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## Archbishop Issues Statement on Same-Sex Marriage

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer &amp; Topic Editor

One of the defining moments of General Synod 2019 (GS2019) *I Have Called YOU By Name* was the narrow defeat of the resolution to amend General Synod Canon XXI to include the availability of the sacrament of marriage throughout the Anglican Church of Canada for all persons legally eligible to be married in Canada. The motion needed

to pass in all three houses; Clergy, Lay and Bishops by a “super majority” of 65%. The “yes” proposal received large majorities in the Houses of Clergy and Lay but only 62% in the House of Bishops. The majority of General Synod delegates were shocked and saddened, however, many were not surprised as there had been signals from the House of

Bishops over the past three years that the “yes” numbers would not be sufficient.

At the 119th Synod of the diocese of New Westminster on May 25, the affirmations contained within the document titled *A Word to the Church*, carefully assembled by the last Council of General Synod (CoGS) were affirmed by the Synod’s Resolution 7. General Synod on July 12, the morning before the evening vote to amend the Canon also affirmed *A Word to the Church*. The section of this document relevant to the vote outlines the reality that as a Church there are going to be differences, and it is likely that differences will remain and in order to walk together within the National Church and the world-wide Anglican Communion there will need to be some give and take.

On July 15, the House of Bishops issued a statement affirming the content of *A Word to the Church* in the wake of the failed amendment vote where they said:

“We are walking together in a way which leaves room for individual dioceses and jurisdictions of our church to proceed with same-sex marriage according to their contexts and convictions, sometimes described as ‘local option.’

Together, we affirm the inherent right of Indigenous peoples and communities to spiritual self-determination in their discernment and decisions in all matters.

Although we as bishops are not able to agree, in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit to conduct ourselves ‘with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.’ (Ephesians 4:2-3)

Dating back to Archbishop Skelton’s ordination and installation as Bishop of the diocese in 2014, she has consistently expressed a desire that we make room for a range of perspectives and practices on the marriage of same-sex couples as well as on other issues. Regarding this issue, the archbishop played a significant role in the House of Bishops and worked hard to maintain strong relationships with those in the broader Anglican Church of Canada with whom she didn’t personally agree concerning the marriage of same-sex couples in the church.

Prior to the commencement of General Synod on July 10, Archbishop Skelton issued a statement to the people of the diocese of New Westminster where she gave notice that regardless of the vote on Canon XXI she would be issuing a Pastoral Letter soon after the conclusion of General Synod outlining how the diocese of New Westminster will move ahead on same-sex marriage.

As many *Topic* readers know, Archbishop Skelton was not able to attend GS2019 due to the flare up of a medical condition. Medical professionals at Vancouver General Hospital treated the Archbishop from July 8 to 17 and during that time ran a comprehensive series of tests. Unfortunately, those tests were inconclusive and as of this writing in late July there has not been a diagnosis. The stay in hospital did not prevent Archbishop Skelton from watching the livestream of GS2019. She remained in contact with General Synod diocesan delegates, staff and colleagues throughout, did not lose her sense of humour; and remained in good spirits.

The Letter that was referenced in the July 10 Statement also provided background and personal reflection. It was distributed on July 17.

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The Rev. John Sovereign (retired priest of the diocese of New Westminster with Permission to Officiate) was one of 100 volunteers who showed up in designated rainbow colours for a photo shoot to celebrate the new rainbow crosswalk in downtown Chilliwack in the middle of a summer downpour on Tuesday, July 9.

John has been a tireless supporter of SOGI 123 in schools and other SOGI initiatives everywhere but primarily in the Fraser Valley where the appearance of protesters at pro-SOGI events is not unheard of. There were a few at the photo shoot on July 9.

Rev. Sovereign’s daughter Sarah is a brilliant photographer and she got the gig to take the photos including the one chosen as the official photo also included in this post.

*SOGI stands for sexual orientation and gender identity. SOGI 123 is a resource to assist in helping school districts and educators to build inclusive environments for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities.*

PHOTOS Sarah Sovereign Photography

# Archbishop Issues Statement on Same-Sex Marriage

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Here is that letter:



Dear People of  
the diocese of New Westminster,

Greetings to you all.

As many of you know, given my unexpected hospital stay, I was only able to participate in General Synod through watching the livestream. Even at that distance, the experience with all its decisions and statements was full of many different, powerful emotions: amazement, anguish, sadness, frustration, grief and gratitude, to name a few. We cannot expect to leave these emotions behind, especially those more difficult emotions related to the consideration of the change to the marriage canon.

For me this entire experience has been about discernment, that is, looking for the signs of the Holy Spirit at work, not just during all the ups and downs at General Synod 2019, but in the three years leading up to it, and seeking to join with that work in wonder, love and hope.

Now as a result of this discernment, I want to lay out what we as a diocese under the guidance of the Holy Spirit will do related to the marriage of same-sex couples.

Three years ago, at General Synod 2016, I issued the statement included (see the front page) as part of a response to the many emotions that emerged at that time as General Synod 2016 voted on the first reading of the amendment to the marriage canon. As I came to find out later, I am one of many people in the Anglican Church of Canada who sincerely want to work on making room for differing views on and practices related to marriage in our Church.

For many of us this has had to do with our belief in what it means to be Anglican Christians — a Church that from the beginning stretched to hold itself together despite differing perspectives on theological, spiritual, liturgical and pastoral matters, a Church that comprehends complexity and finds the tension in the midst of complexity ultimately to be a rich and creative way of living, a Church dedicated to holding differences together, even though this “holding together” comes at a cost to all involved.

Over the last three years, I’ve watched many important groups come to the idea of “making room” for differing views and practices related to marriage, all of which culminated in the following: our own May 2019 Diocesan Synod at which our Synod in its wisdom adopted the affirmations in the Council of General Synod’s *A Word to the Church*, the adoption of these same affirmations at General Synod 2019 by an overwhelming majority and, finally, the July 15 statement from the House of Bishops apologizing for the hurt they have caused and affirming the idea of “local option” for those dioceses and communities where offering marriage to same-sex couples makes sense.

As I look at these many interrelated conversations and actions what I see is this: the Holy Spirit has been and is at work guiding the Anglican Church of Canada to move from attempting to resolve our different views on marriage by legislation in which some win and some lose, to a life together in which we as Anglican Christians strive to offer one another greater mutual respect and room for choice on this issue.

After General Synod 2016, we as a diocese held off on authorizing liturgies for the marriage of same-sex couples in the belief that the Anglican Church of Canada needed more time for the Spirit to work within the hearts and minds of its people

and within its many convening bodies. As I see it, that work, though it has been painful, is well underway, encouraging us to the following action:

As of August 1, 2019, I will authorize a liturgy for the marriage of same-sex couples within the diocese of New Westminster under the following conditions:

- That the priest wishing to officiate at the marriage make a request of me to use that liturgy and work in consultation with me in preparing to conduct that liturgy. I specify this in that I want us all to learn together as we gain experience in working with this new liturgy and in preparing same-sex couples for the sacrament of marriage.
- That the parish council of any church hosting or wanting to host the marriage of same-sex couples concur with and embrace the decision for same-sex marriages to occur there.
- And that any same-sex couple wishing to be married satisfy all the typical and important requirements for marriage (proper preparation for marriage, at least one of the couple having been baptized, that the marriage take place in a church or another public place).

I expect the first two conditions to be temporary until we as a community become familiar with this change.

As I have stated before, I will continue to do all in my power to maintain a diocesan culture that respects a variety of theologies, understandings and practices related to marriage. Therefore, though I am moving forward on authorizing a liturgy for the marriage of same-sex couples, no priest will be compelled to officiate at the marriage of a same-sex couple. Additionally, a person’s position on marriage will not serve as a litmus test for inclusion in this diocese whose diversity in culture, theology and practice I deeply value. Finally, as a diocese, we will do our part to maintain our relationships with other dioceses and communities that do not choose to authorize liturgies for the marriage of same-sex couples.

I want to offer my thanks to many as we have worked our way through this issue. Thank you to all who have advised me along the way. Thank you to all who have been honest with me about their frustrations, fears and hurt related to this important question. Thank you to those members of the LGBTQ2S+ community who continue to hold onto the vision that the Anglican Church of Canada can be a place that welcomes them fully and open-heartedly, all based on its commitment to follow Jesus. And, finally, I want to thank all the same-sex couples and their allies who have been waiting for marriage to be possible within the Anglican Church of Canada in the diocese of New Westminster. I rejoice with you today.

I ask that you please post this pastoral letter on your electronic sites, print out copies making them easily available in the parish, and read the letter aloud at worship services on Sunday, July 21, 2019.

In Christ,  
+ Melissa

*“I dedicate myself to working  
in advance of General Synod 2019  
and at General Synod 2019  
for an outcome that respects  
and makes room for  
a range of understandings and practices  
related to marriage  
within the Anglican Church of Canada  
and that enables all (or most) of us  
to walk together joyfully.”*

Bishop Melissa M. Skelton  
during General Synod 2016

Following distribution of the letter, the archbishop and staff received a number of questions and comments. The responses from within and beyond the diocese of New Westminster have been condensed into the following five questions which we have printed along with Archbishop Skelton’s answers.

[Why did we as a diocese wait to authorize the marriage of same-sex couples until now?](#)

In consultation with a group of advisors within the diocese after the 2016 General Synod, I believed it was important to abide by the wish of that same General Synod that the Church reflect on the matter in anticipation of General Synod 2019. During that time what I experienced was that many individuals and groups within the Church wanted to move away from a legislative way of addressing this area in which some would be winners, and some would be losers to an approach that allowed for a diversity of choice on the matter.

[Why authorize a separate, new liturgy for same-sex marriage? Doesn't this give a separate but not equal impression?](#)

The language of the current marriage liturgy in the *Book of Alternate Services* (BAS) isn’t inclusive of same-sex couples. Drawing on the good work done by the Episcopal Church coming out of its 2018 General Convention, I want to offer two different liturgies, one which is essentially a broadening of the language of our BAS marriage liturgy, and the other which is based on a covenantal theology that I find very compelling.

[Why does a priest have to involve the Archbishop in the preparation and planning of the marriage liturgy for same-sex couples?](#)

I want to be involved with those priests preparing same-sex couples for marriage and planning for their marriage in that I want to be able to share what we are learning with others as they too officiate at the marriage of same-sex couples. This condition will only remain for the first year or so as we learn together.

[Why do parish councils have to agree to hosting the marriage of same-sex couples? Doesn't this cut across the authority of the priest to decide such things?](#)

“It takes a village.” For me, marriage is not just about the singular event of the celebration and blessing of a marriage.

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## Growing communities of faith in Jesus Christ to serve God’s mission in the world.



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Thank you!

# Parish Visit Transport Team Receives High Praise from General Synod 2019 Delegates

Many thanks to General Synod 2019 (GS2019) volunteer Pamela McElheran (back row on the right in the accom-

panying photograph) for forwarding this photo taken in the courtyard of the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel (home

of GS2019) of the leadership team coordinating the July 14 Parish Visit transportation.

According to Pamela, volunteers using more than 50 vehicles collected and delivered 280 GS2019 delegates to 26 parishes around the diocese of New Westminster with “no major hiccups.”

The word is that General Synod had not offered Parish Visits for over ten years. The Parish Visit initiative was a well coordinated event. On the back of the delegate’s identity tags was the name of the parish that they (and a guest if applicable) would be visiting with the time they would need to assemble at the meeting area. Signs with parish names were on display and the visitors gathered around the volunteer holding the sign and then the GS delegates were directed by the volunteers to the hotel’s auto area courtyard for pick-up.

Diocese of New Westminster Local Arrangements Parish Visit Coordinator, Terryn Naumann said that organizing the transport for the July 14 visits was “like putting together a very large, complicated puzzle... but in the end, it all came together, and we are all delighted that it was such a success!”

Pamela forwarded these emails received by Terryn early on July 15.

“You and your team did a great job. Well done! St. John’s had fantastic fun with our guests, and I think they did as well. Our choir even got an invitation to come to Newfoundland!”

“Thank you for the awesome organization! It was truly a privilege to host our guests.” • Diana McHardy Schmidt, St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale

And here is an anecdote from Conrad Guelke, ODNW of St. Philip’s:

“I was scanning the list of General Synod delegates to be driven to St. Philip’s for worship and a hosted luncheon (local parishes in the diocese were all participating in this welcome to Synod visitors). I spotted two bishops on the list of delegates for St. Philip’s to welcome — Barbara Andrews and Linda Nicholls. There was something about the latter name that struck a chord, if not a cannon. Turns out that the soon-to-be installed primate had requested that she go to St. Philip’s for reasons eventually disclosed when rector, the Rev. Stuart Hallam welcomed her at the 10am service. Turns out that she had attended St. Philips from 1962 – 1968, attended Confirmation Classes facilitated by Rev. Cummings and had been confirmed by Archbishop Godfrey Gower. Needless to say, St. Philip’s was “chuffed” to be hosting the Primate-elect.”

More coverage of the diocese of New Westminster’s involvement in GS2019, particularly the exemplary work of the Local Arrangements Committee will be published in upcoming issues of *Topic* in the fall of 2019. ✚



The Rev. Stuart Hallam, Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar with Her Grace, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls. PHOTO Conrad Guelke

## Archbishop Issues Statement on Same-Sex Marriage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

It is also about the “yes” of a church community to support a couple in their marriage. This condition will obtain for the first year or so as we learn together about how best to support same-sex couples in their marriages.

*What is the role of the incumbent of the parish in a parish hosting marriages of same-sex couples?*

In that the incumbent is directly responsible for all liturgies conducted in a parish, the incumbent must agree to hosting marriages of same-sex couples within the incumbent’s church regardless of whether the incumbent is the one officiating at the marriage.

Additional information and continuing coverage regarding same-sex marriage in the diocese of New Westminster will be available on the diocesan website, through the Diocesan eNews and in subsequent issues of *Topic*. ✚

Amongst those in the photos with Pamela, who is on the right, back row: Local Arrangements Co-Chairs, Charlotte French, ODNW (St. Philip) and Susanne Stockdill, ODNW (St. Catherine, Capilano); Volunteer Coordinator for GS2019 Local Arrangements Sharon Grove (Holy Trinity, Vancouver); the Rev. Steve Bailey, Parish Visit transportation volunteer (St. Aidan and St. Bartholomew, Gibsons); and with the sign, Terryn Naumann (St. Philip) who was the lead coordinator for Parish Visit transportation. PHOTO Courtesy of Pamela McElheran

### RAFFLE PRIZES

GIFT BOX OF TOILETRIES FROM LAST CHRISTMAS

POTTED PLANT (ALWAYS A BEGONIA)

HALF AN HOUR OF A CONGREGATION MEMBER'S TIME

HIGHLY IMPRACTICAL CUDDLY TOY (NO SPACE TO SHOW IT ALL)

BOX OF CHOCOLATES

SCENTED CANDLE

BOTTLE OF LIQUEUR (HAS BEEN A RAFFLE PRIZE SEVEN TIMES ALREADY)

VINTAGE CALENDAR

UNWANTED APPLIANCE

JIGSAW

VOUCHER FOR RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

CartoonChurch.com

# Tri-Parish Eucharist in the Park for 2019

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

One of the collaborative efforts around the diocese of New Westminster that came out of the Ministry Assessment Process (MAP, circa 2008 – 2013) is Surrey’s Annual Tri-Parish Eucharist and Outdoor Potluck Lunch. This event first organized under the Regional Ministry Implementation Team (RMIT) in 2010 celebrated its 6th Anniversary on June 9, Pentecost Sunday. The three parishes involved are: Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany (Epiphany); St. Helen’s; and St. Michael’s. Members of Christ the Redeemer (CtR), Cloverdale, although not part of RMIT attended the 2019 version upping the combined total to four.

This year, the organization of the event was managed by the able lay team of: Jeddy James, Christa Groves, Natasha Kaweski, Shelley Prendergast, Donna White, and Joan Harris. Epiphany provided the sound reinforcement, compliments of Dave Dyer and the accompanist was Epiphany’s Director of Music, Elizabeth Gilchrist. The 2019 arrival of members from CtR was fortunate as they made up the majority of voices in the small but enthusiastic choir. Of course, there were many others involved in the organization of the event, all under the guidance of the three rectors: the Ven. Louie Engnan, Archdeacon of Fraser and Rector of St. Michael’s; the Rev. Stephen Laskey, Regional Dean of Peace Arch and Rector of St. Helen’s; and the Rev. Stephen Rowe, Rector of Epiphany.

And... for the 6th consecutive year, Archbishop Melissa Skelton was the preacher and celebrated the Eucharist.

As Easter in 2019 was pretty much as late as it can ever be, there had not been an occasion in recent memory when the combined worship fell on a feast day, but this year it certainly did, the Feast of Pentecost.

There was an excellent turnout of folks from all four parishes and the pleasant but mild weather created a perfect environment for outdoor worship.

The food was plentiful with wide variation and everyone really enjoyed the experience. This event now has a history, it has become established. There were conversations about the year of the wind (2015), the year the temperature skyrocketed into the mid-20s by 11am (2016) and the year of the rain-out (2017) when the Parish of St. Michael’s had to quickly organize and prepare for the arrival of 150+ worshippers many of them bearing casseroles.

There are those who wonder (and rightly so) if organizing something like this is really worth the time and trouble. However, it was apparent to many who gathered at Surrey’s Bear Creek Park on the morning of June 9 that the Spirit had come down and was amongst that group of worshippers, sitting in lawn chairs, praying together and sharing the Eucharist surrounded by the beauty of creation in the centre of one of Canada’s largest and most diverse cities. The

Collect for Pentecost proclaimed by Archbishop Skelton near the beginning of the liturgy had special significance given the context that morning:

Almighty and ever living God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and

nation the way of life eternal, keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. ✠



LEFT Someone has said something funny, Deacon of the Word and Table for the Eucharist, the Rev. Helen Lingham of St. Andrew’s, Langley enjoys a pre-worship chuckle.  
RIGHT Archbishop Skelton preaching. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Members of the four parishes gathered at Bear Creek Park listen to the sermon. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Peace. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray

ANGLICAN  
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Grants for May 2019

Following the meetings in Winnipeg which concluded May 23, 2019, the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) announced \$450,000 in grants to support new projects across Canada in its May cycle of awards. At the meeting, the AFC’s board of directors reviewed its strategic road map and began to chart a new course for 2020 – 2023, in addition to awarding grants to over 60 applicants.

“It’s truly inspiring to receive applications for projects that are imaginative, creative, and innovative,” says the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois, AFC’s executive director. “Canadian Anglicans of all ages are imagining and embarking on programs that will result in a positive impact on their communities and the Church,” she said.

In addition to infrastructure and restoration grants of \$254,000, AFC provided \$110,000 for innovative ministry projects, \$25,500 for theological education bursaries, \$20,500 toward church music, and \$25,000 for theological formation projects.

From coast to coast, the donations of Canadian Anglicans are making it possible to fund ministry of all kinds: educational resources for children and youth, theological education, musical composition, art installations, creative liturgies reflecting new realities of worshippers, summer camps for young refugees to Canada, after-school homework clubs, spiritual and medical care in children’s

hospices, and choir schools.

The diocese of New Westminster’s three applications (there is a maximum of three applications approved by Diocesan Council in each grant cycle) were all successful. They are:

- Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship Community, Vancouver, BC, Sacred Earth Camp for youth and young adults. The board awarded a grant of \$10,000.
- Parish of St. Augustine, Vancouver, BC, Bathroom renovation project. The board awarded a grant of \$15,000.
- The 2019 Leading Women Conference. The board awarded a grant of \$12,000.

