



CONVENING CIRCULAR

Minutes of the 157th Regular Session of Synod

Minutes of the Electoral Synod

Isaiah 43:19



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

MINUTES

157TH REGULAR SESSION OF SYNOD

Friday, November 24, 2017 and Saturday, November 25, 2017

Sheraton Parkway Hotel & Suites, Toronto

Growing in Christ

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2017

Pursuant to the Notice of meeting, the Rt. Rev. Colin Johnson, Bishop of Toronto, called the members of Synod to gather for the 157th Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto.

EUCCHARIST

Synod opened with a service of Holy Communion, commencing at 11:00 a.m. at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel & Suites, Toronto.

The following deceased members of Synod were remembered during the Eucharist:

The Rev. Peter Tink, The Rev. Canon Beverley Brightling, Canon Christopher Riggs, The Rev. Canon Brian Prideaux, Mr. John Lawer, QC, ODT, The Rev. Ann Shorrocks, The Rev. Canon Walter Dyer, The Rev. Raymond Carder, The Rev. Antoine Rutherford, The Rev. Mervyn Everall, The Rev. Christopher Caton, The Rev. Canon Gerald Loweth, Mr. Andrew Murray, The Rev. Frank Lee, The Rev. Gordon Sheppard, The Rev. Canon Donald Beatty, The Rev. Canon Dr. Reginald Stackhouse, The Rev. Mary Ranger, The Rev. John Pyke, Mr. Doug Cowling, ODT, The Rev. C. Donald Wilson, The Rev. Arnold Hancock, The Rev. Canon Murray Porter, The Most Rev. Terence Finlay, The Rev. Eugene Berlenbach, The Rev. Howard Best, The Rev. Beverley Harvey, The Rev. Campbell Russell, The Rev. Canon David Lemon, The Rev. Kenneth Borrett, The Rev. Floyd Green, The Rev. Canon Byron Yates, The Rev. Canon Robert Greene, The Rev. Philip Whitney, The Venerable Dr. Stephen Hopkins, The Rev. Canon Alan Ferguson, Mr. John Fuke, and The Rev. Donald Clark.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CANONS OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson named the following people as new Canons of the Cathedral Church of St. James:

The Rev. Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, The Rev. Joanne Davies, The Rev. Philip Der, The Rev. Byron Gilmore, The Rev. Christopher Greaves, The Rev. Gary van der Meer, The Rev. Jacqueline Bouthéon and Mary Conliffe.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARCHDEACON OF TORONTO

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson named the following person as the new Archdeacon of Toronto:

The Rev. Kyn Barker.

CALL TO ORDER

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson reported that the Notice of Meeting for the 157th Regular Session of Synod was issued on the Diocesan website and in the March 2017 issue of *The Anglican*. Convening Circulars were posted on the Diocesan website on September 25, 2017.

Report of the Committee on Credentials

Chancellor Canon Clare E. Burns noted that the Committee on Credentials reports that all Clerical and Lay Members here gathered are entitled to take seats at Synod.

BISHOP'S CHARGE

A copy of the Bishop's Charge is attached as Appendix A

INTRODUCTION OF HONORARY SECRETARIES

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson introduced the Honorary Secretaries for this Session of Synod and thanked them for their work in preparing the Eucharist:

Honorary Clerical Secretary	The Rev. Canon Claire Wade
Honorary Lay Secretary	Mrs. Sarah McDonald (regrets)
Assistant Honorary Clerical Secretary	The Rev. Ian LaFleur

The Honorary Secretaries delivered housekeeping announcements.

SYNOD SPONSORS

The Honorary Secretaries expressed appreciation to the following Synod sponsors:

- Dinner Co-Sponsors - CGOV Asset Management and Letko Brosseau,
- Refreshment Sponsors - Canso Investment Counsel Limited and Northleaf Capital Partners,
- WiFi Sponsor - The Dalton Company,
- Reception Supporter – AON,
- Refreshment Supporters - Ecclesiastical Insurance and Marsh Limited, and
- Worship Sponsors - Trinity College and Wycliffe College.

LATE ARRIVALS

The Honorary Secretaries read the names of those given permission in advance of Synod to arrive late. The list included:

Lay Members

Mrs. Dorianne Boeckler (St. Paul, Innisfil)
Ms. Joanne Colbourne (All Saints, Kingsway)
Mrs. June Cooke (St. Timothy, Agincourt)
Mr. Paul De Sousa (St. Philip on-the-Hill)
Mrs. Catherine Dorkin-Kuseta (St. Cuthbert, Leaside)
Mr. Michael Fatigati (St. Thomas, Huron Street)
Mr. Adam Furfaro (St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges)
Mrs. Lynda McKerr (St. John the Baptist, Lakefield)
Mr. David Picering (St. Olave, Swansea)
Mr. Lyf Stolte (Resurrection)
Ms. Danielle Rodosky (St. John, Ida)
Mr. Timothy Tong (St. John, Willowdale)
Mr. Isuru Weerasekera (St. Paul on-the-Hill)
Mrs. Nicole Williams (St. Hilary, Cooksville)
Mr. Wally Vogel (Trinity, Streetsville)

Bishop's Appointees

Mr. Don Gillespie

Ms. Gail Smith

Youth Members

Mr. Robert Adams (St. Matthias, Bellwoods)
Ms. Bronte Anderson (Christ Church, Stouffville)
Ms. Roanna Kandive (St. Leonard)
Mr. Izunna Umezinne (St. George on Yonge)
Mr. Trevor Matterson (St. Peter, Erindale)

Clergy Members

The Rev. Nola Crew, St. Monica
The Rev. Canon Stephen Crowther, Chaplain
The Rev. David Julien
The Rev. Jeanette Lewis (St. Barnabas, Chester)
The Rev. Peter Mills (Parish of Ida and Omeme)
The Rev. Wil Stonehill (St. John, Whitby)

Motions to Synod

On September 21, 2017, the Most Rev. Colin Johnson, Archbishop of Toronto, informed members of Diocesan Council in writing that he would be asking Synod to concur with his request for the election of a Coadjutor Bishop for the Diocese of Toronto. The Electoral Synod would be held in the middle of 2018. Archbishop Johnson plans to retire at the end of December 2018.

Motions to Synod from Members of Synod

A Notice of Motion dated September 12, 2017 was received from the Rev. Canon David Harrison and the Rev. Gary van der Meer. Pursuant to Canon 1, the Notice of Motion was placed on the Agenda of the September

21, 2017 meeting of Diocesan Council. At the same meeting, the Archbishop informed Council of his intention to retire at the end of next year. Following a brief discussion, Diocesan Council tabled consideration of this motion to the next meeting of Diocesan Council scheduled for October 19, 2017. On October 11, 2017, the Secretary of Synod received a request by the mover and seconder to withdraw this Notice of Motion.

A Notice of Motion dated October 11, 2017 was received from the Rev. Canon David Harrison and the Rev. Gary van der Meer. Pursuant to Canon 1, the Notice of Motion was placed on the Agenda of the October 19, 2017 meeting of Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council forwards the Notice of Motion to the Synod with the recommendation that it be adopted. The Notice of Motion can be found in Section A of your Convening Circular starting on page 22.

The Agenda Committee informs Synod that these motions will be dealt with in the order they were received immediately following the Constitution and Canons changes. For clarity, the order will be: 1) Election of a Coadjutor Bishop [September 21, 2017], and 2) the Notice of Motion from Members of Synod [October 11, 2017].

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Claire Wade and SECONDED by the Rev. Ian LaFleur that the Agenda for the 157th Regular Session of Synod be approved. CARRIED.

OMNIBUS MOTION

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Claire Wade and SECONDED by the Rev. Ian LaFleur that:

1. **The Minutes of the 156th Regular Session of Synod**
 - The Minutes of 156th Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held on November 13 and 14, 2015 in Toronto, be adopted,
2. **The Minutes of the Electoral Session of Synod**
 - The Minutes of the Electoral Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held on September 17, 2016 be adopted.
3. **Courtesies of the House**
 - The following be given Courtesies of the House: All clergy with 'Informal Permission', all postulants of the Diocese, any lay chairperson, deanery council member, or area council member not a member of Synod, Ecumenical partners, lay Canons of the Diocese, lay faculty of theological colleges, members of the Threshold Ministries, members of the Order of the Holy Cross, sisters of St. John the Divine, Sisters of the Church, Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit and Diocesan Parish Administrators.
4. **Court on Contested Seats**
 - Synod is informed that in accordance with Section 7 of the Constitution, the Bishop has appointed the following members of Synod to the Court on Contested Seats: Canon Clare Burns (Chancellor), Canon Paul Baston (Registrar), Mr. Robert Baird, Mr. Bruce Goss, The Rev. Canon Judy Herron-Graham, Ms. Suzanne Lawson, ODT, Mr. Israel Newell, ODT, The Rev. Canon Stephen Peake.
5. **Timekeepers**
 - The following people be appointed as timekeepers for this Session of Synod: Mr. Jeff Boldt, Mr. Philip Gearing, Mr. Benjamin Gillard, Ms. Sherri Golisky, Ms. Alison Hari-Singh, Ms. Roshni Jayawardena, Mr. Ken Johnstone, Ms. Michelle Jones, Mr. Andrew Kaye, Mr. Gavin Keachie, Mr. Orvin Lao, Mr. Stephen Monk, Ms. Johanna Pak, Mr. Micheal Perry, Ms. Alexandra Pohlod, Ms. Shelly Pollard, Mr. Matt Root, Mr. Brian Suggs, Ms. Morning Wang.
6. **York Rectory Commissioners and Committee on Etobicoke Glebe**
 - The report of the First York Rectory Commission be received, and that the following be appointed Commissioners for the distribution of the First York Rectory Fund and the Etobicoke Glebe for 2018 and 2019: Canon Clare Burns (Chancellor), The Rev. Canon Stephen Fields, Ms. Joy Packham.
7. **Advisory Commission on the Termination of Clerical Appointments**
 - The following be elected by Synod to the Advisory Commission on Termination of Clerical Appointments for 2018 and 2019: Mr. Brian Armstrong, The Rev. Canon Beth Benson, Mr. Kennedy Marshall, ODT.

CARRIED.

Scrutineers

Synod was informed that in accordance with *The Constitution*, section 18, at its May 27, 2017 meeting, the Diocesan Council appointed the following members of Synod as Scrutineers for this Session of Synod: Ms. Jean Glionna and the Rev. Ian Martin.

Regrets

The Honorary Secretaries reported that regrets were received from the following active and retired clergy who were unable to attend Synod:

The Rev. Julian Aldous, Major The Rev. Frank Beasley, The Rev. Patricia Blythe, The Rev. David Bowring, The Rev. Canon David Brinton, The Rev. Canon Michael Burgess, The Rev. Canon Prudence Chambers, The Rev. Nola-Susan Crewe, The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford, The Rev. George Dunkley, The Rev. Vernon Duporte, The Rev. Andrew Federle, The Rev. James Ferry, The Rev. Carol Friesen, The Rev. Annette Gillies, The Rev. Maureen Hair, The Rev. James Houston, The Rev. Ken Johnstone, The Rev. Canon Betty Jordan, The Rev. Canon William Kibblewhite, The Rev. Carol Langley, The Rev. Canon Anne Moore, The Rev. David Opheim, The Rt. Rev. Philip Poole, The Rev. Mary Rybak, Major The Rev. David Saunders, The Rev. Ronald Scott, The Rev. Janet Sidey, The Rev. Robert Sweet, The Rev. Canon Gregory Symmes, The Rev. Beverley Thompson, The Rev. Richard Webb, The Rev. Beverley Williams.

