

## Highlights for the 151<sup>st</sup> Session of Synod (Synod 2023)

Prepared by Archdeacon Tom Henderson, Assistant Secretary

Day 2 – Saturday, 27 May 2023

Territorial acknowledgement.

Morning Worship began at 9:05 a.m. led by the Reverend Jeanne Hunter. Prayer, song and reading. Reflection by Archdeacon John Clarke.

Opening remarks and information sharing by Bishop Sandra Fyfe.

**Resolution 15** to amend the Synod Constitution with regard to meetings of Synod and Rules of Order and Debate. Jim Travers/Anthony Chapman.

First amendment to Section 29 Rules of Order and Debate to limit speaking at synod by movers/seconders from ten minutes to five minutes and each speaker thereafter to three minutes. **Carried.**

Second amendment to Section 7 on meetings. To permit the Bishop to postpone the convening of synod in compliance with public health regulations. **Carried.**

Amendment 1: to permit the Bishop to postpone the convening of synod “due to prohibitions imposed by civil authorities”. Rev. Katie Taylor Flynn /Rev. Will Ferrey **Defeated.**

Amendment 2: to permit the Bishop to postpone the convening of synod in compliance with public health regulations “or another public emergencies in which case the Bishop shall publish in writing an explanation of the nature of the emergency and why such an emergency justifies delaying Synod.” Rev. Benjamin von Bredow/ Rev. Katie Taylor Flynn **Carried.**

Amendment 3: to append a further subsection 7(3) in the event that meetings of Synod cannot be held in person due to the circumstances outlined in 7(2), the Bishop may call a virtual meeting of Synod. Mark MacMullin/Rev. Kate Ratcliffe **Defeated.**

***Bishop gave her permission for assent to this resolution so that the rules around debate would apply for this Synod.***

**Resolution 5 Resolution to amend Canon 25 (Appointment, Transfer and Resignation of Stipendiary Clergy – Parochial Committee).** Edits the Canon to address the transfer of information, the timing of the onset of the Canon 25 process. The significant addition to the Canon is the requirement of an Exploration of financial health early in the process to aide in establishing the financial resources available for the ministry required. Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere/Archdeacon John Clarke **Carried.**

**Presentation** on the work of the **Primate’s World Relief Development Fund (PWRDF)** by Will Postma.

**Election instructions and distribution of ballots** for one election – the election of two delegates to Provincial Synod. Only one nomination for Clergy delegates to Provincial Synod and Youth representative on Diocesan Council and therefore these persons are elected delegates by acclamation.

**Missional Allotment Update** for the Financial Management and Development VSST by the Reverend Matthew Sponagle and Ted Johnson about a shift in emphasis away from bricks and mortar and towards missional work. Four year phase in.

Leah Marshall led us on reflections on **Moments of Joy**, stories from parishes throughout the diocese.

**Midday worship** as adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

**Presentations, certificates, and memorials** by Archdeacon Paul Smith, Dean of the Cathedral.

**Presentation on the Youth and Family Ministries VSST** by Leah Marshall, Interim Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministries. Short video on Community Roots Day Camps. YFM supports day camps, youth delegates at synod, youth internship project in conjunction with the Diocese of Huron, and DYC Diocesan Youth Conference, theme this year, "Shelter from the Storm. You are Enough". Check out resources.

**Resolution 11: Resolution on Regional Representatives to Diocesan Council.** Rev. Paul Jennings/ Archdeacon Tom Henderson so that Diocesan Council members elected by regions who are not already members of synod elected by a parish can be members of synod.

Friendly amendment: Costs to cover synod representation by members of Diocesan Council to be born by the regions if such delegate is not already a member of synod for a parish. Anthony Chapman/Gladys Morgan Friendly amendment accepted by mover and seconder.

**Resolution 7: Resolution to amend Canon 11.** To add as members of synod the financial controller for the diocese, the vice chancellor, the executive officer, and to provide for the possibility of an alternative chair for synod. Rev. Will Ferrey / Dawn Purcell **Carried**.

Friendly amendment to update the language of the canon by the Diocesan chancellor, James Travers. Accepted by mover and seconder.

Friendly amendment by Susan Drain to have the financial controller to be designated a non-voting member of synod instead of ex-officio. Accepted by mover and seconder.

Amendment by Eric Thomson and Garth Watt to have non-voting be extended to vice-chancellor and the executive officer additions to synod. **Carried**.

**Presentation and table discussion: "Views from the Pews – how ill online worship change church?"** led by the Reverend Debbie Fice.

**Presentation on the Diocesan Times** by editor, Paul Sherwood.

**Resolution 8 to amend Canon 20** to reduce the number of people elected by parishes from six to three to Regional Councils. Archdeacon Brianna Andrews / Rev. Matthew Sponagle **Carried**.

**Resolution 6 to amend Canon 35** to make Section 3e (1b) compatible to the changes in Resolution 8 to Canon 20. Archdeacon Brianna Andrews / Rev. Matthew Sponagle **Carried**.

**Resolution 9 to initiate working group(s) to re-examine Canon 11, 20, and 35** to bring them into line with demographic and resources of the diocese. Rev. Will Ferrey / Dawn Purcell **Carried**.

**Amendment** to reflect a broad cross section of (equitable geographic) representation on the working group(s). Anthony Chapman/ Gladys Morgan **Carried**.

**Resolution 10 to add a new Canon for Lay Missioners under Episcopal License (LMELs)** to recognize the role of lay people employed by the church. Gillian Doucet-Campbell/ Leah Marshall **Tabled**.

Friendly amendment to bring clarity to the text: “Lay persons professing a vocation to career ministry, and appropriately qualified for the chosen field of ministry may, upon obtaining employment with a parish or the Diocese, be recognized as Lay Missioners, under Episcopal License (LMELs). Susan Drain Friendly amendment accepted by mover and seconder.

**Amendment to table the Resolution.** Shelly Kent / Rev. Marian Lucas Jefferies **Carried**.

**Bishop welcomed us back with body prayer to center us after supper break and then opened the evening session with a prayer for God’s blessing on the work of synod**

**Presentation on the Connectors, the Missional Leadership Cohort,** by Kim Lively.

**Resolution 12 regarding allotment payment change and Canon 16.** Proposal for parishes to pay installments during their year based on current actual revenues. Mover proposed for resolution to take effect this in 2026. Graham Bell / Mary Jo Matthews **Defeated**.

**Resolution 13 regarding Parochial Return Format Change.** Resolved that the format of the financial information submitted on Parochial Returns be changed to correspond with Revenue Canada’s T3010 Schedule 6. Graham Bell / Mary Jo Matthews **Defeated**.

**Ecumenical Visitors reflections.** Fr. Brian McMillan brings greetings and remarks from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax. Pastor Kimberlynn McNab brings greetings and remarks from the Lutheran Evangelical Synod.

**Election Results:**

1 Cergy delegate for Provincial Synod: Reverend Nicola Cumine by acclamation

2 Lay delegates for Provincial Synod: Vanessa Turner and Robert MacMillan

2 Lay alternate delegates for Provincial Synod: Natasha Bejarano, Linda Rouleau

Diocesan Youth representative: Becky Coholan by acclamation

No nominations for youth delegate for Provincial Synod.

**Presentation on the Creating Missional Communities** by the Reverend Ed Trevors and Tanya Moxley.

**Compline** led by Rev. Nicolas Hatt, Rector, and Jan Connors, Synod Delegate and Licensed Lay Minister for St. George’s Church, Halifax.