events and parishes, of managing volunteers, of bringing food for food banks and generally living out of a theology of gratitude for the abundant blessings which God has given to us;

AND WHEREAS: Youth ministry has helped to give training and opportunities for Christians, young and old, in outstanding leadership for ministry for both volunteer staff and event participants via the Youth Leadership Training program; Youth Synod in general and its Young Adult Mentor program in particular; the Niagara Youth Conference; SpiritQuest; the Diocesan Synod Orientation Program; and many, many more events and programs as well as advocating for leadership training for clergy and laity through Youth Synod;

AND WHEREAS: We are renowned across Canada for both creating and advocating for contemporary, life-changing worship services that fully engage laity and clergy in designing, creating and participating in transformative liturgy that is Spirit-driven, affirming, inclusive, diverse, and highly participatory as well as for training events designed to help participants develop liturgical skills and best practices;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2009 affirms the Diocesan vision and resolves to continue its leadership role as the vision is fully realised in the Diocese of Niagara.

2. Youth Synod 2009 asks the Bishop to affirm his commitment to living out the diocesan vision in partnership with the youth of the Diocese of Niagara through Diocesan Youth Ministry.

Moved by: Stuart Armstrong, St. John the Divine, Cayuga

Seconded by: Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton

Discussion

- *Everybody in the room as been affected by a youth event.*
- *Point of clarification on 2nd clause*
 - *Asking Bishop to help us help him.*
- *Keep going*

Friendly Amendment:

3. That Youth Synod 2009 invites Bishop Michael and all future Bishops to youth events and that we regularly reinforce how much we appreciate his/her presence.

Moved by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias Guelph

Call the question

IN FAVOUR: 83 PASSED

OPPOSED: 0

3. INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE IN CHURCH/NON-DEROGATORY LANGUAGE

WHEREAS: It is common for many people to use words such as “gay” and “retarded” in the wrong context (e.g. as synonyms for the word “stupid”). It is profoundly disrespectful to use these words in the wrong context and youth should be encouraged to try and stop using these terms in inappropriate ways;

AND WHEREAS: Our faith has long taught that how we speak matters very deeply, as we can see in many places in the Bible: “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34) and “Let your speech always be with grace” (Colossians 4:6);

AND WHEREAS: Scripture is clear that God is beyond gender: “So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1.27);

AND WHEREAS: Youth Synod has had a history of inclusive language in past motions and continues to be committed to ensuring that we speak and act to include all of God’s people.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Delegates no longer use words such as “gay” and “retarded” pejoratively as synonyms for “stupid”.
2. Delegates encountering others speaking this way will ask those people to stop doing so.
3. Delegates try to use both male and female pronouns for God and always keep an open mind about the gender of God.
4. Worship at youth events will use gender-neutral language and a balance of pronouns to refer to God.
5. Youth Synod 2009 asks the Bishop and the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara to commit to using gender-neutral language and a balance of male and female pronouns in all future diocesan worship services.

Moved by: Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton

Seconded by: Rosie Hopkins, St. Christopher’s, Burlington

Discussion

- *Retarded means slow, not stupid. The word has a legitimate use - used in music all the time.*
- *Show of hands, who has been in a hallway and heard those terms. 100%*
- *How many of you told that person what they said was inappropriate. 20%*
- *Everyone has slipped a few times. Recognize you're using language hurtfully and change your language.*

Call the question

IN FAVOUR: 79 PASSED
OPPOSED: 4

4. HOMOPHOBIA

WHEREAS: Homophobia is the irrational fear of, aversion to or discrimination against homosexuality or homosexuals;

AND WHEREAS: The Bible says in Malachi 2:10 "Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another?";