Memorials and Petitions

The Honorary Secretaries reported that no memorials or petitions were received for this session of Synod.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson made the following introductions:

Suffragan Bishops: The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty, the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, the Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, and the Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison
Chancellor: Canon Clare Burns
Vice Chancellor & Registrar: Canon Paul Baston
Vice Chancellor: Mr. Brian Armstrong
Interim Chief Administrative Officer: Ms. Susan Abell
Executive Director: Ms. Angela Hantoumakos
Secretary of Synod: Ms. Pamela Boisvert
Treasurer and Director of Finance: Ms. Kathryn Rogers
Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. James: The Very Rev. Andrew Asbil
Chaplain: The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes, OHC

MISSIONAL AND OUTREACH MOMENT – *A Christian Community in the Making*

The Rev. Jeff Potter spoke about St. Stephen, Maple.

THE CONSTITUTION AND CANON CHANGES

The Constitution

Canon Clare Burns, Chancellor, summarized the proposed changes. There was no debate or discussion.

MOVED by Canon Clare Burns and SECONDED by Canon Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to *The Constitution*, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in the Convening Circular. CARRIED.

Canon 10 – Clerical Appointments, Exchanges, Retirements and Terminations

Canon Clare Burns, Chancellor, summarized the proposed changes. There was no debate or discussion.

MOVED by Canon Clare Burns and SECONDED by Canon Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to *Canon 10–Clerical Appointments, Exchanges, Retirements and Terminations*, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in the Convening Circular. CARRIED.

Canon 15 – Churchwardens

Canon Clare Burns, Chancellor, summarized the proposed changes. There was no debate or discussion.

MOVED by Canon Clare Burns and SECONDED by Canon Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to *Canon 15 – Churchwardens*, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in the Convening Circular. CARRIED.

Election of a Coadjutor Bishop

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson reported that on September 21, 2017, he informed members of Diocesan Council in writing that he would be asking Synod to concur with his request for the election of a Coadjutor Bishop for the Diocese of Toronto. The Electoral Synod would be held in mid-2018. The Archbishop plans to retire at the end of December 2018.

Chancellor Burns added that the elected priest would serve with the Archbishop as Coadjutor until December 31, 2018, then January 1, 2019 would automatically become the Bishop of Toronto. For clarity, nominees for the position of Coadjutor Bishop can be anyone in the Anglican Communion, not necessarily a bishop currently serving in the Diocese of Toronto. This motion comes to Synod with the approval of Diocesan Council. If Synod does not vote in favour of the motion, the motion will require approval of the next Regular Session of Synod and election for Coadjutor will take place beforehand.

MOVED by Mr. Brian Armstrong and SECONDED by Canon Paul Baston that Synod approve that there be an election of a Coadjutor Bishop in 2018.

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson opened the floor for debate. Highlights included:

- The Rev. Samantha Caravan, St. John, West Toronto asked why the voting results are not being shown on screen. The Archbishop indicated this was not the practice with a show of hands vote and therefore not the case for electronic voting, but that a recorded vote could be requested. The member then requested a recorded vote. The Archbishop consented.
- Mr. William Jackson, Christ Church, Deer Park asked about the financial implications. The Chancellor indicated that the financial implications have been built into the budget thanks to our Finance Director, Kathryn Rogers.

At the end of debate, the Archbishop called for vote. The motion carried with 93% of members voting in favour. CARRIED.

Notice of Motion from Members of Synod

Canon Clare Burns, Chancellor, stated a Notice of Motion dated October 11, 2017 was received from the Rev. Canon David Harrison and the Rev. Gary van der Meer. Pursuant to Canon 1, the Notice of Motion was placed on the Agenda of the October 19, 2017 meeting of Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council forwards the Notice of Motion to the Synod with the recommendation that it be adopted. The wording of the motion can be found in Section A of your Convening Circular starting on page 22. A side-by-side comparison of the relevant sections of *The Constitution* as currently worded versus the proposed wording has also been provided for your reference.

The Chancellor further provided a brief explanation of the implications related to the Notice of Motion. Currently, if after 12 ballots there is no election, a further ballot is taken and the candidate with the highest combined percentage is elected. The mechanism to force a result is removed in the Notice of Motion. A new addition to the Notice of Motion is a requirement that a candidate's name be automatically withdrawn if they have less than a combined total of ten votes.

The Diocesan Council forwards this motion to Synod, with the recommendation that it be adopted.

MOVED by the Rev. Canon David Harrison and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer that proposed amendments to sections 10 and 11 of the Constitution of the Diocese of Toronto be approved as set out in the Notice of Motion dated October 11, 2017.

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson opened the floor for discussion and debate.

- The Rev. Canon David Harrison, St. Mary Magdalene, indicated that there are two parts to the motion: raise the threshold in clergy and laity houses, and introduce a provision to limit the number of candidates if deadlocked. Canon Harrison cited an example from the Diocese of Algoma experiencing a deadlock, which led to the decision to take a break and come back a few months later to elect. The Diocese of Toronto sets an example nationally and communally and therefore we need a leader who will hold diversity together.
- The Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer, St. Anne, Toronto, added that in forming the Notice of Motion they sought input from clergy about the motion around the future needs of leadership in our Diocese. The impetus came out of hope that we would have clarity about our leader.
- The Rev. Canon Stephen Fields, Holy Trinity, Thornhill, asked what has been broken in the past that required this change.
- Mr. John Spragge, St. John, West Toronto, indicated the importance of a majority vote in order to have authority and trust from both laity and clergy.
- The Rev. Richard Dentinger, St. Peter, Erindale, indicated opposition to mandating the elimination of candidates from the ballot.
- The Rev. David Giffen, Redeemer, Bloor Street, indicated discomfort with the motion. While there is wisdom, a better time would be when the Archbishop is not retiring, we are in a time of less transition, and a time of stability. He expressed an uncomfortableness in passing a motion that has been live for only 6 weeks.

MOVED by the Rev. David Giffen and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon Dr. Barry Parker that proposed amendments to sections 10 and 11 of *The Constitution of the Diocese of Toronto* be tabled until the next Regular Session of Synod. NOT CARRIED.

The motion achieved 41% in favour.

Discussion continued:

- Mr. Tim Ralph, All Saints, Whitby, indicated that the concern is mechanical and logistical. He suggested a correction to the second portion - quorum is crucial, the more Synod votes, the greater the possibility that people have to leave. He expressed opposition to this well-spirited motion.
- The Hon. Pamela Thompson, Redeemer, Bloor Street, indicated support for tabling because there is a question around quorum because we are in the middle of a discernment process.
- The Rev. Susan Snelling, Parish of Stayner and Wasaga Beach, recommended the inclusion of a provision to reconvene at a later date if no one is elected by a set time. She also suggested that the two elements in the motion be dealt with separately.
- Mr. William Jackson, Christ Church, Deer Park, expressed confusion as to why quorum needed to be raised.
- The Rev. Dana Dickson, Trinity, Bradford, indicated she is in favour of this motion because we need a Diocesan Bishop who has a clear mandate.
- The Rev. Eric Beresford, St. Timothy, North Toronto, indicated he was in favour of the motion and suggested taking the debate elsewhere. Much of this is about mechanics, but also about politics. He noted the political life to our church, Synod means on the way together and processing together. We need to be about discernment, and the intent of this motion is that we discern the bishop together.
- Mr. Stephen Warner, St. Peter (Erindale), asked a question related to proposing an amendment. The Chancellor explained that if the motion is amended it would no longer be coming with approval of Diocesan Council. It would then require two Regular Sessions of Synod to pass. It would require 60% at this Synod as well as the next Regular Session of Synod. Any changes would not affect the Coadjutor election. Based on this information, Mr. Warner decided to propose an amendment.
- The Rev. Douglas Michael, All Saints, Collingwood, explained that it's a challenge trying to make anything foolproof, election by simple majority also induces politics. Our current leadership reflects the diversity of our Diocese and moving to 2/3 would have an effect. He is not convinced election by simple majority is the best tool to utilize our diversity. He has experienced a long election day before, and it was worthwhile.
- The Rev. Simon Bell, St. Margaret, Barrie, indicated he was in favour because the common mind is not the majority. Common mind is the spirit speaking through all of us, we disagree, we agree, elect someone who represents the

fullness of who we are. It is not healthy for candidates at the end of the day to stand, over and over again. His hope is that we will vote for this change as he feels that now is the time to make a decision.

- The Rev. Bryce Sangster, Parish of Campbellford, Hastings, and Roseneath, indicated he is in favour of the motion because he does not like the idea of changing the rules on the 13th ballot. He wondered why the process is not continuous.
- Mr. Steve O’Keefe, St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole, indicated he is in favour of motion. How we make transition from today to tomorrow is preparing for our long-term. Think about moving forward in how we build on what we have achieved.
- Chancellor Burns provided clarification that Synod could never proceed if there were fewer than 20% in clergy or 20% in laity.
- The Rev. Canon David Harrison provided closing reflection and appreciated hearing all the comments. A number of concerns have been answered well. The proposal is directly taken from the Diocese of Algoma. Synod is required to make important decisions, so he urged members to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider this motion.

CARRIED.

The motion achieved 68% in favour. This motion must go forward to the next Regular Session of Synod for second reading as it did not reach 75% to be effective immediately.

MEMBERS’ TIME

Due to time constraints, Members’ Time as originally planned was cancelled with Synod’s concurrence.

GENERAL SYNOD REPORT

Due to time constraints, the General Synod Report will be made available on the diocesan website.

PROVINCIAL SYNOD REPORT

Due to time constraints, the Provincial Synod Report was postponed to Saturday.

CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL SYNOD’S MARRIAGE CANON PROPOSED CHANGES

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson reported that earlier this year he held two consultations, which included a wide variety of people, to gain advice on two matters:

- 1) how to deal with the two-year gap between when our General Synod members would be elected and when the General Synod meeting will take place, and
- 2) to gather insights, wisdom and experience on how our Diocese might engage in a process that would allow for the “consideration” of General Synod’s motion to change the Marriage Canon.

In response to the first matter, Diocesan Council has concurred with his recommendation to hold a Regular Session of Synod in our “off” year. This will allow us to elect our General Synod members closer to the actual General Synod meeting date. It will also allow more time for a process to deal with the second matter.

A small group was constituted consisting of Ms. Marg Watters Knebel (Chair), Mr. Chris Ambidge, the Rev. Canon Susan Bell, Ms. Pamela Boisvert, the Rev. Chris Harper, the Rev. Canon Philip Hobson, the Rev. Ian LaFleur, Mr. Ryan Ramsden, the Rev. Mark Regis, facilitated by Ms. Janet Marshall. The group’s mandate is to formulate a process for our Diocese that will start in a few moments and continue at our next Regular Session of Synod in November 2018.

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson introduced the presenters.

- Ms. Marge Watters Knebel: We find ourselves between General Synod votes. It is a time to consider the proposed change to the canon, and our committee’s mandate is to create a process for such “consideration” that will carry us from today to Synod 2018 and on to General Synod 2019.

Both our Primate, Fred and Archbishop Colin have written pastoral responses that set the tone for this process. In a statement dated July 14, 2016, the Primate writes: “More than ever we must make efforts not to turn away from one another, but rather to one another, not to ignore but to recognize one another, not to walk apart but together.” In a Pastoral Statement dated September 27th of this year, which is available on the Diocesan website, Archbishop Colin

writes: "All of us need to extend to each other the most generous Christian charity that Jesus our Redeemer calls us to exercise as we, together, seek to discern and live out God's will."

