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Dear Friends,

I write to thank you for your participation in the recent regional gatherings. We had very good attendance at and feedback from the five gatherings. Overall, 216 folk attend the gatherings. Enclosed is an executive summary of the feedback. At its June meeting, Diocesan Council unanimously approved a motion outlining the following goals for Synod 2018:

1. All Synod delegates understand the diocesan vision, have seen examples of it being lived out in the diocese and are leaving Synod with a sense of enthusiasm and optimism about how the vision is/will be lived out in their church communities.
2. Demonstrate widely recognized, tangible signs that healing and reconciliation within the life of the diocese is happening and is an ongoing priority.
3. Demonstrate a strong, clear sense that, after the diocesan Year of Reconciliation, we are beginning to establish new relationships, built on trust and mutual respect, with the First Peoples of these islands and inlets.
4. Delegates understand and approve a realistic five-year financial plan that includes a substantial fundraising component.
5. Create a space to worship, break bread, spend time together, and celebrate being a diocesan community.
6. Conduct the regular canonical business required of a synod (appointments, elections, constitutional amendments, budget presentation).

I have heard from a variety of people in the diocese about the importance of the healing ministry in the Eucharist at the gatherings. They have said to me that these opportunities along with the service last year for Camp Columbia have gone a long way to help the diocese to heal from the pain of the church closures that occurred in the diocese.

We will continue, as a council, to work on two areas as we move towards the Fall regional gatherings. Firstly, we will clarify for the diocese what the long-term effect the vision will have



SYNOD 2018 UPDATE & NEXT STEPS

BACKGROUND

Since January 2017, Diocesan Council has been working on a vision implementation plan which will culminate at Synod 2018. At its January meeting, council was introduced to the “River of Life”—a timeline-building process it would use over the next sixteen months to determine and implement the action steps required to build towards a successful synod in 2018 and beyond.

At its February meeting, council was divided into table groups based on the following six vision implementation task teams: Engaging God’s World, Emerging Ministries, Reconciliation & Beyond, Youth & Family Life, Worship Resources, Lay Ministry and Leadership Formation. Each team was asked to consider the following three questions:

1. What do we want to have accomplished at the end of Synod 2018?
2. What will the takeaway be after Synod 2018 (What direction will DC be looking for from Synod?)
3. What kind of synod do we want to create (tone, quality, outcomes)?

The results of this work are presented below:

Idea/Suggestion/Goal	Task	Outcome <i>at or after Synod</i>	Action Items	Who?	When?
DC is the keeper of the vision It’s our job to keep the vision out front and to champion it	Bishop’s town hall parish meetings to share the vision Who else could do these?	Widespread understanding of what the vision states and it’s relevance in the parishes			
Synod delegates to attend regional gatherings	Develop a promotion strategy to ensure significant participation	Informed and prepared synod delegates			
Provide a space for healing and	Create a quiet room	An opportunity is created for synod delegates that carry			

Idea/Suggestion/Goal	Task	Outcome <i>at or after Synod</i>	Action Items	Who?	When?
		A sense that Anglicans are choosing Yes to our shared vision/future			
		Non-legislative			
		Participatory			
Distribute a FAQ and job description to delegates		Prepared delegates			
		Balanced budget for 2019			
		Fundraising success stories to be shared at Synod			
		Community engagement (God's world)/partnerships highlighted at Synod			

At its March meeting, council continued the planning work in small groups to answer the following question.

What needs to have been accomplished by this time next year for us to be ready for Synod?

Answer:

- Agenda
- Presentations on each vision direction (video, in-person/storytelling e.g. newcomers to Canada)
- Worship Liturgy (complete, organized & rehearsed)
- Delegates are prepared (including youth)
- Nominations in
- Motions in
- 5-Year Financial Plan (should be presented by director of development and finance officer)
- Presentation on building projects (2016-2018 and beyond)
- Sacred Journey visual presentation (e.g. stations of the cross-type)
- Venue (selected, mapped out, way-finding signage ready, AV requirements mapped and organized, catering)



REGIONAL MEETINGS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

When given the opportunity, regional gathering participants enthusiastically embraced the exercise of reviewing the draft goals and offering feedback about their relevance and whether they are realistic. One region (Haro) wasn't given sufficient time to complete the exercise, so this summary reflects only in a nominal way feedback from that region.

