

THE NINETY SEVENTH SYNOD OF THE
ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
MINUTES OF SYNOD APRIL 22-23, 2016

Registration for all delegates to the 97th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia commenced at 3.30 pm Friday, April 22nd, 2016, in the Ecumenical Centre, Nanaimo, BC.

OPENING SERVICE

The Synod opened in Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre at 6.00pm with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The Officers of Synod robed and processed. In attendance was The Most Reverend John Privett, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon. The clergy joined the delegates in the congregation. Archbishop Privett presided at the Eucharist and Bishop McMenamie preached.

FIRST SITTING – evening Friday April 22, 2016

The Bishop called the sitting to order at 7.20pm in the Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre. He then opened with prayer.

HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerical Secretary made announcements.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Canon Sue Gueulette, Chair of the Credential Committee, reported the following registration:

Clergy 48, Laity 89, for a total of 137. The Bishop declared a quorum present and the 97th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia formally in session.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR

The Registrar read his report: "The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of the Diocese of British Columbia and members of Synod:

I beg to report that in accordance with the Canons, I have furnished a roll of clergy canonically entitled to be seated in the Synod. All records required to be made by the Registrar, both by the Lord Bishop and by the Synod since the last Synod, have been duly entered up. All these records are up-to-date and kept in a safe place of deposit provided by the Synod for this purpose."

Dated at Nanaimo, British Columbia, this 22nd day of April 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Lampard, Registrar.

1. Act of Synod – Report of the Registrar

MOVED BY: Nathan Lampard

SECONDED BY: Clara Plamondon

That the report of the Registrar be received as presented.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Mr. Stephen Martin, Diocesan Executive Officer, spoke to the proposed agenda to give the members of Synod an idea of how this Synod will proceed.

ELECTION OF CLERICAL AND LAY SECRETARIES

Archdeacon Brian Evans, Chair of the Nominating Committee, put forward the names of the Reverend Canon Susanne House as Clerical Secretary, and Mrs. Judy Trueman as Lay Secretary.

The Bishop asked three times if there were further nominations from the floor for the position of Clerical Secretary. There being none, the Bishop declared nominations closed and The Reverend Canon Susanne House elected.

The Bishop asked three times if there were further nominations from the floor for the position of Lay Secretary. There being none, the Bishop declared nominations closed and Mrs. Judy Trueman elected. The secretaries were duly seated.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The Bishop announced the appointment and membership of the following Sessional Committees of the Synod:

Agenda Committee

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie
The Rev. Canon Susanne House
Mrs. Judy Trueman
Mr. Stephen Martin

Scrutineers

The Rev. Ian Powell – Chair
Sr. Brenda Jenner
Sr. Sue Elwyn
Ms Zena McCreary
Ms Terry Mikkonen

Resolutions

The Rev. Bruce Bryant-Scott - Chair
Mr. Ian Alexander

Worship

The Very Rev. M. Ansley Tucker - Chair
The Rev. Clara Plamondon
The Rev. Canon Dr. Dawna Wall
The Rev. David Chillman
The Ven. Brian Evans

Registrations/Credentials

Canon Sue Gueulette - Chair
Amy Fleming
Caroline Grimmer
Sandra McKinnon
Boyd Shaw
Alison Walsh
Bill Walsh
Brian McCormack
Gordon Melliar

Mrs. Lynn Schumacher
Mrs. Sharon Hallsor

Public Relations
Ms Catherine Pate

Nominations

The Ven. Brian Evans - Chair
The Ven. Blair Haggart
Chair
The Ven. Alastair McCollum
The Ven. Lon Towstego
The Ven. Penelope Kingham
The Rev. Canon Dr. John Steele
The Rev. Will Ferrey
The Rev. Jim Holland
The Rev. Canon Dr. Dawna Wall
Ms Myrna Bennett
Ms Genevieve Richards
Mr. Mark Oldnall
Mrs. Barbara Henshall

