



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

Minutes of the meeting of September 21, 2023 – In-person meeting at St Mary Nanoose Bay

**EX OFFICIO**

Bishop	The Right Reverend Anna Greenwood-Lee
Chancellor	Isabel Weeks
Dean	Vacant
Registrar	Michael Wolff
Lay Secretary	Susan Rand
Clerical Secretary	The Rev. Paul Schumacher
Treasurer	Joel Hefty

**ELECTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

The Rev. Trish Vollman-Stock	Laura Dey
The Rev. Juli Mallett <b>R</b>	Helen Love
The Rev. Marion Edmondson	Canon Ian Alexander
The Rev. Heather Robinson	Elizabeth Murphy

**APPOINTED**

Timothy Ray **R**  
The Venerable Craig Hiebert

**STAFF**

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

**GUESTS (with voice, no vote)**

Paul Rigby

**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 in-person meeting at St Mary Nanoose Bay. Helen Love joined the meeting virtually from the United Kingdom.

Bishop Anna offered an opening prayer.

The Bishop then presented a team building exercise for council, the theme of which was “competing values”. The Bishop asked each member of council to think about a time in your life when you struggled with competing values. Bishop Anna referred to Susan Beaumont’s book, “How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You Are Going”. Discussion followed. (Appendix 1)

**#1 Agenda for this diocesan council meeting**

Bishop Anna indicated that the agenda would be reordered to accommodate several time constraints and presenter availability. (Appendix 2)

**#2 Regrets for Absence** - The clerical secretary noted the regrets for absence from this meeting.

There were two voting members absent. The clerical secretary declared that there was a quorum present, with 13 voting members in attendance from a total of fifteen having a vote on council.

**#3 Consent agenda approval** (Appendix 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)

1. The minutes of the Diocesan Council meeting held on June 9, 2023, be approved as circulated (appendices attached to the June minutes).
2. Management Committee Meeting Minutes Aug 02, 2023
3. Finance Committee Sept 13th Meeting Minutes
4. Finance Committee Sept 13th Meeting Package

MOVED BY: Laura Dey

SECONDED BY: Ian Alexander

*That the consent agenda be approved.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

**#4 St. Matthias, Victoria**

- MOU with developer (Appendix 4)

Brendon Neilson informed council that an expression of interest for this property has been received from developers. Bishop Anna indicated that the congregation has been informed and have indicated their interest in exploring options around this development.

A discussion among members of council followed.

MOVED BY: Elizabeth Murphy

SECONDED BY: Heather Robinson

*That Diocesan Council approve proceeding with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Diocese and the Developer in discussions for development at St Matthias precinct.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

**Action Item for MOU – The diocesan web page be updated to indicate that Diocesan council has approved entering into the MOU with a developer and that the site at St. Matthias has not been sold, nor the parish closed. As discussions continue under the MOU, Diocesan council will be kept informed, as will the congregation at St. Matthias.**

**Break 11:07**

**Re-convene 11:25**

**#5 Report from the Canons Committee**

The Chancellor asked diocesan council to consider how the use of the words “he” and “she” has been dominant throughout our Canons. Canons committee has been exploring a change to the pronoun “they” as the default identifier throughout further revisions of diocesan Canons, regulations, and policies. Research by Canons committee member Tim Ray has determined that the use of the pronoun “they” dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

MOVED BY: Laura Dey

SECONDED BY: Marion Edmondson

*That Canons committee take action to replace every reference to “he” and/or “she” found in all canons, regulations, and polices with the pronoun “they”.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

**Amendment to Regulation 3.04 – Change of name for Sub-committees (Appendix 5)**

MOVED BY: Isabel Weeks

SECONDED BY: Elizabeth Murphy

*That Regulation 3.04 of Canon 3 be amended by replacing the term “management committee” with “operations committee” everywhere it appears in that regulation.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

**Reordering of Canons (Appendix 5.1)**

The Chancellor presented a document which outlined proposed changes to the ordering and numbering of the Canons. Diocesan council may receive the first recommendations for Canon One changes at the November Diocesan council meeting.

