



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

## MINUTES

### 160<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF SYNOD

Friday, November 26, 2021 and Saturday, November 27, 2021

Online Event Platform

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## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021**

### 1. **Eucharist**

Synod opened with a service of Holy Communion, commencing at 6:45 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of St. James.

### 2. **Bishop's Charge**

The Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, delivered his Charge to Synod. See Schedule A for the text.

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

Ted Aldridge, ODT, The Rev. Sid Maddock, The Rev. Canon Ronald Davidson, The Rev. David Julien, The Rev. Canon Dr. Walter Bryce (Duke) Vipperman II, The Rev. Frederick Etherden, The Rev. Earl Gerber, The Rev. Canon Jeremy Van Lane, The Rev. Katherine Treganowan, The Rev. Murray McColl, The Rev. Canon Thomas Crawford, The Rev. Canon Dennis Dolloff, The Ven. Rafiq Farah, The Rev. Barbara Ramsay, The Rev. June Abel, The Rev. Sheilagh Ashworth, The Rev. Philip Rowswell, The Rev. Canon Frances Lightbourn, The Rev. Ronald Scott, The Rev. Lloyd Gesner, The Rev. William (Tim) Sharpe, The Rev. Canon James (Jim) O'Neil, The Rev. M. Robert Sinclair, The Rev. (Richard) Gordon Byce, The Rev. Keith Adams, The Rev. Canon D. Logan Varey, The Rev. Sheila Boudreau, Mr. Garry Glowacki, The Rev. Pamela Lucas, The Rev. John (Jack) Roney, The Rt. Rev. Michael Bedford-Jones, The Rev. Kenneth Keen, The Rev. Milton Dorman, The Rev. Keith Byer, The Rev. Canon Colin Proudman, The Rev. William Linley, The Rev. Dr Schuyler Brown, The Rev. Elsie Stephenson.

## **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2021**

### 1. **Call to Order**

Pursuant to the Notice of Meeting, the Bishop of Toronto called the members of Synod to gather for the 160<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called the meeting to order. Bishop Andrew acknowledged that where we are meeting to film this is in Mississauga and Brampton South and the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinabek Nations and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. This territory was the subject of Treaty 13A, also known as the Head of the Lake Purchase.

## 2. Constitution of the Meeting

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil reported that Notice of Meeting for the 160<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod was issued on the Diocesan website and in the September 2021 issue of *The Anglican*. Convening Circulars were posted on the Diocesan website on September 24, 2021 and a supplementary Convening Circular was posted on the Diocesan website on November 9, 2021.

## 3. Voting Credentials

Bishop Asbil called on JP Copeland to make an announcement. JP explained that emails containing voting credentials were sent yesterday to Substitute Members. These credentials have since been disabled. In addition, it was discovered that five members were on the list twice. Again, this error has been corrected. Bishop Asbil confirmed this has not affected the voting integrity.

## 4. Report of the Committee on Credentials

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

## 5. Announcements

The Honorary Secretaries made housekeeping announcements regarding virtual etiquette, rules and protocols for motions, and voting procedures. Appreciation was extended to Synod sponsors.

## 6. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED** by Mr. Peter Newell and **SECONDED** by Rev. Andrew MacDonald that the Agenda for the 160<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod be approved.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #1)

## 7. Omnibus Motion

**MOVED** by Peter Newell and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that:

- The Minutes of the 159<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held on November 8 and 9, 2019 in Richmond Hill, as prepared by the Honorary Secretaries, be adopted.
- The following be given Courtesies of the House:
  - o All clergy with 'Informal Permission',
  - o All postulants of the Diocese,
  - o Any lay chairperson, deanery council member, or area council member not a member of Synod,
  - o Ecumenical partners,
  - o Lay Canons of the Diocese,
  - o Lay faculty of theological colleges,
  - o Members of the Threshold Ministries,
  - o Members of the Order of the Holy Cross,
  - o Sisters of St. John the Divine,
  - o Sisters of the Church,
  - o Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit,
  - o Diocesan Parish Administrators, and
  - o Mark Hemingway.
- 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 2022:
  - o Chancellor Clare Burns
  - o Joy Packham, PMP, ODT
  - o The Rev. Shelly Pollard
- The following be elected by Synod to the Advisory Commission on Termination of Clerical Appointments:
  - o Vice-Chancellor Brian Armstrong, ODT

- The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark
- Kennedy Marshall, ODT.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #2)

**8. Regrets**

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

The Rev. Esther Deng, The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford, The Rev. Andrew Federle, The Rev. Daniel Graves, The Most Rev. Colin Johnson, The Rev. Elizabeth McCready, The Rev. Diana McHardy, The Rev. Janet Mitchell, The Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois.

**9. Memorials and Petitions**

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

**10. Introductions**

The Right Rev. Andrew Asbil made the following introductions:

Officers of the Diocese:

Suffragan Bishops: The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, the Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson  
 Chancellor: Canon Clare Burns  
 Vice Chancellor & Registrar: Canon Paul Baston  
 Vice Chancellor: Canon Brian Armstrong  
 Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. James: The Very Rev. Stephen Vail  
 Executive Director: Robert Saffrey  
 Secretary of Synod: Pamela Boisvert

The Honorary Secretaries for this session of Synod are:

Honorary Lay Secretary: Peter Newell  
 Honorary Clerical Secretary: The Rev. Andrew MacDonald  
 Assistant Honorary Lay Secretary: Sheila Robson

Synod was informed that in accordance with *The Constitution*, section 18, the Diocesan Council appointed the following members of Synod as Scrutineers for this session of Synod:

Mario Bartolozzi, St. Matthias, Bellwoods  
 The Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard, Holy Trinity, Guildwood

Synod Chaplains available by email at [synodchaplain@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:synodchaplain@toronto.anglican.ca) or by telephone at 416-363-6021 ext. 273 or 1-800-668-8932 ext. 273 are:

The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty  
 The Rev. Fran Kovar

**11. Notices of Motion**

Chancellor Clare Burn reported that as of November 23, 2021, the Secretary of Synod had not received any Notices of Motion. Synod members were reminded that any notices must be in writing and delivered to Pamela Boisvert the Secretary of Synod.

**12. Reconciliation with Indigenous People and Communities**

Chancellor Clare Burns reported that the Diocesan Council forwards the motion contained in the Convening Circular with the recommendation that it be adopted.

MOVED by Chancellor Clare Burns and SECONDED by the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw that:

- Whereas the Diocese of Toronto is committed to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and Communities;
- And Whereas the Diocese has made a series of investments in the work of such reconciliation by among other things:
  - o Providing through The Diocese of Toronto Foundation an annual grant through the Robert Falby Memorial Endowment for Aboriginal Ministry;
  - o Providing through FaithWorks ongoing annual support of the Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM);
  - o In 2021, approving through Diocesan Council a tithe from the Ministry Allocation Fund (MAF) in the amount of \$300,000 to the Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre to support the “Spirit Garden” project;
  - o In 2018, approving through Diocesan Council a tithe from the Ministry Allocation Fund (MAF) in the amount of \$250,000 to the Anishnawbe Health Foundation to support the new “Anishnawbe Health Toronto” project; and
  - o In 2014, granting an Our Faith-Our Hope grant of \$500,000 to the Council of the North.
- And Whereas the Diocese wishes to engage in a process of formation to better understand how it can further support and engage in the work of reconciliation in an intentional and fruitful way;
- Now therefore the Diocese of Toronto, commits for the period between now and December 31, 2026, to making such formation a financial priority of the Diocese by spending up to the current balance of the MAF tithe (on a rolling basis) for this purpose. For greater clarity, this motion is not intended to fetter the discretion of Diocesan Council to authorize spending internal to the Diocese from other sources for this purpose.