Expenditures

The Rev. Canon Dr. John Alfred Steele
Mrs. Gail Gauthier
Mrs. Eileen Curtis

2. Act of Synod – Approval of Sessional Committees

MOVED BY: Wayne Hatt

SECONDED BY: Lon Towstego

That the appointment and membership of the foregoing Sessional Committees be ratified.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

3. Act of Synod – Suspension of the Rules of Order

MOVED BY: Bruce Bryant-Scott

SECONDED BY: Norah Fisher

That the Rules of Order be suspended and the following persons be allowed on the floor of Synod with voice but no vote:

Mrs. Judith Coleman
Mr. Peter Daniel
Mrs. Gail Gauthier
Mrs. Jill Harris
The Rev. Sandra Hounsell-Drover
Mr. Stephen Martin
Ms Terry Mikkonen
Mr. Bill Poppy
Mr. Christopher Sansom
Canon Imelda Secker
The Rev. Rob Waller
Mr. Mel Good

Mr. Matthew Cook
Sr. Sue Elwyn, SSJD
Sr. Brenda Jenner, SSJD
Mr. Alastair Hunting
The Rev. Ed Lewis
Ms Zena McCreary
Mrs. Marg Misener
The Most Rev. John Privett
Mr. Paul Schumacher
Mr. Patrick Sibley
Ms. Julie Poskitt

Saturday only - Mrs. Gail Rodger

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

REMEMBRANCE OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF SYNOD

The Bishop remembered the following former members of Synod who had died since the last meeting of Synod.

Before God, this Synod remembers, with gratitude, those of its former members who have departed this life and are at rest, especially those whose deaths have been reported since the last session:

WALTER BARSS
Diocesan Lay Canon

JOLYON BRIGGS
St. Christopher & St. Aidan, Lake Cowichan

JOHN SANDYS-WUNSCH, Priest
Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul, Nanaimo
Diocesan Interim Ministry Consultant
Theologian in Residence, St. John the Divine, Victoria

J. RUSSELL BROWN, Priest
Rector, St. Michael and All Angels, Royal Oak
Archdeacon of Haro

ROBERT D. MacCRAE, Priest
Rector, St. John the Divine, Victoria
Archdeacon of Juan de Fuca

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CLERGY

The Bishop noted that since the 7th sitting of the 96th Synod held in September 2015, a total of 3 clergy had joined the diocese along with staff and members of the Sisterhood of Saint John the Divine. He introduced them:

Clergy

The Reverend Susan Hayward-Brown, St. Mark, Qualicum Beach
The Reverend Peggy Jensen, St. Martin of Tours, Gabriola Island
Mr. Alastair Hunting, Facilitator of Liturgy and Pastoral Care, St. Columba, Port Hardy

SSJD

Sr. Sue Elwyn, SSJD

Staff

Mrs. Gail Gauthier – Director of Finance

Ms. Catherine Pate – Communications Officer

CLERGY ABSENT WITH CAUSE

The following clergy have the Bishop's permission to be absent from the 97th Synod: the Venerable Blair Haggart, The Reverend Joan Scandrett, The Reverend Don Walls.

Archbishop John Privett, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon, brought greetings from the people of the Ecclesiastical Province and spoke of the current activities in the parishes across the Dioceses.

Stephen Martin, the Executive Officer, spoke to the members of the Synod of how the next couple of days would be laid out, the topics to be addressed and how we would work together to attain the goals set before this Synod.

4. Act of Synod – Approval of Minutes

MOVED BY: Brian Evans

SECONDED BY: Janice Varga

That the minutes of the 96th Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia (sittings 1-6 held in September 2014 and the 7th sitting held in October 2015) be approved.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

5. Message of Loyalty to the Queen

MOVED BY: David Chillman

SECONDED BY: Susanne House

That the following message of loyalty be conveyed to Her Majesty the Queen.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We the Bishop, the Chancellor, the Clergy and Lay members, your most loyal subjects, meeting in Nanaimo, British Columbia, this 22nd day of April, 2016, send warm and loyal greetings and blessings on your 90th birthday.

We pray for the health of your Majesty and of all the members of the Royal Family.

