

**Highlights for the 152<sup>nd</sup> Session of Synod (Synod 2025)**  
**Prepared by Archdeacon Tom Henderson, Assistant Secretary**  
**Theme: Therefore, we have hope.**

Day 3 – Saturday, 25 May 2025

**Began with Holy Eucharist at 9 a.m. Followed by Brunch at Morrison Hall.**

Reconvened at 12:10 p.m. with an **open forum/ answer and questions with the bishops**. *How do you hold on the hope in the midst of political uncertainties?* There is a deep sense of trepidation. Not all negative. People have returned to church after the controversy over Bishop Levy. Fundings that once were used for refugees has been rechanneled for those who already here. The Church is being a place for sanctuary and there are different levels of sanctuary. Top tier, you're a sacred space where you have someone. Second level you provide support. Third you advocate for the undocumented. Fourth level to inform them of what is available. A church in his diocese in a rural conservative area of his diocese was flying a pride flag in support of a confirmand who identified as non-binary. Bishop Johnson was inspired by the stories of hope he has taken from our diocese. The Church is at its best when it has to struggle. We are not dependent on the government but on our hope in Jesus Christ. Oftentimes it is the rural communities that having been stepping up to resist the political environment. The church ought to seek collaboration with other partners. Jesus did not send them out two by two. Church denominations have pooled together in the face of a common threat.

*How to do we avoid the mentality of scarcity?* If we are looking to build communities we have to learn how to build a community among ourselves. Parishes can do things, but we have to get rid of our seagull mentality.

*How do you inspire parishes to continue to be beacons of hope?* Do less. Pick one thing, and do it really well. As a parish figure out your charism and lean into it. There is a culturally divide.

*How do we reconcile?* Talk directly and reach out in love. It is important to tell our stories.

*How does a diocese work out the fifth mark of mission amid a political climate skeptical of climate change.?*  
The diocese enacts ways to conduct programs.

*What do you do to set the world on fire?* Bishop Johnson wants to set the spark to ignite the spark. Recommended The Convocation Unscripted podcast.

*What to do with Christian nationalism?* He removed the flags from areas close to his altars.

*What are we saying that our flag holds as prominent as the cross?* He immigrated to the United States. Important to preserve the values that inspire immigrants to come. One of things the Diocese of Missouri pursue is to adopt a school to continue to tell histories and offer summer meals so that students don't go hungry. These are apocalyptic times.

*What can we do to help you who are on the frontlines? How do we support you during these difficulties?*

Prayer is a good start. Reach out and let others you are praying for them and communicate this. Some of the changes are needed. Don't look at all of this as monolith. Not as binary (polarized) as one may think. Not heavy but weighted with hope.

**Return to the Budget Resolution:**

**Resolution 13. Budget. Resolved that Canon 16 Budget be amended by adding the sections set out below.** Rev' Matthew Sponagle/ Rev' Arran Thorpe. **Carried.**

Friendly amendment. Under section f) add: "The cost of earning such income is exempt, but hall rental expenses cannot exceed the income earned from hall rentals." **Accepted by mover and seconder.**

Motion to divide. Connor Sutherland/David Puxley. **Defeated.**

Amendment to eliminate 1. Definitions 9) "~~Parish Organization~~" ~~include any entity created to pay or assist in paying a parish's standard operating expenses.~~ Katherine Lee/ Tim Anderson. **Defeated.**

Motion to Table. Garth Watt/Marian Lucas-Jeffries. **Defeated.**

**Resolutions 6. Feast of the Creator, Seasons of Creation Memo. Resolved that a memo be sent from this Synod to the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Synod of the Anglican Church in Canada, commending the move to adopt the Feast of the Creator to be celebrated on September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year (transferable to a Sunday), together with adopting the Season of Creation.** Rev' Marian Lucas-Jeffries/Rev' Paul Jennings. **Carried.**

**Left Over from Synod 2025:** a resolution to add a new canon for Licensed Lay Professionals has been overlooked. Allie Colp spoke of the need for explore ways to move forward on the question.

Move to table Will Ferrey/Dan Shasky. **Carried.**

**Observations:** Leah Marshall took a few moments to reflect on what we experienced this weekend.

Moving to appoint Mark Marshall, Dawn Purcell, & Tom Henderson to the **Committee to Approve the Minutes.** Dawn Purcell/ Rev' Arran Thorpe. **Carried.**

**Bishop's Assent.**

**Bishop's Closing Remarks.** Thank you to all the staff who made this happen. Thank you to Bishop Deon Johnson for his wonderful presence in our midst.

**Closing Worship.**

**Motion to Adjourn** -- Annie MacQueen 3 PM