As the seconder of the motion, the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw spoke in favor.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil opened the floor for questions. Highlights are as follows:

- Stuart Cooke, Redeemer, Bloor St.: Unclear about titling amounts in the motion. The Chancellor replied it is drafted in such a way to define the MAF in policy/remain consistent. Written to allow Diocesan Council to determine other needs. Rolling basis allows flexibility. Agrees with Stuart that not as perfectly written as Director of Finance would like, but perfect for lawyers.
- Elizabeth Nesland, Christ Church, Holland Landing: Acknowledged first time at Synod and not understanding everything. Wonders about asking for approval of items from 2014 and 2018, and whether this is not approval after the fact? The Chancellor welcomed Elizabeth to Synod and explained previously approved items are separate. What we are asked to approve are things going forward, from 2021. Elizabeth asked who is hearing this portion and the Chancellor replied that everyone who is logged into Synod is hearing.
- The Rev. Dr. Jason McKinney, Epiphany & St Mark, Parkdale: In favour of motion with two concerns to land and reconciliation. Concern for increasing reliance on sale of lands and is also a grateful recipient of MAF grants. Concern is in reducing land to financial aspects, which seems a full reckoning of concept of land and ownership. Second concern; if we remain in current land ownership, we remain in charity model. But concern this motion perpetuates ownership of land model and need to move away from charity model. Suggestions: address problem of affordability, prioritize Indigenous housing providers and covenant with Indigenous communities.
- John O’Dell, Nativity, Malvern: Supports motion and asks what measure of accountability do we put in place when money of this level is spent? Compare to anti-black racism/what follow up has been done in that motion? Does not know what has transpired and expressed it is important to have follow up and accountability. The Chancellor answered about accountability for this motion’s money: any money out of MAF funds have requirements attached to them. Not in this motion because not about a specific project but about an approach to giving.
- The Rev. Ron Duncan, Atonement, Alderwood: Supports motion. Began with destruction of Indigenous economy, closure of residential schools and in the 60’s/70’s placements with white families. People need to realize the damage of the history and reconciliation is important.

- Steven McNeil, St Dunstan of Canterbury: Supports motion. Suggests considering more options of spiritual support, friendship support. Spoke of Archbishop Fred Hiltz as current Interim Priest of parish who has modelled this. Adopted St John York Landing, encourages parishes to consider this also as a way forward to reconciliation and understanding, encouraged synod to listen.
- Ben Harris, St Clement, Eglinton: Seeking clarification: motion says can spend up to amount in MAF tithe on rolling scale. Is there minimum amount? Worried about wording for small amounts put in future. What safeguards are there? The Chancellor replied this is an excellent point, and the plan IS to spend the 10%. We have learned over the last 19 months you never know what is coming next, and this is why we left wording like this so we are flexible to help others survive.

There being no further questions, the motion was put to vote.

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw that:

- Whereas the Diocese of Toronto is committed to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and Communities;
- And Whereas the Diocese has made a series of investments in the work of such reconciliation by among other things:
  - o Providing through The Diocese of Toronto Foundation an annual grant through the Robert Falby Memorial Endowment for Aboriginal Ministry;
  - o Providing through FaithWorks ongoing annual support of the Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM);
  - o In 2021, approving through Diocesan Council a tithe from the Ministry Allocation Fund (MAF) in the amount of \$300,000 to the Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre to support the “Spirit Garden” project;
  - o In 2018, approving through Diocesan Council a tithe from the Ministry Allocation Fund (MAF) in the amount of \$250,000 to the Anishnawbe Health Foundation to support the new “Anishnawbe Health Toronto” project; and
  - o In 2014, granting an Our Faith-Our Hope grant of \$500,000 to the Council of the North.
- And Whereas the Diocese wishes to engage in a process of formation to better understand how it can further support and engage in the work of reconciliation in an intentional and fruitful way;
- Now therefore the Diocese of Toronto, commits for the period between now and December 31, 2026, to making such formation a financial priority of the Diocese by spending up to the current balance of the MAF tithe (on a rolling basis) for this purpose. For greater clarity, this motion is not intended to fetter the discretion of Diocesan Council to authorize spending internal to the Diocese from other sources for this purpose.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #12)

### **13. Announcement**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil indicated that we have received a request to display the number percentages as well as the result; therefore we will do this going forward.

### **14. Missional & Outreach Moment**

In their video, Holy Family, Heart Lake (Brampton) spoke about how they were able to pivot during the pandemic, grapple with technology, and take care of their seniors.

### **15. Diocesan Council’s Report to Synod**

**MOVED** by Peter Newell and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that Synod receive the document entitled Diocesan Council’s Report to Synod.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #3)

**16. Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries**

The Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries chaired by the Rev. Canon Joanne Davies is committed to education across the Diocese, providing speakers as requested for parishes, area days and workshops on a variety of topics related to healing in the Church. An example of their ministry was showcased in their video submission.

**17. Missional & Outreach Moment**

**St Olave, Swansea** shared their online worship, online ministries, and livestreaming journey with Synod.

**18. Adjournment**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil invited the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw to say Grace. Synod adjourned for lunch.

**19. Reconvene**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil welcomed Synod members back at 1:00 p.m.

**20. Episcopal Leadership**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil introduced a video and announced that Susan Abell, ODT and the Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard will serve as Co-Chairs for the Episcopal Leadership Implementation Team. The Bishop invited Synod members to email any thoughts to the Implementation Team.

**21. Government Working Group Report**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on the Rev. Canon John Anderson, Mark Hemingway and Chancellor Clare Burns to present the Governance Working Group report.

Mark Hemingway reported that in June 2020, Bishop Asbil reconstituted a Governance Working Group (GWG) consisting of the Rev. Robert Mitchell, the Rev. Jesse Parker, the Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner, Gail Smith, and co-chaired by the Rev. Canon John Anderson and Mark Hemingway. The Working Group received valuable assistance from Robert Saffrey, Executive Director, Pamela Boisvert, Secretary of Synod, and Livia Assuncao, Administrative and Synod Assistant. The mandate of the GWG was to review the governance proposal presented at Synod in 2019 and recommend changes for a revised proposal to be presented at Synod in 2021.

Synod was reminded that under our current governance model, the role of Diocesan Council is to act as the 'synod between synods'. That is, to focus on strategic matters, seeing through what Synod had adopted, and focusing on policy development. There have been concerns about the ability of Diocesan Council to focus on such matters for some time. Indeed, it was these concerns as expressed in the Diocesan Strategic Plan, that led Archbishop Johnson to appoint a Governance Working Group that reported to Synod in 2019. That group found, through surveys, working groups, and studies, that there was a common understanding that the existing structure of Diocesan Council was too unwieldy. It had too many people on it; it had an incoherent decision-making structure, and it is difficult to navigate matters and issues through the process.

At Synod 2019 the following proposal was put forth:

- Diocesan Council and the Executive Board be amalgamated into one body called Synod Council.
- The size of Synod Council be reduced so that there be a maximum of 25 members.
- Six committees be established, each of which would report to Synod Council: Audit Committee, Finance Committee, Property Committee, Human Resources Committee, Programs Committee and Risk and Governance Committee.
- Existing committees be amalgamated.
- Those members of Synod Council who were appointed or who were Chairs of Committees would be appointed for their expertise and would not necessarily be members of Synod.

- Members of the committees would not necessarily be members of Synod.
- The committees would have decision-making authority delegated to them with parameters established by Synod and Synod Council.

The following issues with this proposal were raised at 2019 Synod and thereafter:

- Appointed members of Synod Council and Chairs of Committees were not required to be members of Synod.
- Elections to Council at Area Pre-Synod Meetings were often acclamations and as a result the process did not always ensure it was representative of the diversity of the Diocese.
- If the Areas of the Diocese were reconfigured, the system of electing members of Pre-Synod may no longer be relevant.
- The way in which committee chairs would be selected was not defined.
- The Bishops and those whom the Diocesan Bishop would appoint to Council would together hold a majority of votes (60%).
- The proposed Program Committee was too broadly defined to be manageable.