What we do here in the Toronto Diocese is quite important. It will be noticed. As the largest and most multicultural Canadian diocese we have a distinctive voice within the Canadian church. We have an opportunity to be a beacon of hope for the wider church, by responding in a way that models unity in diversity, celebrates the strengths and gifts of diversity and reflects our common commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the mission of the church. Our process may be of help to others and it will certainly be of interest as the National Church prepares for General Synod 2019.

The mandate before us is open-ended. Each diocese has been given the opportunity to consider the proposed change to the Marriage Canon in a way that makes sense for them. We have been given no specific directions or deliverables, and there is to be no vote. Our discussions and conversations need not be brought to any conclusion or decision. How we consider this is up to us.

This afternoon we ask for the help of this body in creating a process that will serve you, your parishes and the diocese. We want our plans to reflect your ideas and wishes. To further set the context for your conversations, each of my colleagues here on the podium with me will make a brief presentation.

After my colleagues have spoken, I will ask you to discuss this at your tables and then, individually answer the question which we will put before you.

- The Rev. Chris Harper: John 13:34-35 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Greetings to you my Brothers and Sisters... my relatives. Today our journey of life and faith brings us together on this historic path, as one body, just as the church was prophesied, prayed for and ordained. Our ministry was always meant to witness love, peace and hope for all creation as our first and most important priority. Today we celebrate our diversity as one body, as a choir of varied parts and voices, lifting up our song as one in glory to God our Creator, as a church of the many, with varied ministries and worship styles... we bring ourselves together as one family, to consider, discern and reflect.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ challenges us to see diversity and not be divided; to disagree and not desire domination; to value the commonalities of our shared faith above all differences so that our witness to the Gospel is not impaired. Can we listen with respect and reflect the peace of faith, Can we humble ourselves before we speak, can we offer honesty and truth; Can we respect the perspectives and faith of others, as much as we desire respect for our perspective and faith? As it is our Lord who calls us to a healing journey and relationship, can we then reflect His love and truth to all in respectful dialogue, truthful to our diversity and worthy of being one in the family of God, reflecting the love of Christ, for all Creation.

The Diocese of Toronto could stand as the poster child of diversity, for within we are many nations, communities, churches, and witnesses, and yet together we as one in the Diocese, can stand up and proclaim the love of God our creator, for all peoples, the children of His creation.

It is our diversity that we should celebrate with one voice, for in our diversity God reveals His glory and depth of love, for the love of the world He gave His Son. In our diversity we are all called and named as children of creation and God knows us, and we are called to be His peace to the world, and as hope was given to us in faith, we are to witness hope to all that we encounter in all what we think, say and do.

So I call you for a short time; express Love, Peace and Hope as only you can, as a child of Gods calling. Set aside the divisive chains of politics and our own personal sensitivities, so that we might walk together and respectfully see each other for who we have been called to be... a child of God in the family of God. Created in diversity, just as some us can grow hair... and others not so much, God created us this way, in our diversity, and in this we should celebrate; our diversity in love, peace and hope. (God bless our Synod)

- The Rev. Canon Dr. Alyson Barnett-Cowan: You have on your tables a summary of some of the critical points in the discussion of homosexuality, same sex blessings and same sex marriage that has taken place in Toronto, Canada,

and the Anglican Communion in the last 40 years, together with some of the key texts. I am grateful to Canon Eric Beresford and to the former librarian at Church House, Karen Evans, for much of the work.

The telling of history is always subjective, and I am sure that some of you will think that I have left out important pieces, and certainly will have skipped important parts of the text. But the list will give you a sense, at least, as to how the discernment of what the Church should do about these matters has evolved over the years.

What the dates and resolutions cannot tell you, of course, is the human dynamic that was at play as the discussions and debates took place, nor of how participants in conversation and synod sensed that the Holy Spirit was or was not at work amongst them. As a battle-scarred survivor of many of these actual experiences, in Toronto, in Canada, and in the Communion, I would wish that I could share a little of that aspect of these dates. For every Anglican who came to these tables came with their own personal experience, understanding and theology of human sexuality, and in most cases those have evolved over the past 40 years. You here in this room have your own long histories with these matters, and these are not insignificant. They are what you bring, in all your integrity, to this synod. Together with the minutes of this meeting, your memory of it will also be part of the history. 'I know; I was there.'

In looking back over the 40 years, there are some constants that stand out.

1. At every point there has been an attempt to understand all points of view, and to honour difference.
2. In all the settings – House of Bishops, Diocesan Synod, Lambeth Conference and more – there has been an attempt to reach consensus, even when that consensus has been that there can be no agreement on an actual outcome.
3. At every point the valued presence of gay and lesbian persons in the Church has been expressed. This was affirmed going back as far as the House of Bishops press release of 1978 'We believe as Christians that homosexual persons as children of God, have a full and equal claim, with all other persons, upon the love, acceptance, concern and pastoral care of the Church. The gospel of Jesus Christ compels Christians to guard against all forms of human injustice and to affirm that all persons are brothers and sisters for whom Christ died. We affirm that homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection under the law with all other Canadian citizens.'

Again in 1995, General Synod affirmed as its first point "the presence and contributions of gay men and lesbians in the life of the church and condemns bigotry, violence and hatred directed toward any due to their sexual orientation."

Even the 1998 Lambeth Conference resolution I.10, tough as it sounded in other respects, said "We commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and we wish to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ"

4. From 2003 the church, beginning with the blessing of same sex unions in New Westminster, began to try to discern what to do as a result of such acceptance.

General Synod 2004 affirmed "the integrity and sanctity of committed adult same sex relationships" without coming to a conclusion as to what to do about that.

General Synod 2007 "welcomed the Statement of the House of Bishops of October, 2006, urging the church to show pastoral understanding and sensitivity to all same-sex couples, including those civilly married, and committing the House to develop pastoral strategies to give effect to the acceptance of gays and lesbians to whom we are already committed by previous General Synod and COGS resolutions, House of Bishops guidelines and Lambeth Conference statements."

General Synod 2010 recognized the pain of this process for those most personally affected: "We acknowledge diverse pastoral practices as dioceses respond to their own missional contexts. We accept the continuing commitment to develop generous pastoral responses. ... For many members of General Synod there is deep sadness that, at this time, there is no common mind. We acknowledge the pain that our diversity in this matter

causes. We are deeply aware of the cost to people whose lives are implicated in the consequences of an ongoing discernment process. This is not just an ‘issue’ but is about people’s daily lives and deeply held faith commitments.”

General Synod 2013 called for the changes to the Marriage Canon so that same sex marriage can be recognized; the first vote on these canonical changes took place in 2016 and, as required by the Constitution, the second vote, after consultation with dioceses and provinces, will take place in 2019.

5. I have not included the whole history of what has sometimes been called delegated episcopal oversight, but it has always been the case that protected space has always been made for those who dissent from a majority view.
6. The times when the Church has been in the most agony about these matters has been when people try to reach a decision without care, prayer, intentional listening, the inclusion of all perspectives, and a willingness to wait and consider more if there is not a clear way through.
7. Canadian Anglicans and our perspectives have been significant in the international arena. They have helped shaped the global conversation.

The Church has been at its best and at its worst through these times. When it is at its best has been when it has truly focused on listening: listening to the Scriptures, listening to the experience of gay and lesbian people, listening to those who come from different cultural and theological contexts, listening to those who truly do not know what is right, listening to those who are convinced that they are right.

I’ve been asked to highlight a few times when the Canadian Church did seem to coalesce and find a common mind. One was the General Synod in Ottawa in 1995, when, in spite of very fierce debate, a resolution emerged which did not go as far as many would have hoped – that is, the consideration of a liturgical form for the blessing of same sex unions – but which called for the study to continue throughout the Church. Sometimes the discernment that it is not yet the time is true discernment, not stalling.

The second was at the General Synod in St Catharines in 2004, which had a very carefully constructed process of listening. Increasingly the Canadian Church has learned from our indigenous members the value of the talking circle, and while it is impossible to do true justice to that method within the time constraints of a national or diocesan church meeting, a valiant attempt was made. Everyone’s comments in each group were recorded and shared, so that the Synod had a sense of the whole range of the conversation, and drafters tried to craft a resolution that touched on the main points that emerged. This Synod led to the St Michael Report of the Primate’s Theological Commission which did important theological work on same sex blessings in relationship to marriage.

The third was the General Synod in Halifax in 2010, which, using some of the same methodology, did not seek a resolution, but rather a consensus statement, and that was done. Those who took part in that Synod reflected that it had been holy space and that the principle of listening to every voice was honoured.

I could easily list the times when the opposite has happened, when process got in the way of discernment instead of serving it, and when people felt that they had been rudely overruled by a majority. Moreover, many in the church have expressed anguish about the length of time that this process has taken, and the personal cost to them.

But I would rather you lift up your heads to consider that the path of dialogue, far from keeping the Church from doing anything at all, is in fact the only path it can follow if it is to maintain its unity and seek the truth in all honesty.

- The Rev. Mark Regis: The complexity of human gender and sexuality have been potent flashpoints in our shared discourse, locally, nationally, and globally, both within the Church and culture at large. These issues are at the very core of our relational and spiritual selves. To one degree or another many of us have witnessed or experienced strong convictions, tensions, and divisions, as competing understandings of gender and sexuality have shaken the Church in fundamental ways. The process and results of the vote to amend the marriage canon at General Synod 2016 were moments in our national Church’s life that fully bared this ongoing struggle, and for many, significantly strained and even broke relational trust in our canonical processes and leadership. These events included the decision by several bishops to provisionally authorize same sex marriages when it initially appeared the motion had been defeated, and the ongoing provision before a second vote in 2019.

Following General Synod, Archbishop Colin called a series of meetings with clergy who hold to the historic definition of marriage to hear their concerns. This led to a process by which close to seventy clergy in our diocese of that conviction voiced their concerns officially, along with many lay people, culminating in facilitated discussions over two days with the Archbishop and a group of representative clergy in August of this year. These discussions were facilitated by Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan, and Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, current Secretary General of the Communion. It was appropriate to have Communion representation as we share a Communion-wide struggle. During those discussions, a refreshed commitment to the validity of the historic understanding of marriage and those so convicted was affirmed, and a shared desire to move forward together as a diocese was upheld. This aim is reflected in the Archbishop's recent pastoral statement which can be found on the diocesan website.

Some of us listening today may be surprised or even unaware of the struggle that continues for many in our diocese around same sex marriage as a theological possibility and the process by which our Diocese has brought about change. Those who hold to the historic perspective experience how fatiguing this issue has been for the Church, and carefully seek to emphasize authentic engagement rather than isolation, and gracious discourse instead of holding old assumptions. This aim is reflected in Archbishop Colin's pastoral statement, where the College of Bishops strive to "maintain the highest degree of communion possible, and together participate in the mission to make the crucified and risen Christ known in the world."

The Canadian Church is in a process of discernment, and as this discernment continues, we in the Diocese of Toronto have a unique opportunity and possibly, even a charism, to engage and model a gracious way where divergent understandings of marriage and other significant matters of faith can faithfully bear with one another. Ongoing dialogue is essential in living this out. In his statement, Archbishop Colin gives structure to this hope and aim by committing to "continue the face-to-face conversations that will foster [that communion]."

