



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

Minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2022 – ZOOM Meeting

EX OFFICIO

Bishop	The Right Reverend Anna Greenwood-Lee
Chancellor	Isabel Weeks
Vice Chancellor	Vacant
Dean	Vacant
Registrar	Michael Wolff
Lay Secretary	Canon Elaine Ellison
Clerical Secretary	The Rev. Paul Schumacher
Treasurer	Vacant

ELECTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Rev. Lynn Cawthra	Walter Stewart
The Rev. Juli Mallett	Lynn Schumacher
	Marilyn Taylor
The Rev. Gail Rodger	Ed Norman
The Rev. Canon Craig Hiebert	Elizabeth Murphy

APPOINTED

Timothy Ray

STAFF

Brendon Neilson - Executive Director
The Venerable Eric Partridge - Executive Officer
Gillian Astbury-Heinke, Finance Officer

GUESTS (with voice, no vote)

Archdeacon Alastair Singh-McCollum

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

RENEWED HEARTS RENEWED SPIRITS RENEWED PEOPLE

1) Welcome

Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee opened the meeting at 1:00 PM 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 an opening prayer written by a woman from the Philippines. The Bishop went on to comment how we in North American churches worry about declining numbers of attendees at our services while in the Philippines, their worry is about extra-judicial killings.

Bishop Anna then asked Eric Partridge to offer a team-building exercise. Eric began by reminding council of how we have been in a liminal space. Every 500 years or so, the Church experiences a time of upheaval and change. We are on the verge of such change right now. We need to ask ourselves how we, as God's people, can share the gospel. Eric believes these are exciting times to be part of the Church, yet we are all grieving for what has gone from us as we move on. He gave the example of leaving an old, cherished residence and moving on to a new home. It is often a move taken with a mixed sense of grieving and excitement for what is to come and what has been lost.

As leaders in the Church, we need to make room for this time of grieving our losses over against the excitement of what lies before us. He described this as our grief/joy dichotomy.

Members of diocesan council were given the opportunity to share a personal example of how they had grieved a loss at the very time they were experiencing a new joy in their lives. Eric then offered a short prayer.

Bishop Anna shared with council some of the changes in synod staffing which have taken place in recent weeks. The Bishop invited all members of council to attend the Diocesan Open House at the Synod office on March 29th, from 3PM to 4:30PM, to offer our thanks to Tara Saracuse who will be leaving synod staff on March 30, 2023. Plans are being formalized to have Tara join a ZOOM meeting at 4PM on March 29th to greet any from the diocese who may not be able to travel to Victoria for the open house event. The Bishop also noted the recent departure of the payroll officer Deb Sabo, and the newly announced departure of the administrative assistant Faith Zhungu.

#1 **Agenda for this diocesan council meeting:** (Appendix 1)

Accepted as presented.

#2 **a) Regrets for Absence** - The clerical secretary noted the regrets for absence from this council meeting. There were no voting members absent. The clerical secretary declared that there was a quorum present with 14 voting members in attendance from a total of fourteen having a vote on council.

#3 **Consent agenda approval** (Appendix 2)

1. 001-02: That the minutes of the Diocesan Council meeting held on February 9, 2023, be approved as circulated (appendices available in February 2023 Dropbox).

2. 001-02: That the minutes of the Educational Trusts Board meeting held on February 14, 2023, be received as circulated.

MOVED BY: Craig Hiebert

SECONDED BY: Ed Norman

That the consent agenda be approved as presented.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

#4 Canons (Appendix 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)

The Chancellor, Isabel Weeks, presented an overview of how the Canons of the Diocese came to be in 1875. Some updates to these canons have been enacted over the past 140 plus years. Canons committee has determined it would be much easier to revamp all the Canons than to update each canon as needed. Isabel reminded council that the canons are there to 'serve us', the canons must be 'based in our reality on the ground' and be written so as to give us clarity and flexibility without violating rules.

A brief discussion followed the presentation by the Chancellor and the Executive Archdeacon.

MOTION:

MOVED BY: Walter Stewart

SECONDED BY: Marilyn Taylor

That diocesan council consider all ten (10) motions following, as a group, by one vote.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

a) Motion 1:

That the Table of Contents of the Canons be amended by deleting the reference to Canon 1.5 and by inserting in its place the following:

Canon 1.5 – REGIONS AND ARCHDEACONS

Motion 2:

That the definitions section of the Canons be amended by deleting the following: "Regional dean" is the cleric appointed by the bishop as the head of the region.