The 2019 Synod approved a motion – Motion #7A(ii) – to receive and approve the pilot project in principle; the motion needed a simple majority (50 + 1) to pass. However, the motion to change the parts of the Constitution dealing with the pilot project – Motion #9B – was defeated. The motion required 75% approval in each of the houses of clergy and laity to succeed. It was approved in the house of laity but received only 74.3% in the house of clergy. Since the motion failed, the matter was referred to this session of Synod.

The Rev. Canon John Anderson reported that the GWG was asked to consider the various objections that were raised in respect of the 2019 proposal and has developed the following revised proposal for Synod Council Membership.

## A Proposal for Synod Council Membership

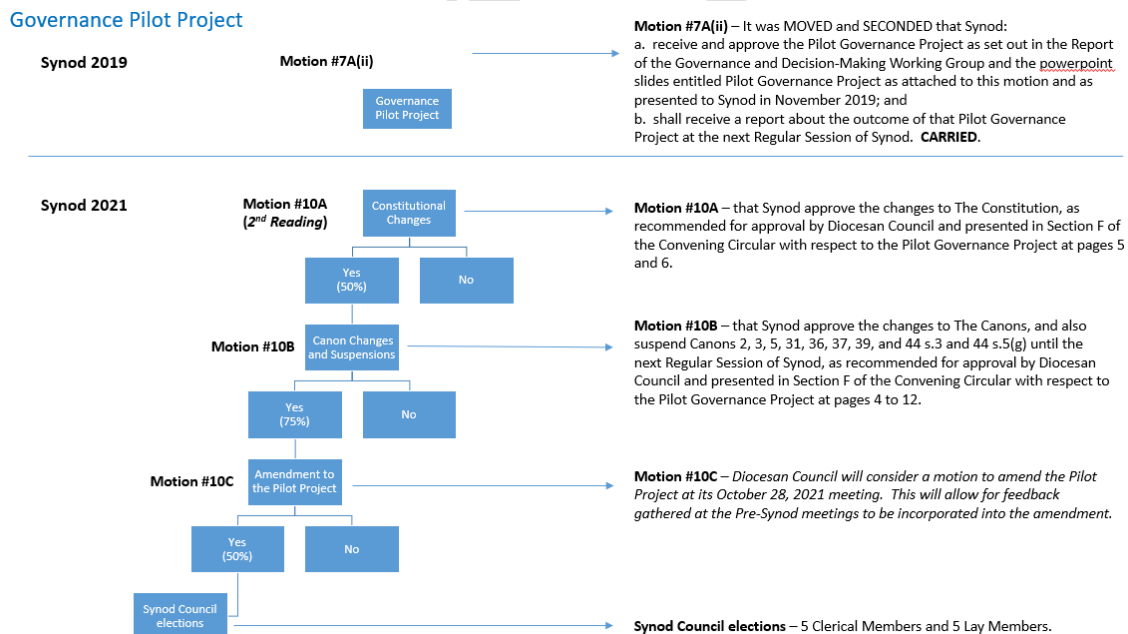
Category of Member	Sub-Category of Member	Member of Synod	Sub-Totals	Totals
<b>Office Holders</b>	Bishop of Toronto	Yes	1	6-8
	Suffragan Bishops	Yes	2-4	
	Chancellor (Chair of Risk and Governance Committee)	Yes	1	
	Honorary Clerical Secretary of Synod	Yes	1	
	Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod	Yes	1	
<b>Bishop's Appointments</b>	3 Committee Chairs (clergy or laity)	Yes	3	8
	Up to 5 Appointees (clergy or laity)	Yes	5	
<b>Elected</b>	5 Lay Members of Synod <b>elected at Synod</b>	Yes	5	10
	5 Clerical Members of Synod <b>elected at Synod</b>	Yes	5	
<b>Non-Voting</b>	Executive Director	Yes		1 (non-voting)
<b>Total Membership of Proposed Synod Council</b>				<b>25-27</b> (including 1 non-voting)

This proposal addresses the issues raised at 2019 Synod as follows:

- All members of Synod Council will need to be members of Synod. If not currently, the Bishop can make them members of Synod in accordance with s. 3(4) of the Constitution of the Diocese of Toronto, provided they are qualified under s. 3(1)(a)(b)&(c) of the Constitution.
- All elected Members of Council will be elected at Synod, rather than at pre-Synod meetings.
- A carefully considered slate of nominees will be presented by the nominating committee, ensuring robust elections and a diverse group of candidates.
- The proposed model addresses possible changes in episcopal leadership and Areas of the Diocese.
- The committee chairs and up to 5 others will be appointed by the Bishop taking into consideration skills, abilities, and the diversity (including geographic, gender, age, theological, and racial) of the Diocese.
- The Bishops and those whom the Diocesan Bishop would appoint to Council would together not hold a majority of votes (45.83%) with three Bishops; 48% with four Bishops; 50% with five Bishops).

The Program Committee will be removed and the work of the various committees that previously were amalgamated into the Program Committee will each continue to report into Synod Council. The proposed governance structure is shown in this slide. Note that it addressed changes in the number of Bishops and Areas and that committees such as Audit, Finance, and Risk must adhere to provisions as set in the Constitution and Canons.

Chancellor Clare Burns walked members through the following summary slide:



As explained, at Synod in 2019, the Governance Pilot Project was approved. It required a 50% plus 1 vote, and Synod approved it. In the context of the pilot project, we needed to make changes to the Constitution and the Canons which are the legal framework that govern the way we work. That required motions first to amend the Constitution (Motion #10A) and then to lift the operation of certain Canons during the operation of the pilot project. Those motions required 75% to pass. The motion to amend the Constitution failed as it only achieved 74.3% in the house of clergy. Under our Constitution, the motion now comes back to Synod, and it only requires 50% plus 1 to pass. That is the first motion we will vote on.



The second motion will be the Canonical changes. This is coming for the first time; we did not vote on them last time. This motion (10B) will require 75% plus 1 to pass in both houses – so the house of the clergy and the house of the laity.

The third motion is related to the changes that the Governance Working Group is now proposing to the Governance Pilot Project considering the issues raised at Synod in 2019. Therefore, the Agenda Committee and the Bishop are committing to Synod that if the Constitution and Canon changes are passed this time at Synod the next motion will be Motion #10C.

## **22. Governance Pilot Project**

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Vice-Chancellor Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to the Pilot Governance Project at pages 5 and 6.

The Chancellor explained why voting results reported generally, as opposed to by house specifically, which is because we received no request to vote/display in such a way.

- Geraldine Sperling (St George on Yonge): Stated that the motion was defeated at 2019 Synod, and had concerns expressed because there were organizations dealing with audit, finance, personnel etc. and only one for program. Much support is needed for program, and there does not seem to be enough attention paid. Suggests broadening the support or appearance of support at parish level. Mark Hemingway replied that the point was made in 2019, and to a revised governance working group. We thought about it and rather than amalgamate all, would continue to have existing committees report into Synod Council, so that work of each committee would not be overlooked. The support is there, and committees that exist now will continue.
- Frank Cormier (St. Anne, Toronto): Asked why are we seeking to amend constitution? Why not let pilot project take its course and try for a time? The Chancellor answered that it is not possible to lift parts of constitution for a certain time, but rather any changes are permanent.
- Jane Meadus (All Saints, Whitby): Asks how are members selected? The Chancellor answered that the process is open, Diocesan Council & nominations committee asked, and put out general call to submit nominations, and we will elect members to Synod Council. The object is to have as much diversity and inclusion as possible.
- The Rev. Pam Trondson (Christ Church, Scarborough): Asks how long will pilot project be in place and how will it be assessed? The Chancellor answered that it is in place for two years, to report back at next Synod. This is because we can only suspend canons between Synods. We will seek feedback from laity, clergy, staff, and College of Bishops on the pilot project.
- The Rev. Maggie Helwig (St Stephen in-the-Fields): Asks is the only piece in writing on this motion the chart that was shown on screen? Would be good to have explanation in writing. The Chancellor answered that is correct; a function of the way the motion is structured. The Chancellor continued that the program committees we currently have will still be there and report to Synod Council. In alternate structure, they would have reported to the program committee, but in absence of that committee they will report to Synod Council.

