TORONTO DIOCESAN ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM – 10:00 a.m. SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

REGISTRATION

As in recent years, the business portion of the Annual General Meeting was held electronically. Approximately 50 people signed in by computer and/or telephone. A musical interlude was played as guests signed-in and waited for the meeting to begin.

WELCOME

Toronto Diocesan ACW President, Enid Corbett, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the Zoom meeting would be conducted. A trial poll was taken in preparation for votes that would be cast during the meeting. We were pleased to welcome Enid's daughter, Cheryl, as the co-host.

INDIGENOUS DECLARATION

The Indigenous Declaration was read by Janice Hodgson.

OPENING HYMN

With computers muted, everyone was invited to join in the singing of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".

ACW PRAYER

With computers muted, the ACW Prayer was said together.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Enid Corbett introduced today's Guest Speakers as follows:

We are privileged today to hear from Lydia Constant in conversation with Kara Mandryk about her faith journey in which theology and ministry practice take place in a uniquely Indigenous context.

The Venerable Lydia Constant has been a constant at Henry Budd College for Ministry since its founding in 1980. She has studied as a student, worked as an administrator, and is a faculty member and tutor. Lydia serves as the College Elder, offering advice and perspective, and mentoring to those seeking ordination and as well as the newly ordained. Lydia provides not only institutional memory, but support and counsel for the future of ministry education in the North. Ordained in 1987, Lydia has served in parish ministry as well as ministry to the community. In addition to her work with the Anglican Church, she serves as an elder at Joe A. Ross School, teaching Bible lessons to the students. She also serves as a consulting elder in the Cree language for the Opaskwayak Educational Authority. Lydia is the mother of 3, grandmother of 9, great grandmother of 1.

The Rev. Dr. Kara Mandryk is a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada and an Associate Professor at Providence University College, teaching in the areas of Worship Studies and Practical Theology. She has her Master's degree in Biblical Studies and her Doctoral work focused on the adaptation of ancient spiritual disciplines and rituals for young adults in the 21st century.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, she began a northern adventure by relocating to The Pas with her husband, Dr. Keith Hyde in 2014. She serves as the Regional Dean and a "priest at large" in The Pas Deanery, leading services in Opaskwayak Cree Nation and surrounding communities. She also serves as a tutor for the Indigenous Studies program at Vancouver School of Theology.

It gives me great pleasure to invite the Venerable Lydia Constant and the Reverend Dr Kara Mandryk to share with us.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Bringing greetings from Cree Nation, the Reverend Dr. Kara Mandryk expressed her thanks for the invitation to be with us today. Henry Budd College provides theological training for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students, preparing them for ministry in rural, northern, and Indigenous areas. It is not a traditional college but it is a training and resource centre. The college was named after Henry Budd Sr. who was the first Indigenous person to be ordained in North America and went on to have an amazing, inspirational ministry.

After introducing the Venerable Lydia Constant, Dr. Kara Mandryk began by asking Rev. Lydia: How did you come to the church and to know Jesus? She responded that she had been brought up in a Christian way. They were people of prayer as taught by the elders before them. They faithfully attended church every Sunday and prayed three times per day.

Rev. Lydia came to the college in 1984 and stayed to work with aboriginal people, encouraging them to study the Gospels. She came by invitation, as a student, studying towards ordained ministry. She became involved in the community, travelling great distances to hold services. She served as an instructor in various communities within a 500 km radius. This is the reality of where they live. Instructions were given in the Cree language and in English. Rev. Lydia was ordained as a priest in 1988.

Dr. Kara then asked: When you were ordained, what passion did you live out through your ministry? Rev. Lydia responded, to bring up people to be ordained. To minister to her own people in their own area. To continue their education with curriculum being paid by their own band.

Rev. Lydia was asked what it was like to be ordained as a Cree woman. (She was the second to be ordained.) Rev. Lydia responded that it was difficult to be ordained due to the lack of acceptance from her own people. However, women were strong and determined to serve both Christ and people.

