



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

Minutes of the meeting of November 26, 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 **R**
Michael Murgatroyd (opening of meeting)
Barbara Underhill

ELECTED BY SYNOD

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

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

ELECTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Rev. Juli Mallet
The Rev. Patrick Sibley
The Rev. Aneeta Saroop **A**
The Rev. Heather Cutten

Walter Stewart
Lynn Schumacher
Denise Ropp
Ed Norman

APPOINTED

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

STAFF

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

GUESTS (with voice, no vote)

Canon Ian Alexander
Canon Bob Brandle

Faith in Foundation: Asset Management • Financial Resources • Effective Communication • Current Ministries
• Shared and Remote Ministries

R E N E W E D H E A R T S R E N E W E D S P I R I T S R E N E W E D P E O P L E

Welcome

The Dean thanked members of council for joining in this virtual Zoom meeting. She commented that recent public health orders have put us in limbo for Christmas plans. We are living with uncertainty not knowing what the situation will be in two or three weeks. The church is being called to live in a state of ambiguity in our spiritual lives. We should think of this situation as a resurrection to find life in the midst of the pandemic; we need to live with nimbleness and hold each other up when needed.

The Dean offered a prayer.

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

Consent Agenda

- a) Regrets for Absence – David Chillman, Paul Schumacher, Ashley Blair
- b) Resignation of Michael Murgatroyd from diocesan council and as diocesan treasurer and appointment of new diocesan treasurer:

The Dean said Michael told us he would be treasurer for five years and we are grateful for his steady hand. He deserves a break and has found a replacement—Barbara Underhill of St George, Cadboro Bay. Michael said he was happy to pass the torch on and thanked people for their support.

MOVED BY: Michael Wolff
SECONDED BY: Heather Cutten

That diocesan council accepts the resignation of Michael Murgatroyd as diocesan treasurer and as a member of diocesan council. With gratitude and great thanks, we acknowledge the contribution Michael has made to the life of the diocese of islands and inlets.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

MOVED BY: Lynn Schumacher
SECONDED BY: Patrick Sibley

That diocesan council appoints Barbara Underhill as diocesan treasurer and as a member of diocesan council until the next regular synod of the diocese of islands and inlets.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

- c) Approval of the Consent Agenda:
 - 1) Minutes of the diocesan council meeting held on October 22, 2020
 - 2) Draft minutes of the finance committee meeting for November 19, 2020 to be received.
 - 3) Items for ratification from the November 19, 2020 finance committee meeting.
 - 4) Receiving of e-vote results.

Members agreed to remove two items from the finance committee list—St Peter and St Paul Ministry Centre and Commitment Authority—for further discussion.

MOVED BY: Ed Norman

SECONDED BY: Don Wilson

That the amended list of items in the consent agenda be accepted.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Bob Gill noted that the Commitment Authority document would be appended to these minutes and should not be part of the consent agenda.

MOVED BY: Bob Gill

SECONDED BY: Clara Plamondon

That the Commitment Authority document be accepted.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Diocesan Canons – Canon 1 update and review of documents

Bob G reported that the Canons Committee will look at revisions to Canon 1, the episcopal election canon. The important items are time limits and the opportunity for electors to get to know the nominees, and how the candidates make themselves known to the electors. There are also some technical issues which will be addressed. Some members suggested 90 days may be the right amount of time between a vacancy and announcing a synod. At the same time, 90 days may seem like a long time if nothing significant is happening during the time. It was also pointed out that a virtual election is more time-efficient than in person; previous experience should be considered as well. Bob asked that suggestions for revisions be made to him before the committee meets.

Property Advisor's Comments – St Peter and St Paul, Esquimalt, update and motion required from recommendation by Finance Committee.

Bob Brandle spoke of recent developments in the project, noting especially the letter of commitment from the diocese needed by BC Housing. With this letter in place, complete approval should be given by year end. Our project is part of a five storey building; a high end and detailed project with a contribution of \$144/sq foot for the building. Bob noted that the construction cost has increased 18% over the last few years and the project has a large 21% contingency.

Barbara asked how the \$710,000 cash contribution was calculated. Bob said this figure seems to be the total project cost for the first floor, although he doesn't have access to construction cost estimates at this point. Once BC Housing gives approval, Bob anticipates more information will be available. Bob noted that Peter Daniel was assisting with the project until last December; Bob came on board early this year and will be around for the project.

Michael asked where the funding will come from and the consequences of not approving the funds. Gail said a \$250,000 cheque was written to Roger's Court at the beginning of the project, along with a letter of credit in a GIC—this money came from regular operations fronted by the disestablished parishes fund. There is still money in the fund even after other commitments are made. Bob said that not approving the funds will still leave front end costs which have to be covered and may cost just as much. The parish will have to budget for furnishings; utilities and maintenance items also need to be considered by the parish.

Don asked if the approval is for up to \$710,000 and if the final figure could be less. Bob responded that the circumstances of the project, with construction management being done, the project could be fine-tuned and cost a bit less.

