



THE ANGLICAN SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2021 - Virtual meeting using Zoom platform

EX OFFICIO

Bishop	The Right Reverend Anna Greenwood-Lee
Chancellor	Bob Gill
Vice Chancellor	Vacant
Dean	The Very Rev. M. Ansley Tucker
Registrar	Nathan Lampard R
Lay Secretary	Canon Elaine Ellison
Clerical Secretary	The Rev. Paul Schumacher
Treasurer	Barbara Underhill R

ELECTED BY SYNOD

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

ELECTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Rev. Juli Mallet	Walter Stewart
The Rev. Heather Cutten	Lynn Schumacher
	Denise Ropp
	Ed Norman

APPOINTED

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)

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

RENEWED HEARTS RENEWED SPIRITS RENEWED PEOPLE

Welcome

Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee opened the meeting at 10:01 AM and welcomed the members of Diocesan Council. The bishop thanked the members of council for joining in this virtual meeting on the Zoom platform.

Bishop Anna offered prayer and then provided these comments:

- 1) We begin with a team building exercise by introducing ourselves and where we first went to church. Bishop Anna then spoke about our need to look for sustainability in our diocese—to look for the things that we must maintain and the places where innovation can be found and appreciated. Referencing Otto Scharmer, Bishop Anna spoke about our commitment to seeing what is really happening in the church and how we need to learn from the future as it is happening.

The bishop then asked if there were any changes to the agenda:

The chancellor requested the addition of a real estate item under “Other Business.”

Consent Agenda

- a) **Regrets for Absence** - The clerical secretary noted the regrets for absence from this council meeting. There were two voting members absent, and no youth voting member(s) of council absent. The clerical secretary declared that there was a quorum present.
- b) **Consent agenda approval**

That the consent agenda be approved.

MOVED BY: Joan Hoffman

SECONDED BY: Ed Norman

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Canons Committee

- c) Diocesan council direction to the Canons Committee to make some changes to the Canons and Regulations. Changes to Canons and Regulations are to be presented at the 100th Regular Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia.

Executive officer Barry Foster comments:

Canons are designed to be servants, helping us achieve certain aims as a religious institution. From time to time, we find that canons need to be updated usually because our current ministry context requires a new or different approach. When I first arrived in the diocese, I noted how many meetings take place because the Canons require them.

For instance, the Canons say that we are to have ten Finance Committee meetings and nine Diocesan Council meetings in a year. I came from a diocese

with four of each in a year. We also have an Agenda Planning Committee that has upwards of ten meetings associated with DC. These institutional meetings take up a lot of time and energy not just for the members of the committees but for the synod staff too. In fact, the synod staff often feel tied to Ixion's wheel as we begin to plan the next meeting just after one has been concluded.

It is my opinion that our current meeting schedule keeps us too focused on institutional maintenance at a time when we need some breathing room to grapple with living in a liminal time and the opportunities it provides.

Our committees are also too large. Big groups make it harder to participate. Just think of being present at a synod with two hundred people and what that group size does to participation and hence we usually break into smaller groups. There is lots of research confirming that working groups are more effective when they are smaller. While we cannot shrink our committees' size too much, some reduction will enhance participation.

We also want to find other ways for youth to meaningfully participate in the life of the diocese but are not convinced that DC is the best vehicle to achieve that. We are recommending dropping youth delegate as a separate category of membership. Presumably, a young person could be elected in their own parish as a synod delegate and then available for selection for DC by their region.

There has been conversation on this topic of meeting frequency and committee size for some time. The topic is not new. It is time to take steps to change our pattern. There are other adjustments to our Canons that have been made as our meeting Minutes reveal and so this continues in that vein of ongoing renewal.

The chancellor introduced the proposed changes to the Canons being brought to diocesan council for consideration. A period of discussion followed each of the motions being moved and seconded.