**#6 Search for a new Dean for Christ Church Cathedral**

Bishop Anna provided an update. The position has been posted nationally, provincially, and on our diocesan web site. Applications will be received until October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Virtual interviews are planned for November 2023. In-person interviews for short-listed candidates will take place in early 2024. Applications have already been received.

**#7 Building for the Future School Business Plan and other items for consideration**

**a) Christ Church Cathedral Building for the Future update (Appendix 7.1, 7.2, 7.3)**

Brendon Neilson provided council with an update on the progress of phase 2b and the start of phase 3a.

Paul Rigby, design architect for the project, presented council with a visual overview of the design process undertaken to date. Discussion followed regarding the two strategies presented.

Brendon indicated that council will be receiving a recommendation requesting the use of funds from the property Redevelopment Fund to cover the costs of phase 3.

Diocesan council may be asked to sign off on the rezoning application by the end of 2023.

**Lunch 12:30PM**

**Council reconvened at 1:15PM** - Bishop Anna offered thanks to the ladies of St Mary, Nanoose Bay for the lunch provided.

**#9 Finance Update (via Zoom)**

- 2022 Financial Statements (Appendix 6.1)  
Interfund Transfer. During the year, the board approved a motion to forgive the Interfund balance (\$1,062,408) between Capital Assets Fund and the Operating Fund.

- Approval of the 2022 Financial statements as reviewed by Grant Thornton

MOVED BY: Trish Vollman-Stock

SECONDED BY: Heather Robinson

*That the 2022 Financial Statements be approved by Diocesan Council.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

- May 2023 Income Statement - Gillian Astbury-Heinke reviewed the May income Statements. (Appendix 6.2)

Recommendation: Depreciation Report Program

Finance Committee recommends to Diocesan Council that a “risk-based” depreciation requirement report program be started in 2024 for buildings in the diocese. Discussion followed. Brendon Neilson suggested that council could consider a matching funding program between the Diocese and parishes undertaking such reports.

MOVED BY: Joel Hefty

SECONDED BY: Marion Edmondson

*That Diocesan Council supports the recommendation that a depreciation study program be started in 2024 with the understanding that the program will be prioritized based on risk, with input from the diocesan Properties Advisor. And that it may take a number of years to complete.*

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Recommendation: Relief Grant

Finance Committee recommends to Diocesan Council that a relief grant line item in the 2023 budget (with \$0 budget allocation) be established. And that this line item will be used to track monies provided to parishes. And that Diocesan Council determine a terms of reference for relief grants (for unexpected expenses) for future budgets to assist parishes with unexpected properties expenses.

MOVED BY: Heather Robinson

SECONDED BY: Joel Hefty

*That Diocesan council approves the addition of a Budget line item, Relief Grants for parishes with unexpected property expenses, beginning with 2023 Budget with \$0 budget allocation. Diocesan council will move to establish terms of reference for such relief grants for unexpected expenses realized in future budget years.*

TH MOTION WAS CARRIED

**#10 Property Updates:** Brendon Neilson presented the following updates.

- 1) **St. Dunstan, Gorden Head Saanich** (Appendix 8.1)
- 2) **St. Peter, Lakehill (Two Saints)**
- 3) **St. John the Baptist, Duncan**
- 4) **St John The Divine, Victoria**
- 5) **Development 101 Infographic** (Appendix 8.2)
- 6) **Portfolio Approach infographic** (Appendix 8.3)

**#11 November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - DC Meeting** – in-person at Church of the Advent at 10AM.

This will be a hybrid meeting with ZOOM connection for those council members, not able to attend in person.

**#12 Debrief of General Synod**

Debrief of General Synod 2023 – Ian Alexander, Michael Wolff, and Bishop Anna presented a brief overview of the recent General Synod meeting. (Appendix 9, 9.1)

#### **Other Business**

1. Next meeting date for Diocesan Council

**Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 10:00 AM**, In-person at Church of the Advent Colwood and hybrid ZOOM meeting.

#### **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 2:35 PM.

**Next Scheduled Diocesan Council meeting  
Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 10:00 am,  
at Church of the Advent in-person and hybrid ZOOM meeting.**