



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

Minutes of the meeting of October 22, 2020 - Virtual meeting using ZOOM.US platform

EX OFFICIO

Bishop
Chancellor
Vice Chancellor
Dean and Diocesan Administrator
Registrar
Lay Secretary
Clerical Secretary
Treasurer

Vacant

Bob Gill

Vacant

The Very Rev. M. Ansley Tucker
Nathan Lampard **A**
Canon Elaine Ellison
The Rev. Paul Schumacher
Michael Murgatroyd

ELECTED BY SYNOD

The Venerable Dr. Dawna Wall
Don Wilson **R**
Joan Hoffman
Ashley Blair

The Venerable Clara Plamondon
Michael Wolff
Penny Holt
Aleesha Barkemeier **A**

ELECTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Rev. Juli Mallet
The Rev. Patrick Sibley
The Rev. Heather Cutten

Walter Stewart
Lynn Schumacher
Denise Ropp
Ed Norman

APPOINTED

The Rev. David Chillman **R**
Boyd Shaw **A**

STAFF

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

GUESTS (with voice, no vote)

Welcome

The diocesan administrator, Ansley Tucker, opened the meeting at 10AM and welcomed the members of council. The Dean thanked the members of council for joining in this virtual meeting on the Zoom platform. She provided these comments:

- 1) The electoral synod was a signature success for our diocese. She noted how proud she is that we were the first diocese to "pull it off," virtually.
- 2) We have launched a new orientation program for recently ordained and new clergy to this diocese.
- 3) Diocesan council's commitment to provide funds in the diocesan budget to fund one full-time employee for the refugee program will expire December 31, 2021. A presentation will be coming to diocesan council shortly to outline the program past 2021.
- 4) New synod staff–Terry Mikkonen is retiring, and Gillian Astbury has been hired as a new assistant to the finance officer. Training will be completed before Terry leaves.
- 5) We require each member of diocesan council's permission to record a session of this meeting. There were no dissenting voices.
- 6) A discussion regarding Transforming Futures after COVID-19 will form part of this meeting.

The Dean offered a prayer.

The Dean then asked if there were any changes to the agenda: None

Consent Agenda

- 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 members of council absent. The clerical secretary declared that there was a quorum present.
- b) Consent agenda approval:
 - 1) Receive the minutes of the Diocesan Council meeting held on September 24, 2020.
 - 2) Receive the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting for October 15, 2020.
 - 3) Receive the financial statements and reports for September 2020 as circulated.
 - 4) Receive the Investment Committee minutes for September 29, 2020.
 - 5) Receive the Property Advisor's activity report for September 2020.
 - 6) Receive E-vote results for engagement of South Island Property Management to provide property management services for 3937 St. Peter's Road, Victoria (St Peter's Lakehill Rectory).
 - 7) Finance committee recommends to Diocesan Council the approval of an amendment to the lease with the Canadian Heritage Arts Society (at St. Mary Oak Bay premises), that effective July 1, 2019, an additional 169 square feet is added to the area under lease and further Basic Rent is due monthly until the lease expires May 31, 2023 as per the amended lease.

MOVED BY: Ed Norman
SECONDED BY: Michael Wolff

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

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Episcopal Transition Process

Barry Foster presented a brief outline of the role the Episcopal Transition Team (diocesan planning and agenda committee) undertook during the months leading up to and including the day of the episcopal election itself. He noted that the task team gave several questions consideration at its post-election meeting.

- 1) Are there principles which we need to consider and protocols to be established by diocesan council regarding what questions may be posed to candidates between the announcement of nominees and the election day?
- 2) We should consider a longer period between the announcement of nominees and the election day so that synod delegates may have more time to consider each candidate's profile.
- 3) What will the next election look like—electronic? When will it possibly be held?
- 4) Is there a strong desire on the part of synod delegates to meet nominees in-person, and to engage in conversation with each nominee beyond their written responses to the profile questionnaire?
- 5) While our collective memories are still fresh, should we compile a recorded summary of changes we believe would improve the election process in future?
- 6) Canon 1.2 will be re-visited by the Canons Committee for any further changes required.
- 7) Is it possible to have each candidate interviewed by a small team of task team members? Could questions be posed by diocesan council and synod delegates to each nominee through a Zoom meeting? Who has the authority to interview candidates? Do candidates respond to questions from all sources?
- 8) Synod delegates require more candidate information to consider how they will vote on the next ballot. Candidate information should be provided to delegates between ballots.

Barry Foster thanked the members of the episcopal task team for their work during this election process.

Bishop-elect Anna Greenwood-Lee

Ansley Tucker outlined the timetable for Anna Greenwood-Lee's arrival in the diocese and the proposed schedule for orientation and team-building with synod staff. It is anticipated that there will be no parish visits until after her consecration and installation as the fourteenth Bishop of Columbia on January 30, 2021.

Ashley Blair, a member of diocesan council representing the youth of the diocese, requested an opportunity to meet with the new bishop in February 2021 to discuss the importance of the diocesan youth council and its work within the diocese of islands and inlets (Diocese of British Columbia). Referred to Synod staff.

Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul, Esquimalt

Barry Foster gave diocesan council a brief update regarding the ministry centre and residence development project. The project is now in the hands of BC Housing, awaiting preliminary project approval.

Archdeacon Dawna Wall, Michael Wolff and the Rev. Patrick Sibley left the meeting at 10:45 AM to attend to other commitments.

Diocesan Vision and Transforming Futures Initiative

Walter Stewart and Brendon Neilson provided a summary of the Transforming Futures program, which was paused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now an appropriate time for Transforming Futures to begin to get back on track in 2021 with parish case development and approvals. Three parishes are nearing completion of their transforming futures projects. Several more are in case development, and at least six parishes are well down the road with their case development processes.

Brendon provided council with a list of thoughts regarding the Diocesan Vision implementation.

- 1) Vision Implementation is hard work. The vision is not easily attainable. It is the process and not the destination which is important.
- 2) Vision implementation is "at home" in the parish setting and is best described as a "journey within community."
- 3) There exists a need and a desire to work beyond the parish. To this end at the diocesan level, we have established standing committees which are working on vision implementation.
- 4) Transforming Futures is the current major initiative under Vision Implementation for the Diocese. Transforming Futures is designed to address both parish and diocesan initiatives.
- 5) Vision Implementation planning is long range. It is a fluid, moving process which must adapt to the conditions we encounter as we move forward.

Group discussion followed this presentation. A summary plenary was held to briefly discuss the group responses.

Welcoming our New Bishop

Council divided into two Zoom breakout rooms to discuss the following questions:

- What does our bishop-elect need to know about us?
- What does she need to address as a matter of priority?

- What do we as a diocese need to do to help her launch her episcopacy successfully?

These conversations were recorded, with the permission of all present, and will be forwarded to our bishop-elect for information. It was also agreed that council would return to these issues at a subsequent meeting to take advantage of further reflection.

Other Business

- 1) Ansley Tucker informed council that our next meeting will be by Zoom on **Thursday, November 26, 2020** and not on November 28, as scheduled.
- 2) The finance officer reported that the Finance Committee will be contacted with a date for a short Zoom meeting to consider the proposal set forward by the Investment Committee regarding the choice of a new investment advisor for our portfolio. An e-vote will then be presented for diocesan council's consideration and approval.

Closing Reflection

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

Ashley Blair moved the adjournment of the meeting at 12:03 PM. The Dean led the council in the Grace.

Next Scheduled Diocesan Council meeting
Thursday, November 26, 2020 at 10:00 am by Zoom Platform