That Diocesan Council directs the Canons Committee to prepare wording to reflect the following changes:

- 1) *To Canon 3: the number of required meetings will be reduced to five per year with the ability of the bishop to call other meetings if required, either on their own motion or at the request of any two members; the membership will be comprised of Ex Officio positions and two members from each region, one clerical and one lay; the bishop and council may appoint up to three additional members; remove "youth delegate" as a category; remove from the Ex Officio list the management team chair of Camp Columbia.*

MOVED BY: Bob Gill
SECONDED BY: Ed Norman

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

- 2) *To Canon 4: the number of required meetings will be reduced to five with the ability of the treasurer to call other meetings if required, either on their own motion or at the request of any two members; financial statements will be reviewed quarterly; Ex*

Officio members will be reduced to four by removing the Dean and one of the Secretaries; up to four additional members may be appointed by the bishop.

MOVED BY: Bob Gill
SECONDED BY: Walter Stewart

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

- 3) *To Canon 7: appointed members of ETB be reduced to four from six, two clergy and two lay."*

MOVED BY: Bob Gill
SECONDED BY: Clara Plamondon

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

- 4) *That Canon 4 be changed to reflect the removal of the phrase requiring an accountant additional to the Treasurer and Finance Officer.*

MOVED BY: Walter Stewart
SECONDED BY: Ansley Tucker

Chancellor Bob Gill requested his vote being noted as opposed to this motion.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

- d) Refugee Sponsorship Program – ongoing funds

Barry Foster and the bishop had conversations with the program staff to determine how the staff viewed the program. Together, they agreed that the program was valuable and to remain sustainable needed to move out from under the umbrella of the Diocese of British Columbia. Following the example of Threshold Housing Society, which began as a diocesan program and grew to become an independent society, it is believed that the Refugee Sponsorship Program would also benefit from a similar move. A period of discussion followed each of the motions being moved and seconded.

That the diocesan financial contribution to the refugee sponsorship program be reduced in 2022 by \$20,000.00 and by a further \$20,000.00 in 2023."

MOVED BY: Ed Norman
SECONDED BY: Heather Cutten

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

That diocesan council establishes the IRCC application allocation for 2021 at 112 with new applications being submitted only after at least 50% of current pending applications are completed by family or individual settlement.

MOVED BY: Heather Cutten
SECONDED BY: Ed Norman

Dean Ansley Tucker and Archdeacon Clara Plamondon requested that their votes be recorded as opposed to this motion.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Resolutions of the 98th Regular Synod held September 2018

For Information Only.

Dean Ansley Tucker gave a brief summation of the chart presented to diocesan council. The Dean outlined the issues arising from this document:

- 1) Actions of Synod require follow up to determine what needs to be done, by what date, and by whom.
- 2) A process of monitoring long term projects needs to be established and actively monitored by diocesan council.
- 3) Motions of Synod need to be 'actionable'. Actions must be able to be accomplished in a reasonable period of time, by the appointed person(s) or committee(s).
- 4) Motions of Synod which may have financial implications and/or any financial commitment for Synod will require the approval of the Diocesan Finance Committee prior to coming before Synod for consideration.

The Chancellor pointed out that Diocesan Council will need form a "Motions Committee" before the upcoming Synod (100th Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia).

Other Business

- 1) Real Estate issue – property on Milgard Ave.

That Diocesan Council directs the Bishop and the Clerical Secretary to sign the required documentation to remove the condition held by the diocese on the property located at 1821 Midgard Ave, Victoria BC.

MOVED BY: Bob Gill
SECONDED BY: Joan Hoffman

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

- 2) Next meeting date for Diocesan Council
Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 10 AM, on Zoom

Closing Reflection

The bishop thanked all in attendance for their commitment to the life of the diocese. The bishop blessed the members of diocesan council.

Bishop Anna moved the conclusion of the meeting at 11:42 AM.

Next Scheduled Diocesan Council meeting
Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 10:00 am by Zoom