When asked about facing trouble in the community, ministering to your own people in your own community, Rev. Lydia responded that you just do the work that God has given you.

Rev. Lydia was asked: How does Cree background connect to Christian ministry? She responded that you understand more when speaking in your own language. As a result, she ministers to youth in English and to the elders in Cree.

It was noted that there are wonderfully strong and dedicated Cree women serving in the area. Language is a big part but other traditions also help to minister. The seven sacred teachings that are found in the Bible are part of their culture, and adapted into Christian life, are accepted and very valuable. Each one is associated with a particular animal. The seven sacred teachings are: humility, truth, honesty, respect, courage, wisdom, and love.

Rev. Lydia hopes to continue on, as well as she can, in spite of her age. She expressed the sentiment that it is nice to work for the Lord and people.

Rev. Lydia was asked what parts of her faith are connected to her Indigenous identity. It was suggested that this was not a good question. It is a holistic approach to who you are – the gift of life, the gift of land. The land is very sacred because God has given us everything. We must respect the land.

In a humorous moment, Rev. Lydia was asked: What is your favourite traditional food? Without hesitation she responded, duck, continuing on to say that her family were avid hunters.

Rev. Lydia was asked about the role of elders in Indigenous communities. She responded that elders on the reserve all have their own capacity. Some work with students in Sunday School and Bible School. They also work with High School students, where they can fit in and talk to them. Being in a classroom as an elder provides grounding. Schools on the reserve are teaching the Cree language. Many are now learning English as a second language.

Question Period:

Bishop Riscylla Shaw asked the Venerable Lydia Constant to please tell us a story. In response, Rev. Lydia shared a story from her childhood. Every Spring, when she was a little girl, they moved to a different area of the land to skin muskrats. The muskrats were an important source of food and income. On their journey, they continued to pray three times each day. On one such trip, their vehicle got a flat. They had to climb up in the trees but, while they waited to be rescued, they knew that the Lord was always with them.

Enid Corbett noted that there was a smudging service when the National Diocesan ACW Presidents met in Edmonton. She wondered what other services we might not have in Toronto. Rev. Lydia responded that ceremonies are held in sweat lodges on reserves to connect spiritually. It was noted that Christ followers might connect with Christian life but this is not the case for all. It is important to talk to individuals based on their comfort level.

It was noted that Rev. Lydia keeps a very busy schedule – she has multiple services this weekend alone – but she never complains. This is what it means to be a minister in northern, rural, Indigenous communities. It is a very full life. For many Indigenous priests it is necessary to leave the community in order to have a holiday.

APPRECIATION OF GUEST SPEAKERS

Enid Corbett wished to express her thanks to the Venerable Lydia Constant and the Reverend Dr. Kara Mandryk for introducing us to life in Northern Manitoba. She pledged our prayers for the College and mentioned that a donation will be sent to the College in support of their important work.

The guest speakers expressed their thanks for the opportunity and then Rev. Lydia offered a prayer for our work, which she said in Cree.

GREETINGS

The Rt. Rev. Ryscilla Show expressed her gratitude to Diocesan ACW for arranging to have Guest Speakers from Henry Budd College. She found their presentation very moving. She went on to say that she is very grateful for the work and love that ACW brings to the congregations where they serve. We were asked to uplift Bishop Andrew Asbil and family following the recent death of his Father. We experience many joys and sorrows in this life. The College of Bishops, through gratitude and prayers, encourage and give thanks for the ministry of Anglican Church Women.

National Vice-President, Janet Pike, brought greetings on behalf of the President and Executive of the Anglican Church Women of Canada. She noted that there are 30 Dioceses in Canada. They try very hard to have all 30 represented at the annual National Conference. She wished to encourage all women to accept positions of responsibility. She suggested that the Zoom platform has been the greatest gift for gatherings, especially in large Dioceses where people would need to travel great distances to meet in person. She concluded with wishes for a wonderful meeting today.

