

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

Minutes of the meeting of June 25, 2020 - Virtual meeting using ZOOM.US platform

EX OFFICIO

Bishop

Chancellor

Vice Chancellor

Dean and Diocesan Administrator

Registrar

Lay Secretary

Clerical Secretary

Treasurer

Bob Gill

Vacant

The Very Rev. M. Ansley Tucker

Nathan Lampard **R**

Vacant

The Rev. Paul Schumacher

Michael Murgatroyd **R**

ELECTED BY SYNOD

The Venerable Dr. Dawna Wall

Don Wilson

Joan Hoffman

Ashley Blair

The Venerable Clara Plamondon

Michael Wolff

Penny Holt

Aleesha Barkemeier **R**

ELECTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Rev. Juli Mallet

The Rev. Patrick Sibley

The Rev. Aneeta Saroop **R**

The Rev. Heather Cutten

Walter Stewart

Lynn Schumacher

Denise Ropp

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 **R**

GUESTS (with voice, no vote)

Amber Santarelli **R**

Bob Brandle

Welcome

The diocesan administrator, 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 then offered a prayer.

Ansley highlighted several issues:

- 1) Protocols for the reopening of parish facilities have been provided to each parish. Parishes will be reopening on an individual basis. The protocols are designed to permit any parish to choose its own speed in instituting the program.
- 2) The episcopal election.
- 3) Pride Week – Ansley asked members of council to look at the website and take note of our dragonfly emblem which now incorporates the rainbow in its design.
- 4) Bob Brandle, diocesan property advisor, was welcomed as a guest for today. Bob will speak to several property items during this meeting of council.

The dean asked if there were any changes to the agenda: The clerical secretary noted that under the finance meeting minutes for June 18th, the financial statements for Dec 31, 2019 and the Pender Island Housing Society resolution have been removed from the consent agenda and placed as separate items on the regular agenda for diocesan council.

Under Other Business – The clerical secretary asked that diocesan council consider the appointment of a lay secretary as soon as possible in light of the forthcoming episcopal election.

The items listed as part of the consent agenda were accepted by consensus approval.

Review of the Agenda and Consent Agenda Approval

- a) Regrets for Absence – The clerical secretary noted the regrets for absence from this council meeting. There were two voting members, plus one youth voting member of council absent.
- b) Correspondence – A letter from the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois of the Anglican Foundation of Canada was read into the record. A copy of the letter is attached to the minutes.
- c) Consent agenda approval –
 1. Diocesan council minutes of May 28, 2020.
 2. From finance committee meeting held on June 18, 2020 - including ratification of motions arising from the minutes of finance committee, by diocesan council:
 - Minutes of June 18, 2020
 - Minus items removed from consent agenda, moved to the regular agenda for discussion.
 - Financial Statements for December 31, 2019
 - Pender Island Housing Society Request
 3. Financial statements and reports for May 2020.

4. Educational Trust Board appointment of Cathie Dafoe Hall as a member of the Educational Trust Board as of the June 2020 ETB meeting and ending June 2023.
5. Summer Property Management Team appointment.

MOVED BY: Lynn Schumacher

SECONDED BY: Ashley Blair

That the items listed as part of the consent agenda be approved.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Financial Assistance Programs – Gail Gauthier

The finance officer gave explanations regarding several notations for items noted in the December 31, 2019 Financial Statements.

MOVED BY: Ed Norman

SECONDED BY: Patrick Sibley

That diocesan council approves the Diocese of British Columbia Financial Statements for December 31, 2019 as reviewed by Grant Thornton.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Gail Gauthier spoke briefly about the Federal Government Income Assistance Program. Since the diocese qualified for the first payment under this program, we also then qualified for the second payment period. Application is being made for the third and fourth payment periods. Gail noted that to qualify for the next two periods, we would need to show at least a 30% decline in revenues. Some parishes have seen a smaller drop in revenues, and a few have even seen their revenues increase due to increased donations given by individuals in support of their parish.

Episcopal Transition – Chancellor Bob Gill

The chancellor gave an overview of the proposed changes to regulations 2.1.05, 1.2.01A, 1.7.05, 3.02A and 6.7.02, and to amend regulation 3.03. A period of discussion and questions followed during which many comments and questions of clarification were responded to by the chancellor, the executive officer, members of the regulations review task team, and the dean.

MOVED BY: Bob Gill

SECONDED BY: Ed Norman

That the council enact regulations 2.1.05, 1.2.01A, 1.7.05, 3.02A and 6.7.02, and amend regulation 3.03, all in the form circulated with the diocesan council agenda for June 25, 2020.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

MOVED BY: Lynn Schumacher

SECONDED BY: Walter Stewart

That the electoral synod to be held on Saturday, September 26, 2020 be held entirely by means of a telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting, and that the necessary arrangements be made by synod staff under the direction of the Episcopal Transition Planning Team.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

The diocesan administrator thanked the Canons Committee, Juli Mallett and Catherine Pate for their work.

