



THE ANGLICAN SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of January 18, 2024 – Zoom meeting

EX OFFICIO

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

ELECTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

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|------------------------------|---------------------|
| The Rev. Trish Vollman-Stock | Laura Dey |
| The Rev. Juli Mallett | Helen Love |
| The Rev. Marion Edmondson | Canon Ian Alexander |
| The Rev. Heather Robinson | Elizabeth Murphy |

APPOINTED

Timothy Ray
The Venerable Craig Hiebert **R**

STAFF

Brendon Neilson - Executive Director
The Venerable Eric Partridge - Executive Officer
Gillian Astbury-Heinke, Finance Officer
Zena McCreary, Insurance Administrator

GUESTS (with voice, no vote)

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

RENEWED **H**EARTS RENEWED **S**PIRITS RENEWED **P**EOPLE

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 zoom meeting. Bishop Anna offered an opening prayer.

The Bishop then presented a team building exercise for council, the theme of which was based on the book *Hidden Potential* by Adam Grant. The Bishop asked council to identify with one of three categories: imperfectionists, discomfort seekers or sponges, and then asked which other category would be a growing edge. Further discussion involved where members saw the Church with respect to these same categories. Council talked about parishes needing to become discomfort seekers as it can be in the discomfort that new focal points and growth happens. (Appendix 1)

#1 Regrets for Absence - The clerical secretary noted the regrets for absence from this meeting. There were two voting members absent and one to join later. 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.

#2 Approval of Agenda (Appendix 2)

Agenda was approved as presented

#3 Consent agenda approval (Appendices 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7)

1. The minutes of the Diocesan Council meeting held on November 16, 2023, be approved as circulated (appendices attached to the November minutes) with a friendly amendment from the Chancellor to change the acronym AMT to Asset Management Team.
2. ETB Nov 14th Meeting Minutes
3. Operations Committee Dec 6th Meeting Minutes
4. Finance Committee Jan 4th Special Meeting Minutes
5. Investment Committee Nov 8th Meeting Minutes
6. Finance Committee Jan 10th Meeting Minutes
7. Operations Committee Jan 9th Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY: Helen Love

SECONDED BY: Trish Vollman-Stock

That the consent agenda be approved.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

#4 Finance Update

- Budget Motion

Joel Hefty and Gillian Astbury-Heinke introduced the 2024 budget (Appendix 3.1) with a higher level of transparency. The payroll costs are going up and staffing will also go up as finance is overwhelmed; outsourcing payroll has not worked out.

Bishop Anna spoke about looking for other sources of income by drawing responsibly from diocesan trusts – most of which will still end the year higher than they started.

A discussion among members of diocesan council followed.

MOVED BY: Isabel Weeks

SECONDED BY: Ian Alexander

That the Diocesan Budget for 2024 be approved by Diocesan Council.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

- Financial Controls

Joel Hefty introduced an Accounting and Financial Controls Policy Statement (Appendix 3.2) that was created after a double payment occurred. It is a living document with the aim to clarify and strengthen controls in specific areas of diocesan financial management.

- Investment Policy

Joel Hefty presented this updated policy (Appendix 3.3) and explained that there are only minor updates, nothing significant has changed. This is the guiding document given to all our investment managers.

MOVED BY: Marion Edmondson

SECONDED BY: Joel Hefty

That the updated Investment Policy be approved by Diocesan Council.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

- Staffing

Eric Partridge confirmed that this has been covered in the budget discussion.

- Bowerman Trust

This is a bequest with specific instructions to be used for accessibility. It is not a significant amount but the interest can be used by parishes for small upgrades. Motion approved as part of the part of the finance agenda.

#5 Earthquake Insurance – Zena McCreary joined council to explain a significant increase in building insurance is due to earthquake insurance (Appendix 4.1), with an additional comment that the deductible for this insurance is 15% of the cost of the building, with a minimum of \$250,000. A discussion among council members ensued.

MOVED BY: Timothy Ray

SECONDED BY: Laura Dey

That when insurance renewals are provided to parishes that they be given information about the amount of their premium that is earthquake insurance and what the earthquake deductible will be. Parishes who believe that earthquake insurance is not a wise investment are advised to approach the operations committee for a discussion about possibly letting this insurance go and what alternate arrangements, such as putting this money aside as a form of self-insurance, might be advisable. Operations committee is required by diocesan council to make decisions about parish earthquake insurance on a case by case basis.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Break 11:02

Re-convene 11:10

The Bishop asked for Brendon Neilson's reports at this time.

#6 Refugee Program Update – Brendon Neilson spoke about his involvement in creating a shared administration program for multiple refugee programs with Provincial Council

#7 Property

- St Matthias
- Green Municipal Fund Grants

MOVED BY: Isabel Weeks

SECONDED BY: Timothy Ray

That the Diocese of British Columbia accept two Green Municipal Fund Grants for \$125,000 each for further development work at St Peter's and St Dunstan's.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

- Wiser Year-End Update (Appendix 9.3)

Brendon Neilson noted that if sufficient grant funding is secured, a part-time asset management coordinator may be recruited.

#8 Canons Committee

- Canons Committee Report (Appendix 5.1)
- Canons Committee Request for Direction (5.2)

The Chancellor is hopeful that the committee will have a draft of all the canons by April.

MOVED BY: Isabel Weeks

SECONDED BY: Elizabeth Murphy

That Regulation 3.04b reads

1. There shall be an operations committee, composed of the following:

- *The bishop, who shall be the chair*
- *The dean*
- *The chancellor*
- *The vice chancellor*
- *Up to four voting members of diocesan council, appointed by the council on the recommendation of the bishop*
- *The executive officer (non-voting)*
- *The finance officer (non-voting)*

2. Diocesan council appoints one further member of diocesan council to the operations committee, upon the recommendation of the bishop, namely Helen Love.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

#9 Synod 2024 Preparation

Eric Partridge announced regional meetings leading up to synod November 1-2, 2024

- Mid-North Islands Region: Saturday, October 26, 2024
- Cowichan, Mid-Vancouver Island: Saturday, September 28, 2024
- Greater Victoria: Saturday, October 19, 2024
- Peninsula & the Gulf Islands: Saturday, October 5, 2024

Times and places to be confirmed by regional archdeacons

#10 HR Working Group

The Chancellor informed us the group is focusing on clergy compensation with the aid of Steve Koning

#11 Next Diocesan Council meeting – April 4th, 2024 - DC Meeting – Virtual meeting on the ZOOM platform

Other Business - None

Closing Reflection

The Bishop thanked everyone in attendance and invited us to share where members are finding hope.

The Bishop closed with the doxology.

Bishop Anna moved the conclusion of the meeting at 12:17 PM.

**Next Scheduled Diocesan Council meeting
Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 10:00 am, ZOOM meeting.**