### About the Anglican Foundation of Canada

The Anglican Foundation of Canada seeks to foster Anglican presence by providing abundant resources for innovative ministry and diverse infrastructure projects and theological formation throughout the Canadian Church. Leading the way in resourceful ministry since 1957, AFC has benefitted every diocese, hundreds of parishes, and thousands of Canadian Anglicans with the provision of financial support from coast to coast to coast. ✠



Archdeacon Louie Engnan offers Grace, beside him is St. Michael’s warden and tri-parish picnic co-organizer, Jeddy James. PHOTO Randy Murray

# This Intimate Tension

## 2019 Education for Ministry Graduation Eucharist

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The 15th Education for Ministry (EfM) Eucharist in the Diocese of New Westminster (EfM began in our diocese in 1995) was celebrated on Monday, June 3, 2019, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster. It was a glorious late spring evening, but that did not prevent a good-sized congregation gathering in the venerable cathedral building in support of this year's graduates: Tracy Tobin (Christ Church Cathedral), diocese of New Westminster; Caroline Sharpe, Territory of the People, EfM online group member; Barbara Ubiel, diocese of Edmonton, EfM online group member; Colleen Butterley, ODNW (St. Stephen the Martyr), diocese of New Westminster; and Geri Grigg (St. John the Apostle, Port Moody), diocese of New Westminster.

Many of the people in attendance were EfM graduates and students, and many of the grads in that group have served or are currently serving as mentors. Deacon of the Word and Table for the Eucharist was the Rev. Anne Anchor who concluded her 14-year ministry as EfM Coordinator in 2015. Current Coordinator, the Rev. Paula Porter-Leggett, Vicar of St. Alban's, Richmond organized the liturgy with Archbishop Skelton and introduced the graduates as they received their certificates.

Others involved in the liturgy were: the Ven. Richard Leggett, Archdeacon of Westminster and Vicar of Holy Trinity, New Westminster; Deacon, the Rev. Carol Neilson, Archbishop's Chaplain; Reader, Connie Keen of St. Lawrence, Coquitlam; Musician Kyu Min Lee-Sigerson; and Deacon, the Rev. Juanita Clark of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver led the Prayers of the People.

Archbishop Skelton's connection with EfM is a compelling one and it goes back to 1978 when she was living in Tennessee, a new member of the Episcopal Church, spouse of a first-year Episcopal seminarian and mother of two young children. At this point in her life and in her faith journey she was looking for an experience of community and in first hearing about EfM from a person she met at a party she realized that this might be what she was seeking. She began attending, committed to the program and needless to say became very much a part of EfM, immersing herself in the learning. After three years she was asked to become a trainer (mentor). She agreed, which at the time gave her the distinction of being the youngest EfM trainer in the Episcopal Church.

The first two thirds of Archbishop Skelton's homily looked at her experience with, and her observations of, the Education for Ministry experience. She described the atmosphere as "intimate tension." In her sermon she said:

"This intimate tension comes from a number of things... a heightened awareness of myself, my questions, my history, my assumptions, my ignorance... a heightened awareness of those same things about others in the group; their questions, their ignorance, their personalities, their communications styles... a hyper awareness of all these things. An intimate tension as well with engagement of Scripture and other readings that challenged everyone... And of course, intimate tension in the theological reflection process itself, based on the stuff of our lives, especially in those moments when we felt a kind of tension within ourselves, a kind of being pulled in two different directions... simultaneously. And of course, what I came to learn is that this intimate tension is a hallmark of an Anglican Christian life. For from the beginning we were a church that stretched to hold itself together despite differing perspectives on theological, spiritual, liturgical and pastoral matters. We are a church of intimate tension, one that comprehends complexity, and that finds intimate tension in the midst of the complexity to be a rich, creative... and at times annoying way of living."

EfM Coordinator for our diocese, the Rev. Paula Porter-Leggett supplied some additional information about the graduates and upcoming EfM activity.

Tracy Tobin completed her 4th year last December, she trained as a mentor last summer and has been co-mentoring the two Christ Church Cathedral groups with Ken Pepin and James Berger. The Christ Church Cathedral groups run January to December.

Colleen Butterley and Geri Grigg are from the group that meets at St. John the Apostle, Port Moody. This group originated at St. Stephen's, Burnaby in the late 1990s and moved to St. John's. The current co-mentors are the Rev. Anne Anchor and Debra Jones-Akiyama.

EfM groups in the diocese of New Westminster starting in September include: St. John the Apostle, Port Moody; St. Hilda's, Sechelt; and a Chilliwack group will form with the venue to be confirmed. Mentors will be the Rev. Jennifer Burgoyne and John Bower.

Christ Church Cathedral will start up in January with

two groups.

Also available will be the online groups: Sundays from 4pm – 6pm Mountain Daylight Time; Tuesdays from 3pm – 5pm Pacific Daylight Time; and Thursdays from 3:30pm – 5:30pm Pacific Daylight Time.

Any individual or group interested in starting a new group or joining an existing group will need to do so through Paula. The EfM community would be delighted to have more EfM groups in our diocese.

Please contact Paula for more detailed information at [2rev2pl@gmail.com](mailto:2rev2pl@gmail.com). ✦

<sup>1</sup> A video of Archbishop Skelton's sermons is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media>



Diocesan EfM Coordinator, Rev. Paula Porter Leggett introduces the graduates and shares information about the EfM program in the diocese. PHOTO Randy Murray



The graduates with the Archbishop: Tracy Tobin, Caroline Sharpe, Barbara Ubiel, Archbishop Skelton, Colleen Butterley, ODNW and Geri Grigg. PHOTO Randy Murray

## Clergy News Around the Diocese

The Rev. Janice Lowell completed her ministry as Assistant Priest at St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild on June 30. Her last Sunday was June 23. Both the parish and the diocese are very sad to lose Janice and we all wish her many blessings as she moves to Florida. Recently ordained transitional deacon, the Rev. Alecia Greenfield has been appointed Assistant Curate and her ministry began September 1.

Archbishop Skelton has appointed the Rev. Tim Morgan, Vicar of Christ Church, Hope. His new ministry began August 1.

Following the resignation of St. Hilda's incumbent, the Rev. Clarence Li, Archbishop Skelton has appointed the Rev. Ayoo Adwar, Interim Priest-in-Charge of the Sechelt parish as they embark on a period of interim ministry. Fr. Ayoo began his new ministry August 1.

The Rev. Robin Ruder Celiz will conclude his ministry at St. Martin's, North Vancouver (Upper Lonsdale) later this fall. After conferring with the canonical committee, Archbishop Skelton has appointed Fr. Robin, Rector of All Saints', Ladner. Fr. Robin and the parish will begin their

shared ministry on November 1.

The announcement was made at Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday, July 21 that Archbishop Skelton has appointed the Rev. Canon Dr. Richard LeSueur to the position of Interim Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church Cathedral. His service to the Cathedral community will begin October 22, 2019. The Cathedral's Trustees were delighted to make the announcement according to a statement posted on the Cathedral's Facebook page on Sunday, July 21.

The following is from that statement:

The Rev. Canon Dr. Richard LeSueur has served for 40 years as an Anglican priest in Western and Central Canada, and in the Diocese of Jerusalem. In the 1990s he served on the teaching staff of St. George's College, Jerusalem as the Director of the Desert Program and more recently returned to St. George's College to serve through an interim period as Acting Dean. Since 1983 he has facilitated more than 45 excursions for clergy and laity into the biblical lands. He has also led several workshops at Sorrento Retreat Centre here in BC. In 2016, Richard retired from congregational ministry to serve the Church more widely. Since then he has been a speaker at

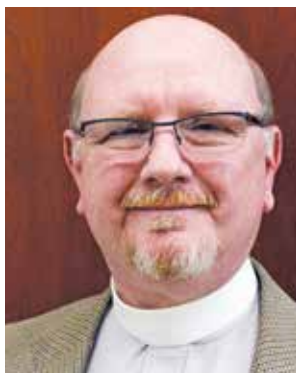
various diocesan Synods, clergy conferences and retreats, and has been serving as the Middle East Liaison for the Anglican Church of Canada.

Rev. Canon Dr. LeSueur says, "One can never project the trajectory of life. Five decades ago, and more, I was a young chorister at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. Today, the great privilege has been given to return to the Cathedral that has become a renowned beacon of

lived Christian spirituality, imagination, witness and inclusivity of all. With delight I have accepted Archbishop Skelton's appointment and the invitation of the Transition/Search Team to serve as Priest-in-Charge of the Cathedral community through this approaching interim period."

Cathedral Trustees and Staff look forward to welcoming Rev. Canon Dr. LeSueur to the Cathedral in the fall.

Feature coverage of the Very Rev. Peter Elliott's 25 years of ministry and events involving his September 30 retirement including his last Sunday on September 22 will be available on the diocesan website news pages and in upcoming issues of *Topic*. ✦



LEFT The Rev. Tim Morgan. MIDDLE The Rev. Ayoo Adwar. PHOTOS Randy Murray RIGHT Canon Richard LeSueur. PHOTO Submitted



LEFT The Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz. RIGHT The Rev. Janice Lowell. PHOTOS Wayne Chose

# You Are More Beautiful Than You Dare Imagine, So Let Your Light Shine!

## A Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Jean Vanier

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On June 27, L'Arche Greater Vancouver with the support of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese, the United Church of Canada and Christ Church Cathedral (the venue for the event) invited the greater community to gather for ecumenical worship honouring Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche.

Born in Geneva, Switzerland on September 10, 1928, the fourth child of the future 19th Governor General of Canada, Georges Vanier and his wife Pauline Vanier (née Archer), Jean followed his father into the military and served in both the Royal Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy (1941–1950), prior to the realization that his strong inner spiritual self was urging him on a different path. He followed that path directed by his Catholic faith and became a great philosopher, theologian and humanitarian. In 1964 while living in France he founded L'Arche, an international organization of residential communities for people with developmental disabilities, their allies, supporters and assistants. L'Arche communities are located in 37 countries around the globe.

Jean Vanier died on May 7, 2019 in Paris. During his long life of compassionate service, he was awarded: the Order of Canada, 1972; National Order of Quebec, 1992; International Humanitarian Award, 2001; Legion of Honour, 2003; Pacem in Terris Award, 2013; and the Templeton Prize, 2015.

The Jean Vanier quote on the cover of the Order of Service bulletin, which is a question for us all to ponder, set the tone for the evening:

"Can we reasonably have a dream of a world where people, whatever their race, religion, culture, abilities, or disabilities, whatever their education or economic situation, whatever their age or gender, can find a place and reveal their gifts?"

The nave of the Cathedral was at near capacity as people from all over the Lower Mainland and beyond experienced a 90-minute presentation that included: Scripture; a homily by the worship leader, United Church Minister, Rev. Louise Cummings; prayers; music with a focus on congregational participation; a PowerPoint presentation overview of Jean Vanier's life; personal reflections from those who were and are profoundly impacted by Jean's life and message; laughter; and a very moving Blessing Ritual where those in attendance lined up in front of four "stations" and each waited in turn to receive a blessing from a member of the L'Arche Greater Vancouver community. The words shared during the blessings were:

"You are more beautiful than you dare imagine, so let your light shine!"

Although Jean Vanier was a Roman Catholic this memorial event was truly ecumenical, beginning with a greeting and a brief reflection from the Dean of the diocese of New Westminster and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott. Dean Elliott shared that Jean Vanier's work, his writings, his prayers, his ministry had touched him deeply. He said, "Many is the time that I heard people say that being in the presence of Jean Vanier was like being in the presence of Jesus." Dean Elliott also brought greetings from Archbishop Melissa Skelton who was unable to attend. Archbishop Skelton is an honorary member of the board for the current fundraising initiative, *We All Belong*. The goal of this campaign is to raise nearly \$29 million for a new L'Arche Greater Vancouver community to be built on the current property at 7401 Sussex Avenue in Burnaby.

Following Dean Elliott's greeting, Executive Director/Community Leader of L'Arche Greater Vancouver, Denise Haskett offered her greetings and warmly thanked folks for their support and attendance. She told the story of the period of time in early-mid May around Jean Vanier's death and how the Greater Vancouver L'Arche community gathered together as L'Arche communities do around the world to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of a community member who has died. The Greater Vancouver L'Arche community gathered and watched the video feed of Jean Vanier's funeral as it was taking place in France.

Beginning the worship with the Opening Song—*All are Welcome*—and prayers, worship leader, Rev. Cummings gave a brief address and reflection which was followed by members of L'Arche and their assistants, lining up on the



A member of the congregation receives the Blessing, "You are more beautiful than you dare imagine, so let your light shine!" PHOTO Randy Murray



With Denise Haskett holding the mic, L'Arche Community member, Guy Holland welcomed and thanked the congregation. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Very Rev. Peter Elliott, Dean of the diocese and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral greeted the congregation. He also offered greetings from Archbishop Melissa Skelton who was unable to attend. Archbishop Skelton is an Honorary Board member of the L'Arche Greater Vancouver capital campaign, *We All Belong*. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Oranges and orange peels were part of the presentation of symbols related to the ministry of Jean Vanier. He was a bit of a trickster and was known for throwing orange peels during community meals. MIDDLE L'Arche Vancouver Executive Director, Denise Haskett presents the guest speakers. RIGHT Al Etmanski. PHOTOS Randy Murray

west side of the chancel platform and presenting symbols of Jean Vanier's ministry, beginning with a navy blue windbreaker (blue windbreakers were Jean Vanier's trademark clothing of choice), and finishing with a large orange cut into sections. Jean Vanier had a mischievous and whimsical sense of humour and was known for throwing orange peels and orange sections during community meals.

Hollee Card, Former National Leader of L'Arche Canada had the honour of screening and narrating a ten-minute PowerPoint presentation that chronicled Jean Vanier's life and ministry. The final slide consisted of a fairly recent close up photo of a smiling Jean Vanier with a quote in the top left corner, which read:

"I am deeply peaceful and trustful. I'm not sure what the future will be, but God is good and whatever happens it will be the best. I am happy and give thanks for everything. My deepest love to each one of you."

Next in the order of service were addresses from the two guest speakers. First to speak was Al Etmanski, a community organizer, social entrepreneur and author. He is a founding partner of Social Innovation Generation (SiG) and BC Partners for Social Impact. As co-founder of Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN) he proposed and led the campaign to establish the world's only disability savings plan—the RDSP. Al is an Ashoka fellow, and a faculty member of John McKnight's Asset Based Com-

munity Development Institute (ABCD). He was recently awarded the Order of Canada and the Order of British Columbia. Among the personal thoughts and reflections, Mr. Etmanski drew parallels between the life and legacy of Jean Vanier and another Canadian of his generation who was also from Montreal, Leonard Cohen.

For Mr. Etmanski, Jean Vanier was less like a saint (as many would make him out to be), but was in fact, completely an authentic "true believer." Jean Vanier's profound message that "imperfection is a source of personal and societal transformation" is at the root of the philosophy that fuelled his ministry. "Imperfection - the price of admission for someone who wants to change the world."

Next up to the ambo was Hollee Card who spoke about her personal transformation after discovering the books of Jean Vanier as a teenager. Books like *Be Not Afraid*, *Followers of Jesus*, and *Eruption of Hope*, but it was one of his earliest works, 1974's *Tears of Silence* that had a powerful impact and a great influence on the direction and purpose she would choose for her life. Ms. Card said, "He saw himself as a spokesperson for those he supported... Jean's vision was a global vision to build a more compassionate society."

The two addresses led into the aforementioned Blessing Ritual.

Following the Blessing, Dean Elliott led Closing Prayers which concluded with the Lord's Prayer; the Rev. Dr.

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IN MEMORIAM

Inez Joyce French (nee Caverhill), ODNW

January 8, 1930 – May 28, 2019

Inez Joyce French passed away peacefully at Lakeshore Care Centre in Coquitlam, BC. She is lovingly remembered and will be greatly missed by her children Shelley, Tom and Charlotte, her six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, sister, extended family and friends. Inez was predeceased by her adoring husband of 60 years, her two brothers and younger sister.

Born in New Brunswick, Inez attended Mount Allison University where she met the love of her life, Don. After graduation and working for a time, Inez married Don and they started their life together in Quebec City.

Life events took the growing family across Canada. Inez's kind and caring nature and her deep spiritual foundation led her to contribute countless hours to the church and community wherever she lived. A lifelong book lover, Inez particularly loved her long-time role as a library assistant in Burnaby schools and being the volunteer librarian at St. Laurence.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Laurence Anglican Church, the Trigeminal Association of Canada, or Share Family & Community Services. ✠



Inez Joyce French, ODNW. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Alexander Wakarchuk, ODNW

March 28, 1928 – May 25, 2019



Alexander Wakarchuk, ODNW. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Alexander Wakarchuk, aged 93 years, passed peacefully on May 25, 2019, in Delta, BC. He was born on March 28, 1926, on his parent's farm in rural Saskatchewan. He had a long and varied teaching career, including 21 years of school teaching in Saskatchewan, teaching media and graphic communication in Montreal and Vancouver,

teacher training in Indonesia, and training programs for the pulp and paper industry in Chile.

Alexander was very proud of his military service. He enlisted in the army during WWII and was a long-time Canadian Forces reservist with the Saskatchewan Dragoons regiment in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, where he attained the rank of Major (retired).

He was predeceased by his wife of 42 years, Lillian Wakarchuk (Houseman). Alexander is survived by his sisters, Mary Kowalyshen, Pauline Semenuik, and Sylvia Korol; as well as by his daughter, Marcia (grandchild, Lauren); and sons, Warren (grandchildren, Page and Jillian) and David (grandchildren, Evert, Forrest, and Victor).

He was a dedicated parishioner at St. David's Anglican Church in Tsawwassen and was awarded the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster in 2010.

The 2010 Citation read at the investiture is as follows:

Al has been a parishioner at St. David's since 1976. During his time in the parish he has served on many parish and diocesan committees. Along with his wife, he is a dedicated volunteer at YVR. He is a man with a servant-heart that generously shares his ministry with others.

A celebration of Al's life was held on June 27 at St. David's, Delta in Tsawwassen. ✠

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*This obituary appeared in the Delta Optimist, June 12 and 13.*

Hales Jones Hughes, ODNW

June 4, 1936 – June 7, 2019

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden death of Hales Jones Hughes. Hales was born in Drax Hall St. George, Barbados and was living in Burnaby, BC.

Hales was the daughter of Harrington H. Jones (deceased) and Cecilia Dixon Jones (deceased). She was the wife of (Bob) Robert Hughes (deceased), sister of Loretta Jones Pelew (Keith Pelew, deceased), Dr. Hoskyns DeQuincey Jones, Hepsy Jones-Griffith (Brian Edwards, deceased; Winston Griffith, deceased), Bryson DeNue Jones (Jean Farnum; Celia Jones, deceased), and Franz Jones (deceased).

Hales was a Graduate of Queens College in Barbados, Ryerson, McGill University, and Simon Fraser University. She worked in Laboratory Technology in various locations in Canada, in administration at UBC, and served on the Boards of various organizations, most recently St. Michael's Centre in Burnaby, BC.

In 2014 Hales was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster. The official citation is as follows:

Since coming to All Saints, South Burnaby 28 years ago, Hales Jones has held virtually every leadership position within the parish, including being active in the recent Ministry Assessment Process. Hales has also served on several diocesan committees including Grants and Loans, Stewardship Development, and the Diocesan Refugee Committee, and has taken a strong leadership role in obtaining a grant to assist Seniors Helping Seniors in Burnaby.



Hales Jones Hughes, ODNW. PHOTO Wayne Chose

A Funeral Service took place at Jubilee United Church, Burnaby on Saturday, July 27. In Hales's memory, donations can be made to All Saints Anglican Church, Burnaby, L'Arche Community Greater Vancouver Building Fund (*We All Belong*), St. Luke's Anglican Church, Barbados and St. James Anglican Church, Barbados. ✠

.....  
*Obituary submitted by Krista Williams.*

You Are More Beautiful Than You Dare Imagine, So Let Your Light Shine!