AND WHEREAS: In 2005, 2003, 2001 and 1995, Youth Synod advocated for the blessing of same gender unions, and Bishop Michael announced at Diocesan Synod in March 2008 that the Diocese is creating rites for the blessing of civilly married same sex unions, and that he intends to authorize the use of those rites shortly after their completion.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Delegates will write to their local municipal board members asking them to proclaim May 17, 2010 as international day against homophobia and to fly the rainbow flag on that day.
2. Delegates will petition their high school to fly the rainbow flag from May 15-18th (the 17th is a Sunday this year).
3. Delegates will remove from their daily vocabulary language that would exclude, antagonize or discriminate against people of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered ("GLBT") community such as the words gay, dike, fag, pansy, etc. and actively intervene when others use such language.
4. Delegates will sign the Safe Schools Petition, calling for concrete action to provide a safe environment for GLBT students and staff as well as those perceived to be GLBT. (Petition found at: <http://www.egale.ca/index.asp?lang=E&menu=1&item=1176>)

Moved by: Justin Michaels, St. Matthias, Guelph
Seconded by: Cole Sutton-Greenhalgh, All Saints, Hamilton

Discussion

- *Must be prepared to put in the effort that it requires to uphold the motion. It takes a lot of convincing*

Procedural Motion

Motion to vote clause-by-clause

In Favour: 32

Opposed: 48

Motion defeated.

- *Would like to discuss ways to intervene when somebody does something hurtful. How to open dialogue, and find out where it is coming from for them.*
- *We have to be careful how we throw around the word 'homophobia'.*

- *The next step in a process that has already begun.*
- *Alerting us all to privacy issues re 3rd clause*
- *It is probably an issue but you are not hearing about it.*
- *“Everybody uses those words” is not an acceptable excuse.*
- *2nd clause will end poorly – will we actually ask our schools to fly the flag; will they agree to fly it and if so, will that cause more problems for gay students?*
- *Question: If we can't refer people as 'gay', what can we refer them to?*
 - *Justin responds: Part of 3rd clause is not using words in a certain context..*

Friendly Amendment:

1. Delegates will write to their local municipal board members, **MPs, and MPPs** asking them to proclaim May 17, 2010 as International Day Against Homophobia and to fly the rainbow flag on that day.
5. Delegates will offer peer support to all those in the GLBT community who have been hurt by homophobic comments and views.

Moved by: Carolyn Pugh, St. Matthias Guelph

Procedural Motion

Motion to vote clause-by-clause

In Favour: 58
Opposed: 25
Motion carried

- *Catholic High School would not fly a flag. Request answer in closing comments*
- *Flying flag not gay pride, but recognition*
- *Point of clarification: where will we obtain a rainbow flag? Answer in closing remarks*

Call the question

1st clause:
IN FAVOUR: 72 PASSED
OPPOSED: 12
 2nd clause:
IN FAVOUR: 56 PASSED
OPPOSED: 30
 3rd clause:
IN FAVOUR: 82 PASSED
OPPOSED: 4

4th clause:
IN FAVOUR: 77 PASSED
OPPOSED: 6
 5th clause:
IN FAVOUR: 82 PASSED
OPPOSED: 3

5. YOUTH OUTREACH MOTION

WHEREAS: Youth ministry events are intended to create safe spaces where we can grow as individuals and leaders, explore and get excited about our faith, and worship in ways different than at church;

AND WHEREAS: Relationships in faith communities are important because they allow youth to connect with others who share similar values and get to know each other on a deeper level than may otherwise be possible;

AND WHEREAS: It is important for those new to youth ministry to feel welcomed and safe at youth events in order for them to participate in these relationships;

AND WHEREAS: In the first Christian community, "the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul" (acts 4.32), we see the ideal presented that we are joined through our faith as one and must know and care for one another.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2009 asks the Diocesan Program Consultants to coordinate youth ambassadors at all major diocesan events to talk up why it is a great thing to be part of Diocesan Youth Ministry events and what youth will gain from participating in Diocesan Youth Ministry events, and to support that, each Youth Synod 2009 delegate will volunteer to be a youth ambassador for at least two diocesan events in 2009-2010.
2. Youth Synod asks the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee to create teams to go out to parishes (as invited) to make presentations about the benefits and joys of participating in Diocesan Youth Ministry events, and to support that, each Youth Synod 2009 delegate will volunteer to be part of a team.
3. Each Youth Synod 2009 delegate will, at any Diocesan Youth Ministry event she/he attends from now on, meet and speak to at least one person whom she/he has not met before, and that Diocesan Youth Ministry staff and volunteers will ensure that event participants are reminded to do this at the beginning of each event.
4. Youth Synod 2009 asks Youth Ministry Program Consultants to arrange for non-staff youth greeters at all Diocesan Youth Ministry events, and to support that, each Youth Synod 2009 delegate will volunteer to be such a greeter.

