

DAY 2: Friday 17 August 2018

1. Morning Prayer

The Morning Prayer was led by Kopanong and Vhembe Archdeacons in both Venda and English languages. The Bishop appreciated the diversity of languages in our Diocese.

Members of Synod then dispersed to their allocated groups for Bible study based on the Charge, "Living" Jesus-shaped life.

2. Session 1

The Bishop opened the daily order of Synod with a prayer.

2.1 Quorum

The Registrar confirmed the quorum.

2.2 Minutes of Day 1: Eucharist and Opening Session

2.3 Presentation and Reading of Petitions

There were no petitions submitted.

2.4 Notice of Motions

There was no notice of new motions or additional motions.

Motion 24: Sale of Land at Jane Furse Memorial Village.

Background

The Executive Team of the Jane Furse Village has been in discussions with the District Municipality since 2014 for the sale and purchase of 10 hectares of land which was awarded to the Diocese in terms of Land Redistribution. (Minutes of meeting of the Board of Trustees dated 21st November 2014.) Nothing could be done until the land was transferred into the name of the Diocesan Trustees and the Minister of Land Affairs had consented to the sale.

A valuation of the land was done and an amount of R1million was mentioned as a ball park figure. The Diocesan Board of Trustees agreed to give the District Municipality a Power of attorney to appoint experts to carry out an Environmental Impact Study and Assessment of the land they wished to buy. Surveys were carried out and the land approved as being suitable for offices for the Municipality.

At a meeting of Diocesan Trustees on the 17th July 2015 it was reported that the district Municipality was eagerly pursuing the issue but the title deed issue was delaying progress.

The property was registered in the name of the Diocese on the 16th October 2016. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees on the 18th November 2016 it was minuted that the process of the sale be incorporated into the discussion with the land transfer because in terms of the title deed the consent of the Minister was required before the Diocese could sell any land. In March 2017 application was made through the offices of the Land Restitution Commission to the Minister of Land Affairs to sell to the

District Municipality the 10 hectares already surveyed and accepted as environmentally suitable.

No response was received.

A new application to the Minister was lodged in March 2018 requiring the Minister to approve the sale of approximately 10 hectares of the property as surveyed and agreed to by the Municipality for an amount to be agreed and transfer of the remainder of the property, when the trustees believe the time is right, to the Jane Furse Memorial Village Non-Profit Company.

The Office of the Minister of Rural Development and Land Affairs requires a formal resolution from the Diocese to complete their documentation.

Resolution

The Synod of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist hereby resolves

- 1) to sell the identified and surveyed 10 hectares of the Portion 21 of the farm Vergelegen to the Sekhukhune District Municipality or the appropriate local government authority for an amount and under conditions to be agreed upon;
- 2) to transfer the remainder of the property into the name of the Jane Furse Village Non Profit Company when the Diocesan Trustees deem the time is right; and requests the Honourable Minister of Rural Development and Land Affairs to consent to this course of action.

The motion was presented by Kgabo Ledwaba, seconded by Rev. David Maubane.

The motion was approved, both resolutions 1 and 2 and the motion in totality.

The following will be taken into consideration:

- The environmental impact assessment be done also by the Trustees.
- Consider conserve the wetland.
- The selling price should be market related.
- The concern of the people of Jane Furse on the sale of the land.
- Check on the availability of the post settlement grant/support.
- Make a decision on the sale considering the current political climate on land expropriation.

2.5 Notice of Questions

There was no notice of questions.

2.6 Report on action taken on resolutions of 2015 Synod

2.6.1 Measures to amend Diocesan Rules: Requirement for Lay Ministers

The following measure arises out of the resolutions of the 11th Diocesan Synod in 2015.

Requirement for Lay Ministers

Proposer: Thabang Bengani
Seconder: Gail Blunden

Principle:

This Synod notes that the word “mature” in the Diocesan Rule 19.3 could give the impression that Licensed Lay Ministers should be “mature in years”. This is potentially misleading as it is not the intention of the paragraph to suggest that young age is a barring factor in the Bishop’s licensing of Lay Ministers.