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Gordon How offered prayers and then the Most Rev. J. Michael Miller, CSB, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver offered prayers and a blessing. The congregation rose to their feet and sang the Closing Song, *Blest Are They* by David Haas before leaving the sanctuary and gathering downstairs in the parish hall for light refreshments and conversation.

Present at the liturgy as ushers and greeters were representatives of the hard-working group of people who are implementing the current Capital Campaign. They made themselves available to offer information about opportunities to support *We All Belong*. For more information about the campaign and the wonderful new L'Arche facility planned for the near future please visit the website <http://larchegvancouver.org/>. ✠



Worship Leader, Rev. Louise Cummings. PHOTO Randy Murray



Dean Peter Elliott leads closing prayers, with the Rev. Dr. Donald How (left) and Archbishop Michael Miller (right). PHOTO Randy Murray



Rev. Nick Parker with two archbishops. PHOTO Trevor Mills



Reader, Edie Hildreth. PHOTO Randy Murray



The preacher, the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz. PHOTO Randy Murray

## May the Winds be at Your Back

### Squamish Parish Bids Farewell to the Reverend Nick Parker

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On May 26, 2019, the Rev. Nick Parker celebrated his final Eucharist as Vicar of the Parish of St. John the Divine, Squamish, located in that mountain city's Garibaldi Highlands neighbourhood. He exited in style and in the presence of both of his archbishops; the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, a friend and colleague of Nick's for many years was the preacher, and his diocesan and provincial Archbishop, the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton was seated in the congregation with her husband the Rev. Eric Stroo.

Archbishop Hiltz had been in Vancouver for Day 2 of the 119th Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster held at the Italian Cultural Centre in East Vancouver. As it is his custom on his travels to go to church on Sunday, the Archbishop was happy to accompany Archbishop Skelton (who was scheduled to attend the worship) and also preach.

Rev. Parker has a long history in ordained leadership in the Anglican Church of Canada, most notably his involvement with Mission to Seafarers. He was also Dean of the former Diocese of Cariboo. His love of the ocean and of all things nautical was a predominant theme on this his retirement Sunday.

On the back cover of the pew bulletin, he had written a message to his parish. He positioned his message in the first paragraph explaining that as a child he had spent many summers in England on the southeast coast and from that experience he had fallen in love with the sea and with ships. But more than that he realized that his life in ministry, his faith, his ministry style was formed by that experience and as he explained in the third paragraph:

"Those childhood days, now long past, set a pattern. I still spend much of my time in, around and under an upturned hull—the Nave—the body of the Church. It defines, in part, who I am, the things that I value and the nature of my work. That which houses and nurtures me is a vessel shaped to harness the wind, to ride the waves and carry its crew in relative safety. Yet, to do so demands one fundamental task, that of turning the hull over. Such is not easy, nor is getting it to the surf, rigged and ready, with a crew that is prepared to voyage. It means getting drenched, risking a capsize or two in the face of overwhelming seas, of accepting a challenge with no guarantee of success, of removing the fear of a potentially mutinous crew. It is a journey, that speaks to a trust, a willingness, and a courage to go beyond the complacency of shore-bound living, of foregoing the comforts of a sedentary people."

Sunday, May 26 the nave of St. John the Divine was filled with worshippers and the great turnout of St. John's choristers and choristers from Squamish United, the church that shares the space also filled the north chancel alcove.

Rev. Parker began the liturgy welcoming the two archbishops and explaining the text of the Affirmation of Faith that would be part of that morning's worship, a paraphrase of the Creeds written by Squamish resident and member of the parish, Dr. Roy Shephard, an internationally known physician recognized for a very long list of contributions to exercise science. Dr. Shephard was awarded the Order of Canada in 2014.

In his sermon, Archbishop Hiltz devoted a good deal of time to a summary of Rev. Parker's career and his connection to Nick. For the remainder of the homily he examined the Gospel for the day, *John 14:23-29*. A video of the sermon is available on the diocesan website at [www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2019-05-26-archbishop-hiltz-at-st-john-s-squamish](http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2019-05-26-archbishop-hiltz-at-st-john-s-squamish).

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Prayers of the People, the nave is full to capacity. PHOTO Randy Murray



Pam Tattersfield leads the prayers. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Parish lay leader, David Hildreth and Nick embrace at the peace. MIDDLE The Peace. RIGHT Members of the choir offer *Here in this Place* at the conclusion of Holy Communion. PHOTOS Randy Murray



The primate speaks with a parishioner. PHOTO Randy Murray



Holy Communion. PHOTO Randy Murray



The guests of honour. PHOTO Trevor Mills

# Anglican Journal & Topic Distribution Update

A July 12, 2019 email distributed by Matthew Townsend the Editorial Supervisor of the Anglican Journal confirms that the **deadline for intentional subscriptions to the Anglican Journal and Topic will be October 31, 2019**

Earlier, in an email distributed from the office of the former General Synod/Anglican Church of Canada Director of Communications, Meghan Kilty to diocesan bishops and diocesan editors. She wrote:

“We are going to extend the change to the circulation list confirmation process. The new list will be used for the January 2020 issue of the Anglican Journal — not the September 2019 issue as first communicated.”

In the diocese of New Westminster that means that the Anglican Journal and Topic will continue to be distributed to the approximately 4,800 current recipients.

In the note, Kilty said this about the current situation:

“We have had a positive response and confirmations continue. Our team is working hard to update our list, and to ensure no one is left off the list who wants to receive a print edition of our papers.”

The opportunity to be on the intentional subscribers list to be implemented in 2020 is still there and is very simple:

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Please respond by Oct 31, 2019 to ensure your subscription to the Journal and your diocesan paper continues.



## May the Winds be at Your Back

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Following the intercession led by Pam Tattersfield and the prayers of Confession and Assurance, the soon-to-be-retired Vicar, stood in place in front of the altar, smiled and said “Okay, go ahead” which the congregation knew meant that after he said the words “My sister and brothers, the peace of the Lord be always with you,” they would be *permitted* to take as long as they wished to exchange “the peace.”

The peace was followed by the Offertory and the Eucharist, but prior to the Dismissal, Rev. Parker said a few more words of thanks and farewell. He referred to that time when after repeated requests from Archbishop Skelton for him to return to parish ministry he had acquiesced and agreed to part time at St. John's. He remembered that he had asked Archdeacon Fenton about the duration, the “term,” to which the archdeacon had replied, “indefinite” and “now

it's been five years.” (Rev. Parker was formally installed by Archbishop Skelton as vicar two years into his time at St. John's, April 13, 2016.) He then said to his community, “you've been compassionate, generous and giving and you have really set yourself up for the future. But... you are also lucky because you have an archbishop who is 1,000% behind you, and believes in you.”

After worship the soon to be retired Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Fred Hiltz and the now retired Vicar of St. John's stood in the narthex and greeted the worshippers as they left the nave, many of them on the way to the parish hall for a potluck lunch, celebratory cake and some parting gifts.

The best words to end this coverage were written by Rev. Nick Parker, so here are the two paragraphs that concluded his bulletin message for May 26, 2019, the Sixth Sunday

of Easter:

“As a grown man I now gaze from the shore to the open sea, knowing that it is out there that I will discover God above, God among and God within. I know from history and experience the awesome potential of—the Nave—God's vessel, how it can harness the energies of the world, capture the spirited winds that blow, and convert them to forward motion. Indeed, much will be asked of the vessel and us. Numerous skills will be needed to re-build, maintain and utilize such a craft, but the rewards will be life-transforming.

I can also see that the winds and the surf are up and that a voyage is in the offing. Once again, as of old, the call is upon us. Provisioned and staffed we must flip the vessels over and go down to the sea. As we feel the winds of God caressing our souls, let us once again seek the unseen shore of our Promised Land and know that under Christ's reign all things are possible.” ☛



The lunch, a delightful assortment of egg salad was available. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The Cake displays a message, a clever paraphrase from the Megan Traynor canon. RIGHT Cutting the cake. PHOTO Trevor Mills





Pastor Tim and Mary Horton with farewell gift of the John Horton painting, *Hastings Mill*. PHOTO Mary Horton & Loy Yeo



Jocelyne Walter, John Hedgecock, Monir and Elinor Attalla, Jennifer Tilbury, and Irene Yeo. PHOTO Mary Horton & Loy Yeo



Baby Rose Autumn is into the icing as she reaches out to help mom Sarah cut the celebratory cake. PHOTO Mary Horton & Loy Yeo



Rev. Arthur Nash raises his glass in honour of the day's successful event to the delight of organizer Elizabeth Murray. PHOTO Mary Horton & Loy Yeo



Peter Forster watches Jenny Mensinga, Barbara Lynch and Myrt Morgan add Royal cupcakes to the dessert table. PHOTO Mary Horton & Loy Yeo

## News from St. David, Delta

ELIZABETH MURRAY, ODNW  
*St. David, Delta*

*Many thanks to Elizabeth Murray, ODNW (an original member of the founding editorial board of Topic in 1969 and one of the diocese of New Westminster's most valuable correspondents) and her team for the following submission chronicling the life of St. David's in Tsawwassen this past spring and summer. • Editor*

When the Rev. Tim Dutcher-Walls came to St. David's, Tsawwassen, more than two years ago as vicar he said the parish reminded him once again of the value of community. Now at the end of his commitment to the diocese, Tim leaves St. David's with the cherished memory of a most tangible example of "community."

Honoured at a farewell dinner in the parish hall May 4, Pastor Tim was overwhelmed by the goodwill and sense of community that surrounded him. The excellent Coq au Vin, courtesy of the Rushtons — David, ODNW, and Jeanmarie — plus rice, Caesar salad and dessert apple/blackberry pie with ice cream, was remarkable. Kitchen volunteers, servers and wine stewards all played their part in a memorable event.

MC David Rushton guided proceedings and introduced speakers Tracy Grainge, bishop's warden; Sara Ciantar, director of music ministries; and parish council member Mary Horton, who on behalf of St. David's members, presented Tim with a framed print of marine-artist and parishioner John Horton's painting entitled *Hastings Mill*.

The painting depicts the approach to early Vancouver's largest lumber mill. Various vessels lie at the dock while others anchor in the harbour waiting to load. It is just after sunset and the lighting is exquisite. Steeped in history, Hastings Mill Store still exists, as a museum, beside Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on Point Grey Road. Perhaps for Tim, this icon of a harbour's maritime past will trigger thoughts of his two years by the shores of the Salish Sea.

Gift of a colourful t-shirt extolling the iconic American rock band *Grateful Dead* added a light and waggish note to the evening.

Having served several Lutheran congregations, and more recently three Anglican parishes (including St. David's), pastor Dutcher-Walls intends to seek less demanding work, at this stage in his life, within the BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

### Big Lunch Sunday at St. David's Attracts Record Numbers

When the patron of *Big Lunches*, the Duchess of Cornwall, said "The Big Lunch seems to have gone from big to enormous," Her Royal Highness might well have foretold the large gathering at St. David's Big Lunch June 2.

Following the success of last year's Big Lunch, held indoors for the first time due to *iffy* weather, the 8th Annual Big Lunch also took place in the parish hall — full to capacity, and overflowing to brilliant sunshine that had been the norm for so many previous Big Lunches.

Prior to the official start of the event, parishioners, friends and neighbours enjoyed some time together while a trio of Hamilton Street Swing musicians played in the background. Hamburgers and hot dogs sizzled on the barbecue; volunteer servers arranged the buffet table with assorted salads and condiments, and RCMP piper John Ralston tuned-up in readiness for his "leading" role.

Piped to the platform, MC Anthony Hanna extended welcome greetings and invited the Rev. Arthur Nash to say Grace. Following the recent departure of vicar, the Rev. Tim Dutcher-Walls who completed his ministry term, St. David's is currently in a period without an assigned priest, but all were delighted to welcome Rev. Nash. It was his second Big Lunch as he happened to have also led the worship services at St. David's on Big Lunch Sunday in 2018.

Special guest, the Rev. Liz Hamel, interim priest-in-charge at the neighbouring parish All Saints' Ladner, brought greetings and prayer to an assembly bound together in fellowship and goodwill.

Between salad and dessert courses, John Ralston's pipes captured the attention of all for the piping to the platform of program participants who filed-in behind Sandy Simpson and a decorated cake in honour of baby Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor whose birth May 6 was the theme of the Big Lunch.

The soprano voice of talented parishioner Rosemary Gahr rang out in the singing of *God Save the Queen*, and then came Anthony Hanna's tribute to the firstborn son of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Anthony made special mention of the band's pianist, Strauss Whiteside, who composed a Hamilton Street Swing version of the *Lullaby for the Royal Baby* written and performed in London by the UK's Kingdom Choir, and now heard for the first time at St. David's.

To the soft strains of the new lullaby, Sarah Steele-Dunwoody, mom of six-month-old Rose Autumn, cut the

celebratory cake while dad Paul held an enthusiastic Rose, whose tiny fingers to the amusement of all, reached out and into the white and baby-blue icing!

The Big Lunch concept, launched in 2009 by the Eden Project (located in a small Cornwall hamlet in the Parish of Saint Blaise), is about the millions of people across the Commonwealth getting together to meet, greet and share a meal, every first weekend of June. The Project is supported by Britain's National Lottery Fund to encourage people to take positive actions that strengthen and build stronger communities. It was a simple idea that has ignited a passion for ordinary people doing everyday things that create extraordinary results.

### St. David's parishioner Allen Desnoyers Takes Musical Drama *Pier 21* to Halifax

Ladner resident Allen Desnoyers, artistic and music director, composer and playwright, was invited to take his historical musical *Pier 21* to the very place that inspired his Celtic- and Swing-flavoured musical.

*Pier 21* is best known as the eastern seaboard receiving station for almost one-million immigrants who entered this gateway to Canada at Halifax between 1928 and 1971 (when the immigration shed was closed). But it is the early decades of the Pier's history, explored in this new musical, which attracted organizers of a ten-day celebration in Halifax marking the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Canadian Museum of Immigration.

The talented director of Canadiana Musical Theatre Company immortalizes in powerful vignettes the adventures, heartache and hopes of emigrants and refugees fleeing Europe for Canada in the dark days of WWII, Canada's military personnel embarking for service overseas, and of war brides and a new generation of migrants arriving in postwar Canada. This rich and touching musical drama was performed onsite from June 29 to July 8. Prior to the Halifax performances, the musical was presented at the International Metropolis Conference in Ottawa where the theme of *Migration* was explored by delegates from around the world.

Creator of the first productions for the Rosebud Dinner Theatre in the small community of Rosebud, home of Alberta's largest rural professional theatre, Allen is also co-founder of Vancouver's Pacific Theatre, and composer of more than 200 songs. He has performed in some 4,000 presentations of his own dozen-plus plays, touring across Canada entertaining audiences in several major centres and in nearly every city in British Columbia.

Fellow members of St. David's, Tsawwassen lay claim to their own "Captain George Vancouver" and/or "Captain James Cook" in the person of Allen Desnoyers, whose portrayal of those historic figures at parish events are colourful reminders of this coast's maritime past. Further information at [www.stdavidsdelta.com](http://www.stdavidsdelta.com). ♦



TOP & BOTTOM Violin/Nurse, Holly Beckmyer; Bodhran/Nun, Jennifer Daigle; and Guitar, Allen des Noyers. PHOTO Michelle Koebeke, Diamond's Edge Photography



LEFT Following the Ordination of Deacons and the Ordination of Priests, the newly ordained are welcomed with applause. From left to right: the Rev. André Stephany; the Rev. Jonathan Pinkney; the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr; the Rev. Tasha Carrothers; the Rev. Alecia Greenfield; and the Rev. Taras Pakholchuk. RIGHT The Rev. Cameron Gutjahr is priested. PHOTOS Randy Murray



## Ordinations on the Feast of the Holy Trinity

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Over the past several years those who gather in the congregation to attend Ordination Eucharist liturgies at Christ Church Cathedral find information written on the inside of the front cover of the order of service bulletin. The text is provided by the Dean of the Diocese and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott and along with some practical information in bulleted format at the end of the piece he begins his message with a quote from the *Book of Alternative Services* (BAS) found on page 631. It is as follows:

*“You did not choose me,  
but I chose you and appointed you  
that you should go and bear fruit  
and that your fruit should abide,  
so that whatever  
you ask the Father in my name,  
he may give it to you.”*

John 15:16

“The Holy Scriptures and ancient Christian writers make it clear that from the apostles’ time there have been different ministries within the Church. In particular, since the time of the New Testament, three distinct orders of ordained ministers have been characteristic of Christ’s holy catholic church. First, there is the order of bishop/s who carry on the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church. Secondly, associated with them are presbyters, or ordained elders, in subsequent times generally known as priests. Together with the bishops, they take part in the governance of the Church, in the carrying out of its missionary and pastoral work, and in the preaching of the word of God and the administration of the Holy sacraments. Thirdly, there are deacons, who, in addition to assisting bishops and priests in all this work, have a special responsibility to minister in Christ’s name to the poor, the sick, the suffering and the helpless.”

In the ordination liturgy, there is a focus on all three ministries. The bishop is the only minister of this sacrament. Prior to beginning her sermon, Archbishop Skelton explained to the congregation that she alone would be consecrating the ordinands to the diaconate, as deacons have a direct relationship with and responsibility to the bishop. The ordinands being priested receive the laying on of hands by all the priests who are present and participating in the consecration. This is because priests are bound by a sacramental bond that forms one priestly body connected to the diocese through which they are attached to their bishop. Even though they fill different roles and have diverse ministries they are united in that they render the one priestly service for God’s people.

On June 15, 2019, the Feast of the Holy Trinity (transferred from Sunday to Saturday), Archbishop Melissa Skelton ordained:

### To the Diaconate:

- Taras Pakholchuk, presented by the Rev. Faun Harriman and Patty Catcher
- Alecia Danica Greenfield, presented by the Rev. Laurel Dykstra and David Parry

- Jonathan David Pinkney, presented by the Rev. Stephen Laskey and Lauren Odile Pinkney
- André Marc Stephany, presented by the Ven. Douglas Fenton and Keith Landherr

### To the Priesthood:

- The Rev. Alexandra (Tasha) D’arcy Carrothers, presented by the Ven. Richard Leggett and Margaret Hicks
- The Rev. Cameron Northcott Gutjahr, presented by the Rev. Kelly Duncan and Emma Jang

The ordination retreat mentor was the Ven. Louie Engnan, Archdeacon of Fraser and Rector of St. Michael’s, Surrey.

Of those ordained to the diaconate, three (Reverends Greenfield, Pinkney, and Stephany) were ordained to the transitional diaconate and are on a track to be ordained to the priesthood. Rev. Pakholchuk will remain in the diaconal ministry that was at one time referred to as “vocational.” Reverends Carrothers and Gutjahr were ordained to the transitional diaconate at the previous Ordination Eucharist, which was celebrated on December 1, 2018.

In the last three years Archbishop Skelton has celebrated ordinations and confirmations on Saturday mornings instead of Sunday afternoons. This contributes to a more leisurely pace; it allows for broader attendance from far and wide and also promotes the opportunities for the new deacons to participate in the Sunday Eucharist as Deacons of the Word and Table and for the newly priested to celebrate Sunday Eucharist the very next day.

For her sermon subjects, Archbishop Skelton took on the difficult topic of the Trinity and also provided some background about the ordinands and the commitment of ordained ministry.

The newly ordained won’t have a great deal of time to reflect on their long journey as the majority of the Archbishop’s appointments were announced by the Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton on Monday, June 17, 2019.

The Rev. Taras Pakholchuk has been appointed Deacon at St. David/St. Paul, Powell River.

The Rev. Alecia Greenfield has been appointed Assistant Curate at St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild. This ministry appointment began September 1.

The Rev. Jonathan Pinkney has been appointed as Honorary Assistant at St. Helen, Surrey. Rev. Pinkney will complete his final year at Vancouver School of Theology and will begin a part-time curacy at St. Helen’s when details are finalized.

