



2018 SPRING REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Contents

BACKGROUND.....	2
INTRODUCTION.....	3
SUMMARY OF TABLE DISCUSSIONS.....	4
ELECTION RESULTS.....	20
PRESENTATIONS.....	20
MEETING EVALUATION.....	21
APPENDICES.....	22



BACKGROUND

Regional gatherings are designed to prepare clergy, wardens, synod delegates and all engaged members of the diocese for an upcoming synod. Each gathering follows the same format to maintain a consistency across the diocese.

SYNOD 2018 GOALS

- All Synod delegates understand the diocesan vision, have seen examples of it being lived out in the diocese and are leaving Synod with a sense of enthusiasm and optimism about how the vision is/will be lived out in their church communities.
- Demonstrate widely recognized, tangible signs that healing and reconciliation within the life of the diocese are happening and are an ongoing priority.
- Demonstrate a strong, clear sense that, after the diocesan Year of Reconciliation, we are beginning to establish new relationships, built on trust and mutual respect, with the First Peoples of these islands and inlets.
- Delegates understand and approve a realistic five-year financial plan that includes a substantial fundraising component.
- Create a space to worship, break bread, spend time together, and celebrate being a diocesan community.
- Conduct the regular canonical business required of a synod (appointments, elections, constitutional amendments, budget presentation).

2018 SPRING REGIONAL GATHERING OBJECTIVES

- Provide space to build relationships, beyond the parish with others in the region.
- Present and give space for discussion and questions on budget and church finances.
- Discuss and develop clarity on the role and expectations of synod delegates (and elect those who will be presented to Synod for ratification as members of Diocesan Council).

INTRODUCTION

Welcome Acting as the MC for the day, the regional dean opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, provided housekeeping information and then facilitated the table discussions throughout the day.

Bishop Logan McMenamie described the goals and process for the day explaining that it would be book-ended by the Eucharist, with our holy work done and held between. He invited us to listen for God speaking in and through us as we discern God’s direction for us as church.

The Gospel Reading was the story of the Prodigal Sons. The younger son, who takes his inheritance and squanders it, becomes destitute and finally “comes to his senses,” looks at himself, and takes action towards change. He returns home and is welcomed in a way he couldn’t have imagined. The older son clings to his old perceptions of what is fair and right, does not want to look at himself and change, and is not willing to reach out beyond himself to become part of the solution; part of a new reality.

Reflection What does it mean for us as individuals and parishes to “come to our senses?” What do we need to do to participate in the solution; how are we being called to reach out beyond ourselves, beyond the status quo, and let go of the old way and consider a new one?

The direction of the church is not out of our control. The future of the church is not inevitable. It is our will, our willingness, our ability to discern God’s plan that will inform our ability to shape what the future of the church will look like.

Imagine! Those gathered were invited by the regional dean to imagine what we would like our parishes to look like. What do we value about the broader church? What are the obstacles to realizing the church we long to see?



SUMMARY OF TABLE DISCUSSIONS

At each of the four regional gatherings held across the diocese, participants were asked a series of questions. The following is a consolidated summary of the table discussions that took place throughout the day.

NOTE: Recording of table discussions varied and was applied inconsistently across regions. Another important variable was that not all questions were asked/answered in all regions because of time or an adjustment made to the agenda and/or questions from the learnings garnered from the previous gathering(s). As we develop a regular structure for these gatherings, consistent recording processes will be developed. If you do not see your responses reflected in this report, particularly your “I am excited about...” statements recorded here, please send them to cpate@bc.anglican.ca so that we can use them in future materials. Your responses are important, and we would like to share them.