Let us continue in prayer as we listen for God's voice in mission, asking for renewal, within a time of great cultural and ecclesiastical change.

- Marge Watters Knebel asked members of Synod to take the next 15 minutes to discuss with the others at tables the following question:
"There will be a Regular Session of Synod in 2018 where proposed changes to General Synod's Marriage Canon will be discussed. What would be most helpful to you and the diocese in preparing for that conversation?"

At the end of 15 minutes, members were asked to individually record their ideas and suggestions on the paper provided. The Task Group will use the suggestions to design a process.

The Task Group will feed back to Synod major themes that have emerged from the suggestions provided at approximately 12:00 noon tomorrow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Honorary Secretaries made several housekeeping announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The afternoon session was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

SYNOD CONTINUES

The evening session was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

GROWING IN CHRIST

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson introduced our strategic plan, "*Growing in Christ*," and warmly welcomed Interim Chief Administrative Officer Susan Abell, ODT.

The purpose of this evening is:

- To engage the members of Synod with the *Growing in Christ* strategic plan
- To understand the ‘what and why’ of strategic plans
- Share progress and signs it’s being used
- How to use the strategic plan in leadership in the parish

The presentation involved watching a video to give us other perspectives, review how we got here, learn about the work that has been done in the working groups and reflect and share with others.

Synod is reminded to share their thoughts on social media.

Presentations were made by each of the following people:

- Mr. Craig Gustafson: Leadership and Formation
- The Rev. Ian La Fleur: Trust and Culture
- The Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham: Innovation Based on Evidence
- The Rev. Canon John Anderson: Governance and Decision Making
- The Very Rev. Andrew Asbil: Remuneration - Stewardship of Resources
- Mr. Robert (Bob) Baird: Property Working Group

Susan Abell posed two questions for quiet reflection:

- What is one thing that has impressed or interested you in regards to our Strategic Plan?
- What is one thing I want to take back with me from *Growing in Christ*?

The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes closed in prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

Synod was adjourned and will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 25, 2017.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2017

SYNOD RECONVENES

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson called the meeting to order.

WORSHIP

The Rev. Jesse Parker presided at A Service of the Word.

MISSIONAL/OUTREACH MOMENT – The Dean’s Breakfast

The Very Rev. Andrew Asbil, Dean of Toronto spoke about the outreach programs in and around St. James Park, including the needle box that was recently placed by the Cathedral, as well as the launch of the “faith hub” commitment to financially support work to walk with and support those in the community.

PROVINCIAL SYNOD REPORT

Ms. Laura Walton, ODT reported that Provincial Synod for the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario took place from October 13-16, 2015 in downtown Toronto.

Provincial Synod has the unique ability to liaison with the Provincial government on many issues and look at regulatory bodies dealing with cemeteries, historical designations and competencies. These things may not sound exciting, and to be honest it's not always enthralling, but it's crucial and the work that is getting done and the specialized input we have as a province is critical. To have the ears of those who regulate so many governing issues that involve our parishes is important and without the ability to do this through our Provincial Synod we would be at a disadvantage

The Provincial Synod has worked hard in the last 2 years to increase its utilization of its members gifts. They are working towards a more effective and engaging strategy that lets those on the council continue Provincial work between their twice yearly meetings. We now are able to engage and work towards actual outcomes with input from all our Diocese. Currently we have 3 working groups focused on issues that were named as priorities by the Provincial Synod. We are working with both Diocesan and National staff on these items. The groups focus on Homelessness, Eldercare and engaging OPCOTE in discussions around what the theological colleges are doing in regards to working on actions named by the TRC. The Homelessness and Eldercare working groups are moving towards engaging with all the main political parties leading up to the election. With the help of Diocesan and National Church staff and political party representatives we have come up with proposals challenging government to make changes. The homelessness working group is currently assessing what we as a church can offer in partnership with a government to address the issue. Eldercare is on a similar tract and assessing next steps for what will become a prevalent issue over the next years.

The OPCOTE-TRC working group is in conversation to look at what is offered by our theological colleges in regards to addressing the TRC calls to action.

Another new engagement for Provincial Synod is work with the Senior Management teams of the Diocese in the Ecclesiastical Province. These are forward looking discussions in regards to working towards some joint management and shared costs rather than each Diocese paying for the same item. It's a way to share information, knowledge and resources. There is an ability to build working groups across the Diocese and draw from the different areas of knowledge and depths of experiences. We move forward to our meeting in October 2018 with a focus on creating a 10-year plan that supports all the Dioceses of our Province.

ELECTION OF PROVINCIAL SYNOD MEMBERS

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson reported that under *The Constitution* of the Diocese of Toronto and *The Constitution* of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, Synod is required to elect four clergy and four lay members to serve as members of Provincial Synod. The next Provincial Synod will be held in 2018 in Ottawa, Ontario.

The Provincial Synod meets every three years and considers matters of interest in the provincial sphere such as theological education, social issues, government relations, chaplaincies, and vocational diaconate ministries.

The slate of nominees, together with biographical information, was included in the Convening Circular, Section A, starting on page 12. Synod was informed that on October 25, 2017, Mr. Brian Armstrong notified the Secretary of Synod and asked that his name be withdrawn. As a result, the Convening Circular was updated.

The nominees are as follows:

Clerical

The Rev. Jacqueline Boutheon, Christ Church, Scarborough
The Rev. Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, Parish of Minden-Kinmount
The Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon, St. Andrew by-the-Lake
The Rev. Canon David Harrison, St. Mary Magdalene
The Rev. Karen Hatch, St. Margaret in-the-Pines
The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan, St. Paul, Uxbridge
The Rev. Jeff Potter, St. Stephen, Maple
The Rev. Brad Smith, St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough

Lay

Mr. Lawrence Barker, St. Luke, Burnt River
Mr. James Beckwith, St. Peter, Erindale
Ms. Jean Glionna, Holy Trinity, Thornhill
Ms. Susan Schuschu, St. John, East Orangeville
Ms. Laura Walton, Holy Trinity, Clearview

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson asked if there were further nominations. Seeing none, the following motion was put forward.

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judy Herron-Graham, SECONDED by the Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer that nominations be closed. CARRIED.

Members cast their vote based on house for members of Provincial Synod. The results will be announced by the Scrutineers on Saturday, November 24, 2018.

PRIORITIES AND PLANS 2015-2017 – Narrative Report

The Honorary Secretary reported that the Priorities and Plans 2015-2017 – Narrative Report can be found in section B of your Convening Circular.

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Claire Wade and SECONDED by the Rev. Ian LaFleur that Synod approve the document entitled Priorities and Plans 2015-2017 – Narrative Report.

The Diocesan Council forwards this motion to Synod, with the recommendation that it be adopted.

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson opened the floor for debate and discussion.

The Rev. Canon Claire Wade reported that presentations were made at each of the Area Pre-Synod Meetings that included area activity highlights. Since this document's approval, the organization embarked on a strategic planning process, which culminated in Diocesan Council approving *Growing in Christ 2016-2021*. This narrative report contains notable accomplishments as the Diocese transitioned to *Growing in Christ* and covers the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017. CARRIED.

Diocesan Council's Report to Synod

The Honorary Secretary reported that Diocesan Council's Report to Synod can be found in section C of your Convening Circular.

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Claire Wade and SECONDED by the Rev. Ian LaFleur that Synod receive the document entitled *Diocesan Council's Report to Synod*.

The Diocesan Council forwards this motion to Synod, with the recommendation that it be adopted.

The Rev. Canon Claire Wade reported that again, presentations were made at each of the Area Pre-Synod Meetings. This report contains a list of members, a summary of all policy and major items discussed or approved by Council, and a summary of diocesan grants, loans and other funding. CARRIED.

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson vacated the Chair. The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison assumed the Chair.

MISSIONAL/OUTREACH MOMENT – *Experience with a Refugee Family*

The Rev. Canon David Barker spoke about the Parish of Haliburton and their experience with a Refugee Family of 11. Kids offered jobs after school, restaurants gave gift cards, learned to ski and skate, experienced Canadian winter, small army of volunteers took them everywhere and oriented them to Canada. People in the town would leave their cars running in the street to go and greet them. Have now been in Canada over two years. Advice to Synod: "don't be daunted by a task too large for you."

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2016

Mr. Don Gillespie, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the 2016 Audited Financial Statements, which were in the Convening Circular.

MOVED by Mr. Michael Gundy and SECONDED by the Rev. David Bryant that Synod receive the Financial Report for 2016 from the Treasurer and Director of Finance. CARRIED.

MOVED by Mr. Michael Gundy and SECONDED by the Rev. David Bryant that Synod receive the Audited Financial Statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the year ended December 31, 2016. CARRIED.

MOVED by Mr. Michael Gundy and SECONDED by the Rev. David Bryant that Synod receive the Audited Financial Statements for the Cemetery Fund for the year ended December 31, 2016. CARRIED.

The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison expressed appreciation to the members of the Audit Committee and the Investment Committee.

AUDITORS

MOVED by Mr. Michael Gundy and SECONDED by the Rev. David Bryant that the firm of Grant Thornton LLP be appointed to conduct the audit of the Financial Statements of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and the Cemetery Fund for the year ending December 31, 2017, at a fee to be approved by the Audit Committee. CARRIED.

FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR 2017

Ms. Kathryn Rogers, Treasurer and Director of Finance, presented a financial update for the operating budget of 2017. The 2017 operating budget approved by Synod projected a small surplus. Because there have been a number of unforeseen circumstances, which are for the most part one-time situations, we are looking at ending the year in a small deficit. Revenue is static, with the only real drop seen in the fact that a request for York Rectors Funds was not made. Expenditures are for the most part under budget or in line, with the exception of higher than normal legal costs and relocation and retraining, which are expenses incurred to assist clergy during transitional periods. As well, the capital budget will be higher than expected as the plan was to replace the roof of the Synod Office in 2018 but rain leaking in forced us to move that a year ahead.

The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison vacated the Chair, and the Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson assumed the Chair.

PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (PWRDF)

Ms. Elin Goulden, Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant, spoke briefly to Synod about the impact of her recent trip to Africa.

Mr. William Postma, Executive Director of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, expressed appreciation for the recent Our Faith-Our Hope grant in the amount of \$500,000. PWRDF used the grant for its maternal, newborn and child health program called All Mothers and Children Count. The \$500,000 grant was matched by \$3 million from Global Affairs Canada, which gives \$6 for every \$1 that PWRDF contributes to the program. The program is being implemented in Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique and Burundi with local partners who are focused on health and food security. PWRDF is very thankful to the Diocese for its generous gift and the lasting impact it is having towards alleviating poverty in target countries.

MISSIONAL/OUTREACH MOMENT – *A Safe Place, St. James the Apostle, Sharon*

The Rev. Erin Martin and Ms. Kit Woods spoke about *A Safe Place*. They shared perspective about a youth who was bullied for being transgender and considered suicide. *A Safe Place* for LGBTQ youth offers young people a safe place to be themselves. The ministry received a Reach Grant which made the safe place possible. The ministry launched in September 2016. There are 18 young people engaged who meet on a regular basis and one young person from the group will be baptised at Christmas.

PRIORITIES AND PLANS 2017-2019

The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson invited the Treasurer and Director of Finance to speak to the Priorities and Plans 2015–2017, which can be found in Section E of the Convening Circular.

