



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

Minutes of the meeting of February 9, 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 R	Lynn Schumacher
	Marilyn Taylor
The Rev. Gail Rodger R	Ed Norman
The Rev. Canon Craig Hiebert	Elizabeth Murphy

APPOINTED

Timothy Ray

STAFF

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

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

1) Welcome

Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee opened the meeting at 10:00 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 an opening prayer. The Bishop asked each member of council to complete a 10-question poll through the ZOOM portal. Attached as Appendix 1 is a summary of the polling results as shared by the Bishop. (Appendix 1)

A brief discussion followed. Many comments regarding diocesan council were shared.

#1 Agenda for this diocesan council meeting:
(Appendix 2)

Accepted as presented.

#2 a) Regrets for Absence - The clerical secretary noted the regrets for absence from this council meeting. There were 2 voting members absent. The clerical secretary declared that there was a quorum present with 12 voting members in attendance from a total of fifteen having a vote on council.

#3 Consent agenda approval (Appendix 3)

1. 002-01: That the minutes of the Diocesan Council meeting held on November 23, 2022, be approved as circulated (appendices available in November 2022 Dropbox).

2. 002-02: That the results of the E-Vote executed on December 9, 2022, and completed on December 13, 2022, be received as circulated.

3. 053-01: That the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on January 25, 2023, be received as circulated.

4. 012-01: That the minutes of the Educational Trusts Board meeting held on September 20, 2022, be received as circulated.

MOVED BY: Lynn Schumacher

SECONDED BY: Ed Norman

That the consent agenda be approved as presented.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

#4 Chancellor's Report – Chancellors Conference January 2023 (Appendix 4.3) and Clergy Day, January 26, 2023.

Chancellor Isabel Weeks shared some thoughts arising out of the recent Clergy Day gathering. Many parishes also had lay representatives join in this review of the new Human Resources Manual and the Respectful Conduct Policy recently approved by diocesan council.

The Chancellor also spoke briefly about her experience at the recent Chancellors' conference in Toronto ON. One topic reviewed during the conference dealt with managing 'Risk'. The Anglican Church in Canada is dealing with claims, many of which are historic claims from incidents which may have occurred many years ago. There are also some more recent claims being made against church members.

Discussion regarding mandatory retirement and preparation for retirement formed part of a half-day session at the conference.

The chancellors of the provincial synod for BC and the Yukon plan to meet virtually to continue their consultations.

#5 Canons (Appendix 4.1, 4.2)

a) Motion 1:

MOVED BY: Eric Partridge

SECONDED BY: Marilyn Taylor

That the canons and regulations be amended such that the title of regional dean is removed and that the role and responsibilities previously assigned to the regional dean be assigned to the regional archdeacon. And that term regional dean be replaced by regional archdeacon throughout canon 1.5 (as appropriate to accomplish the intention of this motion).

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Motion 2:

MOVED BY: Ed Norman

SECONDED BY: Craig Hiebert

That formation of executive committees, their makeup and their responsibilities be moved to a regulation under canon 1.5 b so that these might be altered over time by diocesan council to meet the needs and reality of changing circumstances.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Motion 3:

MOVED BY: Isabel Weeks

SECONDED BY: Timothy Ray

That canon 1.5.c.1 be amended to remove the words "which shall meet at least once during the calendar year" and replace those words with "which shall be at the call of the regional archdeacon".

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Motion 4:

MOVED BY: Eric Partridge

SECONDED BY: Lynn Schumacher

That the provision for financing of regional projects and programs in canon 1.5.04 either be deleted or moved to a regulation.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Motion 4, part 2:

MOVED BY: Isabel Weeks

SECONDED BY: Ed Norman

That the provision for financing of regional projects and programs in canon 1.5.04 be made a regulation.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Motion 5:

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

That canon 1.5 be amended to provide for the appointment of the Archdeacon of Columbia, and that this term be used consistently in place of “diocesan archdeacon” or “executive archdeacon” throughout.

THE MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN

Motion 6:

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

That canon 3.g should be harmonized with Article XIV of the Constitution by providing that the executive officer is appointed by diocesan council on the recommendation of the bishop.

THE MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN

Motions 5 and 6 were sent back to Canons for wording changes to remove the colonial connotations and to clarify the titles “Arch Deacon of Columbia”, Executive arch deacon, and Diocesan arch deacon, with the title “executive officer” in motion #5. Also, to clarify “executive director” in motion #6.

b) The role of the Registrar was discussed. It was suggested to council that Canons do not of necessity require the registrar to be a lawyer, nor need to be a member of the Finance committee, does have a voice at diocesan council, but no vote except on the occasion when the Chancellor is absent from a diocesan council meeting. Michael Wolff, who is the current Registrar for the Diocese of Islands and Inlets, interprets the Canon to indicate that it is assumed that the Registrar is a lawyer who acts when the Chancellor is absent. The Registrar went on to say the role of the Registrar goes beyond ceremonial functions at Synod, ordinations, and oath taking. The Registrar functions as an officer of the Synod and is the person responsible for all licence approvals within the Diocese.

After a period of discussion, it was recommended that this concern be sent to the Canons committee for further review and clarification of how the canon wording could be updated.

c) Treasurer – The Bishop indicated that our Canons contain a requirement - the Treasurer must be someone with professional designation as a professional accountant. It has been

recommended by Canons committee that this requirement be removed from Canons. The following changes to Canons were recommended.

MOVED BY: Lynn Schumacher

SECONDED BY: Tim Ray

That Canon 4.1A(4) be changed by removal of clause (d).