The Rev. André Stephany is licensed as Assistant Curate to Christ Church Cathedral effective September 1.

The Rev. Tasha Carrothers has been appointed as Assistant Curate at Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster effective July 1. Rev. Carrothers continues in her diocesan role as Missioner for Parish Development, which includes facilitating the Consultants Group and co-facilitating the Groundwork membership growth and parish development ministry.

The Rev. Cameron Gutjahr has been appointed Rector at St. John the Divine, Squamish effective July 1. Rev. Gutjahr was inducted by Archbishop Skelton on Tuesday, July 23. Coverage of the Celebration of New Ministry has been circulated electronically and is available on the diocesan website at [www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news](http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news).

The next Ordination Eucharist is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2020 (Confession of St. Peter) at 10:30am.

Please keep the newly ordained in your prayers as they continue into this next phase of their ministry. ✚



Censing the altar during the singing of the Offertory, *I Bind Unto Myself Today*. PHOTO Randy Murray



The congregation responds with “Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ,” as Rev. Carrothers (Deacon of the Word for the Eucharist) prepares to proclaim the Gospel, *John 16:12-15*. PHOTO Randy Murray

*“I thank him  
who has given me strength,  
Christ Jesus our Lord,  
because he judged me faithful,  
appointing me to his service”*

1 Timothy 1:12



The preacher for the Eucharist was Archbishop Skelton. The first five or six minutes of her sermon focused on the Feast of the Holy Trinity and the concept of the Trinity. Then in reference to the ordinands she said, “They are soon to pass over to a new identity within the church. One with many blessings and just as many challenges.” PHOTO Randy Murray

# The Spirit is Moving

## Christian Witness on Cascadian Soil

ALECIA GREENFIELD  
Deacon, St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild

On May 9 and 10 the Centre for Missional Leadership hosted a two-day conference (at St. Andrews Hall across the parking lot from Vancouver School of Theology). Missional theology starts with the centrality of God, who has the Church to do God's mission in the world. The Church's job is to discover what the Holy Spirit is up to already. Preparing to celebrate Pentecost, this was a feast of presentations filled up with exciting work of the Spirit.

Keynote speaker Dr. Christopher James spoke about his research on church planting in the secular west. His study explored an urban, tech-savvy, progressively liberal and post Christian city, Seattle. Suggesting we can all learn from church planters, his research led to several recommendations. He shared the importance of place, of dwelling in the neighbourhood. He suggested the neighbours shape the very identity of the church and the church in community set in a very specific geography.

He also recommended the practice of receiving hospitality (not just providing it). He reminded us of the story of the disciples being sent into the world not only to give the good news but also to receive the community's hospitality (Luke 10:4). He suggested communal discernment. Telling stories about church planters talking to neighbours and other churches. Finally, after extensive study of church plants, he recommended cultivating embodied, experiential and everyday spiritualities such as practicing the gathering for communal meals. Then Steven Bell presented *A Sent Life Together: Connecting with Neighbours through a Neo Monastic Church in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside* that illustrated many of these themes in lived practice.

Altogether there were three lectures and 19 short papers presented. The range of topics was massive (which does not feel like a nearly big enough word). From Andrew Stephen-

Rennie's presentation on *Revitalizing the City: How One Congregation Transformed its Charitable Food Ministry to an Agent of Shalom* to Peter Sander's performance, *You Shall Go Out with Joy: The Importance of Congregational Singing in Missional Worship*, or Shannon Bell's talk, *My Ministry is a Disaster* describing mission and the motion of God and church in central BC during the 2017 wildfires.

Several central themes emerged. Place and God's presence in the specifics of that location were mentioned often. The tension between affluence and need was expressed in relation to the locality. We experience the disproportional allocation of resources in the particularities of place.

Ecumenical work came up a lot. Numerous denominations and traditions were represented by the presenters



Jason Wood, postulant (on track for ordination to the priesthood) of the diocese of New Westminster at the conference. PHOTO Alecia Greenfield

and attendants. Many of the presentations spoke either of practices that could, or are, working across denominations, and there were mentions of multiple church partnerships. In discerning God's presence in our here and now, music and beauty are themes, and there was a whole presentation on feasting. New imagination was both spoken about and illustrated in the activities presented. And we came back to the narrative of the Gospel again and again. These were stories of learning to journey with Jesus. Mission was discerned and experienced not contrived and controlled but in the rhythm of our scripture's stories.

The Spirit moved for me when Regent graduating student Jenn Richards talked about evangelism. She noticed the dominant model or imagery of evangelism is military. We engage in a battle for souls, we deploy forces for God. In a beautiful rephrasing, she invited us to reconsider evangelism as midwifery. We patiently walk beside people while we wait for that person and the Spirit to bear fruit. We have no need to force the issue.

How would evangelism feel if it was less forceful action on our part and a lot more watching, waiting and listening? Richards suggested practices for a midwifery model like 30-second story-telling. For example, a "story" might sound like, "I heard an excellent sermon this weekend." That's it. And if the Spirit is kicking, someone might ask for more. Such a short story is an invitation to further conversation. But, like a waiting midwife, there is no personal rejection if the time is still not ripe. A 30-second story is a safe risk. Then we can listen, trusting the Holy Spirit to arrive in God's own time.

In conclusion, one participant called the conference a garden of beautiful ministry and an inspiration to find the courage, when the Spirit moves, to try something new. ✚

## Become a Member of the Bishop's Friends!



The 2017 Bishop Friend's Dinner cocktail hour at Christ Church Cathedral, November 2, 2017. PHOTO Wayne Chose



Co-Chair of the Annual Bishop's Friends Dinner, Robyn Woodward, ODNW. PHOTO Wayne Chose



Co-Chair of the Annual Bishop's Friends Dinner, Pauline Blachford. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Have you been following some of the amazing initiatives emerging in the diocese of New Westminster? Initiatives like inviting youth from the Northern Philippines to participate in our Salal + Cedar Justice Camp? Did you see some of the photos of our own members from St. Michael's Multicultural participating in the Episcopal Asian Ministries Conference held in Honolulu in September 2018?

Have you wondered how these innovative and impactful initiatives are funded?

The Bishop's Friends is a way to directly fund ministries and support emerging initiatives that are central to Her Grace's ministry but are not included in the Diocesan Budget. It's also an excuse to gussy up and gather for an annual dinner to hear directly from Archbishop Melissa about her priorities, and to celebrate living out our mission as "growing communities of faith in Jesus Christ to serve God's mission in the world."

This year, our annual dinner will be held on Thursday, October 24, 6pm at Bridges Restaurant on Granville Island. Join us for a delicious meal, a glorious view, and excellent company. Archbishop Melissa has promised an exclusive opportunity to hear stories about the week-long trip to the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines in February of this year. This intensive pilgrimage to our companion diocese and its churches was a transformational experience for all who participated, and Her Grace is ready to dish!

We hope that you will choose to support the work of our archbishop by joining us for dinner on October 24. You may also become an ongoing member of the Bishop's Friends by making an additional gift to support this essential ministry.

For further information, including getting your hands on an RSVP, please contact Rachel Taylor at [rtaylor@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:rtaylor@vancouver.anglican.ca). ✚

All are encouraged to submit letters, articles, reports on parish activities, opinion pieces, photos, and more for consideration as content for Topic

Deadline for Topic Submissions is September 20 for the November issue

Please email Randy Murray at [rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca)  
All contributions are appreciated • Editor

# Living the Questions 2: A Review

PEGGY TRENDELL-JENSEN  
Deacon, St. Clement, Lynn Valley

*This is one of an occasional series of posts from the members of the Christian Formation Subcommittee, whose joyful task it is to explore and report on resources that promote the spiritual growth of adult parishioners. More information can be found on the Adult Christian Formation module of the diocesan website at [www.vancouver.anglican.ca/resources/adult-formation-resources](http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/resources/adult-formation-resources)*

Many of us remember the boom times of the Alpha course, during which you could seldom drive ten minutes without seeing at least one church banner inviting people to the popular program in which the basics of Christianity were discussed over a meal and video.

Some Anglican churches in our diocese took part; most did not. Many would have preferred a series less fundamentalist in its presentation of the faith. Regardless of the rationale, this decision meant a lost opportunity to reach people from the wider community who were curious to learn more about Christianity. There have since been a number of programs published that offer a broader spectrum of theological approaches, and one of these is *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*.

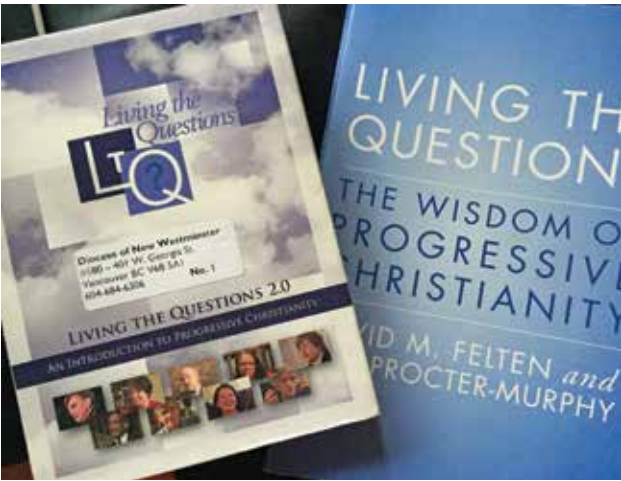
This series, which was developed by two United Methodist pastors, was re-issued as *Living the Questions 2* in 2007 and further updated in 2011. A small group of varied-demographic parishioners from St. Clement's agreed to meet for supper and take part in the introductory session in an attempt to gauge whether it might make a good Christian Formation resource for people who are comfortable with open-ended questions and less enthusiastic about single-note answers.

### The Resource

*Living the Questions 2* (2007) contains 21 short DVDs; three series of seven sessions each. The DVDs are available on loan from the Synod office. Downloadable written materials and one-year usage licence; \$50 from publisher.

### The Test Session: Invitation to Journey

Each of the 21 sessions features a DVD presentation divided into four or five chapters that together total about 20 minutes. Pauses between the chapters provide space for the group to consider the discussion questions provided. We watched the first session only.



### The Feedback From Participants

- Production quality seems dated
- Significant number of American references
- Choppy — there didn't seem to be a flow between theological "talking heads"
- Assumes too much prior knowledge to make it appropriate for a newcomer. For example: an off-the-cuff reference to Jacob wrestling with the angel with no background given.
- Hard to pin down the most appropriate audience — we guessed that most of the churches in our diocese have at least some familiarity with the "progressive" approach presented here and it is coming as new or novel information.
- Most of the provided discussion questions have an academic tone to them, which may sound daunting or otherwise unappealing to someone considering the course. Example: "What evidence do you see of fundamentalists of various faiths organizing themselves into political blocs. Be specific." Many of the questions sounded like they might have been taken from a list of essay topics.

Our "test group" would have preferred questions that elicited reflections from our personal experiences: How well do we at St. Clement's do in making room for diverse voices? Is it OK to be "fundamentalist" on some things? How comfortable are we, personally, with the "I don't know" of progressive Christianity? How can we better listen to those we disagree with?

Identifying these questions for ourselves was one of the more enjoyable and productive parts of the evening.

- One published review of *Living the Questions 2* includes the statement "Over the years, I have heard many congregants in progressive churches complain that although their pastor's sermons are well crafted and erudite, they find little affirmative theological substance to take home with them."

Based on our initial glimpse at *Living the Questions 2*, we got the impression the program was fuelled to a large degree by a reaction *against* fundamentalism rather than an exuberance-filled movement *toward* a new, life-giving understanding of God's love. This may well have been appropriate at the time of its initial production, and no doubt remains important in many settings. For us, it added to the feeling that this was a slightly dated resource that didn't dance us toward the joy of the "second naivete" — that post-critical re-embrace of the Christian story — as ably as it might have.

### All That Being Said...

While this would not be the first resource we would reach for if we wanted to offer participants a discussion group reflecting an inspiring, balanced view of the Christian faith, it is certainly not without merit. Many of the "big names" of progressive Christianity offer their thoughts, and the sections on Journey, Reconciliation and Transformation include interesting chapters with such titles as *The Myth of Redemptive Violence*, *Practising Resurrection*, and *Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love*.

Our best advice is to purchase the *Living the Questions* book by David M. Felten and Jeff Proctor-Murphy, which closely mirrors the content of the DVD series and accompanying written material. The volume can also be had on loan from the Synod office. The book might well be enjoyed by an individual (on its own or in tandem with the DVDs) or it could form the basis of a worthwhile parish book study, perhaps minus the DVDs and with the addition of free-form questions that reflect the local context and the interests of the group.

Have you participated in an adult formation program that you would recommend to others? Please share your thoughts with the Rev. Jessica Schaap, Missioner for Christian Formation, by emailing [jschaap@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:jschaap@vancouver.anglican.ca) or calling 604.684.6306, ext. 225. ☛

# St. Michael's, Surrey His (& Her) Story

DONNA WHITE & GARY BROWN  
St. Michael's, Surrey

In 1958, who would have thought that the future of St. Michael's Anglican Church, Surrey would have been determined by close friends having a card game and a hot dog roast in a neighbour's woods. But the neighbours around the campfire that evening realized that there was a need for an Anglican church in the area. The two families were the Whaleys and the Whites. The pioneers of the church were many, but the three people who initialized the drive were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whaley and Miss Amy Barker. Miss Barker spearheaded the campaign soliciting support from neighbours in the area. The support was tremendous. May Whaley donated the land. The sod turning ceremony, laying of the cornerstone and the naming took place in 1959. While construction was underway, the congregation used J.T. Brown Elementary School for services. Fred Whaley, a carpenter by trade, built the altar which was fitted with wheels for storage during the week. The first rector was the Rev. Stephen Lee. His assistant was the then-Rev. Jack Major (before he was collated Archdeacon). From 1959 to 1960, the Rev. Keith W. Mason of Surrey Centre Anglican Church acted as an advisor and celebrated baptisms for St. Michael's at Surrey Centre.

The first Sunday School teachers were Mary Canty, and Jean and Donna White. St. Michael's first confirmation class was presented by the Rev. Lee to Archbishop Godfrey Gower at St. Asaph's Church, North Surrey on May 5, 1960. St. Michael's was fully completed in 1962. Fred Whaley built the altar, pews, communion railings and prayer kneelers, and oversaw much of its construction. In 1962, Miss Amy Barker became the first Sunday School Superintendent. The Sunday School was packed each Sunday, as was the church, which offered Morning Prayer three Sundays a month, with the last Sunday of the month being reserved for Holy Communion.

These years were a time of great promise and hope. In the early 1990s St. Michael's experienced a resurgence in

growth and interest, partially as a result of the general growth of Surrey. Father Paul Illical had recently arrived and through him there was a general sense of optimism about the future. The church had the enviable blend of several founding families still active in the parish combined with new young families. With these new families came an increased enrolment in Sunday School. There was also a general feeling within the parish that improved facilities were required to sustain the growth in membership. Thus, the idea of a new hall was proposed and after much deliberation, accepted. The next hurdle was to obtain approval from the decision-making bodies of the diocese of New Westminster. Diocesan approval took four years, but due to the generous donations by the founding families and a forgivable loan, the parish was able to build the hall.

The construction of the Millennium Hall, however, would not have been successful without the diligent effort of a fellow Anglican by the name of John Reader. He was a retired construction superintendent who acted as general contractor, this arrangement resulted in considerable financial savings. The Millennium Hall was completed in

the late 1990s.

Presently, three other Christian churches rent space for their services at St. Michael's. Life Skills Resource Centre rents the Millennium Hall all week and a Montessori Kindergarten rents the back hall for its classes. The parking lot is full to capacity due to this and St. Michael's is a hub of activity for the community. The Ven. Louie Engnan presides over two services each Sunday: a quiet contemplative communion service from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP), and a contemporary family communion service from the *Book of Alternative Services* (BAS), with music in worship led by a choir and a youth band. Archdeacon Louie provides Bible study on Tuesday evenings, counselling and support services. He invites inspiring guest speakers to the services and organizes potluck suppers, barbecues and in the case of St. Michael's this year, its sixtieth anniversary celebrations! For over five years he has organized St. Michael's participation the Tri-Parish Eucharist and picnic at Bear Creek Park in June.

St. Michael's continues to be, as it was in its early days in the 1960s, "a warm, inviting community gathering place."

### Principal Celebration at St. Michael's

What	60th Anniversary Celebrations
Where	St. Michael's Church, 12996 – 60th Ave., Surrey, BC
When	September 29, 2019
Agenda	9am onwards • Welcome & Snacks 10am Worship 11:45am onwards • Fellowship Lunch & Reflection

Her Grace, Archbishop Melissa Skelton will preach and preside at the Eucharist.

In order for the parish to make arrangements, all those who are not current parishioners or in regular attendance at St. Michael's services are requested to confirm their attendance by contacting warden Jeddy James by email at [jeddy.james@yahoo.ca](mailto:jeddy.james@yahoo.ca). ☛



St. Michael's Millennium Hall.



Archbishop Skelton blessing with Holy water and cedar boughs (asperges) during the Opening Eucharist, May 24.



Registration in the ICC Ballroom lobby bright and early May 24.



Synod Technical Producer Martin Knowles of Christ Church Cathedral sets up the running order. Martin has "teched" every diocesan Synod since 2003 except for 2013.



S7aplek (Bob Baker), Elder of the Squamish First Nation.

# A Summary of the 119th Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster

Please find on the next few pages a summary of the 119th Synod of the diocese of New Westminster held at the Italian Cultural Centre, May 24 and 25. The Synod theme was Love One Another: Christ's Body, the Church. Photos were taken by Cliff Caprani & Randy Murray.

## Synod Day 1 Report • Friday, May 24

CAITLIN REILLEY BECK  
St. Augustine, Marpole

Friday morning, May 24, the Synod of the diocese of New Westminster gathered for the regular biennial at the Italian Cultural Centre. Staff and volunteers arrived bright and early, many before 7am to set up and get everything ready for the Synod delegates. Delegates, volunteers and staff were already buzzing with excitement over the full program for this year's Synod—especially the plan to repeal and replace the Diocesan Constitution and Canons with an updated version.

As has been custom in the past, Synod began with Eucharist, with Archbishop Skelton preaching and presiding. Her sermon, on the Synod theme *Love One Another: Christ's Body the Church*, was used later on in the morning for a table group discussion that gave members of Synod a chance to get to know those from other parishes with whom they were seated. Much of the morning's time was spent on the usual business that comprises the opening of Synod, including introductions to resolutions, nominations, memorials, greetings, welcoming new clergy arrived in the diocese, the adoption of the agenda, accepting the minutes from the two previous Synods and the receipt of the written reports that comprise the Synod circular. Many of these pieces of business are done by newer members of the clergy of the diocese—thereby enabling the body of Synod to become more familiar with names and faces.

Friday morning also included several compelling reports. The first was given by Suzanne Rumsey, the Public Engagement Program Coordinator for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). In celebration of their 60th Anniversary, PWRDF has unveiled a new logo as well as a five-year plan, which incorporates their priorities and also the UN Sustainable Development Goals—a set of 17 priorities for global development which were created as a follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals. PWRDF's five-year plan includes the following priorities:

1. Sustainable future
2. Strong partnerships
3. Meaningful results
4. Collaborative approach
5. Mutual reconciliation within six program areas:  
Preventative Health, Food Security and Climate Change  
Mitigation, Empowering Women, Indigenous Communities,  
Humanitarian Relief and Disaster Response, and  
Accompanying Refugees

Next on the presentation's agenda was Charlotte French, ODNW of St. Philip, Dunbar, co-Chair of the Local

Arrangements Committee for General Synod. General Synod was held in Vancouver this summer from July 10 to 16. Charlotte described the various ways in which the lay and clergy leaders of the diocese involved prepared to serve as hosts for this major event. Volunteers were needed for a variety of tasks during General Synod, and Charlotte outlined how Synod members could participate personally and spread the word that others would be needed.