God Save The Queen.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

6. Act of Synod – Reception of Reports and Notices of Motion

MOVED BY: Jeanette Muzio

SECONDED BY: Will Ferrey

That the reports and notice of motion printed in the 97th Synod Convening Circular and the supplementary materials be received.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

7. Act of Synod – Report of the Diocesan Council and the Finance Committee

MOVED BY: Tony Davis

SECONDED BY: Anthony Divinagracia

That the Report of the Diocesan Council and the Finance Committee from April 2014 to February 2016 be received, the actions be approved and the changes in Regulations be ratified.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

The Dean, The Very Reverend Ansley Tucker, took over the chair of Synod while the Bishop took the opportunity to speak to the members of Synod about his recent Sacred Journey, the highlights and learnings. The Dean thanked the Bishop for his faithful ministry to all he encountered during this 'sacred journey'. The members of Synod gave their thanks to our Bishop with a standing ovation.

The evening session was ended with the saying of Compline.

At 8.30 PM the Bishop adjourned the 1st Sitting and gave his blessing.

SECOND SITTING – Morning Saturday April 23rd, 2016

Registration for all remaining unregistered delegates began at 8.00am in the hall at the Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre and concluded at 8.20am..

MORNING PRAYER

The members of Synod began the day with Morning Prayer.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Canon Sue Gueulette, Chair of the Credentials Committee reported the following registration: clergy 51 and laity 97 for a total of 148. The Bishop declared a quorum.

The Bishop called the meeting to order.

HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerical Secretary made announcements

BISHOP'S CHARGE (part 1)

At 9.30am, the Bishop began his Charge to the Synod. The Bishop began this portion of his charge by thanking all for their support over the year and particularly during his Sacred Journey from Alert Bay to Victoria. He thanked the staff of the diocesan office for their work and commitment. The Reverend Ed Lewis has retired

as the Editor of the Diocesan Post. Ed returned the Post to an award winning status amongst the Canadian Church newspapers. The Bishop also thanked the Chancellor, Dr. Constance Isherwood, for her dedicated service to the Diocese of British Columbia and also Bob Gill for his willingness to take on the responsibilities of Vice Chancellor. Michael Coleman, the Registrar of the Diocese has stepped down and the Bishop, on behalf of himself and the Diocese of British Columbia, expressed gratitude for the commitment and faithful service Michael gave during his time as Registrar and continues to give through his parish life.

The Bishop conferred the title of Diocesan Lay Canon on three individuals: Mrs. Judy Trueman, for her service and faithfulness to the diocese as Lay Secretary. Mr. Ian Alexander, for faithful service to his parish and to the life of the diocese. Mr. Wayne Stewart, for his leadership in the preparations and the execution of the Sacred Journey.

The Bishop also took this time to thank Archbishop Privett for his leadership and his friendship and commitment to the diocese.

The Bishop informed the members of Synod that the formal relationship with the Church of the Province of Myanmar was ending as of the end of July 2016. He gave thanks for the learning that has taken place, the opportunities to host clergy and laypeople from the various dioceses, as well as the opportunities members of the diocese had to travel to and around Myanmar, to make friends and establish other relationships. Bishop McMenamie will contact Archbishop Steven Than Myint Oo. The Partners in Mission committee will begin a process of a new partner relationship for the diocese.

The Refugee Crisis has meant that many people have been working very hard to find opportunities to bring Refugees to the Diocese of British Columbia. The Reverend Canon Bruce Bryant Scott is the Diocesan Refugee Co-Ordinator and he, with Rebecca Siebert, Tony Davis and Dr. John McLaren, has worked tirelessly with others to find homes and funds for refugees coming to Vancouver Island. We owe them our thanks for this important work.

In-Tent City is still very much a part of our reality in this diocese. Our involvement is crucial and we need to find ways of finding appropriate housing for those without homes. Social housing is a very big challenge. The Bishop is going to ask the Asset Manager and the Asset Management Advisory Team to engage in conversations and options with the city and the homeless to build a community, an identity and a place to call home.

We have come to this place to engage in God's world. This will be a listening Synod that is couched in prayer, that will work together as a church that will strive to see the beauty in others and will work hard at hospitality.