The chancellor then asked the diocesan administrator for her approval of the motion to proceed with the episcopal election on September 26, 2020 by electronic means. The diocesan administrator, Ansley Tucker, gave verbal approval in support of the motion.

Barry Foster briefly reviewed where the episcopal election process stands, as of June 25th, 2020. Walter Stewart spoke to council about the larger issues which delegates should be aware of going into the September 26th electronic election for a new bishop. A document, covering some of the key issues we face as a diocese, was presented to diocesan council for their review and comments. In this document, the product of many hours of work by an episcopal election task team sub-committee, many issues and items for consideration in electing a new bishop are presented for all synod delegates consideration. Walter suggested that it would be best practise to provide this document to all delegates long in advance of the date nominations for candidates for bishop may be submitted (July 28th Issuance of Summons for an Episcopal Election date). The document will also be posted to the web site, where candidates will be able to review its content prior to the nominations period.

A period of discussion followed.

The diocesan administrator asked council to provide Walter Stewart with any comments or suggestions regarding the document for the task team's review. Any revisions will come out by email and be approved by an e-vote of diocesan council.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Barry Foster told diocesan council that the protocols are now posted to the web site. Before reopening any parish, that parish must develop its own safety plan and have received approval of that plan from the executive officer at least ten (10) days prior to the proposed date of re-opening. The earliest acceptable date for parish re-opening is July 12th (requiring a minimum July 2nd approval from the executive officer). Barry indicated that only two or three parishes have submitted safety plans for a July 12th reopening of parish buildings.

Bethlehem Retreat Centre - For Information Only

Bob Brandle, diocesan property advisor, gave a brief history of the operation of the Bethlehem Retreat Centre (BRC) and its relationship to the Bethlehem Investors Group (BIG), of which the diocese is a 25% shareholder.

Recently, the centre has fallen on hard times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent departure of the centre's executive director. Don Evans has been appointed the new executive director and is attempting to find a place of stability for the centre moving forward, with a new business plan. In recent months, BRC has not been able to pay its full rent.

BIG is asking what the diocese would like to do with our involvement in the investors group. During a brief discussion, Bob Brandle responded to a number of questions and comments from council. As the value of the property lies in the land, there is no financial risk on the diocese' part. It was recommended that diocesan council accept the finance committee's recommendation to wait till the spring of 2021 and again review the overall picture of BRC. BRC is providing the diocesan property advisor with monthly financial statements for review.

Pender Island Housing Society

The property advisor, Bob Brandle, spoke to diocesan council about the request by the Pender Island Housing Society, which is not related to the diocese in any way. A short discussion followed.

MOVED BY: Ed Norman

SECONDED BY: Heather Cutten

That diocesan council approves the Parish of Pender and Saturna Islands in conjunction with M'akola Development Services and Pender Island Housing Society's request to make application to BC Housing, for funding for the feasibility study, for a proposed 26 unit rental housing project on a subdivided portion of the Pender Island property.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Diocesan Post Publication – For Information Only

Catherine Pate outlined our need to provide timely reporting of the Electoral Synod, before, during and after the September 26th electronic election date. The September, October and November issues of the *Diocesan Post* will be provided in electronic format only, in order to achieve this goal of timely reporting. No print publications will be produced for these months.

Catherine commented that this initiative will be an opportunity to provide "a springboard" into our three-year plan of moving into a digital-only format for the *Diocesan Post* by 2022. In 2022, *The Anglican Journal* will cease providing a printed version of their publication, eliminating our ability to publish our *Post* with their *Journal*.

Other Business

The clerical secretary noted the need for the diocese to find someone willing to become lay secretary for the diocese. The lay secretary is the recording secretary for finance committee, is an officer of synod, and is a voting member of diocesan council. Because we are meeting electronically for the most part, the lay secretary does not need to reside in the Victoria area.

The lay secretary has an important role during the process for the election of a new bishop. With the September 26th date having been set for the episcopal election, it is important that this position be filled as soon as possible.

Closing Reflection

The dean thanked all in attendance for their commitment to the life of the diocese.

Ansley reminded council that our next scheduled meeting will be August 27th at 10 AM by ZOOM platform. On August 27th, council will act as nominations committee for the September 26th episcopal election. Chancellor Bob Gill reminded council that there must be a 2/3 quorum of diocesan council in attendance for this electronic meeting to proceed.

Being that there was no further business, the dean asked council to share in The Grace.