Noon prayers for the day concluded with a table prayer for the lunch of sandwiches provided by the Italian Cultural Centre. In this author's opinion, the vegetarian sandwiches were better than previous years, but that could also be as a result of being hungrier this year. In any case, food and conversation were a welcome break after several hours of listening and hard work.

Children present participating in the Synod childcare program also joined the plenary in the main hall during lunch time, giving them a chance to reconnect with their parents and giving the hard-working childcare staff a break to eat lunch themselves. The childcare program at Synod, which was started four years ago at the 116th Diocesan Synod, had the highest level of participation it has had so far with 15 youngsters, aged nine months to ten years, participating over the two days. This program has been a wonderful addition to Synod, providing support for Synod delegates with children and also ensuring that these younger members of the Church become more familiar with this important Church event. Madeline, daughter of Missioner for Christian Formation, the Rev. Jessica Schaap, who has been participating in the childcare program since it first began, now looks forward eagerly to Synod and insists that she come with her mom to each Synod (evidently, she is already excited for next Synod).

Levi Saunders who worked as a childcare provider during the first year of the program participated in his first Synod as a member, this year as a youth delegate from Christ Church Cathedral. On the second day of Synod, he moved a resolution for the diocese to recognize a climate emergency which was adopted with strong support.

The afternoon of the first day saw the introduction of the major work which had been done on the Diocesan Constitution and Canons. The Working Group spent some time explaining why a full revision of the Canons was necessary and what kinds of issues they sought to resolve as a part of their work. These issues included creating a clearer and consistent numbering system, ensuring consistency of language and terminology as well as clearer rules of

order for Synods, among others. It was clear from their presentations that all the members of the committee had developed a passion and even fondness for this document with which they had all spent a great deal of time. This was an important factor in engaging the larger group (many of whom are not familiar with the Constitution and Canons) in this important work. After these presentations were concluded, the committee invited questions and feedback about the new draft text which had been circulated prior to Synod. Many people raised important questions around definitions and language as well as the committee's rationale for particular decisions. These were all gathered up for the committee to review and answer the following day.

Several more presentation reports were given Friday. The Rev. Michael Shapcott, Executive Director of Sorrento Centre updated members on exciting new developments at the Centre. Solar panels have been installed on the roof of *Spes Bona*, the brick building on site which houses the administrative offices as well as some of the staff accommodations. This is part of Sorrento Centre's ongoing effort to reduce their carbon footprint and increase their sustainability. More solar panels will be installed in subsequent stages of this initiative. Another new development is that the Director's House, which has served as a home for many of the Centre's previous Executive Directors as well as Michael Shapcott, is being converted into housing for some of the summer youth staff at Sorrento. Michael is moving into a renovated log cabin located at the Sorrento farm site.

The final program report of the day was given by the Rev. Peter Smyth, the Senior Port Chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers in Vancouver. This was the first time Synod had heard from Peter about this ministry since he began as Senior Port Chaplain. The Mission to Seafarers has two centres in the Lower Mainland—one at Deltaport in Tsawwassen and the other at Vanterm at the foot of Main Street located in Vancouver's east side, the two local ports. They provide services to seafarers in these centres as well as making visits to ships in port and using their van to provide transportation to seafarers while they are ashore. Peter shared a video with Synod which was prepared for the International Day of the Seafarer in 2018 and described the experiences of one seafarer working on a ship for the first time.<sup>1</sup> Those who would like are invited to volunteer with the Mission to Seafarers or to donate to this ministry

<sup>1</sup> *My First Sailing Experience: A Short Story*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJ13BOTjM\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJ13BOTjM_k)



Synod Delegates



LEFT Synod Delegates



The Eucharist



on with the Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement prior to worship.



Two new Archdeacons: the Ven. Alan Carson, Archdeacon of Lougheed and the Ven. Stephanie Shepard, Archdeacon of Granville.

# Westminster



legates stand during the singing of hymns.



od Opening Eucharist. RIGHT Four new regional deans are installed: the Rev. Kelly Duncan, Golden Ears; the Rev. Paul Woehrle, Richmond/Delta; the Rev. Marion Wong, Oakridge; and the Rev. Paul Bowie, Yale.



arist.



The Peace.

—you can find more information on their website at [www.flyingangel.ca](http://www.flyingangel.ca).

The audited financial statements for 2018 were presented by Diocesan Treasurer Bob Hardy of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver. Synod members were then invited to ask questions about the financial statements. Several questions were raised concerning the various funds and assets of the diocese and how they are represented in the financial statements. These questions and clarifications were an important part of the work leading up to passing the 2020 and 2021 vision budgets the next day.

After a brief report from the Nominations Committee on which positions would require election the following morning, Synod moved into the business of resolutions. In the 45 minutes allotted for resolutions on Friday, there was the opportunity to discuss and vote on two resolutions.

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# A Summary of the 119th Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster

## Synod Day 1 Report • Friday, May 24

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The first was moved by Diocesan Council and was a follow up to the work of the 117th Synod when the Diocesan Assessment Formula, which determines the amount of money that parishes contribute to the diocesan budget, was revised in order to keep more funds at the parish level. The resolution proposed excluded from parishes' Operating Receipts (which is an amount used to calculate the parish's assessment amount), any grants or allocations received from the diocese. During the discussion time, the Rev. David Edgerton asked whether this resolution would also exclude from Parish Operating Receipts any grant money received from other organizations besides the diocese. Bob Hardy responded that it was not excluded which prompted an amendment to the resolution in order to also exclude these monies from Parish Operating Receipts. The amendment passed as did the resolution itself.

The second resolution was moved by the Ven. Al Carson, Archdeacon of the Loughheed Archdeaconry and seconded by the Rev. Vivian Seegers, director of the Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM) and the first Indigenous woman ordained in the diocese of New Westminster. This resolution was one concerning financial support to Indigenous people as a gesture of reconciliation. The resolution proposes that of the money received on the sale of any land or property, retroactive to January 1, 2018 and going forward, 5% would be returned to the Indigenous leaders on whose traditional territory the property is located, 2.5% would be allocated to endow Indigenous Justice Ministries in the diocese, and 2.5% would be allocated to fund the self-

determining Indigenous Church at the national level. The retroactivity of this resolution was connected to several substantial property sales which took place in the past year and half. Those property sales would be included in this initiative. Many people spoke with great concern and conviction about the importance of living into our stated commitment to reconciliation and to acknowledge territory in this concrete, financial way. In particular, Jerry Adams, Indigenous Justice Coordinator, spoke about how much more work there is to do towards justice for Indigenous people and how resources, especially financial resources as greatly needed for this work. This resolution passed with the strong support of the body of Synod with a friendly amendment to include by name, Inuit and Métis people as well. It will be up to Diocesan Council to figure out how this resolution will be enacted, but the Archbishop assured Synod that she and Diocesan Council will take this as a strong sign from Synod that they believe this is important work which needs to get done.

After such a busy day, both the opportunity for prayer and the opportunity for social time provided by the Evening Prayer service and the reception that followed were welcome. Delicious appetizers were provided by the Italian Cultural Centre as members of Synod connected with friends and colleagues from around the diocese before going home to get some sleep before another busy day of important work began the next morning, bright and early at 8am. ✠



Jackson Hein of Freeman Audio with many microphones and wireless receivers.



The Head Table is in place to open Synod: Lea Starr, Lay Secretary; the Rev. Sharon Salomons, Clerical Secretary; the Ven. Douglas Fenton, Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese, Archdeacon of Vancouver; Archbishop Melissa Skelton, Chair; George Cadman, QC, ODNW; Donald Paul, ODNW; and Jennifer Dezell, ODNW.



Synod is underway, the plenary in full swing.



Suzanne Rumsey presenting on behalf of PWRDF.

## Synod Day 2 Report • Saturday, May 25

SHEILA JOHNSTON, ODNW  
Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock

Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, addressed those gathered at the Synod of the diocese of New Westminster. He spoke with regard to the proposed amendment of Marriage Canon XXI. More specifically, the archbishop advised that he would review the document entitled *A Word To The Church*, a document passed by consensus by the Council of General Synod (CoGS) on March 16, 2019.

The archbishop spoke to guide Synod toward the CoGS affirmation to walk together and to preserve communion, one with another, in Christ, within the Anglican Church of Canada, within the Anglican Communion, and with the Church's ecumenical partners.

Before his review of the "Word" document, a five-part affirmation, he went back to the 2013 General Synod. At that meeting there was a resolution that directed CoGS to draft a motion for consideration at General Synod 2016. This motion would change Canon XXI on Marriage to allow the marriage of same-sex couples. The outcome of the 2013 motion was CoGS appointment of the Commission on the Marriage Canon. The Commission was to undertake the work requested in the resolution.

Archbishop Hiltz then explained that at the 2016 General Synod in Toronto, the resolution to allow the marriage of same-sex couples was amended to permit the solemnization of same-sex marriages that were authorized by the diocesan bishop. The amended resolution passed first reading at General Synod in 2016, with a second reading at the July 2019 General Synod in Vancouver.

Between 2016 and 2019 the resolution was discussed at provincial and diocesan Synods for consideration. The Archbishop noted that all of the provinces acted on this opportunity, and a number of dioceses participated, but some did not.

He said that in 2018 CoGS gave some thought to "a great yearning" to recapture something of the spirit of the process that took place at the 2010 General Synod, when there was an attempt at "intentional conversation" with one another; a conversation that resulted in a "Pastoral Statement."

At its meeting this January, CoGS decided to offer to the Church a sense of where this conversation on Marriage Canon XXI has been, to enable the Church to acknowledge the realities that exist in the midst of all our diversity, to state that we stand together, and to make certain affirmations. CoGS resolved across differences to work together,

to listen, to learn, and to attempt to understand the deep-seated understandings of the scriptures.

*A Word To The Church*, a document that went through four drafts, represents a deep desire that this issue not be a communion-breaking issue. It is a document that represents how to live together, in good disagreement.

Archbishop Hiltz stated that since 2013, the church has learned that it is inappropriate to assume that all Indigenous people are of the same mind regarding the issue of allowing the marriage of same-sex couples. He noted that there is diversity among Indigenous communities, just as there is within the church at large.

Before his address drew to a close, he remarked that there is a humility about *A Word To The Church*, a graciousness, a strength. That it ensures room for everybody in our church, and that it creates a "spaciousness."

As he looked ahead to General Synod, the archbishop advised that the plan is to make significant decisions within the first few days of the Synod.

After due consideration, General Synod will turn its attention to the question of amending Canon XXI. The primate recognized that people are concerned that if *A Word To The Church* is passed, that upon second reading there will be a change to Canon XXI.

The archbishop stressed that it will take some time to consider the outcome of General Synod, and he noted that each diocese would have further work to do. Two presentation highlights on Day 2 were thanks to the addresses given by the Rev. Bryan Rivers and the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping.

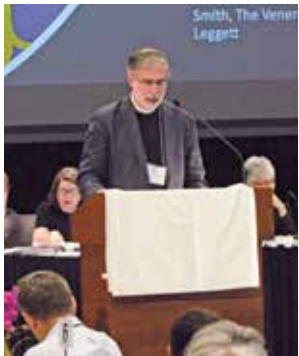
The Rev. Bryan Rivers, Anglican Chaplain at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) spoke with passion about the important work done by this ministry at VGH.

He then listed the "Top 15 reasons" why the VGH Chaplaincy should be supported.

The Chaplaincy serves:

1. patients from all corners of British Columbia;
2. from across Canada;
3. from around the world;
4. from Aboriginal and Inuit communities in remote, northern parts of BC;
5. those who are homeless, who live in shelters or on the streets;
6. those with psychiatric issues;
7. those who are terminally ill;

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LEFT The Ven. Alan Perry, Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of Edmonton and Athabasca during the Day 1 presentation of the Canons and Constitution Revisions Working Group. MIDDLE Kevin Smith of Christ Church Cathedral of the Canons and Constitution Revisions Working Group. RIGHT Senior Port Chaplain of Mission to Seafarers, the Rev. Peter Smyth.



LEFT The Ven. Al Carson moves Resolution 5. RIGHT Nii K'an Kwsdins (Jerry Adams), Indigenous Justice Ministry Coordinator of the diocese responds to questions about Indigenous Justice Ministry funding and programme in the diocese as part of the Resolution 5 discussion.



LEFT Former Rector of St. Hilda's, Sechelt the Rev. Clarence Li speaks to Resolution 5. RIGHT Bright and early on May 25 the Rev. Patrick Blaney, Rector of St. John the Evangelist and Regional Dean of North Vancouver exercises his franchise.



LEFT Some folks from Holy Trinity, White Rock: Sheila Johnston, ODNW, diocesan comms correspondent; Sean Latimer, Member of Synod; Simon Johnston, ODNW, Member of Synod, Former Lay Co-Chair, Synod Planning Committee; Frances Fagan, ODNW, Current Lay Chair of the Synod Planning Committee. RIGHT The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz; the Very Rev. Peter Elliott; the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz, Co-Chair of Worship Planning for Synod 2019.



## Synod Day 2 Report • Saturday, May 25

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8. students being trained for the Clergy, priests and deacons, for example;
9. hospital staff members, and their families; as well as
10. nominal Anglicans.

Rev. Rivers advised that he was working his way up—along the lines of the famous Top 10 lists on David Letterman's *Late Night*—to number 15, on the list of top reasons to support this ministry.

He continued by saying that the Chaplaincy:

1. acts as a liaison between parishioners who are hospitalized, and their home church and home clergy;
2. provides the terminally ill with the last opportunity to hear the gospel;
3. has incredible opportunities for spontaneous ministry;
4. is a visible, tangible and creditable witness of the diocese working in the community; and
5. is vital because anyone can be hospitalized at VGH at any moment.

Rev. Rivers concluded his remarks by quoting *Romans 10:13-15*: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard of Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?"

The Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, Principal of Vancouver School of Theology (VST) thanked Synod for the opportunity to speak about VST. He began by saying that the school "is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders for the church and the world."

The school, located on the grounds of the University of British Columbia, had recently unveiled its new logo, an image comprising stylized mountains and the sea.

In 2018, VST had received recognition as one of the ten

most improved theological schools and was ranked 39th in the world. He acknowledged that the calculus for these rankings was "mysterious" but that being thus recognized meant that VST was having an impact.

He drew attention to the faculty's prolific research and publications. The scholarship of the professorial staff was demonstrated by a book launch event in November 2018 involving six members of faculty and 11 launched books.

Dr. Topping listed the growing number of new partners helping VST accomplish its mission: the Sauder School of Business; Durham University in the UK; Huron College, located at Western University in London, Ontario; and St. Mark's, the Roman Catholic Undergraduate College located on the campus of UBC. He added that VST has a history of 35 years with Indigenous studies.

He then spoke about the success of a balanced budget for four years running, while there was a growth in programs and the number of enrolled students.

One of VST's sessional lecturers is Archbishop Melissa Skelton, and another is the Very Rev. Peter Elliott. In the academic year 2018–2019, VST enjoyed the largest number of applications and acceptances in its programs in 18 years and of these 29 were Anglicans. The United Church of Canada has a cohort of 49 students, while the Presbyterian students' number 33.

In 2021, VST will celebrate its 50th anniversary. It is the school's goal to enroll 50 students that year, drawing on students from North America, and from around the world.

In closing Dr. Topping expressed gratitude for the partnership, and support of, the diocese of New Westminster. ✠

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*More information about the resolutions on Day 1 and 2 are available further on in this Topic Synod 2019 summary.* •Editor



Then-primate Fred Hiltz preaching at Morning Prayer on Day 2, May 25.



Two archbishops.



Nii K'an Kwsdins, Indigenous Justice Ministry Coordinator of the diocese in conversation with Archbishop Fred Hiltz, discussing the proposed (and now a reality) self-determining Indigenous Church within the Anglican Church of Canada.



A profile view of the Rev. Vivian Seegers, ordained leader of the Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM) during the discussion about Resolution 6.

# A Summary of the 119th Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster



Chair of Mission and Ministry Development, the Rev. David Edgerton, Rector of St. George, Maple Ridge puts forward Resolution 6 proposing that the care + share giving be directed to Urban Aboriginal Ministries (UAM).



Archbishop Hiltz presenting information on *A Word to the Church*.



*A Word to the Church* table group.



Youth Synod Members lunch with the archbishops.



The Rev. Michael Shapcott, Executive Director of Sorrento Centre.



Voting on Resolution 6.

## Resolutions & Elections at the 119th Synod

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The 119th Synod of the diocese of New Westminster had a very full agenda. Much of the agenda involved consultation and the sharing of information about the important topics that would be the subject of Resolutions brought before Synod. They were as follows:

**Resolution 1** addressed the Diocesan Constitution and Canons revision. The revision journey began over a year ago in April 2018, with the commissioning of a Working Group. The Group worked very hard and put in long hours culminating with the creation of a draft that was brought to the diocese through two information sessions in March 2019 and a short film that featured working group member Kevin Smith pointing out the highlights of the revision with a focus on the rationale and the revised content. On Day 1 of Synod (May 24), members of the working group addressed Synod, asking for feedback from the members. There were a number of thoughtful and insightful questions and comments brought forward during this plenary session. Notes were taken by the three of the four presenting members: Archdeacon Alan Perry of the diocese of Edmonton; Archdeacon Richard Leggett of our diocese; and the aforementioned Kevin Smith, a lawyer by profession who worships and is in leadership at Christ Church Cathedral.

Members of the Working Group caucused that evening and in a working session the questions and comments were collated in a document and addressed by the Working Group. The assembly of that document for print and distribution the next day was quarterbacked by Working Group and Diocesan Council member Jane Hope.

On Day 2, Archdeacon Douglas Fenton, Executive Archdeacon of the diocese and the principal staff support for the project went through the report. His examination was punctuated by additional information from the other three reporting members and their finding was that none of the comments or questions rose to the level of substantive change needed. So, after about 30 minutes the question was asked, and Resolution 1 was carried by a large majority of Synod Members. Chancellor George Cadman, QC, ODNW informed Synod that with this motion carried and the assent of the Archbishop the new Constitution and Canons would become active as of 12:01am on May 26. The Archbishop gave her assent, a standing ovation was given to the Working Group and all the members of the Group present at Synod stepped up on the dais to be acknowledged.

**Resolution 2 and 3** were housekeeping motions involving the increase in administrators for the Anglican Initiatives Fund and some changes to the amendment procedures that had been approved at the 117th Synod in 2017 and required second reading. They were approved.

In a nutshell, **Resolution 4** is about what kinds of revenues are exempt from Diocesan Assessment. The details of this resolution are available in Caitlin Reilly Beck's coverage on page 16 of this issue of *Topic*.

**Resolution 5** moved by the Ven. Al Carson, now Arch-

deacon of Lougheed and continuing Rector of St. John, Sardis and seconded by the Rev. Vivian Seegers ordained leader of the Urban Aboriginal Ministry headquartered out of St. Mary Magdalene was arguably the most compelling of the 12. Following some information given by the Chancellor about how the Resolution would need to be considered in the context of the governance of the diocese, the word "direct" in the original version was replaced with "requests." Chancellor Cadman made it clear that this motion now approved by Synod will need to go to Diocesan Council and the details discussed and worked out by the standing committees, Management, Finance and Property (MFP) and Mission and Ministry Development (MMD). Not surprisingly there was a good deal of discussion that resulted with the inclusion of Métis and Inuit peoples in the document and this resolution involving the forwarding of moneys to Indigenous groups sourced from funds of some past and all future property sales was passed by a strong majority.