Bob G asked about the relationship between Sitka and Woodburn Management. Bob B responded that an official relationship does not exist, but Sitka did the work on the Mt Doug Housing Society project, so the diocese has worked with them in the past.

Clara asked about the financial arrangement between the diocese and the parish for this project. Bob B responded with the point that 10 years ago when parishes in the area were closed and amalgamated, Bishop James Cowan told those parishes that a new hall would be built for them to use. The parish will pay for one-time purchases such as furniture, while the diocese pays the \$710,000 construction cost.

MOVED BY: Walter Stewart

SECONDED BY: Ed Norman

That Diocesan Council reaffirms the commitment made in January 2017 to our participation in the construction project led by Rogers Court and funded by BC Housing at St Peter & St Paul, Esquimalt; our participation is comprised of the land on which the development is taking place and sufficient cash to meet the cost of the first floor ministry centre portion of the development, estimated to be \$2.5 million total project cost (land and cash); and, Diocesan Council approves the estimated additional expenditure of \$460,142 (\$710,142 estimated additional expense less \$250,000 previously committed and disbursed), and, Diocesan Council approves writing a letter to BC Housing confirming our willingness to accept unforeseen additional project costs associated with completing the ministry center.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

ABSTAIN: Lynn Schumacher

Vision Fund – concluding report

Ian Alexander provided a slide show final report on the work of the Vision Fund Jury, from the fall 2015 decision by Synod to use some reserve funds from disestablished parishes to give life to the diocesan vision, to the positive impacts made by the fund. He noted 101 grants to 69 projects totalling \$587,963. Ian also pointed to a recent interim report from the Revitalization of Living Languages project. The Dean thanked Ian for his years of service and stewardship of the Vision Fund.

Council of General Synod – update

Ian Alexander presented an update on council activities via a slide show. He noted that council meetings and other groups have met virtually and will continue to do so in future. Ian spoke to the major preoccupations of council over the last year, including national church strategic planning, the Primate's ecclesiological statement 'On Being Church', self-determining indigenous church, dismantling racism task force, ecumenism, liturgy, and a governance working group.

On the point of governance, Bob noted that attendance means something different in 2020 than it did previously, and like the national church, we are looking at how to determine how many delegates each church will get since numbers can't be calculated with online worship. Michael spoke about membership at General Synod, and how voting numbers may be re-

calculated in the House of Bishops. Ian said the council is exploring several new models to re-work voting at General Synod.

Diocesan Vision Discussion

Brendon Neilson presented a slideshow on the Vision; discussion was recorded with member consent to create a record for the bishop-elect. In response to the first question of how the vision is functioning, members responded with comments including:

- Don noted the Vision has been redirected to surviving the pandemic although inroads have been made in the community to help others, and we need to look at what can be undertaken with surrounding First Nation communities.
- Walter said the Vision is working and having an impact; we need to do a better job of cataloguing the changes, and what are we not going to do in order to free up energy, time and money has not been identified.
- Lynn said COVID is helping us to respond in new ways.
- The Dean suggested that what a parish does as a priority may be different than the diocese.
- Walter said we need to be ensure we have the vision in sight.
- Clara remarked that in addition to self-reflection at the parish level, and how we are doing in groups, we need to figure out ways to tell that story.

A second question will be addressed at the next meeting: what are the indicators of renewal?

Transforming Futures report on focus group parish meeting

Walter referred to his report and spoke of the key findings from six parishes that discussed their Transforming Futures work. These findings included the vision at the local level, parish consultation, community rebuilding, reworking buildings to be of value to the community, financial allocation to central resources, a parish key champion, COVID-19 impacts, and the importance of e-Church communications. Focus parishes also felt a restart of Transforming Futures by the diocese would be helpful when parishes can gather in person.

Bob G spoke of the need for a key champion in the parish; Walter responded that if the incumbent is the sole champion, this indicates the parish isn't prepared to take on the Transforming Futures work. Brendon noted the online listening meetings at St John the Divine; Penny said their champion is connecting with all parish groups. The Dean said we all need a successful project to reconnect while Walter noted the sensitivity to the costs.

Other Business and Closing remarks

Barbara said she is impressed with the presentations, good work and collaboration and is happy to be part of the group.

Denise also appreciated the presentations. The parish of St John the Divine, Courtenay is happy Alastair Hunting is moving in today; thanks to Finance Committee for approving the renovations. The way we do virtual church now has resulted in many positive things but tracking the virtual numbers of attendees is difficult.

Heather noted that Transforming Futures is in limbo in her parish due both to interim clergy but also the challenge of COVID.

Ansley said the canons require a certain number of persons on Finance Committee with accounting designations and one more is needed. Any candidate names should be forwarded to Gail.

Brendon noted the webinar tomorrow relating to our baptismal call, and asked people to register to attend.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm with members saying the doxology followed by dismissal by the Dean.

Next Scheduled Diocesan Council meeting
Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 10:00 am by ZOOM Platform