

Minutes of the 2nd Session of the 144th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

See, I am doing a new thing, now it springs up, do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43

Saturday November 3rd, 2018 at Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton

Call to Order

At 9:02am, the Right Reverend Susan Bell called synod to order and acknowledged the traditional Indigenous territory on which the synod was gathering. This was followed by our opening worship, which included the bishop's charge and the installation of Mr. Greg Tweney as the diocesan chancellor.

Credentials Committee Report

The chancellor advised synod that as of 8:55 am, 71/94 clergy representing 75% and 132/185 laity representing 71% were present while 87/90 parishes, or 98% were represented and quorum had been achieved.

MOTION: Mr. Greg Tweney/The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell

'THAT the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted.'

CARRIED

Welcome of Guests and Privileges of the House

Bishop Susan Bell welcomed all new members of synod and recognized the following guests:

- Ms. Renée Wetselaar - Executive Director of St. Matthew's House
- The Reverend Judith Alltree – Executive Director of the Mission to Seafarers, Southern Ontario
- The Reverend Canon Judy Rois – Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada
- Dr. Scott Brubacher – Executive Administrator of the Anglican Foundation of Canada
- Ms. Sarah Bird - Diocesan Program Consultant, Children, Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry

Election of Synod Secretaries

MOTION: Greg Tweney / The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell

'THAT Ms. Carol Summers be elected as the Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod and The Reverend Michael Deed be elected as the Honorary Clergy Secretary of Synod at this session of this Synod.'

CARRIED

Minutes of the 143rd Synod

MOTION: Ms. Carol Summers/The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell

'THAT the minutes of 143rd Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, as found on pages 12-21 of the Convening Circular be now approved.'

An amendment was noted by the Reverend Michelle Boomgaard (St. Christopher's, Burlington) regarding missing names of new clergy welcomed to synod at the last annual session. With the omission noted, the question was called.

CARRIED

Minutes Of The 1st Session Of The 144th Synod

MOTION: Ms. Carol Summers/The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell

'THAT the minutes of the 1st session of the 144th Session of Synod, as found on pages 22-25 of this Convening Circular, be now approved.'

CARRIED

Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/ The Reverend Canon Bill Mous
'**THAT the agenda as presented by the Agenda Committee be adopted.**'

The Chancellor noted that amendments to the agenda had been circulated.

CARRIED

Reception of All Reports

MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/ Canon Terry Charters
'**THAT all reports found in the Convening Circular and obtained at registration be received.**'

CARRIED

Appointments to Diocesan Court

The Bishop informed members of synod that she was appointing the following people to the diocesan court: the Reverend Canon Stuart Pike, the Venerable Peter Scott, Ms. Susan Little, Ms. Rosemary Anstey, Mr. Andrew Clinkard, and the Reverend Canon Katherine Morgan.

Announcements

The Secretary of Synod advised delegates of a number of housekeeping issues.

Trinity College Corporation

MOTION: The Venerable Dr. David Anderson/ Ms. Susan Little
'**THAT the following members be elected as representatives from the Diocese of Niagara to the Corporation of Trinity College for a term of two years: the Reverend Aaron Orear and the Reverend Sue-Ann Ward (clergy), and Sister Heather Broadwell (lay).**'

CARRIED

Synod Council Report

MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/Mr. Greg Tweney
'**THAT the Synod Council Report, having been fully considered, be now finally approved, and that all the decisions, agreements and documents entered into and signed on Synod's behalf since the last annual session of Synod, be hereby ratified and confirmed.**'

CARRIED

General Synod Nominations and Ballots

The Chancellor gave an introduction to the purpose and structure of General Synod. The Chancellor advised that 4 members of each order were to be elected. Nominations had been included with the convening circular plus two were circulated at registration; the Venerable Val Kerr and Ms. Janice Whiteley. There were 9 candidates from the order of clergy and 8 from the order of laity.

The Secretary of Synod introduced the candidates and invited them to stand. Instructions regarding voting were given. The Chancellor then asked three times if there were any additional nominees from the floor; there were no additions from either order.