Rule Change

The word “mature” be deleted from Diocesan Rule 19.3, and replaced with the word “God-fearing”.

The measure was finally approved unanimously.

2.6.2 Motions

Motion 12: Order of St Mark: Betty Monyemorathoe

Proposed by: Rev Thomas Raphalo
Seconded by: Ven Gail Blunden

Nomination by the Parish of Letaba, for the Order of St Mark the Evangelist to be conferred on Betty Monyemorathoe.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion 13: Order of St Mark: Muriel Wagenhauser

Proposed by: Ven Linda Lubbe
Seconded by: Rev. Rhoda Nyanhongo

The Council and membership of St Michael’s United Church, Modimolle, request that the Order of St Mark be awarded to Mrs Muriel Wagenhauser for services to St John the Baptist Community Church, Modimolle, over a thirty year period.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion 2: Requirements for Membership

Proposer: Rev Olive Senyatsi
Seconder: Rev Thabang Bengani

This Synod,

Noting:

- 1) The requirements for membership in Rule 13.1;
- 2) That the Diocese expects members to give to the church in proportion to their income – with the tithe as the standard we aspire to;

Recognises that:

- 1) Those who have no regular income may find it difficult to pledge or give financially in a regular way;
- 2) Parishes can encourage them to give by means of practical service to the church, under the authority of the Incumbent and Church Council.

The motion was approved, and the Bishop reminded all that giving can be in different ways.

Tea Break

The Synod broke for tea, with the instruction to go to conferences immediately after tea.

First Conference of Synod: The Bishop's Charge & Parishes

*Members of Synod met in small groups to respond to the **Bishop's Charge**. The **Bishop's Office** reports and **Parish** reports were also discussed in the light of the Charge. The idea was to formulate motions to present to Synod, and each motion should be in triplicate: One for the President of Synod, One for the Secretaries and One for the Proposer of the motion.*

3. Session 2

Midday prayers were rendered by the AWF and MU.

3.1 Debate: Bishop's Charge

- Multiplication: take into account sustainability of parishes when multiplying.
- Training for ministries: minimum requirements (study) but no support in terms of finances by either the Parishes or the Diocese. Support should be availed.
- Purpose vs Diocesan vision: empower youth trained leaders so they can take the place of the aging priests in our Diocese.
- 3.1 on the Charge: still confined to the four corners of the church without going out into the world. The charge of the Baptism – you have the authority to preach.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to work in one first to be empowered to transform others.
- Retention of trained young priests.

No notice of motions based on the Bishop's Charge were received.

3.2 Motions (Rule 7.31)

There were no rule changes.

3.2.1 Motion 23: Unopposed motion for the Bishop

Proposed: Revd. Raphahle Malesela

Seconded: Ven Robbie Novella

This synod gives thanks to God for the many years of faithful service and loving care given by Bishop Martin Breytenbach who has been an inspiration to all clergy even during the time when the family was in grief. We wish him and Colleen well with their retirement. We wish them both God's richest blessings and strength in their retirement. This synod also commits the Diocese to pray for the election of a new Bishop.

The motion was approved by all.

3.2.2 Motion 7: Commitment to Disciple-Making

Proposed by: Very Revd Luke Pretorius

Seconded by: Rev. Thabang Bengani

This Synod, Noting That:

1. The process of Discipleship and Disciple-Making are critical to our Christian walk with Christ
2. The World Wide Anglican Communion has committed to a Season of Discipleship and Disciple-Making under the auspices of the “Jesus-Shaped Life” Group;
3. Our own Diocesan Bishop, the Right Revd Martin Breytenbach, is playing an important role in this body;
4. Unless we as Christian Leaders, and all Christians in our respective areas of influence take this matter seriously, we will achieve not much more than lukewarm followers of Christ;

Commends the Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist:

1. To support fully this Season of Discipleship and Disciple-Making;
2. To fully utilise the numerous resources available, for example the LEAD Program, Rooted in Jesus, ALPHA, and material emanating from the Jesus-Shaped Life group, etc.