President Sue Lubowitz represented 6,200 members as she brought greetings on behalf of the Catholic Women's League. It was noted that our President, Enid Corbett, would be attending their annual conference this coming Monday (April 24). Their current theme is Catholic and Living It – Go Make a Difference. Approximately 350 people are expected to attend their conference. They have 99 new councils in the Diocese of Toronto. They have recognized a need to re-engage their members and plan to visit councils at the local level. She expressed the wish for renewed commitment and hope-filled plans for the future.

President Maxine Hobden brought greetings on behalf of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Toronto. WICC held a festival day in January with approximately 80 people in attendance. There were 20 World Day of Prayer services in the Toronto area which was very encouraging. Some were held by Zoom; some were held in person. She wished to thank Ruth Curry, WICC Past President, for coordinating the Festival Day. Maxine expressed her thanks for the invitation to attend today's meeting.

Past Diocesan ACW President, Anita Gittens, brought greetings on behalf of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. Anita noted that WICC is an ecumenical organization, with a vision and a mission. They are best known for Fellowship of the Least Coin and the World Day of Prayer. This year the featured country was Taiwan. Next year it will be Palestine. The theme will be: I beg you, bear with one another in love. Anita noted that the 2021 World Day of Prayer was made available through video. A children's video was also produced. The 2022 video was picked up by some television channels. The service and interviews are available on the WICC website and on YouTube. The World Day of Prayer offerings provide grants. All parishes are encouraged to join or host a service.

Enid Corbett welcomed, and acknowledged, the Past Presidents of the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women who were with us today: Gladys McClellan (1988-1991), June Dyer (2001-2004), Marion Saunders (2004-2008), and Anita Gittens (2008-2019).

BUSINESS MEETING

Opening Devotion -

Toronto Diocesan ACW Chaplain Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh (Incumbent, St. Paul Minden)

The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh reflected on today's theme: Having Faith. She commented on the faith that we put in people who are part of our life or people who are strangers (for example, a surgeon). Our faith in a person's ability can be huge. However, our own faith in the Saviour is difficult. What about bad times when things shift? There can be a vast shift of light to darkness especially in our own souls. When we experience being alone in that darkness, we reach out and pray. Sometimes in that darkness, we pray and nothing happens. However, darkness is always overcome by light. Jesus was born in the dark of night. Darkness overtook the earth at the time of his death. His resurrection took place in the darkness of a tomb. When He descended into hell, there was spiritual darkness. Mary comes to the garden and finds her Saviour in the darkness. In that darkness he is revealed. We must have faith that the darkness will be lifted and that we will see Jesus prominent in our lives. Faith is much easier when things are going well. Sometimes it is more difficult when darkness comes.

When someone asks you to pray for them, they have seen something in you. You might be the only person they have reached out to in their darkness. Help guide them to a place of peace and hope. Never say "Don't Worry!" This is not realistic. Instead, be with God and calm yourself. Darkness is a lonely place but it is the end of something and the beginning of something new.

Opening Remarks – Toronto Diocesan ACW President Enid Corbett, ODT

Enid Corbett submitted the following comments in writing:

What happens next and where do we go from here?? I don't have a clue. What will we look like when this is all behind us?? Again, no idea!! What I do know for certain is the assurance from Jesus all through the Gospels and indeed the assurances of God all through Scripture. "Do not be afraid, I am always with you." This is a quote from the Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI ACW Spring 2021 newsletter and reflects what all of us have felt at some point during the last three years.

"Having Faith" is our only way to face the future. Our faith includes the knowledge deep down inside us, that things will get better. It has carried us through the difficult times of Covid and will guide us in the right direction, moving us forward and allowing us to discover and fulfil our purpose. This applies to our Anglican Church Women Groups as well as to our own lives. Your faith will help you face the future with joy and confidence to do His will.

Our Special Project Theme for last year and this is Mental Health for children and youth. This issue became more serious during the pandemic. We hope that you took time to discover what the issues are for your area and how we as Anglican Church Women can help.