MOTION: Ms. Carol Summers/The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
'**THAT the nominations for the Order of Laity for General Synod be closed.**'

CARRIED

MOTION: The Reverend Mike Deed/ The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
'**THAT the nominations for the Order of Clergy for General Synod be closed.**'

CARRIED

BREAK

Walking On Water (WOW) Grant Highlight: Chinese (Mandarin) Missioner, Oakville.

The Reverend Canon Dr. Darcy Lazerte, the Reverend Garfield Wu and the Reverend Jeff Ward gave a presentation about this new ministry in the diocese, funded in part by a WOW grant.

Anglican Foundation of Canada Presentation

The Reverend Canon Dr. Judy Rois, Executive Director, presented an overview of the Anglican Foundation, highlighting its grant programs, which fund infrastructure, ministry and theological education. In the last twenty years, the Diocese of Niagara has received \$212,000 in grants and \$150,000 in loans from the Anglican Foundation.

Dean Peter Wall, the vice-chair of the board, stated that while there are 92 parishes in the diocese, only 5 parishes were active donors to the foundation. The Bishop encouraged all parishes to become members of the Foundation, as she was.

Regional Caucuses:

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell explained the role of synod council members before synod gathered in regional caucuses to nominate representatives to synod council for election by synod.

2017 Audited Financial Statements

MOTION: Mr. Andrew Clinkard/Canon Joanna Beck

'THAT the audited financial statements for 2017 as found on pages 44-63, be received.'

CARRIED

Auditor's Report

MOTION: Mr. Andrew Clinkard /Canon Joanna Beck

'THAT the Auditor's Report, as found on pages 45-46 be received.'

CARRIED

The Bishop thanked our treasurer, Canon Jody Beck, for all her work in stewarding the finances of our diocese, and she also gave thanks for the ministry of our Financial Advisory Committee and our audit subcommittee.

Appointment of Auditors

MOTION: Mr. Andrew Clinkard /Canon Joanna Beck

'THAT KPMG be appointed as auditors for the fiscal year 2018.'

CARRIED

The Eucharist

Bishop Susan Bell led us in the celebration of the Eucharist, which was followed by lunch. During lunch, members had the opportunity to meet nominees for General Synod.

Notice of Close of Ballots:

At 1.10pm the Chancellor gave a 5 minute notice of return to session and a notice that balloting would be closing at 1:15.

The Secretary of Synod reconvened the session, thanking diocesan staff and volunteers who had been involved in the organization of Synod.

A two-minute teaser video was shown to highlight an upcoming faith formation initiative, One Thing.

The Primate's World Relief & Development Fund

Ms. Doris M'Timkuklu made a presentation about PWRDF's ministry which is celebrating its 60th anniversary with the launch of a new logo. 'I Care' postcards, in support of a campaign by PWRDF and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank calling on Canada to do more to end global hunger, were distributed and signed by members of synod. The post cards were collected and will be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada.

Cathedral Place Revitalization Project Report

Canon Terry Charters updated synod on the project noting two significant challenges: the status of the cemetery and the purchase of the adjacent municipal parking lot. Canon Charters noted that discussions are underway with government officials on both matters to resolve these two matters, and that he would keep synod and synod council informed.

Members of synod asked the following questions:

- How much have we spent on this project? Reply from Canon Joanna Beck: just under \$100,000 which is accounted for by environmental and cemetery investigations and some original consultation fees with planners and designers.
- Does the project require planning amendment / zoning change? Reply from Canon Terry Charters: Yes, probably.
- Do we know the scope and size on the project? Reply from Canon Terry Charters: initial concepts were created but we are not far enough along the process to have specifics.

Companion Diocese Relationship: Cuba

The Reverend Canon Stuart Pike gave a brief overview of 19 years of our diocesan partnership with the Diocese of Cuba. Our most recent 5-year partnership covenant concludes on the 15th of November 2018. Canon Pike led the synod in prayer for our companion diocese. Bishop Susan Bell concluded the presentation by informing delegates that with the Diocese of Cuba joining The Episcopal Church, she and Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio had come to a mutual agreement enter into a time of discernment before deciding on a further renewal of the covenant.