Moved by: Rosie Hopkins, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Seconded by: Derek La Hay, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Discussion

- *3^d clause: Diocesan events, go out and make friends!*
- *Youth events are a great place to come for people who are shy to really shine and be themselves. I'm really shy but I feel very comfortable at youth events, even the first time I go to something, people are very welcoming*
- *Youth need a comfortable and safe space to talk about faith*
- *Participating in youth ministry events gives you a chance to eliminate pre-conceived notions*
- *Going to youth ministry events is also a wonderful way to eliminate the awkwardness of meeting new people because you know everyone will accept you as you are*
- *I come a long distance to get to youth ministry events and I do that because they meet my needs in many ways but we need to remember that for youth outside of the Hamilton area, travel time can be a issue and cost can be an issue. I spend about \$30 in gas every time I come in for an event*
- *Program diversity is important to being an ambassador*

Friendly Amendment:

5. That delegates and participants actively try to bring one or more friends to future youth events.

Moved by Becky Halliwell, St. Matthias, Guelph

- *Bursaries available to help youth attend all the various youth events and it's important to remember and remind one another that the bursary money is there so that no one is excluded from youth ministry events because of cost.*

Call the question

IN FAVOUR: 87 PASSED

OPPOSED: 0

6. BULLYING: A CALL TO ACTION

WHEREAS: bullying is seen as a widespread problem in schools and among youth and is an issue that has touched many at Youth Synod either directly or through friends and peers;

AND WHEREAS: 34% of students in grades 7 to 11 say they are bullied within a school year, and 27% say they have been bullied online;

AND WHEREAS: bullying is very hard for adults to catch and prevent; especially online and non-violent bullying;

AND WHEREAS: 81% of bullying happens in a peer group where friends are pressured into keeping silent about the actions of their peers;

AND WHEREAS: 83% of students who have watched bullying say it made them uncomfortable and 57% of the time when someone intervenes in a bullying situation, it stops within 10 seconds—and peers intervene more often than adults;

AND WHEREAS: the suicide rate among students from ages 10 to 19 is on the rise, and research shows that chronic peer abuse is an additional risk factor for childhood and adolescent suicide for both victims and perpetrators.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The delegates of Youth Synod 2009 commit to intervening when seeing or hearing about acts of bullying.
2. The delegates of Youth Synod 2009 will be mindful of what they put on Facebook, Zipsqueal, MSN and other websites.
3. Youth Synod asks the Program Consultants to provide training on how to deal with bullying (both at and away from youth events) to youth ministry volunteer staff.
4. Youth Synod 2009 asks the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee to address the issue of bullying at events such as The Gathering, NYC, YLTP, etc.

Moved by: Derek Le Hay, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Seconded by: Diana Wood, Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton

Discussion

Friendly Amendment:

5. That Youth Synod delegates are encouraged to join an existing anti-bullying group in their school or parish (or help create one if none exists) in which they will discuss cyber bullying, physical bullying, verbal bullying, etc.