As you read the annual report (found on our website), please pay special attention to all the work that is already being carried out by our ACW sisters in the Diocese.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD APRIL 30, 2022

MOTION: It is moved by Anita Gittens, and seconded by Gerri Currier, that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held April 30, 2022, be accepted as circulated in the on-line Annual Report. CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING

Enid Corbett noted that Special Projects will be addressed later in the meeting. There was no other business arising.

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Toronto Diocesan ACW Past-President June Dyer presented the slate as follows:

President Enid Corbett

Executive Vice President Janice Hodgson

Secretary-Treasurer Sandra McPhail

Chancel Ruth Briffett (Leave of Absence)

Peggy Perkins (Interim Chair of Chancel)

Nominating (Vacant)

York-Credit Valley Valma Hay

Anita Gittens Ruth Pengelly

York-Simcoe June Dyer

Carol Cryer Marlene Gardiner Julia Nicholls

York-Scarborough Mary Macnamara

Trent-Durham Marion Saunders

Gerri Currier Carolyn Atkinson Mavis McKenna

Chaplain The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh

It was noted that help is needed especially in the York-Scarborough Area.

There was a call for further nominations. Being none, the following motion was made.

MOTION: Moved by June Dyer, and seconded by Mavis McKenna, that the Nominations Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

OFFICIAL BALLOT

The ballot was cast verbally by Toronto Diocesan ACW Treasurer, Sandra McPhail.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Bishop Riscylla Shaw was called upon to officiate at the Installation of Officers. Lorna Krawchuk was the designated responder. Before leaving the meeting, Bishop Riscylla pledged her prayers for the ACW and our good works.

PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORTS

Diocesan ACW Treasurer, Sandra McPhail, offered some opening comments and then reviewed the financial statements as posted on the Diocesan website. There was an opportunity for questions and answers.

MOTION: Moved by Sandra McPhail, and seconded by Mavis McKenna, that the Review Engagement Financial Statements for 2022 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2023

MOTION: Moved by Sandra McPhail and seconded by Mavis McKenna, that the accounting firm John L. Loreta CPA be appointed to provide the Review Engagement for the year 2023. **CARRIED.**

APPOINTMENT OF SIGNING OFFICERS

A motion is needed to appoint our Signing officers for the coming year. Two signatures are needed on each cheque or document.

MOTION: Moved by June Dyer, and seconded by Julia Nicholls, that Enid Corbett, Anita Gittens, Dorothy MacLeod, Sandra McPhail, and Mary Macnamara continue to serve as signing officers. **CARRIED.**

PRESENTATION OF 2023 BUDGET

Diocesan ACW Treasurer, Sandra McPhail, reviewed the proposed budget commenting that it is more hopeful than the past couple of years. The budget is an estimated guideline. It will be reviewed and updated through the year as necessary.

PENSION FUND FOR RETIRED CLERGY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NORTH

Enid Corbett introduced the next guest speaker as follows:

As mentioned in Sandy's report, you, the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women donated \$10,000 to the newly formed Council of the North Retired Clergy Fund. The fund was initially funded and formed at the instigation of the New Westminster Anglican Church Women. I am pleased to ask Kelly Bowman, President of the New Westminster Anglican Church Women to give us an update.

Kelly Bowman, New Westminster Diocesan ACW President, was invited to speak about the recently established pension fund. The fund was initiated by Anglican Church Women of the Diocese of New Westminister with a donation of \$100,000 and has done very well. Kelly wished to thank Toronto Diocesan ACW for our large donation, in the amount of \$10,000. They are both excited and shocked that the fund has quickly grown to \$269,441. This included an anonymous donation in the amount of \$150,000. The ACW partnered with the Anglican Foundation to set up the fund, with a shared administration fee. There will be annual appeals and it is expected that the distribution of funds will begin in the Fall of 2023. Enid Corbett commented that it is good to hear that a policy has been established regarding the distribution of funds.

---- BREAK -----

HYMN

With computers muted, everyone was invited to join in the singing of "How Great Thou Art".