REGION: Nimpkish LOCATION: St John the Divine, Courtenay DATE: February 17, 2018 REGIONAL DEAN: Anthony Divinagracia ATTENDEES: 38	REGION: Tolmie LOCATION: St Mary the Virgin, Oak Bay DATE: February 25, 2018 REGIONAL DEAN: Craig Hiebert ATTENDEES: 32	REGION: Cowichan/Malaspina LOCATION: St John the Baptist, Duncan DATE: March 3, 2018 REGIONAL DEAN: Jim Holland ATTENDEES: 39	REGION: Selkirk & Haro LOCATION: St Andrew, Sidney DATE: March 17, 2018 REGIONAL DEANS: Dawna Wall, Blair Haggart ATTENDEES: 55
Q1. Why does the church matter to you?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship & fellowship • Education & spiritual growth • Healing & love • Anchor in our community • Common values/spiritual development • Safe space for meaningful conversation • God’s unconditional love • It matters to God • To learn • Rituals • Peace • Family & community • Identified in the world as safe place • Model of Christian life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorients us to the story • Reshapes us and reminds us that we are God’s people • Keeps us honest; this is bigger than me • It is a community. It allows us to grow • Keeps us in an ongoing relationship with those not like us. It is a broad table accommodating differences • Tradition, spiritual growth • World needs a reminder that life is more than getting and spending • Embodies Christ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A centre for community activities • A place for peace and quiet in the midst of chaos and activity • A support system for like-minded people – personal, spiritual • An incubator for God’s love which we then take out into the world • A foundation of faith that equips us to take God’s love out into the world • A “heart issue” • A safe place to learn, practice and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can’t sustain and grow my faith without it • We need a healthy church • We can see within our parishes that people need the church • Church is like family • The church is a place of equality social economic age in society • A place to explore all kinds of spiritual questions—We grow by exploring • A place of worship (we come together) • A place to grow & support our faith • A place where you don’t have to struggle

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		<p>grow in faith and wisdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A welcoming community building bridges into the larger community 	<p>in isolation – translate the message of love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping one another. Similarities with other people even though we are so diverse • A place to share wisdom education; to talk about the experience of a Divine Spirit • The basis of our moral life • People live by faith; church shows structure; good habit to have; be inclusive; messy church affects both • Church affects spiritual world; live faith publicly, not just private prayers • Overriding sense of family – of being part of community large or small • Continues to nurture what we have • A place of equality; Diversification; explore spiritual gifts – not struggle in isolation • Church as discrete place; focused on holy things • Three walking together can be Church • Personal experience • Church as community • Provides discipline for our growth

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearts lead to spirit; find word of God • Live by faith structure • Serves variety of people and ages; Place of equality, inclusion, messy church • Community – Joy – Family support “Living out our calling” • Physical connection in this temple space with my God • Personal reasons – live our faith out publicly; communal; universality of Anglican Faith • Episcopal - metropolitan – diocese - our own church. To go forward we need to understand this.
<p>Q2. Why is it important that it continue to grow to serve future generations?</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same reasons as above • Love changes people, communities, and the world • Anchors folks in God’s love • Place of peace, comfort and solidarity • Counter to loneliness • Place for community • Connection with others community and world • Peace and love remains important • Place to explore deep conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It matters • If it does not continue, all the reasons for it being here will cease to exist. • We serve others and that would not continue • The church is a body that helps to respond to spiritual hunger. That need will continue. • Our culture grows more distracted. That feature of our culture will intensify. Therefore, more and more people will need 	<p>This question was not asked in this region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sure where else people are going to get info to base morality or sense of ethics • We also have to be sure we are not part of the problem • If didn’t have connection via innovative term of morality; provide safe space for kids equanimity • Church not growing but in wider sense – we grow by sharing • Assumption – numbers in church – not just people attending

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	<p>relief and the church offers that feature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church is an example of another way to live one's life • For the children • Service to community needs and refugees 		<p>church, but impact, how affects others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who wants to come 'back' - in their 50's / 60's; weekly attendance not typical anymore • Sunday attendance an easy measurement but not most important • Inevitable won't be the status quo • Problem with 0 define growth • Church receding; bums in pews • People returning; 50s/60s • Other ways of engaging in church without Sunday attendance
<p>Q3. What benefits accrue from being part of a wider church (diocese, national, beyond)?</p>			
<p>Answers were not captured collectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadens our mission—refugees • Bigger perspective, connections to the world • We are able to do more and larger outreach projects. Strength in numbers. • Allows us to feel connected. Each individual person or parish does not have to do it all. • Allows us to grow in the Spirit. • Allows us to embrace inclusion of everyone • Because it reorients us to the store and reshapes us and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability – for the other, to share resources, bounce ideas off of • A family of churches; learning to share, support and inspire each other • An understanding of what the diocese means and does must be extended to all parishioners to avoid the “us/them” paradigm • Provides a leverage for change – a platform for doing church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universality around the world • Enhancement of life; diverse meaning to life • Mutual support; part of larger body; makes us unique; holy catholic apostolic church – back to St. Peter