Motion 3:

That the Canons and regulations be amended by removing Canon 1.5 and its regulations in their entirety and replacing them with the following:

**CANON 1.5 –
REGIONS AND ARCHDEACONS**

a. Regions

The parishes of the Diocese shall be grouped in regions for the purpose of

- promoting the spiritual life within each region,*
- supporting common ministries within the region, and*
- considering matters affecting the Diocese as a whole.*

- 1) The regions shall be defined by the bishop.*
- 2) Primary funding for regional ministries shall be from the parishes of the region, and some funds may be made available from the diocesan budget.*
- 3) Priorities for regional ministry shall be established at the annual conference of clergy and laity within the region.*

b. Authority and Governance

- 1. Each region accedes to the authority of the bishop of British Columbia, the actions of the Diocesan Synod, the constitution and canons of the Diocese of British Columbia and the Anglican Church of Canada.*
- 2. Each region shall be governed by an executive committee the composition of which shall be set out in the regulations to this canon.*

c. Archdeacons

- 1) The bishop shall appoint regional archdeacons. Regional archdeacons shall hold office at the pleasure of the bishop. However, all appointments shall terminate upon the accession of a new diocesan bishop. Regional archdeacons shall be assigned to one or more regions (which may then be called an archdeaconry). Regional archdeacons shall additionally assume the role of regional dean as the head of the region.*
- 2) In consultation with the diocesan council, the bishop may appoint an executive archdeacon, who will assist the bishop directly in the oversight of the Diocese.*
- 3) In consultation with the diocesan council, the bishop may appoint the executive archdeacon as executive officer.*
- 4) Archdeacons shall be installed by the bishop, or by the dean under the mandate of the bishop.*

REGULATION 1.5 01 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

- 1) In each region there shall be a conference which shall meet at least once during the calendar year, on a date to be set by the regional archdeacon after consulting with the regional chapter and the lay vice-chair. The conference shall comprise:*
 - All active clergy in the region holding the licence of the bishop;*
 - The churchwardens, treasurer, and the lay delegates and alternates to Diocesan Synod from each parish within the region.*
 - Up to four additional lay delegates from each parish within the region.*

2) *The regional archdeacon shall convene and preside at all meetings of the conference, except that at the request, or in the absence of the regional archdeacon, the lay vicechair may convene and preside at meetings of the conference.*

3) *The regional conference*

- shall elect from the persons nominated by its constituent parishes at their annual general meeting a youth lay delegate or delegates to Synod as set out in article III (g) and shall notify the diocesan office of such election;

- shall prior to a Diocesan Synod nominate one clerical and one lay person from among its members who are members of Synod to serve on the diocesan council as set out in canon 3 a. 2 a.;

- may consider any matters of common concern relating to the parishes within the region, and make pertinent recommendations to diocesan committees;

- may allocate funds to support regional ministries and projects;

- shall send copies of its minutes, and notices of forthcoming meetings, to the bishop.

4) *If necessary, the region shall have a special conference to nominate a person to fill any vacancy of a representative to the diocesan council.*

REGULATION 1.5.02 REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

1. *Each region shall be governed by an executive committee comprising: the regional archdeacon, the regional lay vice-chair, a second lay person, and another cleric chosen by regional clergy. The regional lay vice-chair and second lay person will be elected at the first meeting of the regional conference following a regular Synod.*

REGULATION 1.5.03 REGIONAL CHAPTER (CLERICUS)

The regional archdeacon shall convene and chair the regional chapter, which consists of all of the active clergy within the region holding the licence of the bishop. The regional chapter will meet at the call of the regional archdeacon.

REGULATION 1.5.04 - ARCHDEACONS

a. The duties of a regional archdeacon may include:

1) Welcoming and orienting new incumbents and other clergy to the archdeaconry.

2) Installing a new incumbent in "The Celebration of a New Ministry," and, in the absence of the bishop, preside at the service.

3) In general, providing pastoral support to clergy in their work, and especially in times of crisis.

4) Providing pastoral support to parishes in a time of crisis, especially when clergy are suspended, removed, or die.

5) When an incumbency comes to an end, meeting with the cleric for an "end of ministry" interview.

6) Within their archdeaconries, the archdeacons, after consulting with the appropriate regional and parish wardens, shall ensure that the ministrations of the church are carried out regularly in parishes where there is no incumbent.

7) Inspect rectories during vacancies.

8) Conduct "transition days" in parishes.

9) *As members of the cathedral chapter, archdeacons shall assist, as best they may, in the worship and work of the cathedral.*

10) *Serve on committees as the bishop's appointee.*

11) *Meet with the bishop, the dean, and the other archdeacons on a regular basis.*

b. Where a territorial archdeacon is unable to carry out a duty for any reason, the bishop shall ask the diocesan archdeacon or another archdeacon to act for them.

c) The bishop may assign the title of archdeacon emeritus to an archdeacon who has ceased to hold office.