Ms. Kathryn Rogers reported that information was presented at the Pre-Synod Meetings. The Budget Working Group and Diocesan Council have recommended a budget that has a projected surplus of \$22,000 for 2018 and essentially a break-even situation in 2019 with a surplus of \$3,000. At this point there are not significant

alterations being made to the budget compared to historic results; however, as we move forward with the strategic plan that will likely change.

Ms. Rogers explained that Synod is being asked to approve the Budgets (summarized on page 10 of 26 in Section E) and Assessment Rates for 2018 and 2019 (in Section F) with the potential that there may be a course correction required for approval at the 2018 Synod. The Assessment Rates recommended are 24.70% for 2018 and 2019, which is unchanged from 2017.

Ms. Rogers continued by explaining that as with any organization, the budget process for the Diocese is involved and time consuming. The starting point was a priorities and planning document that staff and committees used to ensure budget initiatives were coordinated with the organizational plan. The Budget Working Group membership was approved by Diocesan Council with the mandate of having oversight over the budget development process, including reviewing draft budgets for reasonability, affordability and alignment with strategy. The Compensation Working Group was consulted for recommendations on compensation for Diocesan Centre staff, and the Investment Committee provided a recommendation for a reasonable dividend rate on the funds held in the Consolidated Trust Fund. The Diocesan Centre Leadership Team completed budget templates and written documentation to support their requests. All of this information was consolidated into a draft budget, which was reviewed by the Budget Working Group and adjusted accordingly to ensure affordability. An important part of the work during this budgeting process was to look at ways to fund initiatives that are exceptional from a cost perspective or one-time initiatives that are not part of ongoing operations. The budget proposes establishing three internally restricted funds to support amalgamations, closures and property, strategic planning initiatives and capital projects. This is the first step towards looking at funding models that are not drawing on the operating budget but rather redeploying funds that already exist.

The Diocesan Council forwards this motion to the Synod, with the recommendation that it be adopted.

The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson opened the floor for debate. Highlights are as follows:

- The Rev. Simon Bell, St. Margaret, Barrie, indicated that the Diocese is in crisis about losing young people, and we have not invested enough. We have moved money around and would be good to know what percentage of budget is spent on this constituent. We do not have many young people in our parishes. Please let us see this reflected in the ways we function.
- Mr. Myles Leitch, St. Paul, Bloor Street, indicated that as per page 5, nothing is allocated for church planting. He is curious about policy and/or thinking behind this as it contrasts this year with an emphasis on church planting. In response it was pointed out that page 8 includes an amount for fresh expressions of church.

MOVED by the Rev. Susan Climo and SECONDED by Ms. Anita Gittens, ODT that Synod receive the document entitled *Priorities and Plans 2017-2019* and the *Financial Budget 2018-2019* and approve the priorities and the financial plans contained therein. It will be further moved that Diocesan Council implement and report back to Synod on this plan and take corrective measures from time to time as best serves the needs of this Diocese. CARRIED. (95% in favour)

ASSESSMENT RATE

Ms. Kathryn Rogers continued with the Assessment Rate, which can be found in Section F of the Convening Circular. The allotment is the portion of the Diocesan budget to be raised from parishes and represents the amount needed to balance the budget. Canon 4 sets out how each congregation's share or allotment is to be determined. The Assessment Rate is solely based on the just-approved financial budgets for 2018 and 2019 and the three-year average Assessable Income.

The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson opened the floor for debate. Highlights included:

- Mr. William Jackson, Christ Church, Deer Park, asked if the 3-year Assessment Rate is rolling or static. The Director of Finance indicated that it is static, but rolls based on 3-year average.

MOVED by the Rev. Susan Climo and SECONDED by Ms. Anita Gittens, ODT that the Parish Assessment Rate, as defined in Canon 4, section 2, be set at 24.70% for 2018, and 24.70% for 2019. CARRED.
The motion carried with 95% of members voting in favor.

The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson vacated the Chair and the Most Rev. Colin Johnson assumed the Chair.

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson answered a previously asked question by reporting that we do need to support and fund youth and children's ministry. The budget has a youth ministry line, and each of the Area Council budgets do as well. He also stated that church planting support is typically funded out of grants from the Ministry Allocation Fund and the Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-Imagine Church campaign.

MISSIONAL/OUTREACH MOMENT – *Amalgamation of St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle*

The Rev. Geoff Sangwine spoke about the amalgamation process involving St. Peter & St. Simon the Apostle. What is God up to? A lot. Spoke about out of the cold shelter; oldest in Canada and sleeps 80 men. At the heart of amalgamation is corporate worship that has taken much time to integrate members. He shared a great video of a few parishioners talking honestly about what their hopes were and what was challenging. He explained that it is hard to let St. Peter's go because it signified the demise of community. He gave credit to the community of parishioners who are committed to attending because they have worked hard on the amalgamation process.

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson announced that the Installation of Canons will be held on January 21, 2018 and the Electoral Synod to elect a Coadjutor Bishop will be held on June 9, 2018. The Clergy Conference in 2019 will be postponed because of the election and synod in 2018.

PROVINCIAL SYNOD ELECTION RESULTS

The Scrutineers announced that the following people were elected to represent the Diocese of Toronto at Provincial Synod in 2018:

Clergy (in alphabetical order):

The Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon
The Rev. Canon David Harrison
The Rev. Karen Hatch, St. Margaret in-the-Pines
The Rev. Jeff Potter, St. Stephen, Maple

Laitie (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Lawrence Barker, St. Luke, Burnt River
Ms. Jean Glionna, Holy Trinity, Thornhill
Ms. Susan Schuschu, St. John, East Orangeville
Ms. Laura Walton, Holy Trinity, Clearview

Clerical Substitutes (in order of call to service):

The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark
The Rev. Brad Smith
The Rev. Canon Jacqueline Boutheon
The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan

Lay Substitutes (in order of call to service):

Mr. James Beckwith, St. Peter (Erindale)

Youth Member:

Mx. Lyds Keesmaat Walsh
Mr. Stephen Warner

FEEDBACK REPORT REGARDING THE PROCESS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL SYNOD'S MARRIAGE CANON XXI

Archbishop Johnson thanked team for staying up to put the report together and invited the Chair to present the feedback.

Ms. Marge Watters Knebel briefly reported on what Synod said would be most helpful in preparing our discussion next year on the proposed changes to the Marriage Canon. There were 380 sheets handed in and these shared approximately 530 specific suggestions. All submissions will be collated and used to shape the development of processes and resources over the next year.

- The largest number of comments -164 of them, are about the process you hope to see unfolding over the next year. In particular you express a deep desire for prayerful, respectful and honest listening and dialogue across our differences. You call for kindness and charity with each other, a willingness to listen to strongly held commitments and convictions – sharing our differing perspectives in good faith, and a hope that this will build relationships and understanding within the diocese.
- You note the importance of including the voices of LGBTQ people, indigenous peoples, and of youth.
- You ask that these dialogues happen in facilitated, small groups with clear and agreed norms. Talking Circles, Indaba, and Conversations over Coffee processes are named as helpful examples.
- 60 comments speak directly to the need for parish engagement in this discussion. You acknowledge that not many are considering the upcoming vote to change the Marriage Canon and what this might mean to them and suggest that processes and resources for including parishes in this dialogue would be helpful and timely. You see this could happen in individual congregations or regionally.
- Again, in considering parish engagement you request that the processes be carefully designed and facilitated.
- 54 comments remind us of the importance of including LGBTQ voices and experiences. You note that a change to the Marriage Canon is a decision that will affect people's lives very personally and as such, you feel it is important to hear from LGBTQ people in our presentations. In particular you would like to listen to those who are married, and those who are seeking marriage in the Church. You ask to hear their stories of wanting a church marriage, their experience with the church, and what difference marriage has made – or they believe will make - to their lives and their faith.
- You feel it would be helpful to hear the experiences of parishes and clergy who perform blessings and marriages; what has this been like in the life of their congregation?
- There are also requests to hear from LGBTQ people who feel called to celibacy, and those who don't agree with same sex marriage.
- In inviting the voices of LGBTQ people there are cautions and hopes expressed regarding our capacity to create a respectful environment through care for language, and norms for listening and conversation.
- 94 comments focus our attention on the importance of continuing to engage in learning and dialogue regarding disciplined scriptural interpretation and critical theological reflection. You are clear in your commitment to the value of working together to deepen your understanding of each other across difference.
- The call for this work comes from people across the spectrum. You are requesting the opportunity to hear and discuss more fully the arguments and commitments that each holds; and you are asking for learning and discussion on how we appeal to scripture with authenticity and integrity when discerning something that arises from our current 21st century context for our ministry - like same-gender marriage.
- Thanks to 64 comments, we now have a list of resources and information you believe will be helpful in preparing for further discernment. These include:
 - an expanded history of the dialogues, decisions, and key moments in the Church's discernment process (National and International);
 - a history of same-gender unions in the church and society
 - a precis of the key arguments for and against allowing same-gender marriages;
 - clarity about how the Anglican Church internationally is structured especially regarding issues of authority
 - information about the processes and decisions in different denominations;
 - information on attitudes towards homosexuality in the Anglican church internationally;
 - a bibliography of key resources
 - a glossary of words that are experienced as sensitive or unhelpful by people from both ends of the spectrum
- 55 comments suggested that it would be helpful to have a better sense of the definition of marriage and the history of marriage, and in particular Christian marriage.

- There are also requests for a more thorough description of exactly what the Change to the Marriage Canon implies, and how some dioceses/bishops could allow for marriage and/or partnered LGBTQ clergy before the Canon has been changed.
- 47 comments raise significant concerns about what might happen after the General Synod 2019 vote. You focus our attention on the need for compassionate care and understanding for people who are disappointed or even devastated by the results. Others ask how they, themselves, will find compassionate care from the rest of the church should they be the ones who are hurt.
- You care deeply that we can continue to live together as a diocese, and within the worldwide communion. You are very concerned about the ways this vote can impact our relationships and our ministries together.
- Concerns are expressed for the ongoing respect and protections for clergy who cannot agree with the outcome of the vote. Concerns are raised from people at both ends of the spectrum regarding protection for clergy from being required to act against their conscience, or from being ostracized because of their commitments.
- Finally, and not unexpectedly, 29 comments urge the diocese to simply move on. These come from people who hold diverse commitments on the subject of same sex marriage. There are expressions of weariness with the discussions. Some feel that there has already been enough consideration and it's now time to make a decision. Others note that the "train has already left the station" in that marriages are being performed both in some of our churches and civilly. These comments urge us to refocus the time and energy spent on this discussion towards ministry and towards learning to live with our difference.

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson thanked Ms. Watters Knebel and the members of the Canon XXI Task Group.

MEMBERS' TIME

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson vacated the Chair and excused himself from this portion of the meeting. The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw assumed the Chair.