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	<p>reminds us we are Gods people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminds me that it is bigger than me Maintains community Keeps us in ongoing relationship with those who are not like us Tradition Jesus requested us to come together and allows us to grow World needs remind us that there is more to life than getting and spending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unites us in prayer – fellowship of believers Unites us financially Protects us against the dangers of congregationalism Leads us to think of ALL Christians Greater opportunities to share Potential of support in times of crisis (resources at Synod office) Programs that extend our reach 	
<p>Q4. What obstacles does the church face that might limit our future?</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aging population Scarce resources Lack of appeal to youngsters Not prepared to change closed minds Finances, human resources Language is limiting our appeal Lack of confidence in sharing our story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our tendency to narrow our thoughts Impact of concern about lack of money Competition in society for other things Fear-based negative perspective We have lost evangelism. We fear talking about our faith Our history. We have always done it that way Always struggling with our own hardness of heart. This leads to exclusion of others joining our community We do not take the time personally to develop our spiritual life Our concern for our personal reputation 	<p>This question was not asked in this region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Too comfortable” being Anglicans; Don’t do good job of XXX Mon-Sat as well as Sunday Tend to be rigid in our faith Demographics – how to attract youth All busy - hard to make time for church “Cradle Anglican” – can be exclusive term – we are established; you don’t belong “We have always done it that way” Excitement of new younger families; if Syrian refugees or older person comes do they receive the same welcome? What does that say?

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural impact of busyness, advertising, and social media • The way the media portrays us is as follows: a place where scandals happen, an institution lead by fuddy-duddy clergy, or a place that is on the ropes. • Us not living into the vision at our church. • Our reputation of dogma and doctrine 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurt is a big obstacle • Not willing to talk to other parishes • Symbolically – beware ‘locked door’ church • Negativity in the world • Is there wifi for our churches? • Change confusion – not be unique as a church • Allow freedom to youth to walk away and come back or note – their choice • Lack of credibility – public sees <u>all</u> religions as same; Bad for one; Bad for all • Church education • Church hypocrisy – works where faith, communication, be consistent; courage to try new – give up without guilt; try other • Absence – moral character – key issues- • Get message out as to where we stand • Be clear in message • Often church doesn’t bridge to <u>home</u>. Advent, Easter – need to be done in home; fail young families; don’t show; how to be church @ home • Resistance to change from within the parish • Attracting a younger generation • Lack of credibility in church

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public don't distinguish between denominations • New model in a theatre kindles, etc.; weekly meetings in communities • "Outside the box" in current church culture & outside • We don't know how to reach youth and bridge generations • Time • Relevancy to world • Hanging onto the old • A view to how we can make the church more relevant with today's technology • Interpretation of scriptures applicable to our time • Resistance to change – always did it that way..., preservation of status quo • Busyness of life • Small number of people involved who do everything • Need to draw people deeper • Failure to tell story in a way that can be received • Very quick to divide the 'one body'. We have one thing in common, Jesus Christ • Move from anthropomorphic vision to ecocentric

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			<p>one; from atonement to incarnation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live experiences can distance you from church, from God • An appreciation • Morale – fast changing times, secular pressure against church. Not joyful or hopeful • Too much negativity on social media Twitter, Facebook, TV ads • Lacking respect for church and public leaders • Money and resources – time and talents • Locked church doors; are we a welcoming church? • Public perception of Christianity • Hypocrisy
<p>Q5. Living the Vision: What is currently happening in your parish?</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanket exercises • Renewal of facility • Online presence: website, Facebook • Accessibility • Reconciling to Christ • Youth retreat 		<p>Table discussion responses were not captured collectively for this question.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin building Ministry Centre at St. Peter, St. Paul's; breaking ground • Increasing membership • Having a conversation with congregation/parish about next steps in moving church forward (Galiano) • Improve building • Multi-media leadership training • Collaborate on FN languages • Stewardship programs/learning ongoing • Ask/Tell/Share • More blessed to give