REGULATION 1.5.05 - REGIONAL LAY VICE CHAIR

a. Purpose: The regional lay vice chair works in partnership with the regional archdeacon in the planning of regional mission and ministries, regional conference, and regional programs.

b. The regional lay vice chair is a volunteer position elected by regional conference after each synod.

c. The term of office of the regional lay vice chair is from Synod to Synod and may be renewed once.

d. The duties and responsibilities include: - working with regional chapter for setting of agenda and discussion of regional mission - responsible to the bishop and regional archdeacon - chairs regional conference in absence of regional archdeacon - empowering greater communication between the parishes of the region, and from the regional executive committee and the regional conference to parishes and parish councils.

e. Travel costs will be paid in accordance with the diocesan standard from the diocesan travel budget.

f. The qualifications for the lay vice-chair shall be the same as for delegates to Synod.

REGULATION 1.5.06 – 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.

Policy - FINANCES FOR REGIONAL MINISTRY

1. Regional ministry will normally be funded by the parishes of the region who are proposing the work, project, program, or outreach. A cost sharing formula should be established between the parishes and each parish council should formally agree to its portion. Some funding may be made available from the diocesan budget but only when the majority of the cost is committed to by the participating parishes or other funding sources.

2. Applications should be made to the program sub-committee of diocesan council through the diocesan office and must indicate a breakdown of the total cost of the planned ministry, the amount of funding already agreed to by each parish and other funding sources and the amount expected from the Diocese. Diocesan financial support should not be assumed, and approval may not be a commitment longer than the current year.

Motion 4:

That canon 3.g be deleted in its entirety and in its place be inserted the following:

g. The bishop shall make nominations for the diocesan executive officer and the diocesan finance officer respectively to the council, and upon approval thereof, diocesan council shall appoint the persons so nominated. They shall serve at the pleasure of both the bishop and the diocesan council.

Motion 5:

That regulation 3.07 b (1) be amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

(1) The membership shall consist of a convener (who shall be the archdeacon chosen by the bishop) and the regional lay vice chairs.

And that regulation 3.07 g (1) be amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

3.07 g The Personnel and Compensation Committee

(1) The Personnel and Compensation Committee shall consist of:

a. The diocesan executive officer

b. One regional archdeacon

c. The finance officer

d. Three or more lay people, at least two of whom shall be members of synod.

e. One additional priest of the diocese

Motion 6:

That canon 4.1 a. (4) and canon 4.5 (b) be deleted.

Motion 7:

That canon 3. a. be amended by adding to the list of ex-officio members the registrar such that 3. A. shall read:

a. The ex-officio members of diocesan council shall consist of:

1. Ex-officio: The bishop (chair) Bishop coadjutor, bishop suffragan and bishop assistant. The dean. The chancellor. The vice chancellor. The clerical secretary. The lay secretary. The treasurer. The registrar (with voice but no vote).

And that canon 4.1 a. (1) be amended by deleting the parenthetical phrase "(or registrar in absence of the chancellor)"

Motion 8:

That Appendix H be removed from the canons and moved to policy.

Motion 9

That the canons committee as constituted from time to time undertake a complete review and redrafting of the canons and regulations with the intention that the canons committee present to Synod 2025 a revised set of canons and regulations that:

- 1. Is in plain language;*
- 2. Is internally consistent in terms, process, and formatting;*
- 3. Reflects the current experience of the diocese;*
- 4. Reflects the appropriate division among issues that belong in the canons, those that belong in the regulations and those that belong in a policy manual;*
- 5. Is forward looking and allows for future flexibility where flexibility is appropriate.*

Motion 10

That an amendment to the constitution deleting from Article 1 (b) the definition the following:

"regional dean" is the cleric appointed by the bishop as the head of the region

be laid before this synod pursuant to Article XVI of the constitution, so that, if approved in accordance with Article XVI, it shall lie over to the next regular session of synod for consideration.

Motion:

MOVED BY: Lynn Schumacher

SECONDED BY: Lynn Cawthra

That the changes to the Canons outlined as part of the Canons committee recommendations be approved as amended by diocesan council this day.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Eric Partridge responded to questions regarding matters pertaining to Canons verses Constitutions, and to a question regarding who is expected to attend the upcoming Regional Conferences to be held in March 2023, prior to the May 13th gathering of Synod.

#5 Finance Department Update (Year-end Financial to be considered March 2, 2023, DC meeting)
(Appendix 4.3)

Gilian Astbury-Heinke provided council with an update. The December 2022 year-end report indicates that the diocese has come very close to breaking even on our 2022 financial statement. The finance officer indicated that the financial audit must now be completed by Grant Thornton, which may alter the financial statements. The audited statements will be brought back to diocesan council at a future council meeting.

The Chancellor offered thanks to Gilian Astbury-Heinke for her efforts over the past months.

#6 St. Peter's Quamichan – (Appendix 4.1. 4.2) Request to access funds

MOVED BY: Lynn Schumacher

SECONDED BY: Ed Norman

That the Parish of St. Peter's Quamichan receive approval to access \$40,000 in the form of a CS&P five-year loan for the purpose of upgrades to the parish rectory.

