



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:

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| ○ Sarah McDonald, ODT | Honorary Lay Secretary |
| ○ The Rev. Ian LaFleur | Honorary Clerical Secretary |
| ○ 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
- 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.

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 the meeting be terminated.

CARRIED.

Synod was terminated at 2:50 pm.