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry centre building • Liturgy upgrade for younger folks • Tooney Tues and Messy Church • MRFC; St. Lydias meal • Sunday School and organ concerts • Community meal and sunrise Easter Sunday • West Coast Liturgy and Victor Flett
<p>Q6. Living the Vision: What is happening/the potential for regional collaboration?</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional gatherings • Wardens' meetings • Consider ecumenical gatherings and joint parish services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint confirmation class within region • Joint youth groups creating synergy • Sundays at 5 is now a UVic club • Community garden funds from Vision Fund • Food bank at St John the Divine • Refugee support committee • Wardens meet and collaborate • Friday Communion mornings where we give away food vouchers • Youth ministers working together • Shrove Tuesday joint supper with other churches • Lenten services • Joint studies with Anglicans, Lutherans, and Roman Catholics 	<p>Table discussion responses were not captured collectively for this question. The following are a few examples captured on flipcharts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint parish services during Advent, Lent and Easter • Joint pancake suppers • EFM • Spirituality beyond Borders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messy church; sometimes interfaith; • Star of the Seas; Spiritual living & practice; 300 registrations about spiritual living, not also Anglican • Children's community choir—some are starting to attend church, but this is not the primary goal • Examples of God in motion • Working with First Nations – need to provide environment to want to participate in • Parish projects • Community garden • Building revitalization project

Q7. To inspire people in your parish, what new ministry opportunities need to happen for them to invest in a fundraising effort?			
<p>Answers were not captured collectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the assessment level Energy is needed for fundraising Concern about making this campaign as funding a deficit. That will not inspire people to give Instead of framing this fundraising it as funding a deficit, consider it as support for maintaining diocesan services There is the potential to connect with people who are not church members but who have an interest in, or connection to, the church Focus on opportunities, not always the challenges. The “Yes” rather than the “No” We need to bring people from parishes together to help them understand that they/we all make up the diocese <p>Bringing people together for joyful, fun events activities is needed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> determining the demographic and needs of our community building infrastructure to fit our community’s needs an Abbeyfield-type residence to replace a crumbling rectory to house 55+, preschool, library, ++ affordable housing including a ministry centre – develop the concept NOW, don’t wait for architects but allow the parish to imagine and create daycare and affordable housing; green design a joint program for your tune into the <i>imagination</i> of parishioners sense the imagination of the community build partnerships with those beyond the church 	<p>Table group notes were not captured at this gathering</p> <p>From flipcharts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased transparency of Total need; it shouldn’t be a new program to get \$’s. Speak openly about “first fruits: giving. The conversation should ‘tell’ us to plan your giving before your other financial planning. 60% stays in parish; 40% to diocese.

Catherine Pate, communications officer, asked attendees to consider “**How are we living out our vision?**” and post their answers on the wall under the appropriate Vision Area of Focus: Faith in Action, Faith in Formation, or Faith in Foundation.