Respectfully Requests That:

1. The Bishop and Chapter authorise and encourage the use of Disciple-Making material for training;
2. Our Clergy and Parishes take seriously the need for educated, equipped and empowered Christians in this Diocese;
3. This Synod endorses and encourages Bishop Martin in his role in this body;
4. And, asks that he, and his successors, share with us and implement all relevant Disciple-Making programs so that this Diocese can grow to full maturity in Christ.

The motion was approved unanimously.

3.2.3 Motion 8: Evangelism and Church growth

Both proposer and seconder were not in at the time, and the Chairperson postponed the motion to a later time.

3.2.4 Motion 17: Safe Church Network

Proposed by: Dean Luke Pretorius

Seconded by: Dr Caroline Chaba-Mamabolo

This Synod, noting:

The number of people world-wide, including within our own Anglican Province, who have suffered, especially but not exclusively, sexual abuse, at the hands of Anglican Clergy, and the call by our Metropolitan for every Diocese to establish a team of experts to assist those so abused and to oversee that justice is done,

Calls on Bishop Martin:

To establish forthwith a team of professionals and advisors, for example; lawyers; psychologists; social workers, Counsellors, clergy and others, to oversee such a responsibility within this Diocese.

This Synod further recommends:

- 1) The key objective of this team is to act and be seen to act effectively, to achieve holistic and sustainable healing
- 2) That this team have the power to co-opt and the authority to work throughout the entire Diocese
- 3) The team will report to the Diocesan Bishop

- 4) And whenever possible liaise or work with the relevant Archdeacon, Clergy and local Parish leadership
- 5) The team will also assist in training clergy and other leaders in matters pertaining to sexual abuse, violence and discrimination
- 6) And generally, empower all our people to stand for justice and truth in matters of gender violence, abuse and discrimination, including and especially that effecting women and children.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Synod broke for lunch with instruction to resume with conferences on Growing the Church.

Second Conference of Synod: Growing the Church

*Members of Synod met in small groups to discuss the **Growing the Church** reports. Motions from this conference could be formulated for presentation to Synod.*

4. Session 3

4.1 Debate: Growing the Church

The debate on Growing the Church produced the following issues:

- The church should invest in the youth to grow the church.
- Encourage information flow to the congregation and youth, i.e. information received should be shared.
- Look into the issue of supporting youth, e.g. provide instruments for use by youth.

4.2 Notice of Motions

One new motion was submitted:

Motion: Evaluation of the training being offered in various ministries.

Proposer: Edwin Nyatlo

Seconder: Ron Reiners

Noting that various training has been offered/taken place, i.e. children's ministry, youth ministry and preaching.

This Synod respectfully requests that proper evaluation be done to measure the impact of the training.

The motion was accepted for inclusion in the discussions during Synod.

4.3 Motion 6: Admission of Baptized Children to Communion before Confirmation.

Proposed by: Ven Robbie Novella

Seconded by: Dean Luke Pretorius

This Synod, noting the approved resolution of Provincial Synod 1979, which affirms that:

- 1) The Sacrament of Christian Initiation – Baptism and Confirmation – is a single sacrament
- 2) Baptism is the sacrament whereby a person is admitted into full membership of the Body of Christ

Recognises, in line with Provincial Synod 1979, that in the Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist:

- 1) A baptized person be permitted to receive Holy Communion before confirmation in any church within the Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist
- 2) And shall be recognized as a communicant and full member of their respective church by all parishes of the Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist

And Respectfully Requests that this Synod endorses this practice, providing that:

- 1) This be done only with the express permission of the parents/guardians of such child
- 2) Teaching be done by Clergy to explain the theology behind this practice
- 3) Church councils be encouraged to support this practice
- 4) And, encourages all such communicants later to accept the responsibilities of confirmation at a mature age.

After discussions the motion was approved through a vote, 37 votes for and 27 against.

