

Notes of greater Clericus from Clergy Retreat, Feb 9-12, 2009

Opening Clericus, 6:30p.m. Monday February 9

Bishop John welcomed us with particular welcome to Joe Ponio, serving as interim in Revelstoke, Laura Hermakin, new incumbent at St. John, Salmon Arm/Sicamous, Michael Stuchbery, new incumbent at St. Saviours, Penticton.

Regrets reported from Bill Inglis, Derek Smith (will arrive on Thursday morning); Sue Basek, Marcella Mugford, Neil Elliot, Allan Reed, now retired, David Irving arriving Tuesday

Barbara Andrews welcomed us to Sorrento Centre, noted highlights in summer programming and that bursary funds are available through Sorrento Centre.

Rita requested feedback/evaluation forms be added to file on table.

Christine noted there were cards to sign.

Simon presented a petition for our consideration.

Cathy Hall introduced Bonnell Strickling.

Social, retreat & silence proceeded as per agenda.

Greater Clericus, February 11, 6:30p.m.

Absent: Chris Ross, Bob Crosby

New welcomes to Derek Smith, Bill Harrison, David Irving.

Diocesan Youth – Rita Harrison

-Kathy Nelson is working with youth on east side of the Diocese with 10-13's and 14 and up.

-Rick Paulin is serving as a 2nd youth chaplain.

-Sue Mayoss-Hurd attended "Generation 2008" national youth event.

-Posters distributed for GYM Project for details see gymproject.weebly.com

-Rita requested contact information for people interested in working with youth.

-Laura H. noted that she is passionately interested in youth ministry and will be involved after she gets more settled in Salmon Arm

U.B.C.O. has some chaplaincy in a Lutheran chaplain, Tyler information under "Peace-Seekers" website.

Travel Policy

Travel rate for parish clergy will be reviewed every 6 months. As of Feb 1 2009 it is .40/km. for clergy doing parish work.

Home to office each day is not to be charge to parish.

Clergy conferences & Retreat counts as regular work requirements and may be charged to parishes at .40/km.

Synod mileage will allow for 2 vehicles from each parish and will pay gas only.

Diocesan committee work is seen as "Voluntarily joined" and travel allowance is gas plus .10/km.

This is in keeping with other Dioceses and is intended to encourage carpooling.

There was discussion of a principle that "clergy not be expected to "pay to work" and question of whether this might limit clergy involvement in Diocesan committees.

Teleconferences and Internet conversations are necessary to cut costs of traveling to meet.

Refugee resettlement work – Cory Rundell

Cory referred us to article in The Highway, and reported on Refugee resettlement in the Diocese. The Primate's Fund have set a goal /target of resettling 50 families across Canada. Heather Karabelas and Dirk & Karen Pidcock are also involved in this work. Cory has information to share. It costs \$15,000-\$20,000 or more to help settle a family. Seed money of \$2,000 is available from the Primate's Fund and this will be matched by the government. Noted that this is good work for coalitions, an ecumenical project or a regional project. There is no Diocesan money to underwrite efforts and groups must have money in place before proceeding.

Barbara Andrews suggested that Sorrento Centre might be able to offer housing for a family over the 6 winter months.

Changes to Canons – these will be presented at Synod.

There will not be special previews for clergy but the work is not confidential and Chris Harwood-Jones is a representative of that committee. We are welcome to ask him for information on the proposed changes.

BARDS Agenda will include a discussion of policy changes that effect clergy and how to get that information to the clergy.

Clergy & family gathering – Corey Rundell raised the question of whether we wanted to plane and hold such an event again. We would need to, at least partially, self fund such an event. No consensus or direction reached.

Deep Creek retreat House – Brian Smith reminded us all of this facility hosted by himself and his wife, Eva. Details available at [Deep Creek Retreat House.com](http://DeepCreekRetreatHouse.com)
They have 23 acres and a small hermitage with a wood stove.

Synod Vigil – Ken Watts is organizing a prayer vigil to be kept throughout the hours of the Diocesan Synod. He has sent information through the Regional Deans and Patrick Reid (for South Okanagan)

Synod Planning Committee- Cathy Hall reported on Synod plans. Great efforts are being made to host a “green” meeting, using a little paper a possible.

Camp Owaissi – Ken Watts requested chaplains for the summer weeks at Owaissi. The diocesan Clergy and connection to the Diocese were/was missed last year.

E.F.M. Education for Ministry – Cathy Hall

There is evidence that the decline of the main-line church has been due to a decline in people's ability to speak and reflect theologically. Currently there are 400 students in EFM in Canada. EFM is a very good way to contribute to theological thinking.

An innovation is making on-line mentoring available to people who are isolated and cannot meet in a face to face group.

Announcements:

Sorrento packages available-please pick up

Bill Harrison's Book: Frequently Asked Questions, available to purchase from Bill
"Images of Incarnation" National Conference information has been sent to parishes.

Registrations are eagerly awaited!

We can use our con-ed funds to participate in this event.

Yme announced that youth group in Cranbrook raised money last year to purchase 96 goats and this year to buy 137 water filters for Malawi.

Bishop John: The Diocese is listening to concerns about the financial pressures on clergy. It is also facing financial pressure. Currently our Diocese operates like a Council of the North Diocese without the benefit of Council of the North grant.

Session ended with Compline at 7:50p.m.