Q8. I am excited about... (activities related to the diocesan vision)			
	Faith in Action	Faith in Formation	Faith in Foundation
NIMPKISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opportunity to provide those in need some basic resources e.g. food • Broken relationships being mended as people grow in understanding about indigenous experience in Canada and wanting to be part of just solutions and living out a life of reconciliation • Broken relationships being mended as people grow in understanding about the needs and experience of LGBTQ+ community • Young people wanting to be part of our congregation because of both of the above • “Grass Roots Kind Hearts” (feeding the homeless in Campbell River) • Ecumenical soup kitchen (Courtenay) • Local First Nation chief has become comfortable in our church (St Mark, Qualicum Beach) • Response to protect conscience rights in local health care • Willingness to encourage the lonely through nurturing relationships • Our expanding involvement in local community; community meals which promote a sense of belonging to and in our neighbourhood • The attempts to change the church service (e.g. moving the altar, having various types of services, seeing children in worship) • Community outreach—inviting community to ask how the church can be relevant to them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healing ministry • New Bible study • Leadership development (more opportunities for involvement, people coming forward), revitalizing worship • Our 5:40 Express Saturday evening lay-led service • The movement of the Holy Spirit in our parish of St Peter, Comox • The theology group at St John the Divine, Courtenay • Christian education opportunities beyond classroom settings (e.g. re-introduce theology pub/bistro, park or church yard gatherings) • Mindfulness group • “Blessing box” • Total acceptance of females at all levels of the church • Pastoral committee, blessing box, prayer box • As part of what our church is offering to our parishioners and to our community, is healing prayers: a prayer box outside the church, praying over people at services, prayer chain • To gather in community and share fellowship in Christ • To provide an opportunity for people to engage in discussion about stewardship being part of a spiritual journey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new communications tools we now have • Thoughtful/prayerful examination of human resource issues • A balanced parish budget for 2017 • This regional gathering • Range of activities happening in the church including community fundraisers and new church programs • Making our sanctuary and hall more accessible to those who have difficulty with mobility & particularly those in wheelchairs

Q8. I am excited about... (activities related to the diocesan vision)			
	Faith in Action	Faith in Formation	Faith in Foundation
NIMPKISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating new community partnerships—being involved in the fledgling Comox Valley Community Health Network • The idea of having a regional retreat at Bethlehem Centre • What our Outreach and Vision Committee has been doing in our downtown church neighbourhood; they took flyers door-to-door explaining who we were and asking what concerns people have about safety, lack of local grocery store or community hall, etc.—20 ppl joined us for a potluck supper and discussion about these issues. This will continue once a month. • Outreach to LGBTQ+ as well as those struggling with addictions • Reaching out to the neighbourhood to learn how to make our space more relevant (Messy Church, disaster centre, etc.) • Holding community dinners open to those living on the streets or financially unable to enjoy special occasions • Reconciliation (gatherings, individual meetings, weddings) • Forming relationships with Qualicum First Nation (baked for Big canoe event, daycare, St Mark's Fair) • Building relationship with First Nations people in my region • Making connections with First Nations small community church: sharing worship and prayer • Supporting Ernest Alfred and the Ocean Protectors in removing fish farms from salmon migration routes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire from kids to have instruction about what communion is; growth in spiritual lives of recently confirmed people • “Faith in the Workplace” conversation held in our parish earlier this year • Our regular healing services and the discussion about expanding it to include healing prayer rooms on a bi-weekly or weekly basis. • How many women are stepping into areas of leadership training for lay-led healing services • Interfaith dialogue initiatives in our parish: having visiting faith leaders from across denominations and religions • Healing ministry • The time we have to learn together • Thursday afternoon prayer and theology program • Healing services • The opportunity for healing prayer during communion • Women’s retreat • We Together conferences • The new national church animator for youth ministry and the promotion for CLAY (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gathering) August 2018 to be held in Thunder Bay, Ontario 	