Moved by Jammal Pusey, St. Simon's, Oakville

- *Not time for personal stories, time to debate the motion*
- *The most you need to say is a little comment, and you can stop any future repercussions.*

Procedural Motion

Motion to vote clause-by-clause

In Favour: 32

Opposed: 51

Motion defeated

- *3^d clause will be pointless unless delegates bring issues to staff.*

Request to Amend

Request denied by Chair – Youth Synod only permits one amendment per motion

- *Expand interpretation of intervene. Make sure you get out and help people. Use the power you have to not let it happen.*
- *Find and use a support system. Find the people who are here who you can talk to.*

Call the question

IN FAVOUR: 84 PASSED
OPPOSED: 1

7. END THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

WHEREAS: Genocide is the deliberate and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, religious, or national group;

AND WHEREAS: Genocide in Darfur has killed 400,000 people to date, and displaced more than 2.5 million people since 2003;

AND WHEREAS: After the Holocaust, our world leaders pledged that genocide would never happen again, but since that day incidences of genocide have occurred without intervention from the worldwide community in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and now Darfur;

AND WHEREAS: God commands us to "Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends," (John 15:12-13);

AND WHEREAS: God calls us to be responsible to help every person to bring about God's reign;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. All delegates will become a voice for Darfur by sending a post card to the Prime Minister and their MPs and/or will call 1-800-GENOCIDE to show that we join the Save Darfur! campaign in supporting: *the promotion of **peace**, the **protection** of civilians, **punishment** for the perpetrators of genocide, **prevention** of future genocides*
2. Delegates will become a member of the Save Darfur Coalition to get updates on how they can help work against the genocide in Darfur (savedarfur.org) and sign the petition to urge China to stop protecting Sudan and aiding the genocide in Darfur (<http://action.savedarfur.org/campaign/chinaolymp>).
3. Delegates will host a film screening at their home parishes and/or schools using the Darfur: A Call to Action video and discussion guide and urge the parish and/or school to take action to help Darfur, including, for parishes, to become a Congregation of Conscience <http://www.savedarfur.org/page/s/faith> postcards.
4. Delegates will write to their local newspaper about the crisis in Darfur, what they are doing to try to stop it, and the importance of covering the Darfur crisis in our media.
5. Delegates will pray daily for an end to the crisis in Darfur.

Moved by: Emily Johnson, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Seconded by: Sabrina Yott, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Discussion

- *Considered the motion we just passed on bullying, we should stand up for this.*
- *Passed a motion three years ago at Youth Synod regarding Darfur. What have we done about it?*
- *Justice needs to be served, Law & Order needs to be pursued*
- *Responsibility to put forward a message of love as Christians.*

IN FAVOUR: 93 PASSED
OPPOSED: 0

8. HIV/AIDS

WHEREAS: HIV/AIDS kills over 3 million people a year and people who have HIV/AIDS need help to find a cure so they can live.

AND WHEREAS: God once said “every soul that eateth that which died of itself, or that which was torn with beasts, whether it be one of Your own country, or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean, until the even: he shall be clean.”

AND WHEREAS: HIV/AIDS is not only a medical condition, but also involves a social stigma where people with HIV/AIDS are discriminated against, and deemed “unclean”.

AND WHEREAS: We are called to reach out to those in need, just as Jesus reached out to lepers and others that society considered unclean.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod delegates will learn more about HIV/AIDS, and make a presentation to their parish council about how their parish can become involved in working against the spread of HIV/AIDS and helping those affected;
2. Youth Synod delegates will also form discussion and action groups in their schools, to work within their schools to help those with HIV/AIDS

Moved by: John Lehocki, St. James/St. Brendan's, St. Colburne

Seconded by: Richard Griffin, All Saints, Hamilton

Discussion

- *What about those who don't want to be helped?*
- *Before you do a presentation, do your research and get your facts straight.*

Procedural Motion

Ashley Smith asked that the motion be tabled until Youth Synod 2010

In Favour: 72 PASSED

Opposed: 14

Motion tabled.

9. YOUTH SYNOD PRINTING

WHEREAS: At Youth Synod 2009 there was a motion directing Youth Ministry Program Consultants to reduce paper by not mailing out packages but providing info online;

AND WHEREAS: Many delegates have not brought a copy of the motion and the agenda with them to Youth Synod

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Youth Synod 2009 directs the program staff to make green printing decisions and still make sure delegates have what they need for Youth Synod.

