

DIOCESE OF ST MARK THE EVANGELIST

Minutes of the *THIRD SITTING* of the *TENTH DIOCESAN SYNOD* held at *Christ Church Cathedral, Polokwane,* on *Saturday, 1st September 2012*

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#### **Registration and Tea**

From 8h00 and while clergy and lay representatives were gathering, registration took place and refreshments were served.

With †Martin's permission to be absent from the third sitting of Synod, apologies were received from : Rev David Bertram.

#### **Morning Worship and Bible Study**

†Martin welcomed everyone present, whereafter Ven Jack Kudumela and Rev Eddie Barnett from the Lepelle Archdeaconry led the worship and Bible study, using the second study "Committed to God's Mission" from the booklet prepared by Growing the Church for the Anglicans Ablaze Conference. God is sending us out on a mission under Christ – are we ready ?

#### **SESSION 1**

##### **1. Quorum and Resumption of Synod**

Synod resumed at 09h00 after the Registrar had confirmed that there was a *quorum* present.

†Martin expressed condolences to those who had lost loved ones during the past week. A short time of prayer followed.

Mrs Rosina Ledwaba, Diocesan Mothers' Union President, was given the opportunity to address Synod and to introduce Mrs Rahab Mokgaetsi Masekoa as the new Mothers' Union Field Worker and co-ordinator. †Martin prayed for Mrs Masekoa and wished her well in her new role.

#### **Daily Routine**

##### **2. Approval of Minutes of *SECOND SITTING (23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012)***

The minutes of the *SECOND SITTING* of Synod held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012, which had been made available to all in the Third Agenda Book, were duly approved.

Proposer : Dean Luke Pretorius                      Seconder : Rev Robbie Novella

†Martin thanked the secretaries for their work.

3. **Presentation and Reading of Petitions**

None

4. **Notice of Motions to add to the day's proceedings**

None

[Please note that motions for the next sitting of this Synod to be submitted by 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012]

5. **Notice of Questions**

None

6. **Asking and Answering of Questions**

None

**Measures to amend Diocesan Rules : 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

7. **RC 3 : Proposed Rule Change : Annual Financial Statements**

Dean Luke Pretorius reported on the matter. It was put forward that the following items be added after item 4. of the Proposal :

“5. Vestry is to be reconvened no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> April of the same year.

6. Should the audited/verified annual financial statements still not be completed the reconvened vestry must take place and the outgoing wardens explain why and what they have done to expedite the process. A new vestry date is to be set no later than one calendar month hence, and this new date and the full reasons therefor be submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer within 14 days.”

With the above addition, the proposal was accepted by the majority, and the matter will proceed to the FOURTH SITTING of Synod for final approval.

**Measures to Amend Diocesan Rules : 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

8. **RC 1 : To amend Rule 24 to provide for nominations**

Mr Solomon Makololo advised that the whole Rule Change is under review.

After some discussion, Synod agreed that RC 1 should be referred back to committee for correction, not in principle but in terms of clarity. It was decided that those involved would meet with the Chancellor during brunch to discuss the matter and report back to Synod later during the proceedings.

9. **RC 2 : The repeal of provisions of Rule 20.7**

It was agreed that the final reading of this Rule Change would be postponed to the Fourth Sitting of Synod. †Martin was asked to appoint a Task Team to work on this and report back to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sitting of Synod.

## Motions to Synod

### 10. Motion 9 : DFB Bye Law : Receipt of Thank Offerings

The following motion was submitted to Synod :

“DFB By-Law  
Receipt of Thank Offerings

Proposer : Dean Luke Pretorius                      Seconder : Ven Jack Kudumela

#### Principle

From time to time clergy or other ministers of the church receive gifts from parishioners as thank offerings for ministry performed. This is covered by Rule 11.7 of the Diocesan Rule Book.

This is often the case with, for example, the conducting of a wedding or funeral.

However, confusion may exist as to the tax liability of this gift.

#### Therefore

This Diocese accepts :-

1. Arising from professional advice received and a ruling from the South African Revenue Services which is deemed applicable in our circumstances (Binding Class Ruling : BCR 027), and supported by Sectoral Determination 14 : Hospitality Sector, South Africa which defines “remuneration” as *‘any payment in money or in kind, or both in money and in kind excluding any gratuity or gift received from a customer for service rendered .....’*
2. Definition of a Thank Offering and a Payment  
A thank offering is any gift, in cash and/or in kind, given by a parishioner entirely out of their free will and which intention is to say thank you for ministry appreciated. This is similar to the tip/gratuity paid to a waitron.  
  
A payment is if under any circumstances the church or minister asks or suggests that this gift, in cash and/or in kind, be given.
3. Tax Implication  
According to SARS any payment for a service performed is to be treated as taxable income and must be declared and tax paid on it.  
  
However, because of SARS’ ruling, a thank offering is considered to be a gift given by free will in appreciation of a service rendered. Such a free will gift is not taxable.
4. This Diocese instructs that all payments, in cash and/or in kind, and including the Easter and Pentecost Offering, must be declared to SARS and taxed. These may be declared through the diocesan office.”