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Next Scheduled Diocesan Council meeting
Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 10:00 am by ZOOM Platform

June 22, 2020

Diocese of British Columbia
900 Vancouver St
Victoria, BC V8V 3V7

Dear people of the Diocese of British Columbia,

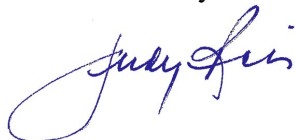
I am writing to express gratitude for your annual membership with The Anglican Foundation of Canada. We so value your steady and regular gifts that make an immediate and meaningful difference for Canadian Anglicans from coast to coast to coast.

Your gifts build and renovate beloved church buildings. They make accessibility possible for all who walk through their doors. Gifts to the Foundation support Canadian faith communities, parishes and individuals who strive to ensure a strong Church for years to come. Children and young people attend choir school and summer camp, thanks to your gifts, and Anglicans are able to launch new and innovative ministries.

The Foundation doesn't exist without you as donors and so we express our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to you, and we hope that you feel you are a part of things that really matter to the Canadian Church.


Thank you for your generosity.

Yours sincerely,



The Rev Canon Dr. Judy Rois
Executive Director

Acknowledging receipt of \$500.00 on 2020-06-18.



REGULATION 2.1.05 – MEETINGS OF SYNOD BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

Canon 2.1 d & e allows for the order and conduct of business of Synod to be set out in regulations.

a. Diocesan Council may, with the concurrence of the Bishop, resolve that a meeting of Synod shall be held entirely by means of a telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.

b. In extraordinary circumstances, the Bishop may direct that a member of Synod may participate in a meeting of Synod by means of a telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting. A member of Synod so participating in a meeting is deemed for the purposes of the Canons to be present at the meeting.

c. In any meeting of Synod where members participate by electronic means, the provisions of Regulations 2.1.01, 2.1.02, 2.1.03 and 2.1.04 continue to apply, unless any provision is in conflict with a provision of this Regulation 2.1.05, in which case the provision of this Regulation shall govern.

Rules of order applying to members participating by electronic means

d. Unless the presiding officer dispenses with this rule, members shall keep their microphones muted at all times except when called upon by the presiding officer to speak.

e. Members may indicate to the presiding officer their desire to speak through such electronic means as are made available by the software or other technology in use. Members claiming the right to raise a point of order or privilege may do so.

f. A member called to order may have his or her connection muted if the presiding officer so directs.

g. Votes on all motions shall be cast in the manner enabled by the electronic technology in use.

Nominations, Elections and Duties of Scrutineers in Cases of Electronic Voting

h. Any contractor or volunteer, including but not limited to a software provider and its employees supplying the necessary technology to facilitate electronic voting shall, before commencing to provide services, provide a written undertaking in a form acceptable to the chancellor to

abide by the provisions of these regulations that have as their object the preservation of confidentiality and the secrecy of any ballot.

i. The presiding officer shall appoint a returning officer and a deputy returning officer, who shall not be voting members of Synod, and who shall have the duties and responsibilities set out in this regulation. The returning officer may delegate some or all functions to the provider of software or other electronic technology.

j. The software provider and all of its employees (collectively called the "Election Manager") shall give the returning officer and deputy the ability to audit and observe all aspects of the voting software in use, including but not limited to the "back end" tools used by the Election Manager to run the election, prepare ballots, call for votes, and tabulate results.

k. After nominations shall have been declared closed, the returning officer shall cause electronic ballots to be made available using electronic technology engaged for the purpose. The ballot for each position shall show the number of persons to be elected, and shall list the candidates in alphabetical order by surname.

l. The returning officer and deputy shall take all possible steps to ensure that they have received the electronic votes of all members who had registered to vote, and shall take all reasonable steps to be assured that all members who wish to vote electronically have done so.

m. The results of each election shall be tabulated by the returning officer and deputy, under supervision of the scrutineers. On completion of the counting, the returning officer shall report the results to the presiding officer, who shall thereupon instruct the returning officer to announce such results.

n. The returning officer shall maintain an electronic archive of all ballots cast until instructed by the presiding officer to destroy them.

o. The Election Manager, returning officer and deputy shall take all possible steps to ensure that no person other than themselves know for which candidate each member has voted, such steps to include:

(i) causing all electronic ballots to be received by the returning officer and deputy and by no other persons; and

(ii) ensuring that the Election Manager, returning officer and deputy, and no other persons, see the electronic ballots, whether in electronic or in any other form.

p. The Election Manager, returning officer and deputy shall for all time keep confidential the name of each candidate for whom any member has cast his or her ballot, other than information the presiding officer, chancellor or registrar has provided to the voting members of Synod.

q. At the close of the meeting, the presiding officer shall ask if any voter wishes to challenge the ballot, and, if no challenge is made, shall order the ballots destroyed.

r. So soon as is possible after the order for the destruction of ballots, the Election Manager, the returning officer, deputy returning officer, chancellor and registrar shall delete and destroy any and all documents in their control or possession, whether in electronic form or in paper form, which indicate the identity of the candidate in whose favour any member has cast his or her ballot, other than information the presiding officer, chancellor or registrar has provided to the voting members of Synod.