Generally, participants agree that the goals outlined are appropriate for Synod 2018. They offered a few minor changes that have been incorporated into the revised goals found further in this document. It is important to note that groups consistently acknowledged that if these goals are to be accomplished the following steps should be taken:

1. Find appropriate, engaged potential Synod delegates asap (not waiting until 2018 vestry meetings) and ensuring they are included in all communication about Synod 2018 over the coming months.
2. Provide significant preparation/training to potential Synod delegates beginning as early as Fall 2017 so they can
 - a. make an informed decision about letting their name stand
 - b. be prepared to fully engage Synod 2018 as members.
3. Communicate the vision at every level of the diocese, leading up to Synod 2018, through storytelling. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways and through multiple channels (online, print, video, in-person testimonials). As many communication channels as possible should be utilized to get the message to parish members.
4. Ensure parishes do the work of aligning their parish vision with that of the diocesan vision and share the stories (with each other and the rest of the diocese) of how the vision is being lived out in their context.
5. Goal #3 – in order for this goal to be accomplished we will need to hear from relevant First Nations representatives about how well we are advancing it.
6. Ongoing education in all forms of reconciliation within the life of the diocese. Need a plan. Opportunities should be made available to parishes throughout the year.
7. If goal #4 (financial plan) is to be realized;
 - a. the director of stewardship and development needs to be in place asap
 - b. options need to be presented and considered by delegates and parishes long before Synod (i.e. fall and spring regional meetings, through parish presentations, email, parish mailing, on the website, *Diocesan Post*, other?).



ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

Cowichan/Malaspina: 47

St Christopher & St Aidan (0), St John the Baptist, Duncan (6), St John the Baptist, South Cowichan (3), St Martin of Tours, Gabriola (2), St Mary, Nanoose Bay (3), St Michael & All Angels (9), St Paul (9), St Peter (3), St Philip-by-the-Sea (2), St Philip (5), Other (5)

Haro: 11 (parish details unavailable)

Holy Trinity, Central Saanich, Pender and Saturna, Salt Spring, St Andrew, St Margaret of Scotland, St Mary Magdalene

Nimpkish: 61

St Mark (6), St Edmund (7) St John, Courtenay (5), St Peter, Campbell River (20), Trinity (6), St John, Duncan (2), Christ Church (4), St Columba, Port Hardy (2), St Peter, Comox (4), St Columba West Coast Mission (0), Other (5)

Selkirk: 29

Church of the Advent (3), Holy Trinity (3), St Mary of the Incarnation (2), St Michael & All Angels (2), St Peter & St Paul (11), Two Saints (8).

Tolmie: 48

St Luke (5), St Mary the Virgin (7), Christ Church Cathedral (10), St John the Divine (3), St Dunstan (3), St Barnabas (4), St George the Martyr (7), St Matthias (2), St Philip (4), Emmaus/The Abbey (1), Other (2)



4. Delegates understand and approve a realistic five-year financial plan that includes a substantial fundraising component.
5. Create a space to worship, break bread, spend time together, and celebrate being a diocesan community.
6. Conduct the regular canonical business required of a synod (appointments, elections, constitutional amendments, budget presentation).

II. What are the expected benefits if we accomplish these goals. In other words, what will be the qualitative or quantitative impact on parishes and individual Anglicans after Synod 2018?

Vision Implementation Team Discussions

Diocesan Council members will break up into the following groups:

Goal #1—Task Teams: Lay Ministry & Leadership Formation, Engaging God’s World

Goal #2 & 3—Task Teams: Reconciliation & Beyond, Worship Resources

Goal #4—Financial Plan Team (in progress/staff)

Goal #5—Synod Agenda Planning Committee—TBD at a later date

Goal #6—Synod Agenda Planning Committee (in progress/staff)

Each group is to work on the following question for the goal assigned to their group. The plans made at this meeting will help set the work plan for the fall Vision Implementation Team meetings and regional meetings.

- III. Based on the recommended actions in the executive summary above and notes from previous Diocesan Council meetings, what work needs to be done between now and April 1, 2018 to ensure we achieve our goals? How will that work be accomplished? For each task include “Action Step” “Who?” “When?”**