General Synod Balloting Closed

The Secretary of Synod announced that the ballot boxes for General Synod had been closed.

Canterbury Hills Ministry Moment

Ms. Rosemary Anstey, Chair of the Board, reported on the work of Camp Canterbury Hills, noting that this year, registration for summer camp registration was full in February. To cope with the demand, a family camp and alumni camp session were added and a yurt had been purchased for additional spaces. Ms. Anstey noted that ministry at Canterbury Hills is thriving, with creative, faith-based programming, thanks to the Board and Mr. Lance Wright, the camp director. Archdeacon Max Woolaver added that he had led a service at the camp, and that kids are changed by their experiences at the camp.

A cheque in the amount of \$7200 from a bake sale fundraiser at St. John's Ancaster, matched by a parishioner, was presented to Ms. Anstey for Canterbury Hills.

Provincial Synod Delegation Report

Mr. Andrew Clinkard, Ms. Susan Little, the Reverend Canon Michael Mondloch, and Canon Pat Davis reported on their experience of Provincial Synod on behalf of all delegates that attended. Among the highlights, the delegation noted that the synod elected Algoma Bishop Anne Germond to serve as the metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

Archbishop Germond was installed at a service at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa. Niagara's representatives on provincial synod council for the next triennium will be Canon Michael Mondloch, Mr. Andrew Clinkard and Bishop Susan Bell.

Marriage Canon Amendment Referral

Canon Christyn Perkons gave a detailed overview of Niagara discernment and decision-making process with regards to permitting same-sex marriages. She reported that dioceses and provinces are asked to consider the marriage canon amendment. Canon Perkons introduced a clip from the video we intend to submit as part of the process leading up to General Synod next year. Bishop Susan Bell reported that she had come from a House of Bishop's Meeting in PEI, and there would be a special meeting of the house in January 2019 devoted to the issue, and asked the synod's prayers as the Church charts a path forward.

BREAK

Celebrating the Diocesan Vision

The Reverend Canon Terry DeForest led a tribute to the vision which has guided the diocese for the past decade. He asked delegates to write an answer to the question: How are we more passionately following Christ today because of our vision?

These responses were collected and received by the Bishop who offered a prayer of thanksgiving, noting that the vision will be carried forward as part of the Bishop's focus on renewal and mission. The Bishop thanked the Reverend Canon Terry DeForest for all his efforts to animate the diocese to more faithfully serve God's mission as our diocesan vision advocate.

Called By Name Presentation

The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic and Ms. Cheryl Bergie gave a moving presentation on the 'Called By Name' ministry, an initiative to create a culture of leadership in Niagara by exploring vocations in lay and ordained roles for our younger generations.

2019 Budget

A presentation of the proposed budget for 2019 was made by Canon Pat Davis. The proposed 2019 diocesan budget is nearly balanced, with revenues totalling \$3,253,500 and only a small deficit forecast on the order of \$9500.

MOTION: Mr. Andrew Clinkard / Canon Pat Davis
'THAT this Synod approve the 2019 proposed budget.'

Members of synod asked the following questions:

- o Regarding Accounts Receivable statements (p.83)- what are we going to do with long-term receivables? Especially DMM and Payroll? Response from Canon Jody Beck: there is ongoing work to pay off parish debt. Previous 'historic debt plan' motion from synod allows parish debt to create payment plan.
- o Are there any parish closures built into the budget? Response from Canon Jody Beck: no purchase and sale agreements currently in hand; no closures anticipated in the budget.
- o Canon Dawn Davis Faith Formation Coordinator: voiced concern over how the budget presentation characterized new hires and cautioned against ageist attitudes.

CARRIED

Election of Synod Council Members

MOTION: The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell/Mr. Greg Tweney
'THAT this Synod elect the regional members of Synod Council and alternate regional members for the 2019-2020 term, as nominated at the regional caucuses held during this session of Synod.'