The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw reminded members of the rules for Members' Time as outlined in *The Constitution*, Section 38(20). Members were invited to approach the microphones. Highlights of the discussion included:

- Ms. Lilian Leander, St. Mary and St. Martha: appreciates being at Synod for second time, from Cuba and has participated there. Good balance between business and worship, and what is going on in church at large. Questions what ministry is available for young adults – notes ministry for youth and children, and young adults equally need ministry discerning self and career.
- The Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave, Holy Trinity, Trinity Square: answered the inquiry about text in hymn - tune of London Boy, will send to Stuart.
- The Rev. Dawn Leger, First Evangelical Lutheran Church: identifies as first Anglican priest serving a distinctly Lutheran parish. Considered a Waterloo congregation and sharing what she has learned. Thankful for support of Lutheran priests in the Diocese. Commented on lack of orientation in the Waterloo ministries. Anglicans have a lot to learn, and have much to share. Gave thanks to St. James Cathedral for hosting 500th anniversary service.
- Canon Phyllis Creighton, Christ Church, Deer Park: I have good news, the Anglican Church of Canada is one of 468 NGOs from 101 countries that share in the honour of the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons—ICAN—on December 10 because by General Synod's decision a decade ago, we joined that campaign, and through ICAN's work in conferences and negotiations at the UN, it got the nuclear ban treaty adopted by 122 nations last July. You've probably read about the Nobel award to be received by Toronto citizen Setsuko Thurlow, it's been all over the press. That treaty prohibits nations to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons, a turning point in history. Canada, as a NATO nuclear umbrella state, boycotted the treaty negotiations, insisting nuclear weapons are necessary for our security. That stance will encourage more nations to get nuclear arsenals. And it betrayed Canada's historic support for nuclear disarmament. Fifty nations must sign and ratify the ban treaty for it to enter into force; 53 have signed, and three ratified. The world stands on the brink of nuclear war, with North Korea taunting the US with nuclear missiles and the erratic President Trump threatening to unleash on North Korea "fire and fury like the world has never seen." Nuclear arsenals threaten humankind with extinction. That's why 1000 members of the Order of Canada issued a call to the Government of Canada to sign the ban treaty, as has the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the umbrella group of Canadian peace groups—a call that the Anglican Church signed. Through General Synod, our church in 1983 took the stand that "nuclear weapons are against the will of God and the mind of Christ." There's work to be done. I ask you to do two things: (1) Write to your Member of Parliament and to Prime Minister Trudeau and ask them to get Canada to sign and ratify the ban treaty—the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. And (2) Sign the petition to Parliament that I have brought, which will be on the web.

- Mx. Lyds Keesmaat-Walsh, St. James, Fenelon Falls: pastoral concern for clergy - often use “brothers and sisters” in liturgy, and meant to be inclusive but to those of non-binary persons, the language is exclusive. Feels like speaking to everyone BUT me. Members were urged to think about non-binary people in the room or parishes, and consider the use of brothers and sisters.
- The Rev. Canon John Wilton, St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole: worshipped recently at St. John’s Cathedral, Hong Kong with Dean Matthias Der. Extends greetings from Dean Matthias. Managed to barely get a seat in the church of 500 people. Many came in just for communion, and have found a home at the Cathedral because they do not feel safe or free to go elsewhere. 2200 on a Sunday! 200 church-run schools, of 50 parishes. Refreshing to see the church thriving.
- The Rev. Tyler Wigg-Stevenson, Trinity East: addresses nuclear weapons topic - can be relegated easily in our minds to political activism. Yet actually a theological topic. Weapons are wicked in themselves and need attention. Challenges Diocese to consider honouring our belief to express our Christian witness against the weapons.
- Miss Bronte Anderson, Christ Church, Stouffville: desire to see youth more engaged in Diocesan committees and Synod, and transitioning youth to better understand the business of the Church because integral to fostering interest in the long-term church. Getting youth from Sunday school to Synod is valuable!
- The Rev. Dr. Arthur Boers, St. Paul, L’Amoreaux: new to Anglican ways. There is a spectrum and sees our discussion of same-sex as tragic. We do our best but end with painful results. Because Canada recognizes same-sex marriage we have a call to engage as the Church. Appreciate Archbishop Johnson’s pastoral statement. Not sure Synod conveys the spirit of the letter, and wonders about booths, stickers, pride parade, and questions the wisdom of a slide show.
- The Rev. Canon John Hill, Messiah: spoke about Anglican Consultation of Council., regarding unity of the Anglican Communion as integral to life in the wider church. Resolution passed about season of intentional discipleship, and every parish to adopt intentional discipleship strategy. Four years ago, our primate called a task force, to work with the House of Bishops about the nature of discipleship – to engage in paschal mystery. Described as a way of cultivating parish community, and integral to formation.
- Ms. Petronella Cormier, St. Thomas, Brooklin: would like to have a stronger youth presence at Synod, and suggested a youth check-in time. Would like to work towards concrete platform, for example two delegates for Provincial Synod, in two age categories. Youth delegates ask that the Strategic Plan remain a priority.
- The Rev. Dr. Catherine Sider Hamilton, St. Matthew, First Avenue: expressed appreciation for videos and mission for love to one another. Speaking in response to Archbishop Johnson’s statement - meant in same spirit of love, but raises problems, and asks less than we are able. Makes us move from other churches in the Diocese, asks whether or not it is better to wait for General Synod. We have processed together, and ask that we wait. Diversity in community is a wonderful thing – but commitment to diverse theological positions is a different thing. Have mind of Christ, not our own minds.
- The Rev. Dr. Catherine Keating, St. John, York Mills: thank you for supporting children’s ministry. Have felt supported, and work to coordinate children’s conference. Bishop Yu was so supportive and received an area grant. Thanks to grant able to run the conference every year, hosted at Wycliffe and able to go to ROM. Thanks as well to Bishop Kevin who continues to support, and the Archbishop who gives out awards.
- Mr. Ian Physick, St. Margaret in-the-Pines: as Youth Ministry Coordinator for York Scarborough has seen much growth in youth ministry, in spite of vast area, we have individual youth coordinators. Host retreats and workshops, and strong group at Synod. Thanks to College of Bishops for meeting, listening, and discerning together. This is a time of growth.
- The Rev. Canon Kit Greaves, St. John, Bowmanville: spoke of excellent migrant worker ministry thanks to Rev. Augusto Nunez and many volunteers.
- The Rev. Jim Seagram, St. Athanasius, Orillia: At the end of the communion service, we went through memorials list. Many here who are the living spouses of those who have died since the last Synod, and his wife Carol died six months ago. Sang a song of hope. Encouraged ministering to those who grieve.
- The Rev. Claire Goodrich Dyer, Retired: involved with Mosaic, have passion for interfaith dialogue. Recognizes that people are not familiar with each other’s work in the Diocese – could people doing interfaith dialogue work together?
- The Rev. Leonard Leader, St. George on Yonge: Draw attention to hurricane relief, in the Caribbean. 1. Pray for the church in the affected areas. 2. If able, join us for a worship on December 2nd at 3pm at St. Andrew’s 3. Donate to PWRDF and designate Northeast Car. & Aruba.
- The Rev. Daniel Brereton, St. John the Baptist (Dixie): 20th anniversary of priesting next year, yet marriage as a gay man has not yet been blessed in this church. Movement to be at a Synod with people like me, and relationships like mine, celebrated by some and place for us here. Life has been discussed at Synod for years, as a problem to “deal with.” Yet still appreciate the fear and inability to support gay marriages. The ones that can understand are the opposite of you – as a gay priest, would be happy to talk with you and our experiences.

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson assumed the Chair.

CLOSING REMARKS TO SYNOD

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson provided reflections to Synod. Archbishop Johnson thanks the Rev. Canon Claire Wade and presents a gift, as she steps down from Honorary Clerical Secretary of Synod.

ELECTION OF HONORARY SECRETARIES

MOVED by Canon Clare Burns and SECONDED by Canon Paul Baston that the following be elected for the ensuing two-year term.

- Mrs. Sarah McDonald, Honorary Lay Secretary
- The Rev. Ian La Fleur, Honorary Clerical Secretary
- Mr. Peter Newell, Assistant Honorary Lay Secretary

CARRIED.

APPRECIATION

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson thanked the Honorary Secretaries, Scrutineers, Timekeepers, Staff, and Volunteers for their efforts. Appreciation was extended to Ms. Heidi Wilker and the Sheraton Parkway-Toronto North for their work in making Synod a success. He extended special appreciation to all our Sponsors for their generous support.

FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF OUR DIOCESE

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson encouraged members to consider the following four questions about the future leadership of our Diocese.

1. What are two qualities you've most admired in a bishop?
2. What are two critical issues affecting the life and mission of this Diocese?
3. What are two characteristics a bishop should have to lead this Diocese in its mission over the next decade?
4. What would you need in a process to figure out if a candidate had those characteristics?

Thoughts on these questions can be sent by email to synod@toronto.anglican.ca. Feedback received will help shape the Nominations Committee's conversations over the coming months.

CLOSING PRAYERS & HYMN

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson offered a closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Claire Wade that the meeting be terminated.

CARRIED.

Appendix A

The Archbishop's Charge to the 157th Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, November 23, 2017

What a privilege it is to serve you as the Bishop of this wonderful Diocese and to represent you in the wider councils of the Church in Canada and across our Communion. We have been truly blessed in the breadth of the gifts God has given us in the resources of peoples who have come from every part of the globe, in the physical resources we have inherited and in the rich diversity of our spiritual life all rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

John Strachan died 150 years ago this month.

John Strachan was the 1st Bishop of Toronto. I am the 11th. I was overwhelmed by the thought of following John Strachan as I walked to the front of the cathedral at that moment of my election some 14 years ago.

He had the energy of the ever-ready bunny on steroids. Strachan, a larger than life character, brilliant, forceful, energetic, flawed, set the stage for the Diocese of Toronto as we know it, not least in this: he trained up an indigenized clergy, insisted on a locally financially self-sufficient church, enfranchised the laity in its governance, and respected a diversity of theological expression (within Anglican limits of course). He set the DNA of diocese as a church that engaged fully in the life of the community. While he despised Baptists and Methodists, the Anglican faith he practiced did not stop at the church doors on a Sunday morning.

Strachan instinctively exercised adaptive leadership to shape a new colony on firm, age-old Christian principles but had to face challenges no one had ready-prepared answers for. He took risks, he tried new things, he had to adapt old ways to meet new situations. This synod is a result. He convened a gathering of clergy and laity before it was legal or constitutional to do so – yes there were discussions in the parliament to begin the changes that would allow it, but there was a pastoral reality that could not wait. It was what Archbishop Rowan Williams more recently called, in another context, a principled loosening of the structures, to allow the mission of the church in a local context to flourish. The Synod came first, the authorization came later.

And so, we have our 157th gathering of our diocesan Synod today.

He convened the first synod for the newly created diocese of Huron to elect its first bishop, when bishops were still crown appointments. Queen Victoria graciously consented to appoint the elected candidate, ushering in a new age in Canada. Bishop Strachan was the last and only bishop of Toronto to be appointed not elected.

He was Missional, encouraging the founding of churches throughout the growing region but he also provided alternatives to the prevailing norms. He founded a traditional parish church, St. John's York Mills in 1816 but then started a 7:00 Sunday evening service – a Fresh Expression, if you will – at the Grammar School for those who could not go to the morning services at St. James Church (now our cathedral) because of their work or because they were socially uncomfortable (even unwelcomed).

He was an ardent proponent of education and formation – establishing grammar schools, public schools, 3 universities, theological training, medicine. In founding the York District Grammar School in October 1812, he provided a full range of academic courses to build the capacity of young men to take their roles in state and church, offering reduced fees for the poor, so that they too could rise into leadership.