**Resolution 6** was passed by Synod during the morning session of Day 2. The Chair of Mission and Ministry Development (MMD), the Rev. David Edgerton of St. George, Maple Ridge gave a brief outline of the decision making process that resulted in the committee's decision to forward the care + share flow-through giving revenue administered by diocesan staff to Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM). UAM will be the solitary recipient of care + share donations in 2020 and 2021. There were four other applicants. The decision to select just one ministry was guided by the reality that care + share giving has dropped off substantially and not splitting up this diminishing pot is the best solution. Speaking to the motion, the Rev. Laurel Dykstra, Gathering Priest of Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship ministry, a current recipient of care + share funds said that a good solution to getting more ministries involved as recipients would be to give generously to care + share on an ongoing basis.

**Resolution 7** was another resolution similar to Resolution 1 in that it received substantial advance agenda time during Synod. The resolution involved the affirmation of *A Word to the Church: Considering the proposed amendment of Marriage Canon 21* of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.<sup>2</sup> *A Word to the Church* was passed by consensus by the Council of General Synod on March 16, 2019. Presenting on its behalf was the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz. In a 35-minute address he commended the content of the document to the plenary who were then asked to discuss the document. The table group discussions took place before lunch and prior to Noon Day Prayers, Archbishop Skelton took the metaphorical temperature of Synod, asking the plenary to indicate by a show of hands on a five-point scale

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.anglican.ca/news/a-word-to-the-church-considering-the-proposed-amendment-of-marriage-canon-xxii/30023889/>



Anglican Chaplain at Vancouver General Hospital, the Rev. Bryan Rivers.



Principal of Vancouver School of Theology, the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping.

## Resolutions & Elections at the 119th Synod

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of enthusiasm how they were feeling about affirming the document. The level of affirmation was considerable.

During the scheduled resolutions period on Saturday afternoon, the Rev. Stephen Rowe moved the motion. There was significant discussion, primarily around Affirmation #2 subtitled *Diverse Understandings of the Existing Canon* which is as follows:

We affirm that, while there are different understandings of the existing Marriage Canon, those bishops and Synods who have authorized liturgies for the celebration and blessing of a marriage between two people of the same sex understand that the existing Canon does not prohibit same-sex marriage.

A suggested amendment regarding the word “affirm” was moved by the Rev. Karl Przywala, Rector of Holy Trinity, Vancouver which was defeated; however, it is important to note that the discussion around the proposed amendment was civil and thoughtful on both sides.

Archbishop Skelton indicated that she was very grateful for the discussion around this resolution, its affirmation and the information shared will help her in her decision-making process moving forward.

Fifteen-year-old Levi Saunders of Christ Church Cathedral moved **Resolution 8** which asks the diocese to directly, intentionally and rapidly address Climate Change. Levi had many supporters standing with him and a number of them spoke in support of the motion. There were two wordsmithing amendments that were met with approval. The Rev. David Price of All Saints’, Agassiz offered to withdraw his **Resolution 10** and include it as a friendly amendment to

**Resolution 8.** Former Resolution 10 involved the request that the Synod Office at 1410 Nanton Avenue install two electrical vehicle charging stations. The amendment was approved as was Resolution 8.

Due to the restrictions of time, Resolution 9, 11 and 12 were referred to Diocesan Council. They were as follows:

**Resolution 9:** That this Synod directs Diocesan Council to investigate, clarify and act to determine insurance coverage for deacons and other non-stipendiary clergy. And that Diocesan Council be directed to make the results public and inform all affected parties.

**Resolution 11:** That this Synod asks the Archbishop and Diocesan Council to develop and enact a policy on Gender Equality with the goal of having our leadership better reflect the gender diversity of our diocese.

**Resolution 12:** That this Synod—in recognition and celebration of the life and legacy of the late Jean Vanier—asks Diocesan Council, through the Synod Office Staff, to identify ways of sharing the L’Arche Model of intentional community with parishes of the diocese. And further, that this Synod express thanks to Archbishop Melissa Skelton for her ongoing leadership, especially within the capital campaign of L’Arche Greater Vancouver.

Diocesan Council addressed some of these matters at the first meeting held on June 12. Archbishop Skelton delayed her assent for Resolutions 5 and 8 pending further study. Diocesan Council will be charged with developing processes and protocols over the coming months. ✚



The members of the Canons and Constitution Revisions Working Group gather on the dais and are greeted with a sustained ovation in recognition of their outstanding work.



The new rector of St. Paul's, Vancouver, the Rev. Philip Cochrane with the “Vote of Thanks.”



Closing Eucharist and installation and blessing of the newly elected and appointed diocesan leadership. Presiding at worship, the Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz.

## Report of the Returning Officer

- Treasurer: Robert Hardy (acclamation)
- Clerical Secretary of Synod: The Rev. Justin Cheng (acclamation)
- Lay Secretary of Synod: Lea Starr (acclamation)

### Archdeaconry Representatives to Diocesan Council

- Burrard**
  - Clergy: The Rev. Philip Cochrane (acclamation)
  - Lay: Jane Hope

### Capilano

- Clergy: The Rev. Robin Celiz (acclamation)
- Lay: Robert Dickson

### Fraser

- Clergy: The Rev. Craig Tanksley (acclamation)
- Lay: Len Reimer (acclamation)

### Granville

- Clergy: The Rev. Alex Wilson (acclamation)
- Lay: Sharon Grove (acclamation)

### Lougheed

- Clergy: The Rev. Eileen Nurse (acclamation)
- Lay: Peter Bailey

### Westminster

- Clergy: The Rev. James Duckett
- Lay: Gregory Kennelly (acclamation)

### Youth Representatives to Diocesan Council (two to be elected)

- Devon Groves
- Jade Martin Seedhouse

### The Board of Discipline

#### Clergy Members of the Board of Discipline (three to be elected)

- The Rev. Heidi Brear
- The Rev. Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz
- The Rev. David Price

#### Lay Members of the Board of Discipline (three to be elected)

- Margaret Briscall (acclamation)
- Phil Colvin (acclamation)
- Vacant

### The Bishop's Advisory Committee on Appointments

#### Clergy Members

##### (three to be elected)

- The Ven. Kevin Hunt
- The Ven. Richard Leggett
- The Rev. Sharon Salomons

#### Lay Members

##### (three to be elected)

- Charlotte French
- Brenda Stenson
- Rachel Taylor

### Anglican Initiatives Fund

#### Clerical Administrators

##### (two to be elected)

- The Rev. Christine Rowe
- The Rev. Sharon Smith

#### Lay Administrators

##### (two to be elected)

- Anne Kessler
- Andrew Stephens-Rennie

Bob Hardy, ODNW will be returning for another term as Treasurer. He will be celebrating ten years as Treasurer in 2020.

Returning Archdeaconry representatives include: the Rev. Eileen Nurse, the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz, Jane Hope, Sharon Grove, Jade Martin Seedhouse and Archdeacons Douglas Fenton and Richard Leggett.

Archdeacons Fenton and Leggett were selected at Synod from the group of nine consisting of the Dean of the Diocese and the eight Archdeacons. Dean Peter Elliott facilitated the selection process with his colleagues.

The first meeting of the new Council took place on June 12. There were some decisions made but much of the time spent at the 3+ hour meeting was dedicated to orientation. A summary of that meeting is available online.<sup>3</sup> Minutes of that meeting will be available following the Diocesan Council retreat/business day scheduled for Saturday, September 14. ✚

<sup>3</sup> [www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-council/meetings-minutes](http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-council/meetings-minutes)

# A Summary of the 119th Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster



Coyote Terry Aleck with Archbishop Skelton raising hands to the four directions following his investiture into the ODNW.



Bette Geddes with Dean Peter Elliott listening to Bette's Citation read by Archdeacon Muir.

## ODNW Investitures at Diocesan Synod

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Synod 2019 wasn't just resolutions, amendments, discussions, points of order, presentations and prayers it was also a chance to celebrate two special recipients of the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster, Coyote Terry Aleck associated with St. Hilda's, Sechelt and Bette Geddes of Bette Geddes and Associates Catering, and Sharing Abundance Food Ministry.

The Ven. Stephen Muir, Archdeacon of Capilano and the Rector of St. Agnes' in North Vancouver's Grand Boulevard neighbourhood read the Citations. Archbishop Melissa Skelton offered prayers and congratulated the recipients, and the soon-to-be-retiring Dean of the diocese of New Westminster, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott placed the ribbons and medals around the shoulders of the newly invested.

The investiture ceremony concluded the Mid-day Prayers worship that began at 12:30pm on Day 2 of Synod, May 25. Prior to worship, Terry, Bette and more than a dozen of their guests took their places on chairs positioned in the southeast section of the Synod Hall (the Italian Cultural Centre Grand Ballroom). Coyote Terry Aleck took his place on the podium and Archdeacon Muir read the Citation:

"Coyote Terry Aleck is a member of the Lytton First Nation living on the Sunshine Coast. A Nlaka'pamux pipe carrier, a sweat lodge pourer, and a residential school survivor, Terry was one of the first former Indian Residential School students to sue the federal government and the Anglican Church for abuses suffered at St. George's Residential School in Lytton. He won the precedent-setting court case Aleck et al v. Clarke et al after a 17-year court battle. His journey has been featured in various documentaries and books, including The Healing Circle, Road to Reconciliation. Terry is a father of four daughters and one son and has four grandsons and an adopted daughter. Trained as a Family Violence and Addictions Counsellor, he currently works as a security guard at a local shopping centre. He volunteers as Co-Chair of the Sunshine Coast School District's Aboriginal Education Programme. In 2017, he received the Canada 150 Award from Member of Parliament Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, in recognition of his many achievements and volunteer services over his past 32 years of sobriety. Terry and his partner of 15 years, Christine Turenne, lead a monthly drum circle at St. Hilda's Anglican Church and they are active in giving drum making workshops, offering ceremonies for community members in need, assisting in the Kairos Blanket Exercise, and supporting the shíshálh Nation."

Following the reading of the Citation, Archdeacon Muir shared the following letter written by the Animator for Reconciliation, Anglican Church of Canada, Melanie Delva, ODNW.

"Because of my familiarity with archival records, Terry was an inspiration to me long before I ever had the opportunity to meet him. He is a pipe-carrier, leader, healer, teacher, husband, father, grandfather, friend. In a plot twist characteristic of the Creator's delight in making all things new, Terry's particular gift in bridging the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples has brought

healing and understanding to many hearts and minds. But to me, he is also 'Papa Coyote.' He is my family. So, Papa, let me just say I am so sad that I could not be there to witness you receive this honour today. You know that I have long admired the gut-wrenching work and incredible healing that has brought you to this point on the journey, and I am delighted that in this honour, others have the opportunity to do the same. Thank you for all you have been in my life, and for sharing this adventure called life with me. I love you."

Dean Peter Elliott placed the medal and ribbon around the shoulders of Coyote Terry Aleck and the Synod Hall erupted with applause and cheers. Terry hugged the three clergy and then he raised his hands to the four directions as the applause continued.

As the applause for Terry Aleck, ODNW faded, Bette Geddes approached the dais to be invested into the ODNW. Archdeacon Muir read the Citation:

"Bette has a servant's heart expressed in her love of feeding people. She is reliable, hardworking, creative and passionate about food and its preparation. Her magnetic personality draws people to her circle as she shares her excitement about the food she has created. She partners with Deacon, the Rev. Lizz Lindsay as the Executive Chef for Sharing Abundance, a non-profit society serving meals on the North Shore for over a decade. Bette plans, shops and prepares over 5,000 meals a year working several days a week for this charity. In addition, Bette caters for the Sharing Abundance host churches and Legions for luncheons, dinners and funerals, as well as catering at many other Lower Mainland churches and retreats. Bette probably has the keys to more churches than anyone in the diocese! Bette is also the 'Diocesan caterer.' She does most of the catering for weekend and special events including the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster Investiture Service in New Westminster where her boxed lunches receive rave reviews. Participants in events look forward to her great lunches and dessert treats as well as her unexpected special touches. Bette's gracious presence and loving heart have come to the attention of many folks and her quiet ministry enriches many lives."



The two newest members of the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster.

Again, there was a roar of cheering and applause for Bette affirming her as a generous, tireless and cheerful part of the diocesan community. The line in the Citation about Bette's collection of church keys was met with much laughter.

Following the ceremony, the two members posed for photos and then it was time for the now traditional Saturday of Synod, hot pasta lunch.

Congratulations to Coyote Terry Aleck, ODNW and Bette Geddes, ODNW on this much deserved recognition. ✦

## Synod Offering Surpasses Goal

The offerings given at the 119th Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster were directed to the Anglican theological students in the ordination track at Vancouver School of Theology (VST).

The goal set by Executive Archdeacon Fenton was \$5,000. As of the end of the Opening Eucharist there had been \$3,400 given. Prior to Morning Prayer on Saturday, the figure was closer to \$4,000 and at lunch time on Saturday \$4,500.

That meant it was time to bring back what is now an annual event, the auction of the plants decorating the Synod Hall by Chancellor George Cadman, QC, ODNW. George conducted a brilliant live auction selling eight of

the potted orchids (four purple, three pink, one white). The Chancellor auctioned off the plants at an average price of \$75 each which brought the total well up and over the goal.

Also, the Offertory collected at the June 15 Ordination Eucharist was directed to the VST Anglican students on the ordination track. Once all the donations were in, (Synod and Ordination Eucharist) and counted the total raised was \$6,908.55.

Thanks to George and many thanks to all who contributed.

The next regularly scheduled Synod of the diocese of New Westminster is to due to take place inn May 2021. ✦

# Why is this Loom Here?

## An Interactive Event Produced Unique Art at General Synod 2019

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

As approximately 300 delegates entered the narthex of Christ Church Cathedral for the Opening Eucharist of General Synod 2019 (GS2019) on the evening of Wednesday, July 10 they were greeted by a loom, a request note, a variety of writing implements and strips of coloured construction paper. The note reads:

Why is this loom here?

As part of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada (July 10–17), artist-in-residence Thomas Roach, ODNW is working with delegates to create a collaborative (and yet ephemeral) artwork by weaving strips of coloured paper enhanced with texts, prayers and perhaps doodles. The work will evolve in both the Plenary Hall (at Sheraton Wall Centre) and in the Cathedral.

The paper that is being woven on the loom includes answers written by delegates to the questions:

- By what name or names are you called?
- From what community are you called?

In response to the theme of General Synod *I Have Called YOU By Name*.

Thomas believes that weaving and other textile traditions are important mediums to encourage conversations across cultures and differences.

There was also a request to offer prayers for General Synod in writing and place the prayer note in a container located underneath the loom.

Thomas, assisted by others worked at this art project throughout GS2019, July 10–16, including some very productive time during the primatial election day at Christ

Church Cathedral on July 13. At the closing worship which included the installation of the Rev. Karen Egan as Prolocutor of General Synod and



A clergy delegate from Eastern Canada fills out one of the coloured paper strips prior to the Opening Eucharist. PHOTO Randy Murray



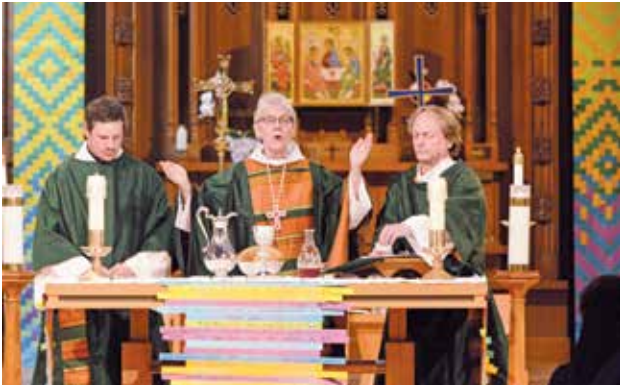
the installation of Archbishop Linda Nicholls as Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada the new fabric art was part of the liturgical design for the Eucharist. ✦



Thomas Roach, ODNW working the loom during some down time at the primatial election. PHOTO Randy Murray



Another angle. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT The new ambo frontal is visible in this photo of the Rev. Canon John Kwafanka preaching at the Closing Eucharist. MIDDLE Close up of the altar frontal. RIGHT The new banners are visible hanging on the reredos in the Christ Church Cathedral chancel and the coloured strips filled out by delegates are visible on the front of the altar in this photo of the Eucharistic Prayer at the Closing Eucharist. PHOTOS Randy Murray

# What Story do the Numbers Tell?

TASHA CARROTHERS  
Missioner for Congregational Development diocese of New Westminster; Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster

Anglicans tend to love words. We appreciate beautiful liturgy and listen attentively to the Word through Scripture. On the other hand, we tend to have less appreciation for numbers, and we can sometimes be found looking a bit blankly at financial reports. But numbers also tell stories, and every Spring parish administrators, clergy and wardens dutifully complete a form called “Parochial Statistics.” Here’s a bit of the story about the diocese of New Westminster that these numbers tell us:

- No parish church has closed in the last five years. We’re stable at 66 parishes.
- The number of parishes with attendance between 50 and 100 has grown (from 29 in 2017 to 32 in 2018) while the number of parishes with over 100 average Sunday attendance has remained the same (10).
- Just over a third of our parishes are very small (under 50 average Sunday attendance).
- Good news: just over half our parishes are stable or growing (55%), which is up from last year (48%). The percentage of stable and growing parishes has been within seven percentage points for the last five years, from a low of 48% to 2018’s high of 55%.
- More parishes are stable compared with last year (2017 had 17 stable parishes, while 2018 has 22 stable parishes).
- Among the growing parishes, just over half are large (over 80 ASA), while only two of them are small. Growing parishes are located in the city, the suburbs, and small towns.



- St. Mary, Sapperton; St. George, Maple Ridge; and St. Dunstan, Aldergrove.
- Looking at all the parishes together, while our total membership is down by 6%, our average Sunday attendance is virtually stable, having only decreased by 0.3% from last year.

So what’s the story here? The Anglican Church in our region is continuing to feel the effects of changes in the wider society. Fewer people are loosely affiliated with our churches, as reflected in the decrease in overall membership. But this year we have not seen a year-over-year decline in average Sunday attendance, a number that reflects people who are more actively engaged with our churches. One possible interpretation is that the people who came to church out of a sense of social obligation no longer feel that this is necessary, and the people who are engaged are more intentional, making a specific choice to participate

in our faith communities.

Numbers on their own never tell the whole story. Many of our churches are very small (under 50 average Sunday attendance), which is a size that offers opportunity to participate in a way that larger churches don’t. Anglicans tend to appreciate smaller communities where we know each other and it’s easy to get involved—bigger isn’t always better. These churches would do well to avoid unfortunate comparisons with larger churches, instead reflecting on the energy levels and satisfaction of parishioners. Energy and satisfaction tell much more about parish vitality than size.

Anyone who is interested in parish development might want to check out the School for Parish Development (Andrew Halladay, director) or *Groundwork*, the workshop series on membership growth for small and mid-sized parishes. Look for details on the diocesan website.

- Notes**
- For the purposes of this analysis, “growth” means that there are an average of at least five more people worshipping on Sunday mornings from five years previously. “Stable” means that the change is fewer than five people on average.
  - Among the 66 parishes, Salal + Cedar, St. Brigid, or St. Hildegard are not included. St. Brigid’s and St. Hildegard’s attendance figures are included with their sponsoring parish (Christ Church Cathedral and St. Faith’s, respectively).
  - Total members of diocese of New Westminster parishes for 2018 was 11, 683.
  - Average Sunday attendance for 2018 was 4,778. ✦

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

Saturday, May 11, a beautiful day in East Vancouver, an Anglican parish, worthy causes, quality donations and an enthusiastic team united to create the perfect environment for a parish sale and fundraising tea.

With bright sunny weather and warm May temperatures the sale of “new to you” merchandise was held outside the church building at the corners of East 22nd and



### • Sidewalk Sale & Tea Fundraiser at St. Margaret's, Cedar Cottage •

Dumfries, balloons marked the location inviting passersby to pull up, park at the curb and check things out.

The event was scheduled to run from 10am to 2pm and more than two hours in there was still a good selection of sports equipment, appliances, baby paraphernalia, household and decor items.