Q8. I am excited about... (activities related to the diocesan vision)			
	Faith in Action	Faith in Formation	Faith in Foundation
TOLMIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider church support for refugee work • UVic chaplaincy • Using social media in new ways to connect beyond the parish • Study & action on reconciliation • Helping define the direction of my parish • How members of the wider community are part of our refugee sponsorship work • Reconciliation with the peoples whose land our church is on! Refugees! • Our work re reconciliation, re potential of becoming a member of the Coventry Cross of Nails • Desire by people to know more the 94 calls in reconciliation • Creativity of parishes to engage neighbours • Getting more involved • Program & plan to educate, advocate, action—substance use vs substance abuse • Housing awareness (community & church politics) creative conversations • Reduction in language of stigma • Engaging God’s world • Jesus Christ Superstar, chapel gallery, newcomer support • An education program on gender diversity and decolonization • Entering into a new refugee sponsorship • Getting youth involved in the community garden and food security • I am excited about: work to bring 10th newcomer from Syria, work in Haiti through Hope Home, work on streets in Victoria through Threshold, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth ministry collaboration • New members exploring spirituality • Lay engagement with pastoral care (training) • Emmaus Community and the SSJD & the learning they embody, to encourage more typical • Next generation—double the <u>community</u>—encourage diversity...the gathered church • Engaging the children in the parish in new ways to introduce them to the stories that guide us • Worship resources—the possibility of a labyrinth in the front garden/lawn of our neighbourhood church & the possibility of sharing this with our neighbours • Lenten study series • Early morning study group • Thursday book study • Introduction to CP workshop (March) • Internet interaction through blog • The River (youth & family) • Lay formation-our new directions for parish council leadership • Elders’ network • Wonderful Wednesday services at St. George • Our parish’s efforts to include and welcome the young children into Sunday services by developing the PRAY GROUND and by giving them opportunities to participate in the service • Multiple ways we welcome young children in our church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - crush the status quos - mobilize resources to nurture the <u>new church community</u>. <u>NOT</u> the new church. • Modern webpages • <i>Diocesan Post</i> format • Financial accountability and reporting in parish • Considerations of redevelopment congregations. They raise the bar & offer variety

Q8. I am excited about... (activities related to the diocesan vision)			
	Faith in Action	Faith in Formation	Faith in Foundation
TOLMIE	<p>connection with UVic ministry through chaplain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The diocese's (& many parishes) <u>serious</u> focus on reconciliation & beyond • Joining with others in our parish and others outside the parish to bring good news to the poor (outreach) and release the captives (refugees) • Working with my parish family, with all their wonderful quirks • Emerging Communities: the opening up of St. Mary the Virgin to the community through: Churchmouse bookstore, monthly use of facilities for literacy, music and discussion groups • Sundays @ 5, Joint Youth Group • Expressed interest in Reconciliation by parish council and people beginning to see their works through the lens of reconciliation. • The work of the parish to bring members of our refugee family together. Having children & grandchildren come from Syria. • The refugee ministry at SJD & First Met. Support from CCC & St. Matthias, Grace Lutheran, people of no religious affiliation. The reconciliation work & first nations. • Community connections outside of congregation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas set up for children to play while in church • Lay ministry in pastoral care initiatives • Worship resources • Sharing the real meaning of generosity and how it needs to form part of our spiritual journey • Diversity of worship & ways to increase and explore our spiritual selves • Youth/Family—cooperation regional • Lay ministry/leadership-learning ecumenical-study • the leadership shown by youth & young adults in our parish-the support given by our clergy to lay ministry groups • New vocations • Participating in worship that is 'an oasis of liturgical beauty' (Jim Holland) • Openness to liturgical innovation-our new chorister program-lay leadership of bible study • Our family life coordinator • The friendship garden • Our first confirmation group in many years. • Encouraging and assisting young people to take part in CLAY this year. • Innovation in worship, opportunities for lay ministry/leadership. Study of scripture sharing. The pray-ground for children. 	

