



**Licensed Lay Ministers Association Diocese of NS and PEI**  
**Special Executive Meeting**  
**Minutes (From Video)**  
**August 7, 2024 by Zoom**

**Present:** Barb Bergeron, President; Archdeacon Tom Henderson, Warden; Reverend Dorothy Miller, Maxine Simpkin, Jo-Anne MacDonald, Paul Fevens, David Harrison, Nancy Macdonald, Dawn Upham and Anne Williams

**Absent:** Brent Boutilier, Roger Demone, Georgie Granchelli, Ted MacDonald, and Walter Westwood

**Regrets:** Sherryll Murphy

**1. Welcome and Opening with the Association Prayer**

Barb welcomed members to the meeting at approximately 9:00 a.m. Archdeacon Henderson led in the Association Prayer.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was received as distributed.

**3. Annual Conference – Review of Plans**

Barb reviewed the plans for the annual conference to date. She went on to advise that when she had reached out to the Center costs had increased \$20 over last year. This left the Association only able to subsidize 20 Lay Ministers. Consequently, after some e-mail discussion, this meeting has been called to determine the best path forward.

Archdeacon Henderson noted that income from Lay Ministers annual fees was down, and he was not sure whether this was a lag in receipt due to COVID or changes that the Diocese had made to the Annual Return.

During discussion of this matter the following key points were made:

- A bi-annual conference would allow for the accumulation of monies to help with the subsidy of Lay Ministers. It would also allow for the planning of a robust conference.
- An in-person Annual Meeting with an education session or guest speaker allows for interaction and networking on an annual basis.

- Moving the Conference from PEI to Nova Scotia may increase interest as folks see PEI as a long way to travel. We may also be able to save money on reimbursement of travel. Suggestion was made that the NS Agriculture College in Truro may be a possibility, however, this would require a change of time of year for the Conference. Schools are busy during September.
- If we were to consider schools/universities, Antigonish or Truro would be a good possibility
- Care would have to be taken to not interfere with Diocesan events such as Synod. The conference could be held in June.
- A hybrid conference/annual meeting should be considered. Note was made that Zoom was used last year and could be considered in future years.
- Investigation into whether there may be Diocesan funds available to help with the subsidy.
- Concern was expressed that not holding a conference in 2025 would be too great a gap.
- Could hold a Zoom conference next year, and transition to a bi-annual conference in person in 2026.

**MOVED by Maxine that the 2024 Lay Ministers conference be cancelled due to financial constraints and that all conference fees received to date be refunded. Further, the Lady of Hope Conference Centre be booked for the 2025 Conference and over the next number of months Nova Scotia facilities be identified and costed as possible alternate conference sites. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Dawn Upham, seconded by Dave Harrisson that if there is a cancellation fee for the Lady of Hope Centre, that Barb be authorized to approve payment. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **Adjournment and the Grace**

The meeting adjourned with the Grace at 11:50 A.M.

Submitted by  
Sherrill Murphy