Moved by: Christyn Perkons, Program Staff

Seconded by: Matthew Griffin, Youth Synod Committee Coordinator

Procedural Motion

See below

10. POST YOUTH SYNOD COMMUNICATION

WHEREAS: We are aware that communication between Youth Synod and our individual parishes poses a challenge to us;

AND WHEREAS: We are called to be prophetic voices in our church community;

AND WHEREAS: We have learned that one person can make a difference.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod council will provide practical materials to aid in our post Youth Synod communications.
2. We request a page be dedicated to the description and depiction of Youth Synod in the Niagara Anglican
3. A volunteer group convened today and at subsequent Youth Synods by the program consultants to produce material for use in newsletters and the Niagara Anglican
4. Youth Synod Committee will also provide a draft letter reporting the business of Youth Synod highlighting areas in which youth have agreed to take action.

Moved by: Steff Browning, St. John's, Thorold

Seconded by: Sabrina Yott, St. Christopher's, Burlington

Procedural Motion

See below

11. ANIMAL PROTECTION

WHEREAS: Because of the current recession, more animals are being abused, starved, and abandoned on the streets;

AND WHEREAS: God calls us to be stewards of all of creation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Delegates will bring a non-perishable food item for animals along with other food items to youth ministry events
2. Delegates will volunteer at least 10 hours at a local animal shelter of the next year.

Moved by: Ashley Hatchel, St. Pauls, Dunnville

Seconded by: Matt Fisher, St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls

12. THE LORDS PRAYER AT YOUTH SYNOD

WHEREAS: Youth Ministry is largely focused on community and worship;

AND WHEREAS: Youth Ministry worship often encourages participants to recite the Lord's Prayer in the form that they are familiar;

AND WHEREAS: Many participants find the worship to be "interrupted" when we fumble over the different versions we know;

AND WHEREAS: Because we invite several forms of the prayer, we do not project/print any in our worships leaving those who do not remember the Lord's prayer to feel left out of the community.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That Youth Ministry adopt one version of the Lord's Prayer at all youth events and that the version be chosen at this Youth Synod 2009 by way of vote.

Moved by: Lennox Daley, All Saints, Hamilton

Seconded by: Nick Arseneau, St. Philip's by the Lake, Grimsby

13. CALLING THE QUESTION

WHEREAS: Democracy grants a voice to all participants, including the minority opinion;

AND WHEREAS: Youth Synod is a democratic process;

AND WHEREAS: A thorough and in depth discussion of motions, in which all voices have a chance to be heard, is necessary for a meaning Youth Synod experience;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The rules of order be changed so that votes on calling the question, require at least a 2/3s majority.

Moved by: Justin Michael, St. Matthias, Guelph

Seconded by: *

Procedural Motion

That the above five motions be referred to Youth Synod Council.

Moved by: Alex Urquhart, St. Paul's, Dunnville

Seconded by: Barbara Jean Lick, St. Thomas, St. Catharines

In Favour: 78

Opposed: 6

Motion carried

Closing Remarks

The Right Reverend Michael Bird, Bishop:

- "Live with courage, act with justice and choose with love".
- For many of these motions we need to live with courage. Many call for justice making, and require us to be proclaimers of justice and love.
- Money is available to those who need it to attend diocesan youth events.
- Pleased with the definition of homophobia.

The Venerable Dr. Steve Hopkins, Chancellor:

- Impressed with quality of debate. People were very thoughtful before they spoke.
- Important that this be a safe place for people to tell their stories. Our whole story as a faith community is founded on a bullying incident.
- This is a place where we can talk about faith and spirituality freely. All are affirmed. The abusive power is resisted. Different commitments are made. Different values are expressed in word and deed.

The Rev. Bill Mous, Chair:

- What you have done today has been to put your faith into action. I encourage you to continue to do that once you leave this place.
- Thank you to the Chancellor for all his help and the MCs for their leadership and support