After Dean Luke Pretorius spoke to the principle, a lengthy discussion followed.

*Inter alia* it was suggested that the word “parishioners” in the first line under the heading “Principle” should be changed to “people” and similarly under item 2. the word “parishioner” be changed to “person”. These changes were accepted.

The Dean thanked everyone for their comments, most of which had been addressed.

The motion was accepted by majority vote.

11. **Motion 10 : Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist Sunday**

The following motion was submitted to Synod :

**MOTION TO SYNOD**

That the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of May of each year be named the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist Sunday.

That the Synod accepts and promotes the need to celebrate this important day in the life of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist. That Synod requests the Bishop to write a special liturgy and collect for the celebration of the Eucharist by all parishes in the Diocese to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist.

The Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist was inaugurated on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1987. This year we celebrate 25 years which is the silver anniversary since we have become a Diocese. We thank God for His mercy and blessings on us that we have grown as his children and in His Kingdom.

Though celebrating huge milestones is important, it is essential that Anglican Christians in the Diocese rededicate with thanksgiving to God each year that we are a Diocese. That we have a special day to pray for this Diocese and ask God to strengthen its leadership. That as we grow in numbers we must continue to grow in discipleship to Christ Jesus, sharing the good news of His Kingdom with the people of Limpopo.

Proposer : Rev Imogen-Faith Malin Mokou

Seconder : Sub-Dean Philemon Mudzvovera”

Some discussion followed. After it was decided to amend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday to the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of May each year**. The motion as amended was approved.

**Budget Presentation**

12. **Bishop’s Address : Budget Purpose and Principles**

Supported by a PowerPoint presentation and a handout which everyone present had received, †Martin delivered his address “Budget : A Spiritual Strategy”.

†Martin pointed out that the budget is not just about money. Once again †Martin reminded us about the Diocesan vision and spoke about the Diocesan priorities as well as Parish priorities, referring to both immediate and long term issues.

†Martin spoke briefly about the Budget Summary which would be dealt with later in the meeting by the Diocesan Bursar, Mrs Felicity Roberts.

13. **Notices** (see also 18. below for further notices)

13.1 **Anglicans Ablaze Conference**

†Martin spoke about the conference taking place in October, encouraging people to register and attend.

**13.2 Diocesan Youth Camp**

Rev Frauke Ackermann advised that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 only 40 have registered. She requested members to register as many youth as possible.

**13.3 Call to Listen Level 3 in Gauteng**

Rev Frauke Ackermann gave notice of an invitation (for those who have completed Level 2) to attend Level 3 in Gauteng from the 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Registration closes on the 15<sup>th</sup> September. The cost is R750,00 excluding accommodation.

**13.4 Training**

Mr Solomon Makololo advised that the Leadership Team is offering training e.g. budgetting, nominations, cash books, etc. which will take place on Saturdays and Sundays for the whole of September 2012, commencing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, when the training for the Central and Northern Archdeaonries will begin. Notices will be sent out to everyone. The training is for Priests-in-charge, Treasurers and Churchwardens. Chapelry Treasurers must bring their cash books, receipt and cheque books.

**13.5 Nominations for Elections**

†Martin spoke about the elections which will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012 when we will be electing people for various very important bodies.

**Brunch**

At 11h09 Synod adjourned for brunch. Rev Robbie Novella said Grace.

**SESSION 2****Midday Prayers**

We were led in prayer by the Iviyo group.

**14. Budget Summary**

Handouts were made available to all present and Mrs Felicity Roberts gave us a general overview of the proposed budget.

**Third Conference of Synod : Diocesan Budget 2013**

Members of Synod split into two groups to discuss the proposed Diocesan Budget for 2013 : **Budget Details** – Mrs Roberts facilitated this group in the hall; **Vision, Strategy and Communication** – this group was facilitated by †Martin in the cathedral.

**SESSION 3****15. Review of Progress****Report from Committee : RC 1 : To amend Rule 24 to provide for nominations**

The committee reported back to Synod and advised that after discussion the following is the proposed wording to amend the Rule :

“24.3 (a) Every year, between the first day of October and the last day of December, the incumbent and wardens in office at the time, shall call for

- nominations of registered and confirmed communicants who are willing to serve on the church or parish council for the coming year.
- (b) It shall be the duty of the incumbent together with the chapel and parish wardens to set a date for the calling of nominations and of the annual vestry for the chapelry and parish.
  - (c) The nominees shall undergo a screening process, the criteria of which shall be determined by the executive council (the incumbent and chapel/parish wardens).
  - (d) A list of nominees shall be published on the notice board to allow for objections and appeals by parishioners not later than the last day of November. The final list of successful candidates shall be published not later than the last day of December.”

By a majority vote :

- Synod accepted the report of committee;
- permission was granted to finally vote on the change;
- the Rule Change was finally approved.