4.4 Motion 1: Funerals of Non-Anglicans or Even Non-Believers

Proposer: Rev. Juda Meso
 Seconder: Moremi Kekana

This Synod

Noting that:

1. Our clergy are at times approached to conduct the funerals and burials of non-Anglicans or even non-believers;
2. Often families do not belong to any church but wish to bury their loved ones in a dignified and respectful way;
3. Most of our chapelries are anxious to grow their congregations;
4. One meaningful way of drawing them into the church is to reach out and respond during a time of grief to non-Christians or to families who do not normally attend a church as their normal custom;

Believing that:

- (a) The church has a responsibility to comfort those in need during a difficult period;
- (b) If handled in a sensitive and caring fashion, undertaking funerals of non-churchgoers or even unbelievers is an important way of drawing individuals or even families into the church and closer to God;
- (c) Providing people with comfort and solace and sharing God's love during their time of grief, giving them closure through a Christian funeral service is our calling as Christians;

Respectfully requests Diocesan Chapter to draw up guidelines for clergy to bury non-churchgoing or even non-believing deceased persons, subject to the following conditions:

1. The family submit a written request to the church council;
2. The family agrees to pay certain costs (which could be standardized).
3. Such burials are not conducted on Sundays.

After deliberations the motion was proposed in three sections:

- Items 1-4 was approved unanimously.
- Items (a)-(c) was approved unanimously.
- Items 1-3 of requests was further subdivided:
 - Request 1 was amended to read: “the family to submit a written request”. The amended request was approved through a vote, 24 votes for and 22 against.
 - Request 2 was approved unanimously.
 - Request 3 was approved unanimously.

5. Session 4

5.1 Motion 9: Generational Gap Conversations

Proposed by: Revd Thabang Bengani

Seconded by: Darius Rakabe

This Synod notes that the church is facing a challenge that some young people leave the Anglican Church because of the lack of flexibility to accommodate them in our worship style. Others leave Limpopo to study in other provinces and join other churches.

Therefore respectfully requests

- 1) Parishes to work together with the Diocesan Youth Coordinator to facilitate a process of having inter-generational gap conversations to address the challenge of the youth and older Parishioners not understanding one another.
3. The Rector or priest in charge to develop a system of keeping in contact with students, working where possible with the Diocesan Youth Coordinator to refer them to other churches in other dioceses so that we can keep contact with them.

The motion was approved unanimously.

5.2 Motion 20: Youth and Children Budget

Proposed by: Revd Thabang Bengani

Seconded by: Khomotso Matlou

This synod:

- 1) Notes that children and youth are important to the growth of the church.
- 2) Therefore requests that all Parishes make provision in their budgets towards this ministry, with the goal in the future to have a children and youth worker.

This motion was approved unanimously.

5.3 Motion 21: Youth Leadership

Proposed by: Revd Thabang Bengani

Seconded by: Walter Setshedi

This Synod notes that our youth are capable of playing a leadership role within the Parish. Therefore it encourages Parishes to give young people the opportunity to

exercise leadership in Parish structures, e.g. lay ministers, parish councillors, church wardens etc.

The motion was approved unanimously.

5.4 Received motion (refer item 4.2)

Mr Nyatlo talked to the motion, and the seconder Ron Reiners.

The motion was approved unanimously.

5.5 Unopposed motions

- (a) Proposer: Maggy Makhafola
Secunder: Linda Makgamatho

Motion:

We request this Synod to send a congratulatory message to the newly elected President of the Anglican Women's Fellowship, Mrs Philiah Makgoka.

- (b) Proposed by: Luke Pretorius
Seconded by: Ron Reiners

The Synod notes with shock the death of Rev. Gideon Selepe and respectfully asks Bishop Martin to write and express Synod's condolences and assurance of prayers to Jane and the family.

5.6 Notices

Synod members were reminded of the ongoing nominations for the elections on Sunday.

Synod adjourned.

Evening prayer was led by Lepelle and Waterberg Archdeaconries.

Minutes approved

Bishop: Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

Date