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Vice-Chancellor Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to the Pilot Governance Project at pages 5 and 6.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #10A)

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Vice-Chancellor Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to The Canons, and also suspend Canons 2, 3, 5, 31, 36, 37, 39, and 44 s.3 and 44 s.5(g) until the

next Regular Session of Synod, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to the Pilot Governance Project at pages 4 to 12.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #10B)

- George Lewis, ODT (Christ Church, Deer Park): after the end of pilot project period what is the threshold to make the changes permanent? The Chancellor answered that 75% needed to make permanent change, and change to canons. Will need to draft changes to canons/create new canons, and will come back to synod in two years' time with whatever tweaks necessary based on two years' pilot project. Or if failure will have to vote to reverse, and require 75%.

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Canon John Anderson that the Pilot Governance Project approved by Synod as motion 7A(ii) at the 159th Regular Session of Synod held on November 8, 2019 as amended in the slide attached as Schedule "A" hereto be implemented on January 1, 2022 to continue for a period of two years with report backs to Synod on a semi-annual basis.

Schedule "A":

## A Proposal for Synod Council Membership

Category of Member	Sub-Category of Member	Member of Synod	Sub-Totals	Totals
<b>Office Holders</b>	Bishop of Toronto	Yes	1	6-8
	Suffragan Bishops	Yes	2-4	
	Chancellor (Chair of Risk and Governance Committee)	Yes	1	
	Honorary Clerical Secretary of Synod	Yes	1	
	Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod	Yes	1	
<b>Bishop's Appointments</b>	3 Committee Chairs (clergy or laity)	Yes	3	8
	Up to 5 Appointees (clergy or laity)	Yes	5	
<b>Elected</b>	5 Lay Members of Synod <b>elected at Synod</b>	Yes	5	10
	5 Clerical Members of Synod <b>elected at Synod</b>	Yes	5	
<b>Non-Voting</b>	Executive Director	Yes		1 (non-voting)
<b>Total Membership of Proposed Synod Council</b>				<b>25-27</b> (including 1 non-voting)

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #10C)

Bishop Asbil thanked Mark Hemingway, Canon John Anderson and Chancellor Clare Burns for their profuse work over the past couple of years to get to this point as we move ahead into the future.

### 23. Missional & Outreach Moment

The next Missional and Outreach Moment is from **All Saints, Collingwood**. Their video shares how their Church has stepped up and responded to community needs during the pandemic.

#### **24. Constitution and Canon Changes**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on Chancellor Clare Burns.

The Chancellor reported that the Constitution and Canons Committee meets between Synods to look at what changes may be needed to our Constitution and Canons. This time there is a single change that the Committee is recommending to Synod for approval. This change relates to Canon 15 on Churchwardens. Canon 15 as currently worded states that any payment amount greater than \$20 must be done by way of a cheque and it must contain two signatures. It does not consider modern reality of providing for electronic transfers and credit cards. The Committee has redrafted this section of Canon 15 to take account of those forms of payment so that everyone will be in compliance going forward. There are still checks and balances in terms of multiple signatures.

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Vice-Chancellor Brain Armstrong, ODT that Synod approve the changes to Canon 15, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in the Convening Circular.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #9)

#### **25. Missional & Outreach Moment**

The next Missional and Outreach Moment is from **St. Margaret, New Toronto** describing how their ministries expanded during the pandemic.

#### **26. Election of Synod Council Members**

The Nominating Committee issued a call for expressions of interest from people across the Diocese who were interested in serving on the proposed Synod Council or one of its Committees. The deadline to receive names was Wednesday, October 20, 2021 and later extended. Nominees were asked to submit a maximum of 150 words highlighting past parish leadership roles and what gifts, strengths and experience they would bring to this ministry. Biographical information is included Section A of the Convening Circular.

The Synod Council will be an amalgamation of the Diocesan Council and the Executive Board. The Synod Council would generally exercise the executive powers of the Synod between sessions except those of a legislative character.

We will now elect 5 Clerical Members and 5 Lay Members to sit on the Synod Council. Clergy vote for clergy, and laity vote for laity.

#### **27. Election of General Synod Members**

Under The Constitution of the Diocese of Toronto and The Constitution of General Synod, Synod is required to elect 7 clergy and 7 lay members to serve as members of General Synod.

The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada is the Church's chief governing and legislative body. It is made up of members from every diocese and all three orders (lay people, priests and bishops) from across the country. It meets every three years, during which members exchange information, set policy for the Church and pass resolutions and canons. In years when the General Synod does not meet, the Church is governed by the Council of General Synod (CoGS), effectively a smaller subcommittee with a similar mandate and similar powers.

The 43rd session of the General Synod will take place in Calgary, Alberta during the Assembly with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Assembly takes place from July 13 to 17, 2022 with ELCIC departing the morning of July 16 and members of General Synod continuing with business until the end of the day on July 17. During the Assembly, the two governing bodies will meet both together and separately.

The slate of nominees together with biographical information was included in the Revised Convening Circular, Section A, starting at page 23. Clergy will vote only for clergy and laity will vote only for Lay. Seven clergy and seven lay members will be elected.

Bishop Andrew called on Fr. Andrew MacDonald: explained a piece of music was missed due to technical glitches last night at the Eucharist, and was presented at this time from St Mark, Port Hope.

## **28. Members' Time**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil vacated the Chair and the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw assumed the Chair. After members were reminded of the rules for members' time found in The Constitution, section 37, subsection 18.

Highlights of the comments made include:

- The Rev. Pam Trondson (Christ Church, Scarborough) referred to the list of nominees for General Synod and mentioned that the Rev. Dr. Alison Falby's name was not on the list. The Chancellor responded that she was advised that Alison withdrew her name.
- Marion Thompson (St Mark, Port Hope) ran into problem with voting, could not register a vote. A member of Data On The Spot will be in touch to correct the situation.
- Phyllis Creighton (Christ Church, Deer Park) asked Synod members for help. Eight years ago, diplomats and laity came together to talk about atomic bombing. In compassionate response, led to United Nations treaty on prohibition of nuclear weapons. Came to pass last January. Nuclear weapons are still a threat to us. Please put pressure and write to your MP's about the treaty on nuclear weapons and your support.
- The Rev. Maggie Helwig (St Stephen in-the-Fields) we have nothing from the Investment Committee on fossil fuel divestments. It has been discussed for several years at Synod. Fossil fuel economy is collapsing. Could we have an update from the Investment Committee at some point on the topic.
- The Rev. Terry Bennett (Retired) Bonnie Booth has written about affordable housing/homelessness issue and we've had a problem in Barrie with homelessness and drug addiction. Let's act.
- Suzan Hall (St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale) has there been any consideration given to avoid saying "up to five members or up to seven" in voting procedures. When you do that have ability to plump for others/give them advantage. The Chancellor clarified that this is not the way The Constitution operates, people can vote for smaller slate if they wish, and thanked Suzan for drawing to our attention.
- Dorothy Kitch-Churchill (Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa) concerned for technology. Have learned how important it is to stay in touch over last 20 months. Ask that in future we look to healing ministries to include reengagement with each of our members, keep in touch, make connections face to face.
- Anne Moir (St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff) responding to Marion Thompson's call of voting. Still waiting for a call back. Went to tech support at bottom link, worked out through tech support link.
- Ainsley Munro (St. David Anglican-Lutheran Church, Orillia) regarding the reconciliation motion this morning, seeking clarity on funds going towards supporting indigenous ministry. Are these funds to people already harmed or left? Bishop Riscylla responded that members time is not for questions and answers, but the question would be noted.
- Mae Cox (St. James, Orillia) concern for covid vaccine. Over 70, able to get third shot/booster. Feeling like a pig because so many places/people have not had a first shot yet, and we seem to be hogging all vaccines. Supports third-world countries getting vaccines.
- The Rev. Dr. Catherine Keating (St. John, York Mills) spoke about children's ministry conference, over 300 participants this year via Zoom. The conference has come a long way, and grateful for ministry being successful.
- Stephen Masson (St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering) thanks to tech crew putting together a "floating synod". Response to voting language; the canons are good as they are.