COUNCIL OF THE NORTH

Enid Corbett was asked to provide additional information regarding the Council of the North (COTN) pension fund for retired clergy. The Council of the North represents Northern Dioceses. Many of the priests are non-stipendiary. When they retire it can be very difficult. They are often homeless when they leave the rectory and are without furniture and appliances. They will now be able to apply for financial assistance through the pension fund that has been established by Anglican Church Women.

ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2022 Annual Reports are posted on the Diocesan website. It is hoped that you have had, or will have, a chance to read them.

MOTION: Moved by Janice Hodgson, and seconded by Marlene Gardiner, that the Board, Committee and Area reports be accepted as circulated in the on-line Annual Report. **CARRIED.**

ACCEPTANCE OF REVISED BY-LAWS

Enid Corbett explained the need for revised by-laws as follows:

In December 2021, the Government of Ontario did the final amendments for the Not-for-profit Corporations Act, 2010 and has stated that all such corporations must be in compliance by October 2024. A committee of Diocesan ACW has reviewed the 97-page document and made appropriate changes to our by-laws. Most of the changes deal with virtual meetings. We had a lawyer check our changes and then posted the amended bylaws on the ACW website. After acceptance of the changes we need to send the bylaws to the Ontario government for final approval.

We received and answered some questions about the by-laws. Are there any other questions before we vote to accept the revised bylaws?

MOTION: Moved by June Dyer, and seconded by Sandra McPhail, that the revised by-laws of the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women be approved as circulated. **CARRIED.**

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT

Diocesan ACW Treasurer, Sandra McPhail, was invited to present the Special Projects report. The Special Project theme for 2022-2023 is Mental Health for Youth and Children. Projects for 2022 were reviewed as follows and it was noted that each of them received \$1,000.

Trent Durham Carea Community Health Centre York-Scarborough The Neighbourhood Organization

York Simcoe New Path Youth and Family Counselling Services of South Simcoe County

York Credit Valley Youth Without Shelter

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Enid Corbett invited Anita Gittens to introduce our next speaker. Anita was delighted to welcome Steven Doherty, Executive Director of Youth Without Shelter, to our meeting. Anita's awareness of this organization has been at both the Diocesan and parish level. It was noted that Anglican Church Women have supported Youth Without Shelter as the Special Project for York-Credit Valley for the past three years.

GUEST SPEAKER

Steven Doherty expressed his thanks for the invitation to speak today. Youth Without Shelter, located in North Etobicoke (Rexdale), was founded 36 years ago by educators. It began as a referral agency. They now have 53 beds for 16–24-year-olds. They have accommodation for 20 who are part of the stay-in-school program. All living expenses, tuition, books, and supplies are covered. Their focus is on the quality of opportunity, recognizing that needs go beyond financial, and include mental health and addiction. They help youth to find meaningful employment and develop life skills. They also have 33 emergency shelter beds in a more traditional shelter. Assistance and support is offered to refugees.

Capacity was reduced due to Government enforced Covid restrictions. It was noted that 33% of their funding comes from the City of Toronto and 57% comes from fundraising and donations. The Ontario government offers skill development funding but there is no government funding for after-care. YWS offers a clothing bank, hygiene bank, and work-wear bank and are responsive to the youth they serve.

Sandra McPhail asked if it is possible to visit the facility. Steven Doherty responded that Community Relations should be contacted to schedule a visit. Volunteers are welcomed.

Julia Nicholls asked for clarification regarding the number of beds available. Steven Doherty responded that there are 33 emergency beds in two wings joined by a kitchen and 20 school beds for a total of 53.

Steven Doherty reported that YWS purchased a property last year, on Bathurst Street near Harbord Street, that was previously a rooming house. This shelter will provide shorter transit times for youth who are enrolled in downtown classes.

The Youth Without Shelter annual report is on their website. Everyone is invited to attend their Annual Meeting in the Fall. Once again Steven Doherty expressed his thanks for our support. It is greatly appreciated.

APPRECIATION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Anita Gittens thanked Steven Doherty for taking the time to attend our AGM today. She noted that the need is ongoing and fits into many categories. It is her hope and prayer that resources will continue to help YWS to help others.