In spite of his reputation as a partisan, he actually worked to set a standard for inclusiveness:

Dr. Jonathan Lofft, a former member of Synod, spoke of Strachan at a recent event at the Cathedral:

"In words both sacramental and racializing, Bishop John Strachan expressed the core of his pedagogy: "Indeed the human mind, whether enclosed in a white, red, or black tabernacle, exhibits the same qualities and powers, when subjected to similar discipline; and the Scripture account, that we are all the descendants of one common parent, is corroborated by the natural history of our species." These words, originally published anonymously in

1819, conveyed sentiments profoundly unpopular, even disturbing, to many of Bishop Strachan's contemporary readers, more than a decade before the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. More than forty years before Darwin dared to go into print. In them, we find a kind of charter, moderately jarring to our ears, too, but sincere, the mission statement of one who would court controversy his entire career in the cause of the Church he loved and served.'

(James Strachan [John Strachan], *A Visit to the Province of Upper Canada in 1819* (Aberdeen: D. Chalmers, 1820).)

Among his notable assistants was Alexander Neil Bethune, a high churchman, one of his first divinity students who later headed up the Theological Training institute in Cobourg and eventually succeeded him as Archdeacon of York and then as the second Bishop of Toronto. But as important was Henry James Grassett whom he appointed as his curate in 1835. What is remarkable for a man of – shall we say – strenuous opinion, is that Strachan and Grassett were at opposite ends of the theological spectrum: Strachan high church, Grassett an Evangelical. Yet Strachan appointed him as his domestic and examining chaplain, and thus with responsibility for the selection of candidates for ordination, and appointed him to succeed him as rector of the Cathedral.

One of Bishop Strachan's enduring legacies is how he dealt with property to underwrite the ministry and mission of the church. He convinced rectors to amalgamate their allocation of the clergy reserves (the land the government gave for support to the churches.) Although he was able to get fewer allocations from the government than he hoped, his leverage of the lands the church had been given still provides income today for ministry from the York Rectors and Etobicoke and Peterborough Glebes.

Last year, we adopted a new strategic plan that will set the direction for our work over the next five years. Do you hear the links back to our DNA?

- Leadership and formation
- Governance
- Stewardship of property and resources for ministry

- Innovation
- Trust and culture

"*Growing in Christ*", as it is titled, identifies these five focus areas for our attention as a Diocese, rooted in our Vision:

"An Anglican community committed to proclaiming and embodying Jesus Christ through compassionate service, intelligent faith and Godly worship."

Our Mission is the work that we as Anglicans in this Diocese are being called to do:

"We build healthy, missional Anglican communities that engage faithfully with the world and share the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Note the mission and the vision: these do not change much over time but the specifics of how we need to put into practice in our particular context do.

They are a continuation of the ministry that we have undertaken in this Diocese since John Strachan's days. They can easily apply to parish life as well and inform both the "what" we do and "how" we engage to join in God's work of transforming lives. We will take some time tonight to think through how it might apply to your parish (and it does apply to your parish!)

Leadership and Formation

We have a pressing need for a renewed catechetical process, the forming of disciples who are formed and being formed in their faith and able to share our story winsomely. Bible study, yes, but more than that, we need to develop our capacity in apologetics: not to apologize and "say sorry" but in the older sense of the word: to give a cogent reason for the hope that lies within you.

This Lent I am recommending that we all take part in a simple exercise: *Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John*, a joint project of SSJE and Virginia Theological Seminary. Please join me in this. There are booklets available here for \$2. There is a daily video to your email; and small groups' resources are available to parish groups on line.

There is no dearth of good and diverse resources available. You don't have to create something from scratch. I want every parish to find a programme

and use it, and not only during Lent. Here are some examples:

- Diocesan funded with Wycliffe's Institute of Evangelism, *Christian Foundations - Grounding for a Life in Faith* - written by Judy and Pat Paulsen and Susan Bell.
- Alpha, Living the Questions, the Pilgrim Series

There is funding available through Our Faith Our Hope grants for more intensive leadership development.

We are in the midst of rethinking our recruitment strategy so that our leadership reflects more broadly the society we serve.

We have an opportunity to rethink how the Congregational Development department integrates work of mission, congregational health, and formation, and how it fits into stewardship, communications and property. I am very grateful for the 30+ years of ministry that Canon Dave Robinson has given to our diocese and the wider church, and I thank the dedicated staff and highly experienced volunteers who provide an inspired model of leadership for other dioceses.

Governance

For number of Synods we have considered how govern ourselves: we have not figured out how to use technology effectively to bring people together to share ideas and make decisions. The technology is growing easier and is more accessible.

We have an enormous Synod: 2-3 times the size of our neighbours' synods, 20 times the size of our provincial synod, more than twice as large as our national synod and more than twice the size of the House of Commons. There are many good reasons for this, perhaps. It is especially good at bringing people together for celebration, consultation and learning but it is a particularly cumbersome, expensive and inefficient way to make some kinds of decisions. And our 42-member diocesan council is 40% larger than the Executive Council (the Cabinet) of the Province of Ontario.

The parish governance structure does not generally meet the needs of our parishes or our people, either.

The rethink is not a rearrangement of deck chairs but putting our structures at the service of our core mission – to be flexible and urgent in our response to the mission of Christ in our communities.

Innovation based on evidence:

Some years ago, at a Synod, I asked people to take some missional risks, to take the family car out for a spin. I was asked if people had permission to have the keys to the car? Yes! Yes! Yes! We need to take risks, calculated risks to be sure, but complacency is not sustainable.

It is exciting to see what has been happening when people do take the keys. I hope you have looked in the Convening Circular to see what has been going on in the Diocesan family. It is impressive.

Reach and Stretch grants, church plants and reboots, leadership support, new forms of ministry started, traditional forms of ministry re-invigorated, substantial contributions to the work of the church beyond our borders. More than \$1.2 million has been given for Healing and Reconciliation and Aboriginal Ministries; \$1/2 million in matching grants to parishes for refugees resettlement.

We will highlight four or five today and tomorrow but they are just the tip of an iceberg of ideas that are changing the way we understand and practice ministry today – and we are also continuing excellent and exciting work as we have always done it. Both/and not either/or.

Not everything has worked as planned. We are collecting the learnings, examining the data, figuring out what went well and repeating it, figuring out what did not and making adjustments and trying again – that's what innovation based on evidence is about. Creating and maintaining a "continuous learning organisation".

Evidence based innovation is about making decisions based on good data, that marry the hunches we have with facts, so that our interpretations and decisions are based in reality not just wishful thinking.

It's about making good judgment, and so it is related to governance.

It's about taking risks so it requires trust.

It's about prioritizing our resources so it's related to stewardship.

It's what John Strachan did.

Stewardship:

Stewardship is importantly related to leadership and formation – we need to be formed as stewards of God's creation, a vow of our baptism.

Stewardship is not only about money but people. We need to identify and call our potential leaders from all the cultures and traditions we have been blessed with in our diocese. We simply cannot afford to overlook or undervalue the gifts of people who look or think or decide differently than we do. We certainly cannot allow ourselves to do that with other Anglicans! I am committed to intentionally seek this diversity for the health and faithfulness of our diocese.

We have given attention to our patterns of financial giving – the stewardship education and mentoring programmes that we have developed have been very successful and need to be extended. We are developing a programme for legacy giving that you will hear about over the coming year.

A major opportunity for us is the gift (and the burden) of our Property – 1.5 billion dollars' worth of it. As a basic principle, we cannot be possessed by our property – on the contrary, our property is bound by the mission. We are exploring new ways to manage these resources wisely and consistently, and seeking new ways to leverage these for the long-term benefit of the mission of our church, just as John Strachan did with the clergy reserves some 175 years ago. We are seriously understaffed to do this work in house and we will have to think outside the box, and change our governance models.

Culture and Trust

I have left this to the end, because in the long run it is the most important.

We live in a polarizing world; distrust of the "other" however the other is defined; a society that /has tolerated bullies and abuse, that has normalized highly charged discourse that publicly divides and mocks and diminishes opponents. It is often cloaked in a false tolerance in the name of free speech or expression of personal opinion. It is a

world view that has infiltrated the way we in the church speak and act. It is wrong! It is not healthy debate. It is contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is contrary to the vows we make in baptism to respect the dignity of other. It destroys communion.

In the alternative, we are called in scripture to "Build all up with love."

In a time when the boundaries of civil discourse are neither clear nor agreed, I think we should establish some mutually developed guidelines and accountability that will express our values for Christian conversation, and model parameters for our interactions with one another in the Church, with the wider community, in person, in our meetings, and in our use of social media. Let us build a stronger culture of trust for it is an essential component of Christian discipleship. It will impact our leadership, our governance, our capacity for innovation. It is a matter of the good stewardship of our human resources.

A challenge that continues to affect our life together, as yes, our mutual trust, is marriage. General Synod met a year ago last June in this very spot and approved the first step to amend the Marriage Canon to formally permit same-sex marriages in the church. Over the next year, including this afternoon, there will be further consultations as we prepare for a second and final reading at General Synod in 2019.

With the advice of the Chancellor of General Synod supported by a number of canon lawyers, I have acted under the provisions of the Constitution of General Synod and the authority of what is known as *jus liturgicum*, liturgical and pastoral jurisdiction of a diocesan bishop within his diocese, to provide alternative rites for this to meet the pastoral needs of some in our diocese. As an interim pastoral measure, in a restricted number of parishes where it has been requested after consultation. I have authorized some same sex marriages to be solemnized in certain limited circumstances. Neither parishes nor individual clergy will be required to celebrate marriages contrary to their convictions.

As I have said, not all welcome this development: some because it goes too far; some because it is not

enough. The traditional position on marriage is an authentic, sustainable conviction that is historic and significant. It remains a coherent theological, biblical, and pastoral position within our Anglican tradition but not the only one. All of us need to extend to each the most generous Christian charity that our Redeemer calls us to exercise as we, together, seek to discern and live out God's will.

We live in a very diverse Church. The diversity that our diocesan community demonstrates means we are called to witness to the faith in a variety of ways, and though such witness is rooted in differing interpretations and understanding of Holy Scripture and the tradition, the ways are recognizably Anglican. You will note that there are strong affirmations in the pastoral guidelines assuring a continued and honoured place in all aspects of diocesan life for those who do not agree with this response. We are enriched by the breadth of this diversity and would be lessened by the loss of any voice. I am committed to continue the long practice of this Diocese to reflect this authentic diversity in the selection and appointment of clergy, in honoring parish traditions, and in the membership of committees and councils of the diocese.

I issued a pastoral statement a few weeks ago, fully endorsed by all the Suffragan Bishops, about how I intend to include in the life of this diocese clergy and laity who hold differing convictions about sexuality issues that we are struggle with today. It is not boasting to say that other parts of the Anglican Communion look to us as a model for dealing with patient generosity and gracious hospitality; it is a fact – they do. This is not to sweep under the carpet real and important differences. It is, rather, to recognize that such differences do not permit us to abandon our more basic need (our neediness) to hold one another in love as Christ himself commanded us. I have met and continue to meet with representatives, both conservatives and liberals, to work out practical measures to ensure that all may flourish to the greatest possible extent within our church.

This willingness to accommodate difference has marked our approach in controversial issues for most of the history of our diocese; we have not always done it well but we have never been a diocese of theological, spiritual, liturgical or

political uniformity. I have worked deliberately to make this a reality during my four decades of ministry. In spite of his very strong opinions on many controversial subjects, this was Bishop Strachan's legacy. I fervently hope that it will be my legacy to this diocese as well.

There have been many significant changes in this past year. We have had a number of important staff changes at the Synod Office. I am very grateful to Susan Abell for her willingness to serve as interim Chief Administrative Officer while we reassessed the scope of the role. I am delighted to welcome Angela Hantoumakos, whom I will introduce later, to the newly renamed position as Executive Director, providing leadership in implementing *Growing in Christ* strategic plan and coordinating the services that we offer to the parishes and people of this diocese.