- John O'Dell (Nativity, Malvern) thanking people behind the scenes making (Synod) it happen. Knows the amount of work that goes into audio/visual part of the team at own church. Response time has been quick. Thank you!
- The Rev. Ron Duncan (Atonement, Alderwood) wonders about disbursement of funds, with suggestion to look at counselling funds to support reconciliation work.
- The Ven. Paul Feheley (St. Michael and All Angels) thanked Catherine Keating about award going to Jenni King Feheley, who is a lay pastor at St. Michael and All Angels.

**29. Notice of Motion**

Members were advised that the following notice of motion was received:

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan and SECONDED by Mr. Isuru Weerasekera that; given that parish allotments cannot meet the primary financial needs of the Diocesan budget, this Synod requests that a detailed report be submitted to the next session of Synod from Diocesan Council outlining the ways the budget can be balanced through decreasing expenditures without increasing parish allotments.

**30. Evening Prayer**

Evening Prayer was led by the Brothers of the Order of the Holy Cross.

**31. Adjournment**

Synod adjourned until 9:45 a.m. on Saturday November 27, 2021.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2021**

**32. Synod Reconvened**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called the meeting to order. The Bishop invited Chancellor Clare Burns to address Synod regarding procedural matters.

The Secretary of Synod has received two motions, one yesterday and one last night. The motions were read to members and displayed on the screen:

Motion #11A - MOVED by the Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan and SECONDED by Mr. Isuru Weerasekera that; given that parish allotments cannot meet the primary financial needs of the Diocesan budget, this Synod requests that a detailed report be submitted to the next session of Synod from Diocesan Council outlining the ways the budget can be balanced through decreasing expenditures without increasing parish allotments.

Motion #11B - MOVED by Frank Cormier and SECONDED by Marion Thompson that the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto direct the Synod Council to draft, 1) Revisions to the policies, Canons, and Constitution, as applicable, of the Diocese to facilitate parishes engaging in creative and innovative land uses and partnerships; and 2) Diocesan policies that give preference to the use of surplus Diocesan lands for the purpose of affordable housing and other community centric uses, where appropriate. And that those draft revisions be brought forward at the next session of Synod for consideration.

In addition, the Chancellor reported that concerning the election of General Synod members, since some members reported issues with their votes not being counted, the Agenda Committee has made motion to re-do the election of General Synod members. Agenda Committee recommends we add #11A and #11B to end of agenda, and we deal with them time permitting. If we do not have time, these motions will be referred to Synod Council and return to the next session of Synod.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called for questions. Highlights included:

- Elizabeth Nesland (Christ Church, Holland Landing) question about numbers, looks like missing 14 in clergy and 22 in lay. Are numbers that close that a revote will make a difference? The Chancellor replied that the numbers are that close. For clarity we are voting on whether to add this item to the Agenda.
- The Rev. Bob Bettson (St Matthias, Bellwoods) do not think it should be added to agenda, already had a vote. No assurance a new vote would not disenfranchise others.
- Ryan Ramsden (Grace Church in Scarborough) what we have not heard is the number of people here today eligible to vote. If we have more, then would necessitate a revote. The Chancellor replied that we do not know how many people are present to vote because we just have general emails logged in, and cannot differentiate votes in conjunction with email addresses logged in.

### **33. Motion to Amend the Agenda**

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw that the Agenda be amended to add a motion for reconsideration of the General Synod election as the next item on the agenda. **NOT CARRIED.** (Motion #15)

### **34. Motion to Amend the Agenda**

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw that the agenda be amended to add Motions 11A & 11B to the end of the agenda on the proviso that the formal business of Synod has to end at 11:30 a.m. If the motions are not reached, they will be referred to Synod Council for inclusion on the agenda of the 161<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of Synod. **CARRIED.** (Motion #16)

- The Rev. David Matthews (St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South) stated that the Chancellor's comment said we would not know if people were online today, but yesterday we ran a question to see if we had quorum. How would we not know that today? The Chancellor replied that we did a test yesterday to ensure we had enough voting members. By virtue of votes today, we are satisfied that we have quorum.

Chancellor Clare Burns reported receiving a message asking if she, as the mover of a motion, is in favor. She replied that it is her duty to get the questions on the floor along with the bishops and that is why you will sometimes see them moving or seconding motions.

### **35. Financial Statements**

Included in Section C of the Convening Circular are three documents pertaining to the 2020 fiscal year-end. These documents include a Financial Report for 2020, the Audited Financial Statements of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and the Audited Financial Statements of the Cemetery Fund.

The statements were recommended by the Audit Committee and were approved by Diocesan Council on behalf of the Synod on June 17, 2021. The financial statements and the financial report were discussed at each of the four Area Pre-Synod meetings.

Despite the Bishop's invitation, there were no questions

**MOVED** by Peter Newell and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that Synod receive the Financial Report for 2020 from the Interim Director of Finance. **CARRIED.** (Motion #4)

**MOVED** by Peter Newell and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that Synod receive the Audited Financial Statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and the Cemetery Fund for the year ended December 31, 2020. **CARRIED.** (Motion #5)

The Chancellor reported that she received another motion to be read to Synod. The motion is to amend the music (played during voting) because it is driving some people crazy.

**MOVED** by Peter Newell and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that the firm of Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants, be appointed to conduct the audit of the Financial Statements of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and, on behalf of unitholders, as Auditors for the Cemetery Fund for the year ended December 31, 2021, at a fee to be approved by the Audit Committee.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #6)

### **36. Priorities and Plans 2021-2022 and Budget for 2022**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on Executive Director, Canon Robert Saffrey and Controller, Patricia D'Souza. They provided a brief recap of their presentation.

**MOVED** by Peter Newell and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that Synod receive the document entitled *Priorities and Plans for 2022* and the *Financial Budget for 2022* and approve the priorities and the financial budget contained therein. It will be further moved that Diocesan Council report back to Synod on this plan. **CARRIED.**

(Motion #7)

### **37. Assessment Rate for 2022**

The floor was open to question. Highlights included:

- Finn Keesmatt-Walsh (Redeemer, Bloor St.): should Diocesan Council be changed to Synod Council now? The Chancellor responded no because the pilot project will be implemented January 1, 2022 as per the process of the motions to Synod and voting at this Synod.
- The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan (St. Paul, Uxbridge): voting in favour. Question 1: COLA increase at 2% but Diocesan Council said 3%, wonders what is with the difference? Question 2: rely less on parish assessments, we live in liminal time. Parishes' need for financial support will increase and there should be a decrease in expectations from parishes. We have many resources in the Diocese to use to help. Rob Saffrey answered: when we prepared budget, it was made in April/May. A number of assumptions made at that time based on the numbers. Offsetting factors: no administrative fee charged by pension plan, 5% "going other way" most else close to bang on.
- Catherine Dorkin-Kuseta (St. Cuthbert, Leaside): thought it was said that churches would be given amount to what they would raise during COVID. How are churches doing compared to others? Bishop Asbil asked if this was referring to allotment? Or asking another question about support during COVID. Catherine replied that it refers to overall amount raised by churches as a whole, and do you have that number or not? Rob Saffrey replied that the exact figure is not available at the moment but can say it is approximately \$700,000 and that we can produce the exact number after Synod and post online.
- The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison (St. Paul, Bloor St.): is there any hope that YMAP & church planting/evangelism could be funded out of Diocesan budget? Bishop Asbil replied yes there is hope that we can include both in annual budget.
- The Rev. Megan Jull (St. Augustine of Canterbury): COLA question: Why change in standard, and no rationale offered? Rob Saffrey replied that increases for salaries including COLA hold a number of factors, and these factors are set out in the memo, including affordability, etc.
- Tim Ralph (All Saints, Whitby): noted the projected deficit. Another motion to prioritize housing, if that motion passes, which priority "wins"? The Chancellor replied if we got to second motion and passed, that would have to be priority going forward within the existing budget, and inform budget working group. Rob Saffrey added we are not proposing to sell additional land, this land was sold to finance the jubilee.
- The Rev. Bonnie Skerritt (St. Paul, Lindsay): was told that her parish should not operate with deficit budget, yet Diocese is proposing a Diocesan deficit budget. Hard to go to her team to say they have balanced budget to operate, but can we look towards the Diocese leading by example. Rob Saffrey

replied that parishes do on occasion have to run a deficit budget. The Diocese's is not a structural deficit, and the goal is to work towards a balanced budget. We simply recognize that in COVID many parishes would have had deficit budget. We look forward to long term planning to have balanced budgets.

**MOVED** by Peter Newell and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that the Parish Assessment Rate, as defined in Canon 4, section 2, be set at 24.70% for 2022. **CARRIED.** (Motion #8)

**38. Missional & Outreach Moment:**  
**St. Margaret, Barrie presented**

**39. Members' Time**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on the Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson to assume the Chair. Once the process and rule were reviewed for Members' Time, the floor was open.

- Suzanne Lawson (St Peter, Cobourg): thank you expressed to many people; the chancellors, bishops, staff at 135, Diocesan Council, Executive Board, for the jubilee offered, expansion of reach grants allowed us to use tech, Weekly Q and A's, and ability to get hold of staff and get answers even though working from home. Wonderful example of servant leadership, thank you thank you! Has made COVID better.
- The Rev. Canon Kit Greaves (Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa): thanks, from Christ Church. They had a terrible fire in 70's. This past year, thanks to area council grant, produced book of stained glass that was saved.
- Linda Robbins (St. Dunstan of Canterbury): approached last night by lady looking for money, had a chat and gave her money. Interaction with people is very important.
- Suzan Hall (St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale): are we going to receive results Synod Council and General Synod votes? Bishop Robertson replied yes, we will hear.
- Geraldine Sperling (St. George on Yonge): we must extend thanks to a few congregations who responded to call to share music played during breaks and at Eucharist. Small parishes have amateur musicians and we offered with open hearts. Balanced the tedium with people stepping up to the plate.
- The Rev. Jim Seagram: thanked Diocese for doing all they can with division of pain in COVID. Diocese should target pain and find ways to encourage members to reach out with grace and bring Christ to bear. Because of censorship, Diocese should create safe place for people opposing to interact with grace and have the conversations.

**40. Election Results of Synod Council Members**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil expressed thanks to all who allowed their name to stand.

The following clergy (listed alphabetically) were elected to serve on Synod Council:

- The Rev. Simon Bell
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields
- The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
- The Rev. Maria Ling
- The Rev. Jesse Parker

The following lay members (listed alphabetically) were elected to serve on Synod Council:

- Chris Ambidge, ODT
- Eirene Khean Cheng Wee
- Heather McGregor, ODT
- David Toycen, ODT
- Laura Walton, ODT



#### **41. Election Results of General Synod**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil expressed thanks to all who allowed their name to stand.

The following clergy (listed alphabetically) were elected to serve as General Synod Members:

- The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields
- The Rev. Molly Finlay
- The Rev. Roshni Jayawardena
- The Rev. Mark Regis
- The Rev. Claudette Taylor
- The Very Rev. Stephen Vail

The following laity (listed alphabetically) were elected to serve as General Synod Members:

- Laura Walton, ODT
- Chris Ambidge, ODT
- Yvonne Murray, ODT
- Gail Smith
- Marion Thompson, ODT
- David Toycen, ODT
- Mary Walsh, ODT

Finn Keesmaat-Walsh was elected to be the diocese's Youth Member of General Synod.

#### **42. Election of Honorary Secretaries**

Bishop Asbil expressed thanks to Peter Newell for his leadership as he retires from the position of Honorary Lay Secretary.

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

- The Rev. Andrew MacDonald, Honorary Clerical Secretary
- The Rev. Lisa Newland, Assistant Honorary Clerical Secretary
- Ms. Sheila Robson, Assistant Honorary Lay Secretary

**CARRIED.**

(Motion# 13)

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil gave assent to all motions and consented to defer Motion# 11A and Motion # 11B to the next session of Synod.

#### **43. Announcement of New Vice-Chancellors**

The Bishop announced the following new Vice-Chancellors:

- Marg Creal
- Mark Hemingway
- Gail Smith
- John van Gent

#### **44. Announcement of New Honorary Canons of St. James Cathedral**

- Rob Saffrey
- The Rev. Simon Bell
- The Rev. Andrea Budgey
- The Rev. Greg Carpenter

- The Rev. Susan Climo
- The Rev. Stephanie Douglas
- The Rev. Tim Haughton
- The Rev. Maggie Helwig
- The Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard
- The Rev. Victor Li
- The Rev. Erin Martin
- The Rev. Claudette Taylor
- The Rev. Jim Ferry

**45. Closing Remarks to Synod**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil offered appreciation and thanks to the scrutineers, timekeepers, staff and volunteers for their efforts. We also thanked Aston Events, AV-Canada and Data on the Spot for their work in making Synod a success. Additionally, gratitude to our Synod Sponsors, most notably our Presenting Co-Sponsors Burgundy Asset Management Ltd. and Canso Investment Council Limited.

Bishop Asbil thanked Jennipher Kean who operated by the second in front of several screens. Thanked to Pam Boisvert, noted nothing would be possible without Pamela Boisvert. Thanked bishops and chancellors, and all members who joined online.

Bishop Asbil reflected that we are called to live in this time. As God has called us to live in this time, to be the church in the city, the country, and rural areas. In small churches and large churches online and in time and offline, betwixt, and between in liminal space. We leave Synod knowing things are changing underfoot, embracing new form of episcopal and governance leadership, discernment as community, discerning God's call into future. We go into future with confidence: there is nothing for us to be afraid of - God is with us. We are called to love our neighbour, and with confidence we move.

**46. Adjournment**

**MOVED** by Peter Newell that the 160<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod be terminated.  
**CARRIED.**

(Motion #14)

**47. Closing Prayer & Hymn**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil offered a closing prayer.

## Schedule A

Bishop Andrew Asbil delivered his Charge to Synod as part of the opening Eucharist. A transcript is below.

O God, take our lips and speak through them. Take our minds and think through them. Take our hearts and fill them with love for you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

In August of 2019, Mary and I had the opportunity of going to Israel on a pilgrimage with 14 other bishops and archbishops and their spouses from across the Communion. We were a diverse community from east and west, north and south. We travelled by foot and we travelled by bus to pilgrimage sites. Our conversations and our time together were steeped in bible study, in prayer and in community.

One day we got on our bus very early in the morning and we headed down the highway towards Jericho. Partway down the road, the bus pulled off and we were invited to go by foot, to walk up the side of a hill. There at the top of the hill was a plateau, and on the plateau were tiered seats looking out over the valleys and hills. In the middle of that plateau was a table, around which pilgrims could gather to break bread and pour out the wine. From that vantage point, in every direction, you could see nothing but hill upon hill upon hill of barren, dry land. Not a sign of any green or foliage or life whatsoever.