VOTE FOR 2024/2025 SPECIAL PROJECTS THEME

Treasurer Sandra McPhail presented the ballot choices:

Coping with Change in Today's World Food Insecurity Human Trafficking – The Modern-Day Slavery Mental Health - Women

ON-LINE VOTE: The theme selected for 2024/2025 was Food Insecurity.

MEMORIAL BOOK

Marlene Gardiner, newly elected as York-Simcoe Area Vice President, read the names that were inscribed in the Book of Memory for 2022. These names are also printed in the on-line Annual Report.

Shirley Harriet Weller	Church of the Apostles and Church of the Incarnation, North York	April 25. 2020
Doreen Lilian Stanton	Ecclesiastical Needleworker	May 7, 2021
Olga Louise McIntosh	St. Cyprian, Toronto	May 12, 2021
Ivy Speiran	Holy Trinity, Thornhill	October 28, 2021
Betty Case	Grace Church, Markham	January 10, 2022
Mary Price	Christ Church St. Jude, Ivy	January 21, 2022
Hermia Kwok	Grace Church, Markham	April 8, 2022

Marilyn McGregor	St. Mary, Richmond Hill	April 8, 2022
Doris Moore	St. Mary, Richmond Hill	April 19, 2022
Yvonne Sutton	St. Mary, Richmond Hill	May 6, 2022
Karen Ferrie	St. Mary, Richmond Hill	June 17, 2022
Pat King	St. Mary, Richmond Hill	July 6, 2022
Marion (Mandy) Galloway	Grace Church, Markham	October 2, 2022
Gail Thompson	Holy Trinity, Thornhill	October 20, 2022
Eva Spafford	Holy Trinity, Thornhill	November 16, 2022
Joyce Sweet	Past Treasurer, Toronto Diocesan ACW	November 27, 2022
Anne Barwell	Holy Trinity, Thornhill	December 2, 2022
Caroline Roper	Christ Church, Stouffville	December 5, 2022

INVITATION TO WOMEN'S GATHERING

Enid Corbett invited everyone to a Women's Gathering being held at Holy Trinity, Thornhill on Saturday April 29. It is to be a day of fun and fellowship. The cost is \$10 which includes afternoon tea. Registration would be appreciated for catering purposes. Please contact the Diocesan ACW office if you plan to attend.

APPRECIATION OF BOARD

Enid Corbett expressed her appreciation of the Board as follows:

I would like to say thank you to The Board and some special ladies.

To – you, the Board, who have been so supportive during this past year. It is a delight to work with you virtually. Thank you!

To – Sandy McPhail who has been carrying out her duties as treasurer electronically, while in Nova Scotia, thank you.

 $To-June\ Dyer\ who\ cheerfully\ works\ with\ me\ behind\ the\ scenes\ putting\ together\ the\ newsletter,\ thank\ you.$

To-Rev Joan Cavanaugh, our chaplain – for your reflection today and your insightful talks at our Board meetings, thank you.

To - Judy Beal for all the work you do to keep the office running smoothly and for all the work you have done to make our AGM run smoothly. Judy has done all the behind the scenes work in preparing the Annual report, sending out the invitations to all the parishes and taking the minutes for Board meetings and this meeting.

To – Cheryl Gallagher who acted as co-host manager today.

Marlene Gardiner wished to thank Enid Corbett on behalf of the Board for working continuously and tirelessly as our Diocesan ACW President.

ADJOURNMENT

The business portion of the Annual General Meeting was adjourned.

CLOSING HYMN

With computers muted, everyone was invited to join in the singing of "Amazing Grace".

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh was invited to say the closing prayer and blessing.

ADJOURNMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m. Thank you everyone who joined us today. Many prefer in-person gatherings but there are definitely benefits to Zoom!

The Zoom line was left open for anyone who wished to chat.

Minutes taken by Judy Beal.

These minutes were reviewed by Diocesan ACW President, Enid Corbett ODT