<p>SELKIRK & HARO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church communities reflecting the kingdom of God • Long-running Mothers' Union • Weaving and other groups • Community partnerships • Our new website and its value for outreach • Outreach meals to first responders & frontline workers • Deepening relationship with Pearson College campus ministry and First Nations neighbours • Life Spirit art studio • Learning how a parish can revitalize the way we live together in Christ • The use of Facebook to reach a new generation • A marketing strategy – a modern method • My doctoral research into loneliness and what the church can do to help people. • Community outreach in my parish • Walking the walk of reconciliation Archbishop Michael Peers set us on • Association with Indigenous Perspective Society • Friendship circle • Prayer shawl ministry • Lenten lectures • Taking communion to shut-ins • Expanding new forms of spiritual community • Relationship with First Nations – it took too long for such an important action to be undertaken • Speaker series: Issues that matter to Christians and other faith communities • Vision fund results • Partnerships with secular community • Partnership with First Nations to develop our cemetery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star of the Sea, Salt Spring (repurposed a church and using it to bring together different faith traditions and the 'spiritual but not religious') • Bible Study • Education for Ministry • New liturgies (involving all) • Learning about the diocese and larger Anglican church • Having Lama Mark come back among us • Writing prayers of the people • Having a new incumbent that has the skills and leadership to reinvigorate the life of our parish • Education for ministry • Retreat life • Appreciative Inquiry – The Appreciative Way • Seeing our Sunday School increase in numbers and youth group • Commitment from members to restore programs for children and youth • Cursillo • Messy Church • Vacation Bible School ministry • Reconciliation • Adult Christian education and lay ministry • Community of Learning • Meeting people from other parishes/supporting each other with prayer • Learning ways to talk about faith • The teaching at our church • The growth of children's ministry in the context of the liturgy • Shared Bible study with other parish in community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing the beauty of our church with music groups • Open communication from our bishop • Collaboration between two parishes, particularly around asset management • Sharing projects with other churches • Exploring/experimenting with sharing resources between St Margaret and St Mary Magdalene especially with new management models • Parish precinct model • Low income housing plans • Facilitating change within my parish • New website • Making our facility available to diverse groups • Our parish vision team • Changes we are making here today • Plans to share our future ministry centre with affordable rentals suits. • The diocese's focus on collaboratively developing, communicating and implementing a common vision
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee work • Neighbourhood lunch • Food bank that feeds 400 families • Café, community, pub church events • The commitment to social justice issues in my parish • Experiencing God in nature program • Sustained commitment to reconciliation and shared learning journey • Community labyrinth • Personal opportunity to participate in reconciliation • Being the people of God outside our church building. Living into the servanthood of Jesus • Churches that welcome young families • Plans to start a summer day camp • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglican scholars • Spiritual reading and discussion group • Connecting with children • Preaching through storytelling • Being connected to a church community that gets me out doing things • The six teenagers at our parish • Broadening our worship life together • A church community that supports me and my family during challenging times. • Experiment in worship format • Catechesis/Spiritual growth • Spiritual direction • Metchosin Challenge series—Lenten outreach to broader community • Innovation in worship music • Embracing silence in worship 	
COWICHAN/ MALASPINA	<i>"I am excited about" statements from this region were not recorded. Our sincere apologies!</i>		

ELECTION RESULTS

	Lay Vice Chair	Lay Delegate DC	Clergy Delegate DC	Youth Delegate DC
Nimkish	Barbara Henshall	Denise Ropp	Anthony Divinagracia	Amber Santarelli Claire Knowles
Tolmie	Penny Holt	Jeanette Muzio	Patrick Sibley	Aidan Cunningham, Elizabeth Walker
Cowichan/ Malaspina	Pip Woodcock	Boyd Shaw	Heather Cutten	No nominations
Selkirk	Sharon Wickware	Lynn Schumacher	Aneeta Saroop	Annalise Wall
Haro	Wayne Hatt	Walter Stewart	Juli Mallett	No nominations

PRESENTATIONS

In addition to table discussions (see summary on previous pages), synod staff and other diocesan leaders shared the following information:

- Update on diocesan Vision Fund disbursements to date—program ends December 2018: Catherine Pate, communications officer
- Screening of “Living the Vision: Star of the Sea Centre”. This video can be viewed online <http://www.bc.anglican.ca/news/diocese-launches-living-the-vision-video-series>
- 2018 diocesan narrative budget and five-year (2018-23) financial projections (with and without fundraising initiative): Gail Gauthier, finance officer—*contact the synod office to receive a copy of the 2018 narrative budget or visit our website bc.anglican.ca/resources/synod.*
- Role and expectations of synod delegates: Presenters varied
- Role and expectations of regional dean, lay vice chair and archdeacon: Presenters varied
- Stewardship program update: Brian Evans, stewardship officer
- Question and answer with Bishop Logan McMenamie

MEETING EVALUATION

The following is a representative sample of responses. Many of the responses were repeated verbally in all regions, but not all discussions and answers were recorded at tables and therefore were not included in the overall evaluation. The general impression was positive at all gatherings. A reoccurring request was to have agendas available ahead of time, an appreciation for more time given to discussion and a request to continue to increase time for discussion (perhaps by limiting the number of questions for discussion.)