### **Notice of Motions arising from Third Conference of Synod**

16. None tabled

### **Conclusion of Third Sitting**

#### **17. Unopposed Motions**

17.1 Proposer : Rev Malin Mokou  
 Secorder : Sub-Dean Philemon Mudzovera

THAT this Synod send a message of greeting and farewell to Rev Dr Lutz Ackermann who is joining the Lutheran Church as a Pastor in Hillbrow Parish, Johannesburg. Rev Dr Lutz Ackermann has been a member of Christ Church Cathedral since 2001 and was ordained in 2010 as a self-supporting Priest. He is responsible for a number of ministries that impacted on the spiritual growth of the people of the Cathedral and surrounding areas e.g. the establishment of mission in Ga-Chuene, HIV/AIDS task team, Extension 44 Soup Kitchen, New Pietersburg, and Alpha. We therefore send to Rev Dr Lutz Ackermann and his family God’s love and blessings as he works amongst the disadvantaged and marginalized people of Hillbrow.

17.2 Proposer : Dean Luke Pretorius  
 Secorder : Rev Douglas Kirkpatrick

This Synod

1. celebrates with joy the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa;
2. notes with appreciation the incredible and God-inspired impact of ministry by the ordained women of this Diocese;
3. acknowledges that without the gift of your ministry we would not be anywhere near the level of discipleship and Christian growth that we currently are. You are all a wonderful blessing to us;
4. therefore thanks Almighty God for each and every one of you, assuring you of our love and prayer and support;

5. respectfully asks Bishop Martin to personally convey these sentiments to every ordained lady in our Diocese.

17.3 Proposer : Dean Luke Pretorius  
 Seconder : Rev Malin Mokou

This Synod expresses its appreciation for the work of the Intercessory Team which has met quietly at every sitting of Synod to pray for us. We have been very aware of your prayerful presence and thank God for your important ministry. May God continue to use and inspire you.

17.4 Proposer : Mrs Pam Oberholzer  
 Seconder : Dean Luke Pretorius

This Synod acknowledges the reality that our Bishop Martin has been included in the list of 5 candidates for election as Bishop of Johannesburg. We assure him of our prayers as his name is presented to the elective assembly in the coming week and trust our God to bring about His will in the process.

17.5 Proposer : Rev Shearsby Mupfudzapake  
 Seconder : Rev Robbie Novella

This Synod

1. acknowledges the upcoming Anglicans Ablaze Conference at New Life Conference Centre, Bryanston, Johannesburg, from the 03<sup>rd</sup> to the 06<sup>th</sup> October. This conference will explore the new ACSA vision of ACT (**A**nchored in the love of Christ; **C**ommitted to God's Mission and **T**ransformed by the Holy Spirit) under the banner of : *A Generation rising Up;*
2. thanks God for the vision and work of the organising committee, especially that of the Rev Trevor Pearce from Growing the Church, as well as the leadership provided by Bishop Martin in planning this conference; and
3. encourages all members of Synod to make every effort to attend this conference, inviting as many others as possible to attend as well.

[Details and registration forms are available from Rev Frauke Ackermann in the Diocesan Office.]

17.6 Proposer : Rev Kwena Makgoka  
 Seconder : Ven Dr Shashi Ledwaba

This Synod

1. expresses its profound appreciation for the generosity and effort that the Mothers' Union has put into providing brunches for each and every sitting of this 10<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Synod.  
 We have been nourished both physically and spiritually by the tasty and healthy provision of food at each sitting of Synod, and we thank you for this.  
 May God continue to bless and use you in your ministry in this Diocese;

2. respectfully asks Bishop Martin to express this appreciation of Synod to the Diocesan Mothers' Union.

17.7 Proposer : Sub-Dean Philemon Mudzvovera  
 Seconder : Rev Malin Mokou

This Synod

1. notes with joy the recent election of Rev Ellinah Wamukoya as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Swaziland – the first woman in our Province, indeed in Africa, to be chosen as Bishop!
2. expresses its congratulations to her and promises to pray for her consecration and ministry;
3. respectfully requests Bishop Martin to pass our best wishes and prayers to Bishop Elect Rev Ellinah Wamukoya.

18. **Further Notices** (see also 13. above for notices already given)

18.1 Rev Ron Reiners reported on the progress of the Cathedral Cross;

18.2 Mrs Felicity Roberts advised that the Diocesan Financial Statements are now available;

18.3 Rev Raphahle Malesela reported that Women's month and celebrations went well; we welcome Spring and September month, celebrating our heritage. On the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012 from 9h00 there is a Men's Fellowship Conference at St Augustine's and all men are invited

†Martin expressed thanks to all present and after a short time of prayer †Martin declared the THIRD SITTING of the TENTH DIOCESAN SYNOD concluded at 14h10.

### Evening Prayer

Led by the Central Archdeaconry, this sitting of Synod was closed in Evening Prayer.

Minutes approved

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Signature

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Date