



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

Minutes of the meeting of April 13, 2023 – 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 R	Walter Stewart
The Rev. Juli Mallett	Lynn Schumacher
	Marilyn Taylor
The Rev. Gail Rodger	Ed Norman R
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 R

GUESTS (with voice, no vote)

Canon Ian Powell
Sarah Kell

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 10:00 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 with the words of a poem about resurrection. The resurrection of Christ is difficult for some to make sense of. Bishop Anna asked council to share where we see resurrection happening at this time. Council members gave the following examples of where they saw resurrection in their own lives.

- Education
- Liturgical expression
- Justice
- Observing respectful spaces in our worship when unexpected events occur
- Milestone-happenings in our own lives
- Seeing the Holy Spirit at work in our diocese with new clergy arriving
- The need for each of us to be welcoming to new clergy and laity.
- Preservation of God's Creation
- Not always seeing, yet believing

#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 two voting members absent. The clerical secretary declared that there was a quorum present with 12 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 March 2, 2023, be approved as circulated (appendices available in March 2023 Dropbox).

Archdeacon Eric Partridge asked for a friendly amendment to the Canons changes which the council approved during the March diocesan council meeting. Two changes to the wording in motion 3 and 5 which requested. There was no objection from the council. (March minutes have been amended to reflect these changes)

MOVED BY: Isabel Weeks

SECONDED BY: Craig Hiebert

That the consent agenda be approved as presented with the March diocesan council minutes as amended.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

#4 Ratification of Synod Nominations and Update on Synod (Appendix 3)

Michael Wolff asked about the number of lay delegates we send to General Synod. Is it two or should it be three? Bishop Anna was able to confirm with National Office of the Anglican Church that we indeed have three lay delegates to General Synod. The Bishop will look for a nominee for this third delegate position.

Elizabeth Murphy indicated that her nomination to Provincial Synod was missed. Bishop Anna welcomed Elizabeth's nomination.

MOVED BY: Walter Stewart

SECONDED BY: Julie Mallett

That diocesan council ratify the nominations of delegates to Synod May 13, 2023.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

#5 Appointments to Diocesan Council 2023-2025 (Appendix 4)

For Information Only - Bishop Anna informed council of the forth-coming appointments of Timothy Ray and Craig Hiebert at the June diocesan council meeting.

#6 Update on Synod Office Staffing

Bishop Anna informed council of the recent additions to Synod office staff. Paula Blundel has joined as executive assistant to the Bishop. Meagan Thonger has taken on the role of executive assistant to Synod office. Anna Van Der Hooft has returned to the synod office and will resume duties next week.

The diocese is also looking at the possibility of out-sourcing payroll. Other provincial dioceses are already using one provider's services. We are working with the same provider.

10:26 AM The Reverend Canon Ian Powell joined the meeting.

#7 Bishop Anna invited Ian Powell to give diocesan an overview of the project. Canon Powell indicated that the project will "keep Christ Church Cathedral going for the next 100 years." Executive director, Brendon Neilson, pointed out that concerns remain regarding the financial involvement of the school, as well as the school's needs and desires over the short term (approximately 5 years). Members of council heard comments from the Bishop, Ian Powell, Brendon Neilson, and from members of council, itself.

A period of discussion followed.

Bishop Anna closed the discussion, stating that council will revisit the matter at our June diocesan council meeting.

At 11:12AM, the Reverend Canon Ian Powell left the meeting. Sarah Kell joined the meeting.

8 Anglican Foundation Grant for translation (Appendix 9)

Sarah Kell spoke to diocesan council about the Aboriginal Neighbours group and a language program being supported with the First Nations peoples. With the support of grants from the

Anglican Foundation, several mentor/apprentice language learning duos (Rill Project) are supported by Aboriginal Neighbours. As of 2023, grants for this work are now part of the general grants program with Anglican Foundation. The Diocese of Islands and Inlets is restricted to only four grant applications per year. The Rill Project grant application to the Anglican Foundation can only go forward with the support (in writing) of diocesan council.