The Synod broke for a nutrition break.

VISION INTRODUCTION

The Bishop's Charge was followed by an introduction to the Diocesan Vision by Canon Ian Alexander and the Reverend Canon Dr. Dawna Wall. This was a reminder of where we have come from as a Diocese and how we got to this time and place in the life of the Diocese.

Ian and Dawna used a power point presentation to provide visual answers to the following questions:

Where are we going?

Where have we come from?

Where are we right now?

Where do we go next?

Where are we going? We are looking to be a vital and revitalized Anglican Communion on and of these islands.

Where have we been? We have come through a difficult time of transition with the disestablishment and the amalgamation of parishes in order to strengthen resources to move forward as a diocese.

Where are we now?

We have seen the hiring of an Executive Officer, a Communications Officer and a Finance Officer.

We have established three new groups that will focus on particular areas of concern within the diocese.

Relationships Matter - co-chaired by Archdeacon Lon Towstego and Sr. Brenda Jenner, SSJD

Creation Matters - chaired by The Rev. Wally Eamer

Justice Matters - co-chaired by Brian Rendall and The Rev. Nancy Ford

Each of the chair persons had an opportunity to speak briefly on the work of the Task Team they were part of. Out of the Justice Matters Task Team will come a motion that will be put forward in the afternoon.

A Vision Fund will be established out of funds received from the sale of properties of the diocese. This fund will provide monies for current and emerging ministries that touch the lives of people of the community. Each chosen project could receive up to \$10,000 from the Vision Fund.

Bishop McMenamie presented the second part of his charge and asked the members of Synod some questions to reflect on in our table groups.

What helps us focus?

What's missing?

Some of the responses were

What's our goal as a diocese?

There are more and more retired people in our communities and in our parishes. We need to have more conversations and be more intentional about the involvement of older people in our parishes. How do we do that when we keep telling ourselves we need young families and how do we involve older people in our parishes?

We need to focus on the x-generation (born mid 1960's to early 1980's). These are the people who are conspicuously absent from many congregations. How do we inspire and encourage them to become involved in the life of a parish?

The one big thing that is missing is the regional resources to make regional programmes and projects a reality.

There was lot of conversation in the table groups and the ideas and thoughts written down were collected by Stephen Martin and Ian Alexander.

VISION II

The Reverend Rob Waller of Waller and Associates spoke to the Planning Feasibility Study Report. Rob used a power point presentation to highlight the report and answered questions put forward by the members of Synod.

At 11.50 am the slate of nominations for Diocesan Council was presented

Regional Representatives

Cowichan/Malaspina

The Rev. Selinde Krayenhoff

Mr. Tony Davis

Haro

The Rev. Eric Partridge

Mrs. Janice Varga

Nimkish

The Rev. David Fitzsimmons

Mrs. Andrea Davis

Selkirk

The Venerable Lon Towstego
Mr. David Buckman

Tolmie

The Rev. Craig Hiebert
Canon Dr. Jeanette Muzio

Elected by the Synod (by acclamation)

The Rev. Canon Dr. Dawna Wall
Canon Ian Alexander
Ms. Penny Holt
Mr. David Stewart

There were no youth nominations put forward and thus this will be dealt with at the first diocesan council meeting after the synod.

HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerical Secretary made announcements.

The Synod participated in midday prayers. The Bishop then adjourned the Synod for lunch until 1.00 pm.

THIRD SITTING -Afternoon Saturday, April 23rd, 2016

The Bishop convened the Third Sitting of Synod at 1.00 pm.

FINANCES

Mrs. Gail Gauthier, the Diocesan Finance Officer, spoke to the Financial Statements to the end of December 2014.

The Synod then moved into a time to discuss and vote on the motions that had arisen during the course of the day.

