

**THE ANGLICAN SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of May 28, 2020 - Virtual meeting using ZOOM.US platform

**EX OFFICIO**

Bishop	<b>Vacant</b>
Chancellor	Bob Gill
Vice Chancellor	<b>Vacant</b>
Dean and Diocesan Administrator	The Very Rev. M. Ansley Tucker
Registrar	Nathan Lampard R
Lay Secretary	<b>Vacant</b>
Clerical Secretary	The Rev. Paul Schumacher
Treasurer	Michael Murgatroyd

**ELECTED BY SYNOD**

The Venerable Dr. Dawna Wall	The Venerable Clara Plamondon
Don Wilson	Michael Wolff
Joan Hoffman R	Penny Holt
Ashley Blair R	Aleesha Barkemeier R

**ELECTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

The Rev. Juli Mallet	Walter Stewart
The Rev. Patrick Sibley	Lynn Schumacher
The Rev. Aneeta Saroop	Denise Ropp
The Rev. Heather Cutten	Ed Norman

**APPOINTED**

The Rev. David Chillman  
Boyd Shaw

**STAFF**

The Ven. J. Barry Foster, Executive Officer  
Gail Gauthier, Finance Officer  
Catherine Pate, Communications Officer  
Brendon Neilson, Vision Animator

**GUESTS (with voice, no vote)**

Amber Santarelli R

## Welcome

The dean, Ansley Tucker, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of diocesan council. Ansley thanked the members of council for joining in this virtual meeting on the ZOOM platform. Ansley offered a prayer.

The dean referred to the Bishop's Office Remarks (attached to the minutes of this council meeting) which were provided to council as part of their meeting package. She highlighted several issues:

- 1) Protocols for the reopening of parish facilities beginning with the workspaces—offices first, followed by worship spaces and finally third-party users.
- 2) Online worship programs—guidelines for the use of virtual eucharist are near completion and will be provided to parishes shortly.
- 3) The episcopal election.

The dean asked if there were any changes to the agenda: none.

MOVED BY: David Chillman  
SECONDED BY: Walter Stewart  
*That the agenda be received as circulated.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

## Consent Agenda

### a) Regrets for Absence

The clerical secretary noted the regrets for absence from this council meeting. There was 1 voting member, plus 2 youth voting members of council absent.

Consent agenda approval:

1. March 26, 2020 Diocesan Council minutes-
2. From Finance Committee meeting - May 21, 2020 - including ratification of motions arising from the minutes of Finance Committee, by diocesan council:
  - Minutes of May 21, 2020
  - Financial statements and reports for April 2020.

MOVED BY: Clara Plamondon  
SECONDED BY: Michael Murgatroyd  
*That the items listed as part of the consent agenda be approved.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

## Transforming Futures Update - Walter Stewart

Walter Stewart indicated that the work of Transforming Futures has for the most part been paused in the diocese. A number of parishes are completing research for the preparation of their case studies.

Walter noted, that in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not the best time for parishes to begin the process of starting their Transforming Futures initiative. He told council that Transforming Futures is not "going away," but, only "on pause."

## Episcopal Transition - Chancellor Bob Gill

The chancellor gave council a brief summary of the Episcopal Transition Committee's work. He referred to the guidelines established by the Provincial Health Officer limiting gatherings to a maximum of fifty people. The team is recommending an episcopal synod for Sept 26, 2020. This will need to be an election by electronic means. The Metropolitan is supportive of this timeline, as it is the desire of the Provincial Synod to have a bishop elected in our diocese prior to her retirement as Metropolitan in February 2021.

There were several questions from council. The chancellor indicated to council that new regulations will be presented at the June Diocesan Council meeting intended to resolve issues around the use of electronic voting and the validity of synod, diocesan council, parish council and vestry meeting decisions being approved during virtual meetings. He indicated to council that the election of the Metropolitan was completed using electronic means, thus setting a precedent within the Provincial Synod.

MOVED BY: Michael Wolff  
 SECONDED BY: Juli Mallett

*That the Metropolitan be requested to direct, as soon as may be convenient after June 28, 2020, that a summons to an electoral synod be issued and made returnable at 10:00 am on Saturday, the 26th of September 2020.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED BY: Don Wilson  
 SECONDED BY: Patrick Sibley

*That the Canons Committee be instructed to prepare draft regulations to Canons 1 and 2 to permit attendance at any meeting of Synod, and to set out procedures for the holding of an episcopal election, by electronic means, and that the draft regulation be presented to the June 2020 meeting of Diocesan Council for consideration and, if thought fit, adoption.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

## COVID-19 Pandemic

### a) Future Impacts and Church Facilities –

Barry Foster told council that the diocese has been developing guidelines for parishes with respect to the re-opening of the buildings. These guidelines, which should be available to parishes next week, will follow the advice of the Provincial Health Officer. Each parish will be permitted to choose whether they are ready and prepared, having had a plan approved by the regional archdeacon and the appointed synod representatives, no less than ten (10) days prior to their proposed re-opening date. Barry indicated to council that parishes will be able to defer their opening date until such time that they feel it safe for the health and well-being of the parishioners, staff and clergy.

Barry went on to say that it will be necessary for parishes to maintain their online ministry of worship, after they have returned to in-person worship and other parish activity. Many of our parishioners and members of the wider community are part of the demographic identified as vulnerable to the on-going impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and will need to be accommodated by virtual attendance in worship and parish functions.

Every person attending in-person for any parish event, visit, gathering or meeting will be required (as per the directive of the Provincial Health Officer) to have their contact information recorded by parish officials; the collected information must be maintained by the parish for 31 days from that date, and following said time period, then destroyed. Failure of any person to provide their contact information will result in that person(s) being denied participation in any activity within the parish.

Many comments were received from members of council with numerous constructive suggestions. The dean and the executive officer will take all these suggestions under consideration going forward.

b) Federal Assistance Programs for parishes (wage subsidies for clergy and lay staff)

Gail Gauthier informed council that the first subsidy payment has been distributed to parishes. Work is under way to apply for the second subsidy. The Rental Subsidy program has generated some confusion and Gail has been in contact with the Federal Government agencies responsible for these programs, requesting clarification of our status as a diocese, under this program.

A question was asked by council regarding the assessment parishes are responsible for to the diocese and the status of our assessment with the national church. These issues are being dealt with through the finance office.

c) Diocesan Parish Emergency Relief Fund

Gail Gauthier indicated that the program has been discussed at the archdeacons and regional deans meeting this past Wednesday. Only two parishes have asked for assistance as of May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## Educational Trusts Board

Re-appointment of Ian Alexander to the Educational Trusts Board.

MOVED BY: Bob Gill  
SECONDED BY: Walter Stewart

*That Diocesan Council approves the Educational Trusts Board recommendation to re-appoint Ian Alexander to the Education Trust Board for a term of three years beginning in May 2019 and ending May 2022.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

## Other Business – None

## Closing Reflection

The dean thanked all in attendance for their commitment to the life of the diocese. The dean asked Patrick Sibley to offer the dismissal. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM.

**Next Scheduled Diocesan Council meeting**  
**Thursday, June 26, 2020 at 10:00 am by ZOOM Platform**