	What Worked	Needs Improvement
Nimkish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda not packed, timing good • Lots of opportunities to share • Youth • Mixing parishes • Synod staff • opportunity to share • Meeting in context of Eucharist • Fellowship • Mutual respect in the room • Amber keeping time! • Eucharist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-registration • Clarity on questions and voting • Agenda & expectations ahead of time • More visual on budget • Integrate “faith” in questions
Tolmie	Answers were not captured collectively	
Cowichan/Malaspina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch • Financial presentation • Ideas from each other • Time to discuss 	Answers were not captured collectively
Selkirk & Haro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmony • Well organized • Great lunch • Lots of laughter • Mixing parishes at tables • Ideas that can be adapted to each parish • The big picture of the diocese. 	Answers were not captured collectively.



APPENDICES

DAY AT A GLANCE

Bishop's opening prayer and hopes for the day

Sharing the Vision

- Why does the church matter to you?
- Why is it important that it continue to grow to serve future generations?
- What benefits accrue from being part of the broader church, the diocese and national church?
- Living into the vision at our parish
- Potential for regional collaboration
- Vision Fund

Budget and church finances

Role and expectations for synod delegates

Lunch and conversation

Feedback on ideas from conversation

Roles of regional deans and archdeacons

Election of Diocesan Council members, youth representatives, and regional lay vice chair

Question and Answer with Bishop Logan

Evaluation

IMAGINE

Imagine that the status quo
is not inevitable.
Imagine that we can grow into
vibrant, effective faith
communities
living out the gospel in our
communities and beyond.
We have the will and ability to
change the present
and shape the future.
We are stronger together
and together we will build
a church for tomorrow
on these islands and inlets.

—Bishop Logan McMenamie

PRAYER FOR THE START OF A MEETING

Jesus, friend of the heart, you said
"Where two or three are gathered,
I am in the midst of you."
We are gathered
and you are always with us
In our discussions and decisions,
may we be sustained in love,
may we be moved toward wisdom
may we listen, share, discern,
change and live in the spirit of life.
We are here in the hope
of a world of reconciliation.
May we practice reconciliation
with ourselves,
with each other,
in our community,
in the world.
For you, God
are the one who brings all things together
the one who leads us into deeper life. Amen.

Used with permission: Corrymeela Community, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Written by Dawna Wall, based on Padarig O'Tuoma's, "A Prayer of Shelter and Shadow".

As we share in the prayers of the people, please respond to the petition:
God of shelter and shadow by saying **hear our prayer**.

Holy and gracious God, we live in the shelter and shadow of one another, surrounded always by your loving care. We give thanks that from the very beginning you courageously stepped into the space between order and chaos and mixed the waters of creation with the dust of our being, creating new life and community. As we gather as regions across this Diocese of islands and inlets, we too, step into the holy space between order and chaos where we pray and work and dream for the creation of new life and strengthened community. God of shelter and shadow, **hear our prayer**.

Holy and gracious God, sometimes we feel like exiles, in our land, in our languages, in our bodies. Sometimes we feel like exiles in our liturgies and hymns, and sometimes, amazingly, we feel surrounded by welcome and know ourselves to be at home with you and one another, help us to live into and share this gift of welcome. God of shelter and shadow, **hear our prayer**.

As we seek to be human together, as we seek to be your church together, may we share the things that do not fade: generosity, truth telling, silence, respect and love. We give thanks for the gift of this day and for the conversations we have shared. Continue to be at work in us as we seek to be at work with you in the world. God of shelter and shadow, **hear our prayer**.

May the power we share to shape our future as a church be used for the good of all. God of shelter and shadow, **hear our prayer**.

We honour you, God, source of this rich life and we honour each other, story-full and lovely, complicated and in need of grace, called too, to be bearers of grace. God of shelter and shadow, **hear our prayer**.

As we live in shelter and shadow, may we live well and fully with you and with each other, now and forever. **Amen**.