We were invited to then walk into the wilderness, to take a little walk out into the middle of the space, to find a lonely spot on our own just to sit and to meditate and to pray. So we walked out into the desert, and we found a spot to sit and to be quiet and to be still. I remember in that moment, though it was early in the morning, it was so hot, and I could only imagine how hot it would be by noon. Down below where we were sitting, in the valley, was a dry river bed. And on the shore of that wadi, like a finger tracing a line in the sand, was the old road from Jericho to Jerusalem. More of a footpath than a road, but in its time a major thoroughfare for travellers, for caravans carrying trade, for pilgrims going to the city, from one to the other, 18 miles' distance between the two. From our vantage point it became pretty evident that those who would travel that old road were very much at peril with the elements of heat, but also isolated and subject to attack by bandits.

It is particularly in this place that Jesus chooses to tell the story, to push the point with the lawyer. It's the time and the place where Jesus pushes the point to describe the love that we're called to have for our neighbours – in that lonely place, in the barrens, in the wilderness, betwixt and between Jerusalem and Jericho. And it's not a bad place to set the context for this Charge to Synod, as we live out our ministry betwixt and between, in a time of pandemic. So join me in a time of reflection, a time of prayer and meditation in God's presence.

Our story begins with the question that is posed by the lawyer: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus responds with another question: "What is it that you read in scripture?" The lawyer aptly puts two verses together to weave them into one: Deuteronomy 6 and Leviticus 19:8: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. And you shall love your neighbour as yourself."

The word in that text for "love" is "agape" in Greek. That word is a love that describes the need to give of self to the other; not the concern of self, but that can't help but give love away. It's not love that is expressed through familiarity or attraction or emotion, but is steeped in commitment, in justice and concern and sacrifice for the other. It is divine love. And we hear of this love spoken elsewhere in scripture. "Love is patient and kind, never boastful, arrogant or rude." "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." "No greater love have we than to lay down our life for a friend."

The lawyer responds with another question: "Then, who is my neighbour? Who do I share this love with? Who do I bestow this love upon?" And Jesus tells a simple story: A man was going down to Jericho. He fell amongst thieves. He was robbed and beaten and stripped and left for dead. And they went away.

When you and I left Synod in 2019, we had in our back pocket a two-year balanced budget, we had two years left on our *Growing in Christ* strategic plan, and we could imagine that the future would be pretty predictable and change would come incrementally. Were we ever wrong. None of us could have ever imagined what would happen in March of 2020, that we would be pushed out of our buildings, out of our schools, out of our places of employment. That we would join long lines going to grocery stores, that movie houses and bars and restaurants would close. We imagined that we would be back in our buildings by maybe Easter or Pentecost. Maybe that was naivete, maybe that was wishful thinking, maybe that was arrogance.

In quick order, we transformed our dining rooms and our kitchens and our flats and our apartments into office space. We shared wi-fi with children going to school and partners going to work. Our early offerings online were tentative, a little awkward, sometimes embarrassing. And yet we learned, like riding a bike, and we gained confidence. We learned new terms like “pivot” and “Zoom” and “breakout rooms.” We learned to say, “please unmute.” We learned to live apart from each other, to wear masks. We learned how to bump elbows in order to keep all of the community safe.

A man was going down to Jericho, and he fell amongst thieves, and he was robbed and he was stripped bare and left for dead, and they went away. The longer that we have been living in this space between and betwixt what we have known and where we are going, living in this time of pandemic has encouraged us to see that we are dwelling in a time of liminality. Our guest speaking for our clergy conference in 2021 was Susan Beaumont, and she reminded us that “liminal” comes from the Latin “limen,” which is literally the threshold stone at the base of a doorway that one has to traverse in order to move inside and outside. That limen or liminal space is that place between what we have known, what we have experienced, and where we are going. In a time such as this, where we are going is fuzzy, not clear, not planned out entirely. We have a sense in this liminal time that going back is not an option, and we know living in this liminal space means that it is not for the faint of heart.

We are a people who love to plan out our journey, every aspect of it. When we plot out a course on a journey, we usually plug in the coordinates on a GPS or Waze to find the simplest way from one point to the next. But in this time of liminality, we are in fact given a compass that bears magnetic north and gives us bearings in the direction we go, not with precision but with the invitation to move in new directions. In this liminal space, God calls us to settle and to understand that going back to what we knew is not an option, but we live into the present in ways that we have never lived before, in hybrid. Somehow in time and beyond time. In person and online. Local and yet global.

A man went down to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of thieves, and he was beaten and he was stripped, and they left him for dead. In the last 19 months, the Church of God, the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Toronto, has stepped into this wilderness with a sense of enthusiasm, on adrenaline and on instinct, to serve. We have at times planned and not planned, we have moved outside of our comfort zones, outside the box, to be present to a community around us.

The Church of the Nativity, Malvern spent a Sunday celebrating frontline workers in their own congregation who every day serve agape love to the wider community. A postal worker. Nurses. A police officer. Thirty members who were honoured on a Sunday morning, given a certificate by their local MP, a certificate by the parish and a keychain with the words of the Lord’s Prayer.

Grace Church, Markham, through their creative ways, developed a website where seniors could sign up for vaccination and a ride to the vaccination appointment and a ride home, helping hundreds of community members get the care that they need.

The Anglican Outreach Network, which was formed during pandemic, gathered all of the outreach ministries that serve the poor and the underprivileged together from east and west, north and south in the Diocese to source PPE and source food, and to be able to create protocols to keep people safe while honouring and upholding those who are most vulnerable.

Our Refugee Network created an opportunity for parishes to be able to serve together and to plan how to reach out across the world to welcome newcomers to Canada.

The South Etobicoke Cluster was formed, with primary leadership from St. Margaret, New Toronto to gather 28 agencies to coordinate care and help to the community.

None of us could have imagined on March 20, and 19 months later, that we would be living through a time where we, like the man at the side of the road, have been robbed of so much. That we have experienced the pain and suffering of being stripped of our health and our security. That so many have been left by the side of the road. In the early part of the pandemic, it was our elderly in long-term care homes who were so vulnerable. Those who live in congregant settings, especially the homeless, who chose to live outside in tents, and those who live with precarious housing and food insecurity. And the Church has swept in to be able to honour and to help. But it has also come at a cost. Nineteen months later – one wave, two waves, three waves, four waves and perhaps counting – we know how tired the Church is in being able to step into that space. How brittle many of our leaders in our communities feel in this time of deep anxiety and change.

I'd like to share a word to our clergy, to our priests and deacons in parishes and ministries in the Diocese of Toronto. I know how tired you are, and I know the weight of the office that you have been living over the last 19 months. Whether you are newly ordained or you have been practising this ministry for 40 years, nothing has prepared you for this time. And yet you have embodied this ministry in this time and space with such grace and with such patience and with such love. I am deeply grateful as your bishop for the sacrifice that you have made over these last 19 months. Together we take encouragement through the words of Paul: "And we boast in our suffering, because suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint. Because the love of God has been poured out into us through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

A word to our lay leaders: To our music directors, to office administrators, to outreach workers, to youth workers, to wardens and members of councils, and all of the volunteers that make up the life of your parish in this community. I am so deeply grateful for your witness to the gospel in this time of upset and change, for the tireless nature with which you lead and gather and hold the community together, mustering one step in front of the other. I am grateful for all of the hours it has taken you to open and close and open again and close again, to put into place protocols and vaccination policies. As those who have gone before you in your parish, you are encompassed by such a great cloud of witnesses, and a reminder in Hebrews that we put away every weight and every sin, and we run the race that is set before us, and we keep our eyes fixed on the finisher of our race, who is Jesus Christ.