Special Provisions in the event of technical difficulties

s. In the event the returning officer decides at any time during the voting process that technical difficulties have arisen which interfere with the ability of a member to vote electronically, the returning officer, in consultation with the deputy returning officer, and with the consent of the member in respect of whom technical difficulties have arisen, may designate such means of electronic communication as the returning officer deems appropriate to receive the vote of the member.

t. In the event technical difficulties arise which in the opinion of the returning officer prevent altogether a member from voting electronically, the returning officer may nevertheless receive the votes of those members who are able to vote electronically.

u. Technical difficulties with electronic voting on the part of one or more members shall not be grounds for impeaching the validity of any election, provided that valid votes have been received from a number of members comprising a quorum of both orders.

v. In the event the returning officer determines that technical difficulties prevent an election by electronic means in which the Synod can have confidence, the presiding officer may, with or without consulting with others, adjourn the meeting of the Synod until a date not later than fourteen (14) days thereafter, such date to be fixed by the presiding officer, with all members of Synod to be notified of the date.

REGULATION 1.2.01A – ELECTION OF BISHOP BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

a. Where an election of a bishop, bishop coadjutor or bishop suffragan is to take place entirely by electronic means as permitted by Regulation 2.1.05, the provisions of all other regulations to the canons, including Regulation 2.1.05, shall apply except where they conflict with a provision

of this regulation, in which case the applicable provision of this regulation shall govern.

b. The members of the clergy and lay representatives entitled to vote shall register electronically in advance of the commencement of the Synod as instructed by the returning officer.

c. At or immediately preceding the commencement of the electoral synod, a list of those members entitled to vote shall be compiled by way of an electronic quorum vote, and signed by the presiding officer.

d. After time for prayer, voting shall commence as directed by the presiding officer.

e. The returning officer shall advise the presiding officer, chancellor and registrar of the total number of ballots cast and the number of ballots cast for each candidate.

f. The presiding officer shall instruct the returning officer to display the results of each ballot.

REGULATION 3.02A – MEETINGS OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

a. The clerical and lay secretaries may, with the concurrence of the Bishop, direct that any member of the diocesan council may participate in a meeting of the diocesan council by means of a telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting. A member of the diocesan council so participating in a meeting is deemed for the purposes of the Canons to be present at the meeting.

b. The clerical and lay secretaries may, with the concurrence of the Bishop, direct that a meeting of the diocesan council shall be held entirely by means of a telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.

c. The chair of any committee of the diocesan council may direct that any member of that committee may participate in a meeting by means of a telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting. A member of the committee so participating in a meeting is deemed for the purposes of the Canons to be present at the meeting.

d. The chair of any committee of the diocesan council may direct that a meeting of that committee shall be held entirely by means of a telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all

participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.

e. In any meeting of the diocesan council or of a committee where members participate by electronic means, those provisions of Regulation 2.1.05 that are not in conflict with this Regulation shall apply, with the necessary grammatical and contextual changes.

Regulation 3.03 amended adding the following paragraph b.(5)

(5) Where the chair of any committee of the diocesan council considers it necessary, an item may be presented for decision by that committee by e-mail ballot, following the procedures set out in paragraphs (1) to (4) above, with the necessary grammatical and contextual changes.

REGULATION 6.7.02 – PARISH MEETINGS BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

a. The incumbent of a parish, or, if there is no incumbent, the churchwardens, may direct that at any annual or special meeting of parishioners, or any meeting of the parish council or a committee thereof, a member may participate by means of a telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting. A member so participating in a meeting is deemed for the purposes of the Canons to be present at the meeting.

b. The incumbent of a parish, or, if there is no incumbent, the churchwardens, may direct that any annual or special meeting of parishioners, or any meeting of the parish council or a committee thereof, shall be held entirely by means of a telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.

c. In any meeting of parishioners, the parish council or a committee thereof where members participate by electronic means, those provisions of Regulation 2.1.05 that are not in conflict with this Regulation shall apply, with the necessary grammatical and contextual changes.

REGULATION 1.7.05 – CONDUCT OF REGIONAL CONFERENCES BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

a. The regional archdeacon may direct that at any regional conference a member may participate by means of a telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all

participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting. A member so participating in a meeting is deemed for the purposes of the Canons to be present at the meeting.

b. The regional archdeacon may direct that any regional conference shall be held entirely by means of a telephonic, an electronic or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.

c. In any regional conference where members participate by electronic means, those provisions of Regulation 2.1.05 that are not in conflict with this Regulation shall apply, with the necessary grammatical and contextual changes.