Three Area Bishops moved or retired since our last regular Synod. All of them began their ordained ministry in Toronto and served our Church with great faithfulness, gracious wisdom and effective leadership. I am immensely grateful to Bishops Linda Nicholls, Philip Poole and Patrick Yu for their service.

Just over a year ago, Synod met to elect three priests of this Diocese to be Bishops in the Church of God. They have now been ordained and consecrated, and soon will have been a year in their episcopal ministries in their assigned areas. Joining Bishop Fenty and me, they bring new energy, their own specific gifts, and their deep commitment to the Anglican expression of the Christian Faith that is a blessing to our Church for years to come.

Bishops, even though they are formed in a particular spiritual and theological tradition, do not serve a special-interest party; they are bishops of, and for, the whole church. The Area Bishops have particular oversight under my direction for a region of the Diocese but they are also Suffragan Bishops and so have concern and responsibility for the whole as well as the parts. They have concern for all the people of God - and who isn't? - who live within the boundaries of the Diocese, including those who are not part of any Anglican congregation. They link the parts to the whole and the whole to the parts.

My decision to retire at the end of next year is not sudden or capricious. We have a growing granddaughter and are excited to have another grandchild in February. Ellen and I have decided to take up ballroom dance lessons, although for some reason the Chancellor thinks Ellen may not have enough insurance! I am not abandoning the ship, for the diocese is healthy and vibrant, but I sense that it needs renewed direction after 15 years, really 25 years, of my leadership. I ask you to concur in the election of a Coadjutor who will automatically succeed me on my retirement. Being a bishop is not at all like being a parish priest, related yes, but quite distinct – a completely different rhythm of work, a different level of complexity, different set of relationships, a different order of ministry.

I was elected as a Bishop Suffragan of Toronto and consecrated on June 21, 2003 and was given responsibility for the Trent Durham area. Archbishop Finlay retired as the 10th Bishop of Toronto on May 31, 2004. A couple of weeks later, I was elected Bishop of Toronto. I had a much longer preparation for the role than the dates suggest. Since March 1992, I served as the Executive Assistant to the Bishop, and so for over a decade I worked in the closest proximity to the College of Bishops and Archbishop Finlay. It was a steep learning curve to move from the parish into the Bishop's Office as Archdeacon, somewhat less so becoming an Area Bishop with that experience. Nonetheless, I faced a surprisingly big learning curve when I assumed responsibilities as Diocesan.

Archbishop Finlay served as a coadjutor to Lewis Garnsworthy for over a year, although he was already a suffragan. Our second bishop, Neil Bethune, was coadjutor to John Strachan. Bishop Snell was coadjutor to Fred Wilkinson. This is a frequent practice in the Canadian Church, including recently, Huron and Quebec. Niagara, Rupert's Land and even Yukon are planning to elect coadjutors this next year.

I believe that it is in the best interests of the Diocese and my successor to have a reasonable period of orientation to the role. I urge you to concur in my request for the election of a Coadjutor Bishop to be held next June.

In the meantime, my assistants have given me a new Twitter handle. *#imstillhere*.

A shadow, a *patronus*, if you're into Harry Potter, filming a day in the life of the archbishop. Since no two days are the same, nor any two hours, I am being followed everywhere.

I have another synod to chair next November but I want to say now how proud I am in this diocese, quality of staff, dedication of clergy, faithfulness of lay people, capacity of our volunteer leaders. I thank God - at least most days - for the opportunity and the privilege of serving as your Bishop. Thank you, and may God bless you.



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

MINUTES

ELECTORAL SYNOD FOR THE ELECTION OF COADJUTOR BISHOP

Saturday, June 9, 2018

St. James Cathedral

Pursuant to the Notice of meeting, the Most Rev. Colin Johnson, Bishop of Toronto, called the members of Synod to a Special Synod for the sole purpose of electing a Coadjutor Bishop for the Diocese of Toronto.

OPENING OF SYNOD

Synod opened with a service of Holy Communion, commencing at 9:30 a.m. at St. James Cathedral, Toronto.

CALL TO ORDER

The Rt. Rev. John Chapman, Bishop of Ottawa, senior bishop in the Provincial House of Bishops after the Metropolitan, took the Chair at 11:00 am. He expressed his delight in being asked to chair today's Electoral Synod. He thanked Archbishop Johnson for his work and witness to the faith as the 11th Bishop of Toronto. Synod responded with a standing ovation.

Bishop Chapman then recognized the nominees, "six beautiful children of God," who had offered themselves for this ministry of leadership. He invited the members of Synod to appreciate the task before them and to put aside any distractions that might hinder a faithful decision.

The Synod was called to order at 11:10 am. The Chair outlined the purpose of the Synod – to elect a Coadjutor Bishop – and the Chancellor described the role and responsibilities of a Coadjutor Bishop.

HONORARY SECRETARIES

The Honorary Secretaries for this session of Synod were elected at the 157th Regular Session of Synod in November 2017:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ○ Mrs. Sarah McDonald, ODT | Honorary Lay Secretary |
| ○ The Rev. Ian LaFleur | Honorary Clerical Secretary |
| ○ Mr. Peter Newell | Assistant Honorary Lay Secretary |

SCRUTINEERS

The Scrutineers for this special session of Synod were appointed by the Diocesan Council on May 24, 2018.

- The Rev. Ian Martin
- Mr. Christopher Jones

It was announced that a representative from Ernst & Young, LLP was present to observe the process.

NOMINEES

The Rt. Rev. John Chapman introduced the following candidates nominated for the position of Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of Toronto.

- The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Andison
- The Very Rev. Andrew Asbil
- The Rev. Canon David Harrison
- The Rt. Rev. Victoria Matthews
- The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson
- The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw

Bishop Chapman commended and thanked these candidates for their self-offering.

FORMAL PROTEST

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Toronto, Canon Clare Burns, announced that there had been a formal protest received. The text of the protest from the Rev. Dr. Catherine Sider Hamilton follows: “I wish to register publicly a protest. I believe that in this Synod we are acting in disregard for the doctrine and teaching of the Church most obviously with respect to marriage but also perhaps with respect to the sanctity of life. We are agreeing to vote on candidates for the office of bishop whose life and/or actions as public representatives of the Church teach or appear to teach something contrary to the Church’s teaching, and in particular its still-standing marriage canon. In this we do an end-run around the processes of the Church. As hard as these debates have been, and as difficult as it has been to raise these issues, the sanctity of life and the meaning and purpose of marriage are not incidental. It is my objection that practices contradicting both are being advanced through the nomination and election of bishops in a fashion that by-passes the authorized processes of the Church. In this I believe we do damage to the Gospel and to the body of Christ.”

The Chancellor reviewed the protest and believes that all of the candidates are clergy in good standing and the election may proceed. Bishop Chapman has been advised of the protest and has determined that Synod will proceed.

PROCEDURES FOR VOTING

The Chancellor then reviewed the eligibility for membership in Synod, and the eligibility for nomination, according to the Constitutions and Canons of the Diocese of Toronto.

The Honorary Secretaries made some general housekeeping announcements.

Ms. Sarah McDonald ODT, Honorary Lay Secretary, read out the list of those who requested and received permission to arrive late.

The Chair introduced Mr. JP Copeland, the Technical Director of Data on the Spot, who explained the procedures for electronic ballot casting. Synod practiced the procedure with some test questions.

MOVED and SECONDED by the Honorary Secretaries that the Agenda be approved. CARRIED.

MOVED and SECONDED by the Honorary Secretaries that Courtesies of the House be extended to the Rt. Rev. Victoria Matthews. CARRIED.

The Rt. Rev. John Chapman declared registration closed.

The Honorary Secretaries announced the numbers from registration.

It was reported that:	CLERGY	LAITY
Total eligible members	371	364
Present and registered	304	312
Votes required to be elected	153	157

For clarity, it was reported that 50% plus one vote carries the vote in the order of clergy and in the order of laity. If after 12 ballots no one has been elected, one further and final ballot shall be taken. For each nominee the percentage of clergy voting shall be added to the percentage of laity voting for the same cleric, and the cleric with the highest total of percentages shall be declared elected.

The Chair called Synod to prayer before the first vote.

THE RESULTS –

	1 st Ballot		2 nd Ballot		3 rd Ballot	
	C	L	C	L	C	L
The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Andison	52	52	43	49	-	-
The Very Rev. Andrew Asbil	84	94	133	138	167	198
The Rev. Canon David Harrison	31	27	15	11	-	-
The Rt. Rev. Victoria Matthews	69	71	81	75	120	106
The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson	29	46	13	30	-	-
The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw	34	21	12	8	-	-
Total Present and Voting	299	311	297	311	287	304
Needed to Elect	151	157	150	157	145	153

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Andison, the Rev. Canon David Harrison, the Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, and the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw withdrew their names after the second ballot. The Chair acknowledged the four nominees who had withdrawn, who received a standing ovation. The Synod recessed for lunch between the 2nd and 3rd ballots. The Very Rev. Andrew Asbil was elected on the third ballot.

Bishop Chapman invited Archbishop Johnson to speak to Synod. The Archbishop congratulated the Dean on his election. On a motion from the floor, it was MOVED by the Archbishop and seconded by the Chancellor that the ballots be destroyed and that the election be unanimously approved. CARRIED.

Pursuant to the Canons of the Provincial Synod, the results will be referred to the Provincial House of Bishops for concurrence.

Bishop Chapman asked the Very Rev. Andrew Asbil if he accepted the election. The Dean accepted.

The Bishop Coadjutor-Presumptive then addressed Synod. He expressed that he was overwhelmed and deeply grateful. He gave thanks for the other five nominees and acknowledged Bishop Peter Fenty, with whom he is looking forward to working in the College of Bishops. Addressing the “incredibly

gifted” clergy of the diocese, he pledged to walk with them if they would walk with him. To the lay people, he shared that he has always learned from them the most important lessons of what it means to be a disciple of Christ in tumultuous times, and pledged to pray for them if they would pray for him. To his Cathedral family, he pledged that their relationship would continue in a new way and that he would continue to walk with them. The Dean then thanked his wife Mary and children, Hannah, Bridget, Sophie, Karl and Grant. The Dean spoke briefly of the world’s need for the Church, and how, when the vulnerable fall between the cracks, it is the Church’s role to make sure that they are not forgotten. He concluded, “If you walk with me, I will walk with you and we will be one in Christ. May God give us that glory and that hope. Amen.”

The Synod responded with a standing ovation.

The College of Bishops came forward to congratulate Dean Asbil. They were joined by the other nominees, who were thanked by the Chair.

The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty assured the Coadjutor Bishop Presumptive of the love, support and prayers of the College of Bishops.

Bishop Chapman, on behalf of the Provincial House of Bishops and the Diocese of Toronto, thanked the members of Synod for their “good and holy work today.”

The consecration is scheduled for September 29, 2018 at St. James Cathedral, and the Installation of the Twelfth Bishop of Toronto is scheduled for January 5, 2019, also at St. James Cathedral.

The Rev. Ian LaFleur expressed appreciation to the staff and volunteers of St. James Cathedral for their hospitality. Thanks were also extended to diocesan staff, scrutineers and other volunteers for their work.

MOVED by the Chancellor that Synod be terminated. CARRIED.

Synod was terminated at 2:50 pm.