A word to our staff at 135 Adelaide: I am in awe of how hard you have worked over the last 19 months, in interfacing with communities on the ground, with government officials, in creating protocols and policies, answering questions and containing anxiety for leaders in the Diocese. You have done it with such grace and such love and purpose, and for the last 19 months you have led with such love and joy. I am so grateful for every one of you, and a deep pride that I serve alongside you every day.

A word to our bishops: When we left Synod in 2019 there were five of us and now, Bishop Riscylla and Bishop Kevin, there are just three. You have taken on more than you could ever ask or imagine, and you have done it with such love and patience, too. I admire the way you lead with presence and humility in being able to cajole and to lead and to follow and to encourage the Church of God in the Diocese of Toronto. It is a joy to work alongside you every single day.

To Mary and Jennifer Bolender King: I am deeply grateful for your leadership, Canon Mary Conliffe and Jennifer Bolender King, for the way you help and guide my everyday work as the diocesan bishop. I could not do that without your encouragement and your direction.

I am grateful to our vice chancellors, Brian Armstrong and Paul Baston, who have taken on a deeper load of encouragement and giving of advice as we have moved through this time. But deeper still, I am so grateful to our chancellor, Clare Burns. You need to know that I am on the phone with Clare at least once a week, sometimes two times a week or more. Clare, you have been a presence of stillness and calm and giving of wisdom in a time of change and upset. For all of the hours of carrying the anxiety of the Church, I am so grateful.

And finally to my wife, Mary. Thank you for the love and the encouragement that you give to me every day.

Let's go back to the road. At that point in the story, there happened to be a priest walking down the road, and he saw the man and passed by. And then a Levite happened to walk down the road, and he passed by too. I find that the most challenging part of the story. I know that biblical scholars over time have given good reasons why they might have done that. Perhaps they thought the man was dead, and to touch a corpse would mean that they would not be able to serve in the temple. Maybe. Or perhaps they thought that the man wasn't dead, it was a trap, that he would suffer a similar fate. Or maybe that he was half dead and stripped, and that the bandits were still in the proximity. It's better to keep moving and phone 911 from a distance.

But to be honest, I've never found those reasons persuasive, in the same way that the reasons that I've given on my own journey when I've missed an opportunity to stop and to serve have not been persuasive either. If we're honest as a Church, there have been times when we have passed by and not taken the time to act and to serve, and missed an opportunity to be the eyes and the hands and the feet and the heart of God. While it's tempting to race through this pandemic like the priest and the Levite to get to our destination, God is calling us to live in the midst of this time of liminality, to be God's people and to share God's love. And so there are three pieces that we need to learn, I think, from the example of the Samaritan that help guide us into 2022, 2023 and 2024 and beyond.

First is this: He came near to him, he saw him and he had compassion. Come near, see and have compassion. On May 25, 2020, we witnessed the brutal murder of George Floyd, the lifeless body of a man in the streets. The whole world watched that moment, and the whole world summoned change, to open our eyes to anti-black racism and bias. The Diocese of Toronto stepped into that moment and created a program of training, of anti-bias and anti-racism training for clergy and for lay leaders in the Diocese, which is being lived out in the moment. We will in 2022 continue to systemically change racism in our Church, to dismantle and to put into place new ways of helping us move as a community, including conducting a racial diversity survey of our congregations.

In the summer of 2021, we witnessed the moment when the unmarked graves of so many children were revealed on the sites of former residential schools in this country, awakening and opening our eyes once again to the long road of reconciliation that we have been on as Anglicans since the apology of our Archbishop Michael Peers in 1993 – but a renewed call to be agents of reconciliation and change. At this Synod, we entertain and consider Motion 12, which invites us to give 10 per cent or the tithe of our Ministry Allocation Fund, which is sourced by selling properties in the Diocese of Toronto, and for the next year to commit that amount to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Draw near, and see, and have compassion for creation. As Anglicans in this Diocese, as individuals, as families, as congregations, we must do our very best to lower our carbon footprint, to do the very best that we can to save the planet. It is our time to act and to be protective, to use our properties in such a way as to promote healing of the world, and to be agents of reconciliation with creation.

The mission of God is calling us outside of our church buildings. The hurt and the woundedness of the world is summoning us to do our part to engage in the mission of God. And this is a time when we look beyond ourselves to find how we can respond to the emerging need.

The second thing we learn from the Samaritan: He bandaged his wounds, he poured wine and water, he put him on his animal, brought him to the inn, and he took care of him. The wounded are not just outside the Church; the wounded are within the Church walls too. In this time of living in liminal space, many of us are tired and wounded. It is important for us in this time to reflect, to pray and to be reminded that our healer, who is Jesus the Lord, is in our midst, and that we as a community take every opportunity to share in sacrament, in bible study, in reflection and in prayer, to seek the wisdom of God's presence in our midst. This is a time as communities when we know that recovery and pulling the people of God back to worship will take time. It's important to be patient with each other, to be kind to each other, to seek after the lost, to leave the 99 and to go out into the wilderness to find the one to bring them in.

It's a time when congregations need to take account of where we are and how God is calling us into the future. Some parishes will be ready to plant new ideas and new ministries, while others need to consolidate and to imagine a new future, whether that's with a neighbouring parish or in a regionalized ministry, or to be able to re-imagine ministry in a new way in that same place.

There is opportunity for us to do the same. As we have come to the end of our *Growing in Christ* strategic plan, it's tempting for us to quickly come up with a new plan. But I believe that God is calling us into that same space of discernment, to be able to form listening circles throughout our Diocese, in very much the same way the national church has done, and to listen for the calling of God, who is urging us to be the Church in the future as we build and understand our call tomorrow.

In the same way, at this Synod we will entertain a change in our governance pattern, an opportunity to be more nimble as we keep moving in these uncertain times. And also that episcopal leadership in this Diocese will now move forward with three bishops and further support.

The third thing that we learn from the Samaritan: He gave the innkeeper two denarii and said, "Take care of him. When I come back, I will settle whatever I owe you." Two denarii is two days' wages. That was a tremendous sum of money that speaks of the generosity and magnanimity of God's love. We are called to that same generosity, especially in a time of pandemic and especially in a time of wilderness between here and there. It is tempting to hold, to keep, to believe that we live in scarcity, and yet by faith we know that God calls us to abundance.

In 2020, Diocesan Council passed a motion to sell two pieces of property to provide wages for three months for every cleric in the Diocese and three months of relief from allotment. In 2022, we offer one month of relief from allotment, and also build into our budget an opportunity for parishes that are suffering financially to apply for more relief. We recognize that it is difficult to move through this time, and more support needs to be given.

We also know that this is a call to the Church to speak about stewardship, to pray about stewardship, to offer opportunities for Anglicans to be generous. In 2020, I asked a member of this Diocese to consider offering \$100,000 as a matching grant for FaithWorks. She thought about it, and she said, "I would like to do that, but I'd like to match only new donations to the FaithWorks program." We took that challenge, and in 2020 we raised the second largest amount towards our annual appeal in the history of FaithWorks. That same donor is offering the same challenge in 2021, our 25<sup>th</sup> year, and I hope and I pray God that we as Anglicans in this Diocese may respond with the same generosity. Fourteenth-century mystic Meister Eckhart once said that the soul grows not by addition but by subtraction. It is when we let go and offer that our souls grow too.

Here we are in the midst of a pandemic as Synod 2021, as a Diocese of Toronto, and God calls us to bear witness in this time, because God is in this time with us. It is God that is calling us as a Diocese to have the

strength, the fortitude, the confidence and the will to persist and to keep going. And with God's strong presence we serve. Theologian Karoline Lewis once said that the Samaritan draws near to the man trusting that the Kingdom of God draws near. And the Kingdom draws near to us when we respond in the same way. God is calling us to be present in this time of disruption and change, to be signs of love and compassion for our neighbours. And we heed the call that Jesus has given as a last word the lawyer: go and do likewise. Amen.

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