8. Act of Synod – Amendments to Canons

MOVED BY: Constance Isherwood

SECONDED BY: Bob Gill

That Articles I Definitions and Interpretations, III The Composition of Synod, and X Notice of Synod found in the Constitution of Synod and Canons 1.7 Regions, Archdeacon and Regional Deans, 5.1 Appointments and Retirements, 6.4 Clergy Housing, 6.8 Appointment and Election of Church Wardens, 6.9 The Parish Council, be amended by deleting the words 'mission' and/or 'missionary district' whenever they occur and that these amendments be approved.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

9. Act of Synod – Canon 3.a.1

MOVED BY: Constance Isherwood

SECONDED BY: Bob Gill

That the position of Vice Chancellor be added to the Diocesan Council membership in Canon 3.a.1.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

10. Refugee Ministry

MOVED BY: Brian Rendall

SECONDED BY: Eric Partridge

That this Synod recognizes the unifying work of God in the refugee ministry of the diocese, lends its full support to this work, applauds the efforts of all those involved in carrying it on to meet the radically changed circumstances of refugee migration around the world, and thanks and supports the diocesan administration in ensuring that it is recognized and supported as a priority ministry, to recognize fully its importance to God's children and its importance in community and inter-community building and inter-faith cooperation.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

11. Act of Synod – Message to First Nations Brothers and Sisters

MOVED BY: Andrew Twiddy

SECONDED BY: Lincoln McKoen

That the following message be conveyed to the hereditary and elected chiefs, elders and councils of all First Nations of the Coast Salish, Nuuchah-nulth, and Kwakwaka'wakw peoples on these islands.

We, the Bishop, Chancellor, clergy and lay members of the 97th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, meet this 23rd day of April, 2016, on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw and Snaw-Naw. We greet you in the spirit of our sisterhood and brotherhood as children of the Creator. We solemnly pledge that the Sacred Journey recently begun by our Bishop will be continued by Anglicans on these Islands, as a way of continuing along the path of right relationship and reconciliation.

We also commit ourselves to taking concrete steps to support all the Calls for Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and to actively respond to those calls directed specifically to faith communities. In particular, we commit ourselves to supporting, complying with and furthering the principles, norms and standards of the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and we undertake to foster increased awareness and support of those principles among all Anglicans of the diocese, beginning with a special focus on this subject in all parishes on the Sunday before National Aboriginal Day, June 19th,

2016 – these activities to be undertaken, wherever possible , in partnership with local First Nations representatives.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states: 48. We call upon the church parties to the Settlement Agreement, and all other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada who have not already done so, to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation. This would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments: i) Ensuring that their institutions, policies, programs, and practices comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. ii) Respecting Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in spiritual matters, including the right to practice, develop, and teach their own spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies, consistent with Article 12:1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. iii. Engaging in ongoing public dialogue and actions to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. iv. Issuing a statement no later than March 31, 2016, from all religious denominations and faith groups, as to how they will implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. 49. We call upon all religious denominations and faith groups who have not already done so to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius. Equity for Aboriginal People. 59. We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary. 60. We call upon leaders of the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and all other faiths, in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, survivors, schools of theology, seminaries, and other religious training centres, to develop and teach curriculum for all student clergy, and all clergy and staff who work in Aboriginal communities, on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right, the history and legacy of residential schools and the roles of the church parties in that system, the history and legacy of religious conflict in Aboriginal families and communities, and the responsibility that churches have to mitigate such conflicts and prevent spiritual violence. 61. We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement, in collaboration with survivors and representatives of Aboriginal organizations, to establish permanent funding to Aboriginal people for: i) Community-controlled healing and reconciliation projects. ii) Community-controlled culture- and language revitalization projects. iii) Community-controlled education and relationship building projects. iv) Regional dialogues for Indigenous spiritual leaders and youth to discuss Indigenous spirituality, self-determination, and reconciliation.

11. Act of Synod – Pilot Fund-Raising Projects

MOVED BY: Michael Wimmer

SECONDED BY: David Stewart

That this Synod encourages Diocesan Council to approve and facilitate, at an appropriate time, pilot fund-raising projects in which parishes collaborate with the diocese, along the lines suggested in the Waller Report.

MOVED BY: Sid Langhelt

SECONDED BY: Nancy Ford

That this motion be tabled.

THE MOTION TO TABLE WAS CARRIED.

The Synod rose for a short refreshment break.