Sarah indicated to council that the grants from Anglican Foundation will be matched through a grant from the United Church of Canada.

MOVED BY: Craig Hiebert

SECONDED BY: Juli Mallett

That diocesan council supports the application from Aboriginal Neighbours for grant consideration from the Anglican Foundation in the amount of \$15,000 for the Revitalizing Indigenous Living Languages Project for 2023.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Bishop Anna reminded council of our need for continued support for reconciliation.

11:20AM Sarah Kell left the meeting.

#9 Building for the Future

a) Heritage Buildings Funding

MOVED BY: Walter Stewart

SECONDED BY: Marilyn Taylor

That diocesan council approve the application(s) to the Victoria Civic Heritage Trust, through the Victoria Downtown Heritage Incentive Program, for grants in amount up to \$ 7,500.00 (\$2,500.00 x 3) for the purpose of preparing heritage preservation plans for Yarrow Chapel, Memorial Hall, and Christ Church Cathedral; and that diocesan council recognizes the full financial implications of the project and acknowledges that the Victoria Civic Heritage Trust shall not be responsible for any further financial assistance beyond the funding applied for through this application(s); and, that the Diocese of Islands and Inlets makes guarantee that there are adequate funds available to complete the project and to continue to operate the facility.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

11:25AM Break – at this point, Julie Mallett left the meeting.

11:35AM Council reconvened.

#10 Synod 2023 Update

Bishop Anna confirmed that the opening worship would be at 5PM on Friday, May 12th, at Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria. All parishioners of the diocese are invited to attend. A reception will follow in the Cathedral. The Bishop reminded everyone that the reception is not a dinner, but finger food and liquid refreshments only.

The Synod Circulating folder has been updated for delegates. Delegates are reminded to check their credentials and voting procedure instructions.

#11 Property Updates:

- 1) **St. Dunstan, Saanich**
- 2) **St. Peter, Lakehill (Two Saints)**
- 3) **St John's Duncan**
- 4) **St John the Divine Victoria**

Brendon Neilson provided a brief update on the status of the projects at St. Peter's, Lake Hill and St. Dunstan's, Saanich. Visioning has begun at St. Dunstan's. Three or four possibilities are under consideration.

St. Peter's Lakehill continues in the journey toward a new vision with architect's designs. Preferred concept drawings will be presented to the congregation on April 30th.

Brendon also spoke briefly about these two projects to this point being paid for through grants. Future costs will be presented to diocesan council when available.

Two other projects are in early stages of consideration. St. John's, Duncan has begun discussion with BC Housing for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU needs refinement before presentation to diocesan council.

St. John, the Divine, Victoria has been approached by the First Nations facility adjacent to the church property. The First Nations may be wishing to purchase a portion of the church parking area for completion of a new building on their property.

Brendon Neilson shared with council the concerns raised over some decommissioned church sites. The future sale of sites such as Fanny Bay may be proposed to council at some future date.

FYI - Consideration is being given to selling the back portion of cemetery at Stz'uminus.

#12 Refugee Program Update

Brendon Neilson told council that the diocese still has an active SAH agreement, but we will not be taking any new applications after June 2023. The diocese is in an on-going conversation with the national support agency with the possibility of more financial support coming to the diocese, should we remain involved.

There are proposals being placed for 38 additional applications at this point. These come mainly from Palestine; and from Syria (from persons who lost everything in the earthquake which ravaged portion of Turkey).

In response to questions from council, Bishop Anna indicated that all funds are in place for these families being considered for support. Should a support group fail, we, as a diocese, would be responsible for supporting these refugees.

Other Business

- 1) Next meeting date for Diocesan Council

Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10:00 AM, in-person meeting at Church of the Advent, Colwood.

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 12PM.

Next Scheduled Diocesan Council meeting
Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10:00 am, in-person meeting.