

NUMBER THREE

Friday, June 22, 2007

Errors/Omissions

June 20 – Bishop Njegovan is the Bishop of Brandon not the Bishop of Rupert's Land

June 21 – Joseph Harvey (deceased) was incorrectly identified as Joseph Henry

June 21 – In his homily during the closing worship the National Aboriginal Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, spoke about the spirituality of sacred places such as the junction of rivers. He asserted that such places are signs of life and hope, and reminders of our responsibility to ensure that access to water is safeguarded in a profit-driven society that commodifies it.

Primatial Election

Synod members gathered for Eucharist at Holy Trinity Church, Winnipeg. The Primate presided and the homilist was Archbishop Tom Morgan, retired Archbishop of Saskatoon.

Archbishop Morgan began his homily by observing that the day's scriptures (Numbers 11: 16-17, 24-39; Psalm 146; Ephesians 4: 1-8, 11-13; Mark 10: 42-45) provided "a framework" for the members' deliberations and voting during the election process.

Referring to the Gospel reading, he suggested that the Church would be "looking for a servant." From the Epistle he noted that the new Primate would have had to grasp the implications of "the baptismal ministry of the church." And Numbers intimated that the person elected ought to be "someone who has learned the art of delegation."

In an interesting reversal of more traditional readings of scripture, he suggested that members, and perhaps Canadian Anglicans generally, might consciously embrace the texts for the day so that they might become the kinds of people in heart and soul "being sought in the person elected." The Archbishop asked members to give a share of their collective Spirit to the person elected Primate.

Psalm 146, he said, expressed the hope that the Church might be known as a people for whom praise comes readily - "a wonderful environment into which to welcome a new Primate." He further suggested that Synod members "make every effort to let the Spirit bend your wills to maintain the bond of peace."

Similarly, drawing on St. Paul, he observed that “the unity of the Spirit is deeper than structures” and that the nature of the unity which undergirds the Church is one “which cannot be broken.” It has been “purchased by those who have made every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

In conclusion, Archbishop Morgan returned to servanthood and suggested that the church was seeking a Primate “with sufficient strength to be humble.”

The Prolocutor of General Synod, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, presided at the election. He expressed the appreciation of the Synod to Archbishop Morgan and appointed Robert Falby and Beth Bilson as assessors and Pat Johnston as chief scrutineer.

The Balloting

The balloting proceeded through five ballots, the results of which were:

First Ballot

Number of votes cast

Laity 138 (70 needed to elect)
 Clergy 115 (59 needed to elect)

George Bruce

Laity 9
 Clergy 14

Fred Hiltz

Laity 57
 Clergy 40

Bruce Howe

Laity 18
 Clergy 5

Victoria Matthews

Laity 54
 Clergy 56

Second Ballot

Number of votes cast

Laity 138 (70 needed to elect)
 Clergy 116 (59 needed to elect)

George Bruce

Laity 4
 Clergy 1

Fred Hiltz

Laity 69
 Clergy 49

Bruce Howe

Laity 5
 Clergy 1

Victoria Matthews

Laity 60
 Clergy 64

Third Ballot

Number of votes cast

Laity 137 (70 needed to elect)
 Clergy 115 (59 needed to elect)

Fred Hiltz

Laity 73
 Clergy 53

Victoria Matthews

Laity 64
 Clergy 62

The laity proposed a motion that the bishops be requested to send additional names. The motion was defeated. The clergy then proposed a similar motion, which was defeated.

The Prolocutor informed those voting that after three successive ballots with the vote split between two candidates, the House of Bishops would be required to elect.

Fourth Ballot

Number of votes cast

Laity 137 (70 needed to elect)

Clergy 116 (59 needed to elect)

Fred Hiltz

Laity 75

Clergy 56

Victoria Matthews

Laity 62

Clergy 60

The laity proposed a motion that the bishops be requested to send additional names. The motion was defeated.

Fifth Ballot

Number of votes cast

Laity 137 (70 needed to elect)

Clergy 116 (59 needed to elect)

Fred Hiltz

Laity 81

Clergy 60

Victoria Matthews

Laity 56

Clergy 56

The Prolocutor declared the Rt. Rev. Fred Hiltz elected.

Archbishop Hutchison introduced the Primate elect to the Synod. Sustained applause and shouts of joy followed. He noted that the Primate elect would not assume his role and function as Primate until following his installation on Monday evening, June 25.

In his brief remarks to the Synod the Primate elect expressed appreciation to the other primatial candidates. He pledged his untiring efforts in the new and demanding ministry to which he is called. He committed himself to keeping diverse voices within our Church “at the table.” He said he looked forward to getting to know the Church in central, western and

northern Canada and re-affirmed that he would continue to foster our full communion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. He expressed his appreciation to Archbishop Hutchison for his support of all the candidates and also expressed appreciation to other former primates from whom he had learned something of the work of the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. The Primate elect concluded the election process by pronouncing The Blessing.

Evening Sitting

Youth Presentation

Judy Steers, National Youth Initiatives Coordinator presented the details of the various partnership programs between the General Synod and the *Ask and Imagine* program based at Huron College in London, Ont. The various initiatives are rooted in local and diocesan programs.

Bishop Sue Moxley from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island spoke in support of these “good news initiatives” which have sparked and encouraged youth ministry in her diocese. The Synod will be asked to authorize additional funding for youth initiatives from the General Synod budget.

Special Presentation

Archbishop John Clarke and Bishop Anthony Burton make a special presentation to Bishop Charles Arthurson, the first Aboriginal Bishop in the Canadian Church who was attending his last General Synod.

Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP) Presentation

Donna Bomberry, Coordinator for Indigenous Ministries, introduced the Rev. Mervin Wolfleg who explained the significance of the entry of the Aboriginal representatives from the four directions. The Ven. Sydney Black brought greetings on the occasion of the celebration of the appointment of our Church's first National Indigenous Bishop, the Rt. Reverend Mark MacDonald. Deacon Gloria Moses then introduced members of ACIP. Donna Bomberry and the Primate gave an overview of the journey which led to the appointment of Bishop MacDonald (see File of Report 01). Representatives of many First Nations groups and communities presented gifts of welcome to Bishop MacDonald and members of his family.

Bishop MacDonald greeted Synod members in the native language of Alaska – “you are all my relatives.” He said he regarded his appointment as another beginning while reflecting on the hurtfulness experienced by Aboriginal People who have and still are often regarded as aliens in their own land. One of his many hopes is that through the efforts of all Aboriginal people doors of loss and alienation will be shut and doors of new life and hope will be opened.

Representatives of many Aboriginal communities gave gifts to all Synod members.

Nominees for Deputy Prolocutor

Ms. Heather Dixon, Canon Robert Falby, Matthew Koovisk, Captain Rob March, Sheila Vanderputten.

The sitting closed with night prayers in the Taizé tradition.