

Highlights for the 151st Session of Synod (Synod 2023)
Prepared by Archdeacon Tom Henderson, Assistant Secretary

Day 1 – Friday, 26 May 2023

Call to order and prayer by Bishop Sandra Fyfe at 1:02 p.m.

Service of Prayer beginning with territorial acknowledgement of meeting on the land of the Mi'kmaq and the role of African people and their distinctive culture. Breath prayer to center us, followed by prayer, song, and readings. Reflection by Dr. Jane McGrath.

Report of the credentials committee read by Dawn Purcell: 69 out of 108 clergy, 147 out of 209 lay – quorum met.

Ratifications of Executive Secretary of Synod - Dawn Purcell, and Assistant Executive Secretary Archdeacon Tom Henderson. Victor Henrickson/Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner. Carried.

Comfort notes and housekeeping by co-chairs of Victor Henrickson and the Reverend Dr. Kyle Wagner.

Dawn Purcell gave a listing of committees and their membership.

Bishop Sandra Fyfe welcomed and extended courtesies of the house to observers and ecumenical visitors to synod.

Motion of loyalty to the King and we acknowledge we meet on the ancestral lands of Mi'kmaq and Maliseet people". Victor Henrickson/ the Reverend Dr. Kyle Wagner. Carried. Prayer to the King and the Collect of the King.

Motion of greetings to the Anglican Communion. Rev. Paul Jennings/Edith Marshall. Carried.

Motion to extend courtesies of the house to ecumenical visitors. Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner/Rev. Canon Lisa Vaughn. Carried.

Motion to receive committees report Dawn Purcell/Rev. Dorothy Miller. Carried.

Request for nominations and the procedures presented by the Reverend Kyle Wagner for nominations for delegates to Provincial Synod and Diocesan Council.

The Bishop's Charge by the Right Reverend Sandra Fyfe, Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward. We meet over Pentecost weekend, which is propitious for the message of the coming of the Holy Spirit, especially on the theme "We shall all be changed." Bishop Fyfe is part of a cohort of newer bishops who began their episcopacies during Covid. She likened it to a jigsaw puzzle where the picture is obscure. It would be like one with the pieces turned over. While ill as a child, she attempted putting a puzzle together not looking at the picture. The changing landscape of the church and its challenges. The picture has changed since our last meeting. The disruptions caused by Covid. Missed opportunities. Sense of safety was disrupted by the mass shooting in Nova Scotia. George Floyd incident in the US, residential school graves, and other traumas have happened. How do we put the pieces back together again? As the church

we learned to listen more deeply. We learned we had to lean into the challenges to trust in God. The church is more capable of change than originally thought. This has seen us through some many changes, including staffing. What does it mean to be in leadership? What do we need to embrace? What do we need to let go of? The pieces are starting to fall into place. Measures are in place to help our clergy. We have reviewed and are looking at best practices for the sexual misconduct policy. Missional work continues and discernment of ministries. People are looking for spiritual connection. People are looking for ways grow in faith. We as a church are to learn how to reach out to a culture in need and where religion is no longer as much of a factor and where family dynamics have changed. How do we partner with God to share the Gospel, the way of love. Ongoing work continues with Youth ministry. How do we be God's church for God's world? How do remain financially viable? How can we support parishes? There will be some town hall meetings this fall to listen to ways we may move forward. Appreciation is expressed for the diocesan staff, both current and retired, for all their work. So many people who have been helping to figure out and to put the pieces together. We have all been changed. We all shall be changed. What will the picture look like? It is a blank canvass on which God can fashion a beautiful new thing. We endeavor to put the pieces into place and lean into God. Be prayerfully present in this time and place. Be curious about what God is doing. Be open. Be prepared to risk so that parts of this puzzle can take shape. May we be renewed in faith, hope, and love.

Bible Study on 1 Corinthians 15:51-58.

Video presentation Ocean Play by Cathy Martin.

Indigenous drumming and storytelling by Cathy Martin film director and member of the Millbrook Mi'kmaq community.

Presentation by the Diocesan Environmental Network by Marion Lucas Jefferies "Living out the 5th Mark of Mission" -- "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth" and showed a DEN's steward video that will be shown at General Synod.

Presentation by the Anglican Church Women by Cynthia Pilichos. Theme for 2022/23 "Embracing Change." Shift in volunteerism from plenty to scarcity. New name and logo: "Anglicans Powering Potential" APP. Gender expansive and exclusive.

Day ended with the Synod Service at the Cathedral Church of All Saints when and where Archdeacon Brianna Andrews and new Honourary Canons The Honourable Dr. Mayann Francis and The Reverend Ted Morgan were installed. A pollinator garden near the Cathedral was also dedicated.