According to organizing team member, Patsi Longmire, the sale netted in excess

of \$1,000 for the ministry of the parish. Rector, the Rev. Heidi Brear and the Rev. Clare Morgan—who is the house manager of Hineni House the community that is housed in the parish's former rectory—were in attendance and actively involved in the sale.

The sanctuary which is a very flexible space was set up with chairs and tables transforming it into a tearoom. At the en-

trance was the tea and homemade scones (with clotted cream and strawberry jam) station and across the aisle a Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) information display staffed with parishioners. The proceeds from the tea, in the neighbourhood of \$150, were forwarded to the PWRDF. ✦

BELOW Four images from the event. PHOTOS Randy Murray



### • Translation Ministry at Epiphany • Grant Money Helps to Fund Exciting New Project •

SUBMISSION Doni Koskela & Stephen Rowe

The Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany (Epiphany) located in Surrey's Guildford neighbourhood is excited and delighted to welcome two part time employees who began their ministry June 1, 2019. Talal Labbo and Albert Mikhael joined the Epiphany staff team as the principal facilitators for the developing translation ministry. They bring wonderful talents and gifts to the parish. Talal and Albert will interpret/translate Scripture and necessary day to day information from English to Arabic and Aramaic for those members of the Epiphany community who primarily speak those languages. Bridging the English-speaking community and Arabic/Aramaic-speaking community will foster inclusion and belonging. The motivation for this initiative is largely due to the cohort of Chaldean Christians (many who are newcomers from Iraq) who began attending Epiphany in 2014. This new ministry will strengthen and unify the church community as a whole enabling the parish to better serve God, the congregation

and the greater community.

Epiphany made a successful application to the Anglican Initiatives Fund in 2018. Job postings were created, and the search went out for qualified applicants. They were not successful on the first round. During her January 6, 2019 archiepiscopal visit to Epiphany, Archbishop Skelton requested that those in the community with the required skills consider coming forward. Within a few weeks, two candidates applied and were shortlisted for interviews. A panel from the parish which included regional archdeacon the Ven. Louie Engnan unanimously agreed to appoint both candidates. Both Albert and Talal came to Canada with professional backgrounds possessing the skills to translate Arabic and Aramaic verbally and/or in written form.

The translators and Epiphany have agreed to a 12-month commitment with a 3-month trial period. Albert and Talal will also participate in the process of aiding and assisting non-Arabic speaking leaders at

Epiphany in order to help serve the needs of Arabic and Aramaic speakers who are

members of the parish or who are seeking a church home. ✦



Albert Mikhael, Archbishop Skelton and Talal Labbo pose for a photo at the Tri-Parish Eucharist on Pentecost Sunday, June 9. PHOTO Randy Murray

### • KAIROS Guest Speaker at the Longhouse • Women's Rights Activist from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ms. Néné Lubala Speaks to Ecumenical Group •

SUBMISSION Prepared with files from Margaret Marquardt & KAIROS Canada

On June 6, 2019, KAIROS, BC hosted an evening at the Longhouse Council of Native Ministry located in East Vancouver.

The special guest speaker was Ms. Néné Lubala an Animator and an Assistant to the Women and Children program at Héritiers de la Justice (HJ, Heirs of Justice) for the last 13 years, leading workshops and sensitization sessions on the promotion of women's and children's rights and the struggle against sexual and gender-based violence (GBV). She accompanies and gives advice to survivors of sexual and GBV and works for the protection of Women Human Rights Defenders.

HJ is an ecumenical human rights organization in South Kivu province in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and a partner in the KAIROS' *Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security* program.

Néné who is from the Democratic Republic of Congo was accompanied by Rachel Warden from KAIROS national office. KAIROS is funding this work as part of its *Women of Courage* partnerships. They were also part of the *Women Deliver* conference that was held in Vancouver June 3 to 6.

Rachel is the program coordinator for the *Gender Justice* and *Women of Courage* programs, and Latin American Partnerships. She has been involved in the human rights and social justice work of churches for over 20 years and in solidarity and social justice movements for much longer, starting with



LEFT Ms. Néné Lubala speaking at the Longhouse. RIGHT KAIROS Canada's *Women of Courage* speaker from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Néné Lubala visiting Vancouver during the *Women Deliver* Conference. Identified in the photo are: Néné Lubala (Second from left); Jessica Steele (third from left back row); Rachel Warden (fourth from left front row); and behind Rachel the Rev. Margaret Marquardt, Chair of the Diocesan Eco-Justice Unit, Member at Large of the Diocesan PWRDF Unit and contributor to this article. PHOTOS Submitted



the anti-apartheid and divestment movement and the Nicaraguan solidarity movement in high school and university.

Néné spoke in French and it was fortunate to have Jessica Steele of our diocese who is with *JustGeneration*—PWRDF present with the group to translate.

Néné spoke of the deep connection

her organization has with Panzi Hospital and Dr. Mukwege, who is known as “Dr. Miracle.” He and the hospital are part of PWRDF's partnership and Dr. Mukwege was a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018.

The gathering on June 6 served to connect the work that Néné is involved in with

the work of PWRDF and the support of women who are trapped and suffering in environments of GBV. She spoke of the many ways that the group works to organize women in villages and seeks to empower them to make the changes necessary to improve the well-being of women and by extension families and the entire village. ✦

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### • Pentecost Cranes at St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge •

SUBMISSION Lisann Gurney

The Holy Spirit descended like a paper crane (700 of them, to be precise) on St. John the Divine in Maple Ridge at Pentecost. As part of the parish goal to create more lively and dynamic worship, parishioners were invited to fold paper cranes as an expression of the playfulness of the Spirit. They took to the task with enthusiasm, despite not knowing what the cranes would be used for. Two classes at a local elementary school participated in the project as well.

Parishioners were surprised and delighted when they arrived at church on Sunday to see their work displayed in literally every corner of the sanctuary. In her sermon, Rev. Laurel Dahill invited parishioners to: “Look up. Look out. Look around.” And recognize the creative energy

where the presence of the Spirit is at work. And just like a request for people to fold a few paper cranes can result in boxes upon boxes of them arriving at the church office, our requests of God through prayer often bring abundance beyond anything we can imagine. “When we open our hearts and minds—when we open our whole selves—to see the abundance of all God and the Holy Spirit have created for us, we can’t help but be in awe. We can’t help but be overwhelmed. And we are not merely spectators to all this. The Holy Spirit really likes to play along.”

The cranes remained up for the parish Strawberry Tea on Saturday, June 15 and for one more Sunday service the next day, Trinity Sunday, June 16. ✠



Paper cranes in the nave, and you can see paper cranes in the hymn books and prayer books in the pews. PHOTO Lisann Gurney

### • Christ Church Cathedral Installs Debra Sparrow Weavings •

SUBMISSION Alicia Ambrosio

To the casual passerby, the two woven blankets hanging at the back of the Cathedral Narthex are simply two beautiful examples of traditional Musqueam weaving. While they are beautiful, they are two symbols of healing, hope, and of an important step on a journey towards a new relationship.

The blankets, titled *Golden Threads from Heaven* by Debra Sparrow, the woman who wove them, represent a step on her personal journey of self discovery and healing. They also represent an important step in the Cathedral community’s journey towards building right relations with First Nations.

Sparrow started out as a Coast Salish graphic artist, moved into jewellery design, and more or less fell into weaving. “I grew up with the assimilation process,” Sparrow told the Cathedral’s Artistic Associate Donna Wong-Juliani. “We were not allowed to practice our culture. Anything to do with our culture... was not allowed to be practiced,” she said. But every time she saw a traditional object with traditional designs, she would ask herself why certain designs were found on certain objects, and “Who were these people? What influenced them? What was their vision?” Through observation she began to understand her ancestors.

The search for her identity took a bit of a twist when her sister Wendy started taking a weaving class. Debra would visit the class, sitting at the back watching. Over time she picked it up. Eventually Debra joined the group. “There were ten women. None of us knew anything about the history of weaving.” What Debra did know was, “I wanted to be a part of the world that defines me as

a Musqueam woman.”

So, Debra moved into the world of traditional Musqueam weaving.

When Debra was approached by the Cathedral community to create two blankets to hang in the Narthex she hesitated. Her upbringing was impacted by the reality of residential schools and assimilation. The Church was not a positive place for Debra and she initially told the Cathedral’s Artist-in-Residence, Thomas Roach that weaving for a church was not something she thought she could bring herself to do.

But then she took time to reflect. “I thought deeply about Jesus, and where he’d be,” Debra told Cathedral parishioners gathered at the installation of *Golden Threads* on June 15. Debra said she felt Jesus would not be happy about what his followers had done to First Nations.

She agreed to weave the blankets and decided to leave the design up to God. She thought of using two colours—white and gold—to represent “the purity of the intent of what God wants of us,” she said. Other than that, Debra said she stood in front of her loom and prayed. Slowly, the design took shape, a design she says was given to her by God and the spirit of her ancestors.

One blanket represents “the beginning of who we were,” life before European contact. The second blanket represents the journey to a new way of life, moving into the future. The straggly warp threads hanging off the ends of the blankets represent what happened over 150 years of contact with settlers.

The blankets were officially installed in

### • Welcome EDNP Visitors •

The June 15 Eucharist with Ordinations at Christ Church Cathedral was blessed with the presence of a cohort from the diocese of New Westminster’s Companion Diocese; Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines (EDNP).

The group with their hosts, Fr. Arvin Amayag, Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton and gathering priest for the local chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and Felly Ferinas, spouse of the Rev. Expedito Farinas, Rector of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill posed for photos with Archbishop Skelton and her husband the Rev. Eric Stroo, Deacon at St. Michael’s,

Vancouver.

There was a lot of activity taking place in the diocese of New Westminster mid and late June through July, so the visitors had a lot to do. The Diocesan School for Parish Development was taking place up at Vancouver School of Theology with a number of EDNP members in attendance.

A couple of weeks later, Fr. Arvin and others from Vancouver brought some of the EDNP guests to the Synod Office where Archdeacon Douglas Fenton gave a tour and introduced them to Diocesan Comptroller, Shailene Caparas (second from right in photo). ✠



Hosts and EDNP guests with Archbishop Skelton and Deacon Stroo at Christ Church Cathedral, June 15. PHOTO Randy Murray



Hosts and EDNP guests with Shailene Caparas and Archdeacon Fenton in Shailene’s office, June 28. PHOTO Submitted



Debra Sparrow addresses the attendees at the installation with the blankets hanging behind her. PHOTO Alicia Ambrosio



Debra Sparrow with Margaret George, a Tsleil-Waututh Elder who Debra presented with a replica of one of the blankets. PHOTO Alicia Ambrosio



The blankets as viewed from the stairs. You can just see the bottom of the *Tree of Life* window above the blankets. PHOTO Alicia Ambrosio

the Narthex of the Cathedral on June 15. Darren Xu, a friend of Debra’s, led a quartet in performing music he composed that was inspired by the blankets. Members of the Cathedral community prayed over the

blankets. Debra presented Chief Edward John and Tsleil-Waututh Elder Margaret George with replicas of her blankets to recognize the strength it took for them to “come forward in this house.” ✠

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Aboriginal Day Celebration & Feast at the Synod Office •



Kwhlil Gibaygum Nisga'a Dancers. PHOTO Randy Murray

It was windy but warm and sunny at 1410 Nanton for the Aboriginal Day Feast and Celebration held on the green space between the Trendell Lounge (the gathering space shared by the Synod Office and St. John's, Shaughnessy) and the church.

Last year, on July 25, the first such event was held and it was decided that this year it be held closer to Canada's National Indigenous People's Day which is celebrated on June 21.

Diocesan Indigenous Justice Ministry Coordinator, Jer Nii K'an Kwsdins (Jerry Adams) put a great program together and also arranged for a delicious catered lunch of seafood, hearty soup, salads and other

treats both savoury and sweet. The welcome was given by the Ven. Douglas Fenton, Executive Archdeacon of the diocese and Archdeacon of Vancouver and the MC for the event was Jerry, who made everyone in attendance feel very welcome.

There were three cultural performances:

- Kwhlil Gibaygum Nisga'a Dancers
- V'ni Dansi, Yvonne Chartrand Metis Dansers
- Love Medicine, the Big Drum

And two speakers: CEO Kevin Barlow, Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council and Constable Rick Lavallee, from the Vancouver Police Department. ✦



LEFT Constable Rick Lavallee. RIGHT Yvonne Chartrand and Anne Maia Sørensen of V'ni Dansi. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Love Medicine Big Drum. PHOTO Randy Murray

• Thank-you Heather for 25 Years of Ministry! •

SUBMISSION Stephen Rowe

Sunday, June 23 marked the end of the Sunday School year for the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey. The parish took this occasion to mark 25 years of ministry by Heather Melder in her role as leader of the Sunday School. During the announcements prior to the Dismissal, Heather was unexpectedly invited to come to the front of the church along with present and past members of the Sunday School. Also included were past and present Sunday School leaders who had shared ministry with Heather during her time in leadership. The parish made a number of presentations to Heather: two outdoor plants for her garden (a real passion for her), and a gift certificate for Blue Ruby where she might pick out a piece to commemorate her years of service. However, the principal gift was a

charitable one. In Heather's name the parish purchased sheep, goats, chickens and a cow via the PWDRF World of Hope program. With the government multiplying each gift by six, the over \$800 that was raised becomes \$5,000 through this scheme! Both Heather and the parish were delighted at this outcome honouring her wonderful years of service by supporting families seeking to make a living in different parts of the world. Supporting PWDRF has always been important for the parish but also for Heather. Heather spearheaded a number of fundraising events over the years with young people and for children's Christian formation as part of the parish's contributions to the Anglican Development Fund. ✦



The Gifts presented by former pupils: Zac Groves, Charlotte Anonby, Gareth Anonby, assisted by Al Denham seen on the right. PHOTO Carol Williams



LEFT Heather with Al Denham, Debbie Osborne, Joan Harris and Amanda Lokay. RIGHT Heather receives words of appreciation and a gift from rector/reporter the Rev. Stephen Rowe. PHOTOS Carol Williams

• Congratulation to Father Ayoob, Canadian Citizen •

The Rev. Ayoob Shawkat Adwar, a priest of our diocese became a Canadian citizen on June 11 at a government ceremony in Surrey. Fr. Ayoob came to Canada five years ago from Iraq as a refugee and was previously a monk and priest of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Mosul/Nineveh. His initial entry into the Anglican community was through the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey where he led Chaldean worship on Sunday afternoons. He and many members of that congregation became Anglicans. He was received and confirmed into the Anglican Communion in December 2016 by Archbishop Skelton and a Service of Reception and Recognition of Priesthood was celebrated on March 26, 2017 at Epiphany. As an Anglican priest, he has served as curate at St. Stephen, West Vancouver and priest-in-charge at St. Timothy Burnaby. He has begun his current ministry as priest-in-charge of St. Hilda, Sechelt. Congratulations and Welcome, Fr. Ayoob! ✦



PHOTO Jonathan LLOYD

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## • Day of the Seafarer 2019 •

On Tuesday, June 25, the Day of the Seafarer was celebrated at the two locations in the diocese of New Westminster, Port of Vancouver (Vanterm) at the Mission to Seafarers Centre (Flying Angel Club) and Delta Port.

At the Vanterm location, Senior Port Chaplain, the Rev. Peter Smyth and Chaplain, Pastor Gary Roosma were present, supported by family members and volunteers all on board to welcome guests for a complimentary BBQ.

The events at the two locations were scheduled to run from 4pm to 7pm. Rev. Smyth was happy to report that nearly 60 seafarers accessed the two locations to participate in the festivities.

At the Vancouver location a good number of volunteers were on hand with both the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken, Rector of St. Michael's, Broadway (accompanied by Ezra) and parishioner Darcy present to help Pastor Gary with the food preparations.

The theme for the 2019 edition of Day of the Seafarer—*I am onboard with gender equality*—recognizes the increased role and presence of women in the shipping industry and onboard ship, reinforcing that women

are equal partners.

“It is an opportunity to highlight opportunities for women, as well as the contributions they are already making in a wide range of maritime careers and professions, but the focus will be very firmly on one aspect of that community—seafarers.” International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

The Day of the Seafarer is an opportunity to say thank you to all seafarers, who bring us 90% of what we use in our daily lives.

Please contact the Mission if you have questions at 604.253.4421 or m2svancouver@gmail.com. ✠



Welcoming Sign. PHOTO Randy Murray



Pastor Gary serves the guests. PHOTO Peter Smyth



Mission to Seafarers Chaplain, Pastor Gary Roosma and Rev. Wilmer Toyoken at the Grill. PHOTO Peter Smyth



Ezra has a second burger (will he make it?). PHOTO Randy Murray

## • Filmmakers Reunited for Gather, Send, Transform •

For the first time in almost two years the intrepid diocesan communications film crew of Cliff Caprani and Randy Murray were back in business, putting together a film for the *Diocesan School for Parish Development*.

The project focus was an eight-minute promotional film available initially at General Synod (July 10–16 in Vancouver) to be viewed by General Synod (GS) delegates as part of the diocese of New Westminster's program department offerings. The purpose for creating a vehicle to increase awareness of the school is to expand the learning program to other dioceses throughout the Anglican Church of Canada. The diocese of Ottawa and the diocese of New Westminster have fully established the school under the administration of current director, the Rev. Andrew Halladay who is also Vicar of St. Andrew's, Langley. Archbishop Melissa Skelton is one of the principal founders and architects of the school and its curriculum having initially established the College for Congregational Development in the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia over a decade ago. The schools attract students from all over North America and for the last two years have also included among the students, members of the diocese of New Westminster's Companion diocese, the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines (EDNP).

In the film, the teachings of the school are viewed through the lens of a specific

parish group and the implementation and establishment of an adjunct ministry. The parish group is St. Dunstan's, Aldergrove and the ministry is the St. Dunstan's Centre for Spiritual Renewal. The centre was envisioned and planned prior to the principals' attending the school, however real growth began as the learnings, tools and processes gained at the school were utilized.

The diocesan communications team briefly attended the school on June 20 where and when photos and footage of the plenary and the St. Dunstan's group were acquired. On June 23 and 28 there were visits to the main Sunday morning Eucharist and to the *Lectio and Labyrinth* gathering on the Friday, both of these events at St. Dunstan's in Aldergrove where the filmmakers were made to feel very welcome, which was much appreciated and also contributed to a positive environment for collecting images, footage and interviews.

Post-production and editing of the film was completed on July 5. The YouTube post of the film called *Gather, Transform, Send* is available online at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4z-2ff-jMIM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4z-2ff-jMIM).

Many thanks to the Rev. David Taylor, the Rev. Andrew Halladay, the Rev. Helen Tervo, Lorie Martin, Katherine Murray, Doug Tindall, Carol Tindall (ODNW), Marisa Farr and Sherry Wright for their cheerful cooperation and hospitality. ✠



The St. Dunstan's Six at the School for Parish Development. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Videographer/Editor Cliff Caprani adjusts for a low-level procession shot. RIGHT Cliff films the greetings at the Peace. PHOTOS Randy Murray



## • The Diocese of New Westminster General Synod Delegates for 2019 •

Many thanks to the Rev. John Stephens for sending in this photo of the diocese of New Westminster General Synod 2019 (GS2019) delegates with the Primate and the Prolocutor.

This photo was taken late afternoon, July 15, the penultimate day of GS2019: Rob Dickson, AAM; Glen Mitchell; Clare Urquhart; Rev. Marnie Peterson; Kim Hodge, ODNW; Archdeacon Douglas Fenton; Rev. John Stephens; Archbishop Fred Hiltz; and Cynthia Haines-Turner.

The next day Archbishop Hiltz was officially succeeded by the new primate, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls and Cynthia

Haines-Turner was succeeded by the new prolocutor, the Rev. Karen Egan.