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

d) Appendix H

MOVED BY: Ed Norman

SECONDED BY: Walter Stewart

That Appendix H be removed from the Canons. Following an update of this appendix, Canons committee recommends to diocesan council that the updated appendix H be made part of the Human Resources policies document.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

- e) Appendix H: Remuneration Rates for Supply & Interim Ministry** – FYI - Appendix H to the canons includes pay rates which have not been updated for decades. This is an example of documents that are appended to the Canons, but which are more appropriately included in a policy manual. The committee recommends removal of Appendix H from the canons. The committee will refer the policy to the HR Working Group (Personnel and Compensation Committee) for review and recommendations.

- f)** Eric Partridge indicated that the Canons of the Diocese of British Columbia (Diocese of Islands and Inlets) are being reviewed by Canons committee and will provide diocesan council with a proposed plan for completion of this review. Isabel Weeks asked diocesan council to be prepared to provide input as required.

Marilyn Taylor commented that diocesan Canons need to reflect the current situation in our parishes and the work of cleaning up the Canons needs to be on-going.

Bishop Anna thanked Eric Partridge, Isabel Weeks, and the Canons committee for their work in the process of updating the Canons.

Lunch Diocesan council broke for lunch at 11:48AM

Council reconvened at 12:30PM

#6 Property Updates:

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

Brendon Neilson provide a brief update on the status of the projects at St. Peter's, Lake Hill and St. Dunstan's, Saanich. Contracts are now in place for both these projects and work will begin soon on architectural concepts designs, followed by applications for permits. The congregation at St. Peter's Lake Hill are open to working with the wider community.

He also noted that Wiser is prepared to move into other projects for the diocese.

3) Christ Church Cathedral (Building for the Future)

Brendon Neilson provided an update on this project. Geo-probing of the site has been completed and no anomalies were discovered. The site may be able to support one or two levels of underground parking. On-going meetings are taking place between Synod staff, the Christ Church Cathedral school, and Christ Church Cathedral. Bishop Anna noted the current deficit which Christ Church Cathedral carries. The Cathedral will need to generate more income to have long-term sustainability.

Brendon pointed out that work on “phase 2b” is progressing. Concern remains around funding to be provided to the project from the school. Without this anticipated funding from the school, the project will need to be re-examined before a path forward can be contemplated.

4) St. Mark’s Salt Spring Island

FYI update – Chancellor Emeritus, Bob Gill, continues to work on title issues for the sale of this church site.

5) St. Philip’s Cedar

Tenders have now been let for the demolition of the old rectory. The site is contaminated with asbestos which must be remediated before demolition can take place.

a) Action recommended by Asset Management Team (Appendix 5)

MOVED BY: Walter Stewart

SECONDED BY: Craig Hiebert

That the Diocese enter into a consulting contract with Wiser Projects, utilizing the redevelopment fund.

The contract will be for the development of strategic asset management tools and studies at a cost of \$4,000 per month and a total of \$48,000.

It is understood that Wiser anticipates receiving grant funding to cover the cost of most of this work.

If grant funding is received, the funds will be transferred back into the redevelopment fund.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

A period of discussion followed the presentation of this motion. The question of where Wiser will seek future grants was asked. Further comments were made regarding climate impact by and on our buildings, the need to think outside the box before we commit to any projects, be sure that we are using the best strategic assessment management tools available to us, being sure to access all grant sources available to us (such as Van City Community Foundation, Federation of Canadian Municipalities), and not permitting ourselves to be locked into housing projects alone.

b) Possible Taxation of Church properties

Eric Partridge provided a brief explanation regarding this issue. Ed Norman offered to assist the Synod staff in determining how we should respond when the time comes. Isabel Weeks shared with council that the issue of taxation of church properties is being raised up and down the island.

#7 Finance Department Update (Year-end Financial to be considered March 2, 2023, DC meeting)
(Appendix 6)

Gillian Atsbury-Heinke provided council with an update. The preliminary financial statements for December 2022 will be presented to diocesan council at the March 2nd meeting. The finance officer indicated that the diocese expects that we will come very close to breaking even on our 2022 financial statement. The diocese has begun a new type of grants to parishes. A “relief Grant” will replace the parish grant system from previous years. More to come.

#8 Refugee Program update (re: Provincial Coordinator) (Appendix 7)

Brendon Neilson shared with council that we have been required to renew our current SAH agreement. By doing so, we can begin the process of obtaining recertification without acceptance of new applications. As of February 1st, 2023, an ecclesial provincial coordinator, who will oversee all arrivals, has been in place. It is our hope that a provincial SAH can be created to carry on this work.

#9 Old Growth Forest Statement (Appendix 8)

Bishop Anna provided background as to how and why this statement has come before this council. It has not been endorsed by the national House of Bishops. The Bishop indicated that the Provincial House of Bishops seeks to have it endorsed by all diocese in BC and the Yukon. Walter Stewart inquired as to whether this statement would impact on any of our parishes. Bishop Anna indicated that Port McNeil would be impacted.

MOVED BY: Walter Stewart

SECONDED BY: Marilyn Taylor

That diocesan council endorse the Old Growth Forest Statement as presented and direct the Executive Director to implement this directive.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Other Business

1) Next meeting date for Diocesan Council

Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 1:00 PM, ZOOM meeting.

Meeting ID 814 2473 6262

Passcode ?

Closing Reflection

Bishop Anna shared some thoughts about how our colonial structures need to be updated, how we need to prepare for an unknown future for the Church, how we need to be prepared to be excited for what is about to happen for the Church. Members of diocesan council offered comments. One comment is this, "We are people of faith and not just people of belief." The Bishop closed off the discussion with this comment - we can't skip over the grief and lament for what has gone before as we move toward the future for as people of faith.

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 1:45PM.

Next Scheduled Diocesan Council meeting
Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 1:00 pm, ZOOM meeting.