VISION III

Catherine Pate took this opportunity to speak with the members of Synod. Among the things she shared with the members of Synod, she told them that there would be a new website for the diocese in the very near future.

Bishop McMenamie introduced Archbishop Privett who shared some thoughts with the members. He thanks the diocese for its hospitality.

The theme for this Synod - *Wi'la mola ma'nux* (we are travelling together) - is a wonderful theme. God's people together. Logan has provided good leadership for this Synod and this diocese. It is touched by his faithfulness and prayerfulness.

Archbishop Privett was pleased to see that the Visioning Team was made up of the Synod as a whole in which can be found an abundance of resources. The process was an example of respectful listening. The Synod was not of one mind but was respectful of each. The Archbishop was aware of the time pressures but also the wish to give all who wanted to speak the time to do so and be heard. He saw the courage of the people of the diocese in facing the changing and challenging times. People were willing to express, face and identify difficult truths. Logan's gift of reconciliation is leading the way. Archbishop Privett commended the work of the refugee committee as well as the work of Rob Waller. Mr. Waller identified some critical data that needs to be addressed. He commended the report to our prayerful consideration.

There were some areas that Archbishop Privett encouraged us to look at.

Trust: trust in God's leadership and guidance; have faith in one another. To earn the trust of others we need to be trustworthy.

Focus: the Vision and the case are very large, so large that it is easy to lose focus. It needs to be refined.

Times of change: things we know are no longer working for us. We are involved in adaptive change. There is no blueprint and we need to trust enough to change on the run.

Leadership: it is not an easy time for the clergy and the lay leadership. We need to find ways to source out leaders. We need discernment in God's time- when to move forward.

Carpe Diem: let us seize the day.

In faith join hands and inspire hope. (PWRDF)

Bishop McMenamie thanked Archbishop Privett for being present with the 97th Synod and sent our greetings to the Diocese of Kootenay. He thanked the staff for the work they had done to make this weekend happen and for the work over the weekend. Thanks to Rob Waller for the work he has done in the Diocese, in bringing all the information he gathered into the Waller Report, for being present with us at this Synod.

Bishop McMenamie said sometimes we scare ourselves so much that we hurt ourselves. "You are the Diocese of British Columbia."

The next clergy conference will be on the topic of collegiality.

The task teams of Faith in Action and Faith in Foundation, the Diocesan Council and the Finance committee will relate their work to the Vision.

The Bishop will put together a team to implement the Faith in Action and Faith in Formation information. Another team will work with the Bishop and put together a 'listening tour' on healing the pain of the disestablishment of parishes and the loss of youth in the diocese and the death of Camp Columbia. There will be a service of celebration for the life and ministry of Camp Columbia. The date will be announced as soon as it is finalized.

This is the last Synod for the delegates of St. John, Ladysmith. The parish will hold its last service on June 30, 2016 and at that time there will be a celebration of the life and ministry of the parish. Please pray for the parish, parishioners past and present, their rector, The Reverend Susan Hermanson and the other rectors who have served this parish so faithfully.

This is the last synod for the Reverend Canon Dr. Richard LeSueur. Richard has a wonderful relationship within the Companions of Jerusalem. He will be exercising a ministry of pilgrimage.

Bishop McMenamie encouraged the members of Synod to move away from telling a problem- saturated story and rather move to a story of resurrection, new life and new birth. Any structural change within the diocese is nothing unless our lives are changed by Jesus.

12. Act of Synod - Votes of Thanks

MOVED BY: Ansley Tucker

SECONDED BY: Judy Trueman

That this Synod thank all who have contributed in innumerable ways to the planning, organization, operation and success of the 97th Synod, especially the Archdeacon Brian Evans, and the people of St. Paul's, Nanaimo. This Synod also thanks Canon Imelda Secker, Mrs. Judith Coleman, Ms. Zena McCreary, Ms Terry Mikkonen and the staff of the Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre.

The members of synod participated in the closing worship, an act of commitment.

The Bishop gave his consent to the resolutions passed and declared them to be Acts of Synod. At 3.30 pm the 97th Synod prorogued.