Missing from the photo is Archbishop Melissa Skelton who had been in hospital since July 8 undergoing tests for recurring symptoms that she had been experiencing for a number of months. As of this writing in late July, Archbishop Skelton is still not feeling 100% and does not yet have a diagnosis.

Coverage of GS2019, *I Have Called YOU By Name*, is available in this September 2019 issue of the *Anglican Journal* with much more in-depth coverage available online. ✠



## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### • Groundwork Series Back for a Second Year •

SUBMISSION Tasha Carrothers

Participants in the pilot offering of *Groundwork* found the workshops so encouraging that they showed up for an extra refresher session in June. When asked what worked, they talked about the mix of clergy and lay people learning together, hearing about life in other parishes, and the good mix of learning, practice and reflection. They also liked that there was lots of laughter. So, just what is this program about?

*Groundwork* helps parishes prepare the ground for membership growth. Over four Saturday workshops, parish teams learn practical, hands-on strategies for inviting, greeting and orienting newcomers. This includes developing a clear sense of life-giving Anglican Christianity as it is expressed in each parish, ways to help newcomers navigate complex worship, tips for refreshing websites and social media, and more. Parish teams plan a special service over Advent or Christmas that provides the focus for implementing these strategies.

There is a \$500 matching grant for participating parishes. Space is limited and teams need to apply for a place.

The workshops are taking place on September 21, October 19, November 16 and January 25. Contact Tasha Carrothers, Missioner for Parish Development by calling 604.684.6306, ext. 227 or email [tcarrothers@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:tcarrothers@vancouver.anglican.ca). ✦



Small Group Session. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Tasha Carrothers ready to facilitate. PHOTO Randy Murray

### • Be a Labyrinth Volunteer •

SUBMISSION Maria Hizon

We are looking for volunteers to host the Labyrinth at St. Paul's—a quiet, contemplative space located at 1140 Jervis Street—during the weekday and weekend mornings, two candle-lit Friday evenings (one of which includes live music), New Year's Eve and Day and other events.

Volunteering is easy. Why not make a meaningful contribution with just a few hours a month? No experience is necessary. Volunteers will receive training and orientation.

We're also open to anyone who would like to help in other areas.

If you are interested, please send an email to Sharon Connaughty at [labyrinth\\_vol\\_coordinator@stpaulsanglican.bc.ca](mailto:labyrinth_vol_coordinator@stpaulsanglican.bc.ca) or call 604.873.8141. ✦



RIGHT St. Paul's Labyrinth.  
BOTTOM Joanne makes a welcoming space.

PHOTOS Submitted



### • Blanket Exercise at October Wrongs to Rights Gathering •

SUBMISSION Monica Gibson-Pugsley

"The *Blanket Exercise* is a workshop explaining the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Blankets arranged on the floor represent land, and participants are invited to step into the roles of First Nation, Inuit, and later Métis peoples. The exercise is a unique, participatory history lesson developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and educators among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples."

Although originated by KAIROS, a Canadian faith based ecumenical organization in 1997, the Blanket Exercise is for everyone; churchgoers and unchurched alike. It is for those of any or no religion, any age, ethnic origin and orientation—in short, it is open to all "new" and "old" Canadians and everything in-between. So please invite others to attend. Everybody is welcome (though it is a school day), and there is no charge!

The facilitators will be Shirley Hardman, Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs at University of the Fraser Valley, Chilliwack, and Grand Chief Clarence 'Kat' Pennier from Sq'ewlets (Scowlitz) First Nation, Lake Errock.

Participants are requested if they are

able, to bring along one or more blankets to be used at the event. These blankets laid on the floor will represent Canada from coast to coast to coast. We are also asked to bring socks to wear as we walk on the blankets.

The *Blanket Exercise* will take place Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at the *Wrongs to Rights* group meeting in All Saints Anglican Church hall (6904 Lougheed Highway, Agassiz). We will gather for refreshments and fellowship at 12:30pm, gathering at 1pm for the *Blanket Exercise*. The event will close at 3pm.

We look forward to seeing you there—Everyone is welcome! Please email Monica Gibson-Pugsley at [mgp2000@shaw.ca](mailto:mgp2000@shaw.ca) if you plan to attend. ✦



PHOTO Courtesy of KAIROS

### • Dessert Social & Vaudeville Show at St. Andrew's •

Join us on Saturday, October 5 from 6pm–9pm at St. Andrew's, Langley (20955 Old Yale Road) for a fun-filled evening for the whole family!

Enjoy a dessert buffet followed by a show from the society for the preservation

of Vaudeville—*The Vaudevillians!*

Come and bring a friend!

For tickets contact the office at 604.534.6514 or email [standrewslangley@shaw.ca](mailto:standrewslangley@shaw.ca). Admission \$20. ✦



The Vaudevillians.

### • Peace Be to the Whole Community •

The Story of St. Paul's Anglican Church in the West End of Vancouver

Congratulations to Leslie Buck, long time St. Paul's parishioner and frequent contributor to *Topic* on the publication of his new book, *Peace be to the whole community: The story of St Paul's Anglican Church in the West End of Vancouver*.

The press package features the following summary:

"The story begins with a little wooden church on Hornby Street, built in 1889 as the new City was taking shape. As the bush was cleared, the church was moved to Jervis Street at the top of the hill, where it expanded and grew.

As the City prospered, St. Paul's became a vibrant and important part of the life of the West End.

Following the end of the Second World War, church life continued vigorously, but the population of the West End was changing and so were attitudes towards religion and what the Church stood for. The book relates how St. Paul's responded by developing new and more inclusive forms of liturgy, opening up its property for use by community groups, addressing the AIDS crisis and the needs of the LGBTQ2+ community, and creating imaginative programs like the St. Paul's Advocacy Office and the St. Paul's Labyrinth."

The book is available for purchase at St.



Paul's for \$20. It contains 127 pages of text with 85 illustrations, many in colour, six appendices, a list of sources and an index.

To order a copy for delivery by mail, write to the church office at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 1130 Jervis Street, Vancouver V6E 2C7.

If ordering by mail please enclose a cheque (payable to St. Paul's Anglican Church) for \$26 for mailing within Canada, or \$30 for mailing to the United States, or \$40 for mailing overseas. ✦

OPINION

The Eucharist in 1 Corinthians 11:23-24  
Part 1 Handing Over

STEPHEN BLACK  
Christ Church Cathedral

“For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,  
that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed...” 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

I bet Judas is the first thing that comes to your mind when you read “on the night when [Jesus] was betrayed.” Who else would this possibly be about? What would you say if I suggested that it was not referring to Judas but to God? Am I suggesting that God betrayed Jesus somehow?

The word that the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* (NRSV) translates as “betrayed” is *paradidomi*. A better translation of this word is “to hand over.” If it is translated as “betrayed” then we must inevitably conclude that Paul is thinking about Judas. However, there is little reason to assume this is so. *Paradidomi* is often a significant word for Paul. In *Romans 1:26* Paul suggests that those who do not treat God as God, but turn aside to false gods, will be “turned over” (*paradidomi*) to what he considers to be dishonourable passions. We might not agree with Paul that God actually works like this, but I think it is nevertheless true that Paul is saying something like this. He is saying that (what he thinks are) dishonourable passions are not sins as much as punishment. The real sin is idolatry, the punishment is to be “turned over.” So, when Paul says that Jesus is to be “turned over” in *1 Corinthians 11:23b*, it very well might have nothing at all to do with Judas, and everything to do with God. Is Paul saying that God turned Jesus over to the power of shame, sin, and death on that fateful night? The shame of the cross and the death-dealing power of sin running amuck? In another letter to the Corinthians Paul wrote: “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (*2 Corinthians 5:21*). Perhaps being handed over is to be understood in this context?

John tells a story of some religious leaders wanting to arrest Jesus but could not “because his hour had not yet come” (*John 7:28-30*). Likewise, Luke tells a story where Jesus manages to get everyone in Nazareth worked up to the point where they take him to a cliff with the intention of throwing him over. At the climax of the story Luke says that he simply “passed through the midst of them and went on his way” (*Luke 4:30*).

I typically don’t like trying to explain Paul by referring to John and Luke. Nevertheless, I transgress my own normal interpretive practice and suggest that maybe John and Luke both write off Jesus as if

he were in a protective bubble. No harm could come to him despite the ill-will that surrounded him. This situation changed dramatically when we get to the passion narrative. If Jesus was in a protective bubble, it was, in John’s words, only until “his hour came.” Once his hour came, God handed him over to the power of destruction—and his protective bubble popped.

When we hand something over to someone else, we lose control of it. There is no guarantee that the one to whom we hand it over will treat it or even think about it in the same way as we do. This is the case when Jesus was handed over. Those who shamed him by means of the cross did not give him the same care that he had experienced when under God’s protection—when he was in his protective bubble.

Handing something over to someone else is a dangerous business. Imagine someone handing over their company to someone else who does not share the same vision, and that company gets shipwrecked. Or, imagine a parent who loves their child yet must “hand her over” to this often-cruel world. As much as a parent may wish told hold on to that child and protect her, they must nevertheless hand her over. The child must grow up and venture off on her own.

The thing being transferred is in a vulnerable position. Sometimes this vulnerability is honoured and the thing is cherished, and sometimes it is not. Jesus was not cherished once he was handed over. He was vulnerable outside of his bubble, and the forces of evil pounced upon that vulnerability.

The NRSV obscures a play on words in *1 Corinthians 11:23-24*. When Paul says that he “handed over” that which he first received, he uses *paradidomi*, the same word we have been discussing. Paul “hands over” the tradition concerning Jesus being “handed over.” So, the tradition itself parallels Jesus in that both are “handed over;” both are subject to potential abuse.

When the tradition is handed over, it moves from one set of hands into another set of hands. There is no telling what the new set of hands will do. When the tradition is handed over there is a danger that it will not be appropriately received. Indeed, it seems that the Corinthians themselves are an example of not receiving the tradition in



PHOTO iStock

a helpful way. When the tradition is handed over it becomes vulnerable to the one receiving. The tradition is vulnerable just as Jesus is vulnerable. The thing about tradition is that it *needs* to be handed over. Tradition is by definition that which is handed over. The Greek word for tradition (*Paradosis*) is merely the noun version of the verb *paradidomi*, which I have been discussing. Tradition, in the New Testament, is that which is handed over.

Tradition becomes vulnerable whenever it is handed over, and it is by nature always that which is handed over. It is always vulnerable. If this is true, then to what is it vulnerable? Some might say change. Many battles have been fought in the church because this or that did not accord with tradition. My mother used to say, “Change is inevitable; growth is optional.” I’ve always liked that. But what if I apply this saying to tradition? The question then is not whether tradition changes or not, because it cannot but change. Handing something over to another is itself a change. Change then is not the problem. Tradition is *not* abused by being changed—following my mother’s saying, it is abused when it does not embrace change as a constructive occasion for growth.

Paul is not reprimanding the Corinthians because they changed what he had handed over to them; he reprimands them because the change they make is a bad one.

They are using the celebration of Eucharist to display wealth and status, to get drunk, and to shame those of lesser status and wealth. The changes they introduced did not merely change the rite—they betrayed the very core message of the rite. What was supposed to be a celebration of a surprising unity borne of the Spirit became an event celebrating division (*1 Corinthians 10:17, 11:17-18*). The changes the Corinthians made essentially destroyed the rite. So, it is not surprising that Paul parallels the “handing over” of Jesus with the “handing over” of tradition.

Again, the problem is not change, which is inevitable, but destructive change. I would suggest that every generation faces the challenge of tradition. The Christianity of our children and their children will probably not look like our Christianity, just like our Christianity doesn’t exactly resemble that of our parents and grandparents. How do we honour it and maintain its life-giving celebration? How do we keep it from becoming an agent of destruction? Those in the position of handing over the tradition must take responsibility to teach and learn from those who are receiving. What to change? What to keep? In many ways this is the decision of the ones receiving the tradition. Yet they cannot make the choices they must make in isolation of those who have gone before. It is a dance, and we all must learn our parts.

We all need to drink deeply of the tradition to answer these questions. The church must be truly intergenerational if it is to be up to this task. The tradition spreads and changes—sometime for the good, but sometimes, as in the case of the church in Corinth, for the worse. Regardless, the one thing the tradition isn’t is static. It is always on the move. We might seek to preserve the tradition just as we found it, but typically all we’ll end up doing is serving an echo of what use to be. It is like serving the thunder here in our ears when the lightning that caused it is already on the move elsewhere. Tradition is a living growing moving thing, not some lifeless artifact. Tradition does not demand that we simply replicate what was before, rather that we should honour it and move to where the action is—that is, where God is! God is on the move, and any tradition that isn’t also on the move is on the way to becoming irrelevant. ♣

Part II of Stephen Black’s opinion piece will be published in the October 2019 issue of Topic.

A Learning By Heart  
Schooldays 1930s & 1940s

HERBERT O’DRISCOLL  
Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary,  
Former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

When education experts wish to decry the use of memorizing in early education, they use the short slightly harsh word “rote.” This makes possible a short sharp dismissal of what they consider to be an outmoded and discredited method of teaching.

But suppose there is another reason for preserving learning by memory...

I grew up in the twilight years of what was then called learning by heart. While I admit that we did indeed learn our times tables by rote, learning by heart went far beyond imparting the fact that eight times eight is 64. I will admit to singing off the names of the ancient medieval dioceses that were still the names of our Church of Ireland dioceses. *Ossory, Ferns and Leigh-*

*lin, Killaloe, Kilfenora and Kilmacduagh*. I abjectly confess to recalling to this day the wonderful names of the four great battles of the Napoleonic wars in Europe—*Blenheim, Ramilles, Oudenard, Malplaquet!* Learning by heart was a kind of wonderful—even magical—doorway to a vast country of cultural beauty and sacred wisdom.

We learned passages of Shakespeare and the Psalms of David. We had the *Book of Common Prayer* and the Bible, having them as literary resources in our lives as we would any other literature. I realize now that our relationship with the Bible was far more as literature than it was about religion. Passage after passage was chosen for its beauty of language. Some might also contain a deep

truth about life that was far beyond our understanding as children, but, because we would then be given the task of learning that passage by heart, it stood a much greater chance of serving us in adult years.

From Shakespeare would come Anthony’s speech at Caesar’s funeral, or Portia’s impassioned plea that:

“The quality of mercy is not strained...”

Hamlet’s soliloquy on the battlements of Elsinore:

“To be or not to be, that is the question...”

Henry’s speech to his army before Agincourt:

CONTINUED ON THE BACK PAGE

## First Notions

NII K'AN KWSWDINS (AKA JERRY ADAMS)

Indigenous Justice Ministry Coordinator, diocese of New Westminster; Parishioner, St. James'

### Celebrating Together

A Reflection on National Indigenous Day

Indigenous Day for 2019, held as it usually is on June 21 was an eventful day for our people. Time for reflection, acknowledgement, and being with family and friends is always a big part of our gatherings on this day. Also, meeting people of all Nations is a big part of our day, and we enjoy the different styles of music, drumming, and of course the food of different Nations. But most of all it is rewarding to see the little ones learning their language, and being part of the drumming and dancing, learning by watching, joining in and through that participation coming to understand their own part in our ongoing history. It makes my heart feel light, and gives me much hope for the future, to see the next generation decolonizing and being more part of their own culture.

Our dance group, Kwhlii Gibaygum Nisga'a Dancers performed 12 times during the two weeks surrounding June 21, from Chilliwack to Victoria. In five days, we did ten performances, and though it was a tough schedule it was wonderful to share our "dance family" togetherness. We hope that our enjoyment in our dancing and singing, in the sharing of our history, and our love, shines through to the communities that gather, and to the hosts who have invited us to come and spend time with them.

Wal-aks, our leader and knowledge keeper, not only helps us in our dancing, drumming and language learning, but has taught us to make the button blankets and aprons we wear. He has also shared with us the skill of weaving with cedar. He has shared many stories about our families and their connections with one another, and how our stories are passed to the next generation. His knowledge our *Ayuuk*—our laws and protocols—is amazing. Each and every one of us has a story behind his or her Nisga'a name, and a connection to the matriarch in their house. I am from

the house *Wilp Sim'oogt Minee'eskw*—the Eagle family. My grandmother was Eagle, my mother was Eagle and therefore I am from the Eagle family.

In urban settings like Vancouver it is hard to maintain immediate family connections, especially when our Nisga'a home communities are so far away. But we get our connections with each other as Nisga'a on Monday nights for dance practice and Thursday nights for language class. This is where we get not only language classes but discover family connections and also protocols for our families.

We miss it when we do not have dance practice or language class, because of the connections we have made with each other. On June 21, and whenever we get together, we celebrate a return to our extended family, made from our connections on Mondays



The author, Nii K'an Kwsdins as MC at the Feast in Honour of Indigenous Day held at the Synod Office, June 19. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Members of the Kwhlii Gibaygum Nisga'a Dancers conclude a dance with the release of feathers. RIGHT Knowledge Keeper, Wal-aks (on the right). PHOTOS Randy Murray

and Thursdays.

So when we dance and sing for the communities who have invited us to be part of their celebrations, we dance from our hearts, and this is reflected in the way we get so many positive responses after our sharing of our songs. In return we feel the kindness and warmth given to us as we dance.

National Indigenous Peoples Day has become not just a "once a year" celebration of who we are, but an ongoing way of life for us and a reflection of how we feel about ourselves. We are not afraid to tell our story and share who we are as Indigenous people. Once we were not noticed, and now we have strong beginnings of equality for us Indigenous people. It is heartening to see the Anglican churches, the Vancouver Police Department, the schools, and many other people and agencies recognize us as equals.

We have always wanted to be recognized as a part of Canada—not just as problems and statistics, but as contributors to our country.

I was very tired following so many events last June, but it is a *good tired*. *Lukw'il Aam goodiy*—my heart is happy, and thankful for all we have shared together in this month of celebration!

*Amaa sa* — Good day ✦



## A Learning By Heart

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

"This day is called the feast of Crispin... He that outlives this day... will rouse him at the name of Crispin..."

Prose passages would include a part of Edmund Burke's speech in the House responding to the killing of Marie Antoinette:

"It is now twelve years since I first met the Queen of France, then the Dauphiness..."

Or Dr. Samuel Johnson's letter to Lord Chesterfield on the role of a patron:

"Is not a patron my lord, one who looks at a man drowning in the water, and when he attains the bank, encumbers him with help."

From the library of the Old Testament would come the story of creation:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."

David's heart-rending lament for Saul and Jonathan:

"How are the mighty fallen and the weapons of war perished..."

The call of Isaiah:

"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw the Lord, high and lifted up..."

In the New Testament we would learn most

of the second chapter of Luke and its telling of the birth of our Lord, also the song of his Mother Mary when the angel asks her to bear the sacred child:

"My soul doth magnify the Lord..."

Paul's great tribute to the nature of Love

or Charity:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels..."

Paul's evocation of the heart of Christian faith as he writes his letter to the community in Philippi:



Canon O'Driscoll signs a copy of his latest book *A Greening of Imaginations* during a scheduled book signing event at General Synod 2019. He is assisted by Jane Dittrich. PHOTO Randy Murray

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus..."

Collects were learned by heart, as well as Psalms:

"God who hast caused all holy scripture to be written for our learning..."

"The sun shall not burn thee by day nor the moon by night..."

"Those who go down to the sea in ships and have their business in the great waters."

Had we only known it—and I think some of us realized this towards the end of schooling and the beginning of university—we had feasted on language, and for some of us the very richness of the language carried the faith into our lives.

Countless times in future years there would be reason to recall some passage that spoke to what one was experiencing at that time. It happens to this day. To do so is far more than the groping recollection of a long-forgotten memory. Rather it is the celebration of something treasured for a lifetime and now reached for as resource to nurture the weary spirit.

It is not a learning by rote. It is a learning by heart. ✦