A brief discussion followed the motion. The Chancellor indicated that diocesan council needs to see the lease agreement before it can be signed by the parish.

#7 Transfer of Funds from Vision Fund to Operating Accounts

Bishop Anna asked diocesan council to consider the transfer of \$100,000 from the Vision Fund account and the deposit of these funds into the 2023 diocesan operating account for use as outlined below.

The bishop outlined for council how recent events in the northern region of our diocese have resulted in a shortage of clergy. The subsequent demands being placed on part-time clergy in that area need to be addressed. Bishop Anna has recommended to council that funds be moved from the Vision Fund to support the clergy in the north of the diocese through the increase of one half-time position to a full-time paid position.

Members of diocesan council shared many comments regarding the situation in the northern region of the diocese.

Comments and concerns about the request from Christ Church Cathedral management team are summarized below:

- How can the Cathedral's financial situation be brought to sustainable through income and not relief support?
- What plans does the Cathedral management team have in place to manage future financial needs for Christ Church Cathedral?
- Why is the diocese not considering what other dioceses have adapted with respect to their cathedrals' assessment to their synods – no yearly assessment for the cathedral.
- The same argument could be made for other parishes in the diocese – is an overall reduction in assessment feasible for all parishes?
- Comments were made both in support of the request from Christ Church Cathedral and regarding their difficult position being both a parish church and a diocesan Cathedral.

MOVED BY: Walter Stewart

SECONDED BY: Elizabeth Murphy

That diocesan council approve the transfer of \$100,000 from the Vision Fund to the 2023 diocesan operating account for use in the Ministry in the northern part of the diocese, and to assist Christ Church Cathedral in response to their request of council.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Request from Christ Church Cathedral Management Team – Assessment Assistance (Appendix 5)

MOVED BY: Walter Stewart

SECONDED BY: Lynn Cawthra

That diocesan council approve the request from Christ Church Cathedral Management Team for a 2023 parish grant increase in the amount of \$35,000.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Assistance to Ministry in the North of the Diocese – increase in clergy to two full-time positions

MOVED BY: Ed Norman

SECONDED BY: Lynn Schumacher

That diocesan council approve the increase of a second clergy position for the northern region of the diocese to a full-time position with compensation as laid out in our clergy compensation policy.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

#8 Property Updates:

- 1) St. Dunstan, Saanich
- 2) St. Peter, Lakehill (Two Saints)

3) Parish Property Survey - responses

Brendon Neilson provided a brief update on the status of the projects at St. Peter's, Lake Hill and St. Dunstan's, Saanich. Visioning will begin at St. Dunstan's, next week. St. Peter's Lakehill continues in the journey toward a new vision with architect's designs.

Brendon also spoke briefly about the slow response synod staff have received from the parish property survey which each parish was requested to complete. The results from this survey are being compiled now and will be presented to diocesan council at a future date.

Finance Committee is recommending to diocesan council that all parishes undertake some form of a depreciation study for their properties. This will be a future consideration.

4) Christ Church Cathedral (Building for the Future)

Brendon Neilson provided an update on this project.

Brendon pointed out the contract for "phase 2b" has been signed. Concern remains around funding to be provided to the project from the school, as the project is presently \$260,000 short in funding, about equal to the school's share. Without this anticipated funding from the school, the project will need to be re-examined before a path forward can be contemplated.

5) Bethlehem Investors' Group

Brendon reviewed the history of our diocesan involvement in this site. Recently, we have been informed by the Centre that they are not able to meet their financial commitment to the investors. In short, they are in violation of the agreement. Also, our representative on the Centre board is stepping down. Brendon suggests either he or Eric take this seat on the Centre board.

The question was raised as to whether we should extend the agreement with Bethlehem Centre or move for the sale of the property. Comments made by diocesan council –

- The capital plan for the Centre has not materialized.
- There is an acute need for clarity of the goals and objectives for the Centre.
- It is alarming to hear there is "no real plan to make the Centre work."
- We need full disclosure.
- Recommend diocesan council form a group to review the current state of the Centre's viability and report back to diocesan council.
- Pushing for the sale of the property may be our best option knowing the history and lack of forward thinking on the part of the Centre.
- It was recognized that the pandemic has had an impact on the operation of Bethlehem retreat centre.

Other Business

1) Next meeting date for Diocesan Council

Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 10:00 AM, ZOOM meeting.

Meeting ID

Closing Reflection

The Bishop thanked everyone in attendance for their commitment to the life of the Diocese.

The Bishop closed with prayer.

Bishop Anna moved the conclusion of the meeting at 3:00PM.

Next Scheduled Diocesan Council meeting
Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 10:00 am, ZOOM meeting.