CARRIED

2019-2020 TERM	
Ms. Siobhan Bennett	Brock
The Reverend Naomi Kabugi	Greater Wellington
Ms. Cathy-Lynn Hanson	Lincoln
2019 ALTERNATES	
Canon Pat Davis	Brock
The Rev. Ann Turner	Greater Wellington
Neil Bell	Hamilton-Haldimand
Janet Kaye	Lincoln
Valerie Tweney	Trafalgar

General Synod Election Results

The Bishop noted that we had a strong slate of candidates – both lay and ordained – and that she is grateful for the willingness of those who let their names stand for this important role.

The Secretary of Synod announced the results of the election for General Synod including alternates.

Clergy Delegates: The Venerable Valerie Kerr, The Reverend Canon Bill Mous, The Venerable Dr. David Anderson, and The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic; and Alternates: The Reverend Canon Katherine Morgan, The Reverend Canon Joseph Asselin, The Reverend Ann Turner (tie), The Very Reverend Peter Wall (tie) and The Reverend Naomi Kabugi.

Lay Delegates: Mr. Greg Tweney, Ms. Siobhan Bennett, Mr. Andrew Clinkard and Canon Pat Davis; and Alternates: Ms. Cheryl Bergie, Ms. Janice Whiteley, Ms. Leslie Kennedy, and Mr. Ian Rice.

The Bishop also noted that she had appointed Ms. Claire Christoff, who was nominated by members of our youth synod, to serve as the diocese's youth delegate to General Synod.

Other Business

St. Simon's Oakville Sale of Land

The Reverend Canon Darcey Lazerte gave a brief presentation to synod, highlighting the information contained in a backgrounder to synod about sale of this land the Region of Halton, noting that this was a time-sensitive matter, that the parish was in support of the sale, and that an expropriation notice would be issued if the synod failed to act.

MOTION: The Reverend Canon Dr. Darcey Lazerte/The Venerable Michael Patterson
'THAT the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara approves the sale of .0089 acres of land to the Regional Municipality of Halton for the price of \$24,500 in two pieces on the north and south ends of the property located at 1450 Litchfield Road, Oakville.'

Canon Darcy Lazerte corrected the address in the motion to 1450 Litchfield Road, Oakville.'

CARRIED

Thanks to Canon Marni Nancekivell

The Venerable Valerie Kerr moved a motion of thanks for the Secretary of Synod at this, her last synod before retirement, and made a presentation of a diversity blanket in honour of her ministry.

MOTION: The Venerable Valerie Kerr / Mr. Greg Tweney
'WHEREAS the witness of the Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell has reflected Christ's solidarity with those who are marginalized, vulnerable and oppressed; Christ's care and compassion to those facing trial or tribulation; and Christ's concern for spiritual practices that are vibrant and life-giving;
AND WHEREAS Canon Nancekivell has been ordained for more than thirty years, serving the Diocese of Niagara as a parish priest, interim pastor, diocesan director, and secretary of synod; during which she has been a gifted pastor to many, a trusted advisor to our bishops, a good steward of our property resources, and a steadfast advocate for a safer and more inclusive Church;
AND WHEREAS Canon Nancekivell will retire as secretary of synod as of December 31, 2018, having served in this role since February 16, 2011;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara offers its sincere thanks to the Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell for her extraordinary service to the diocese and, in particular, for her faithful ministry as the secretary of this synod.'

CARRIED

The Bishop presented the Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell with flowers and offered her thanks for the Secretary of Synod's extraordinary ministry in the diocese.

Bishop's Assent

Bishop Susan Bell gave assent to all acts and resolutions of this session of the 144th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara.

The bishop reiterated her thanks to all volunteers and staff who organized this Synod, and to the newly installed Chancellor.

The bishop adjourned synod at 3:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Mike Deed
Ms. Carol Summers
Ms. Mary Anne Grant
The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
The Reverend Canon Bill Mous