

Resolutions from the Committee on the Bishop's Charge ("A" Resolutions)

Resolution A-1

MOTION: Moved by Susan Roe-Finlay /
Seconded by Barbara Larson

RESOLVED THAT the members of this synod turn to our Bishop's reflection on Psalm 121 as an invitation to affirm the trustworthy character of our God in the midst of challenging times, and commit ourselves to remember the stories we carry as the people of God, learning from our history and opening ourselves and souls into an unsure and changing future.

Resolution A-2

MOTION: Moved by Susan Roe-Finlay /
Seconded by Barbara Larson

RESOLVED THAT the members of this synod seek ways to make a robust affirmation of the claims placed upon us by our Baptismal Covenant, committing ourselves to an ongoing and intentional exploration of the Covenant's call to a new life in Christ.

Resolution A-3

MOTION: Moved by Barbara Larson /
Seconded by Susan Roe-Finlay

RESOLVED THAT the call to make a unique and compelling case for Christ be embraced by the members of this synod as we commit ourselves to becoming more deeply informed, educated, and discerning disciples.

Resolution A-4

MOTION: Moved by Barbara Larson /
Seconded by Susan Roe-Finlay

RESOLVED THAT in response to Bishop Woodcroft's challenge to live as disciples in the world, the members of this synod commit ourselves to seeking to respond to the needs in our neighbourhoods, communities, and wider world.

Resolutions received after the printing of the Convening Circular ("C" Resolutions)

Resolution C-1 Letter from the Provincial Executive Council Regarding Provincial Name Change

MOTION: Moved by Reverend Theo Robinson /
Seconded by The Reverend Andrew Rampton

RESOLVED THAT this synod receive the letter from the Provincial Executive Council as presented.

Resolutions C-2, C-3, C-4 & C-5, submitted by Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Committee

Background:

In recent years, the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) has made some effort to address systemic racism, and to live out the baptismal commitment, “To strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.” At General Synod in 2007, the ACC proclaimed a Charter for Racial Justice which states: “We are called to be a church where people have the assurance that they will be treated with dignity and respect where they will find a community free of racism.” In his Bishop’s Charge to Synod 2020, Bishop Geoff Woodcroft called for decisive action within the Diocese of Rupert’s Land against all forms of discrimination, based on race, colour, nation, gender, creed, sexual orientation, and sexual preference. The killing of a black man, George Floyd, by police in May 2020 galvanised the ‘Black Lives Matter’ worldwide movement and ignited a focus on Anti Black Racism which has long been a source of discontent and pain in the ACC. In response to the Bishop’s Charge to Synod in 2020, the “Dismantling Anti Black Racism Committee” was established in late 2020. Through prayerful, extensive discussion, this Committee identified recommendations for consideration by the Bishop, including a recommendation to institute written policies, practices, and procedures (e.g., through Diocesan Council, Executive Council, Synod, etc.) which account for and promote diversity within the Diocese of Rupert’s Land. Specifically, the Committee noted that systemic racism and other forms of discrimination in the Diocese of Rupert’s Land may limit representation of, participation of, and leadership by marginalized persons within Diocesan-level governance and decision making bodies. As such, the Committee agreed that a resolution be raised at Synod 2022 to call upon the Diocese to dedicate time and resources to increasing diversity and improving inclusion and equity in its governance and decision making bodies.

Resolution C-2:

MOTION: Moved by Reverend Wilson Akinwale /
 Seconded by Reverend Deacon R. Susan Smandych

RESOLVED THAT Diocesan Council undertake a critical examination of the diversity of representation, participation, and leadership of Diocesan-level governance and decision-making bodies.

Resolution C-3:

MOTION: Moved by Reverend Wilson Akinwale /
 Seconded by Reverend Deacon R. Susan Smandych

RESOLVED THAT this examination considers demographic diversity within the constituency of the Diocese of Rupert’s Land, and compares the diversity of representation, participation, and leadership of Diocesan-level governance and decision-making bodies, with demographic diversity, to assess whether the existing diversity in the Diocesan structures reflects diversity within society at large.

Resolution C-4:

MOTION: Moved by Reverend Wilson Akinwale /
 Seconded by Reverend Deacon R. Susan Smandych

RESOLVED THAT the result of this examination of diversity be shared during Faith Horizons in the Fall of 2023.

Resolution C-5:

MOTION: Moved by Reverend Wilson Akinwale
Seconded by Reverend Deacon R. Susan Smandych

RESOLVED THAT the Diocesan Council, with input from and in collaboration with the Diocese's Dismantling Anti Black Racism Committee, dedicate time and effort to develop a new policy and associated procedure regarding representation of marginalized persons, (other than Indigenous persons – recognizing that Indigenous persons in this Diocese have their own structures and governance, including the B-15 Committee), on Diocesan-level governance and decision-making bodies, and that the status of this policy/procedure be reported on at Synod 2024.

Resolution C-6 Parochial Sponsors of Baptizands

MOTION: Moved by Rachel Twigg /
Seconded by Gwen McAllister

RESOLVED THAT in response to the bishop's call to our diocese to fully embrace baptismal discipleship, each parish make a practice of appointing a parochial sponsor for each baptizand in addition to any other godparents or sponsored named. The parochial sponsor's principal role is to maintain contact with the newly-baptized and ensure that the parish is living up to its commitment to "do all in [its] power to support this person in their life in Christ."

Resolution C-7 Developing Discipleship in our Communities

MOTION: Moved by Andrew Rampton /
Seconded by Susan Smandych

RESOLVED THAT each community in our diocese (parish, mission, worshiping community, etc.) identify means and commit financial/material resources by which they will intentionally engage regularly with educational and formative practices for Christian discipleship in the world. These means will be diverse and may include, but are not limited to, speakers, workshops, study groups, and professional development for community leaders who return to share their learning.

Resolution C-8 Examining Stewardship as Disciples

MOTION: Moved by Andrew Rampton /
Seconded by Susan Smandych

RESOLVED THAT this synod and all of its members undertake a critical examination of our stewardship of material and human resources—including financial practices, budget allocation, buildings, properties, staffing (including but not limited to consideration of succession planning, funding for Curacies, etc.) and programming—at diocesan and parochial levels. This examination will consider whether our current stewardship practices are best practices for the exercise, formation, and growth of discipleship, and for the attraction, retention, and ongoing formation of qualified leadership, lay and clerical. Diocesan Council is directed by this synod to engage in conversation, offer advice, and make recommendation with individuals and communities regarding these examinations.

Resolution C-9 Bishop as Model of Discipleship

MOTION: Moved by Andrew Rampton /
 Seconded by Allison Abra

RESOLVED THAT that this synod advise and request of our bishop, following the calls to us in his charge, that he model the discipleship to which we are called. This modeling will include education and development to serve as a leader and teacher of disciples, which may require continuing education, professional development, and sabbatical time. This modeling will also include engaging in the education and formation of disciples throughout the diocese.

Resolution C-10 Response to Resolution A-4

MOTION: Moved by Mary Stanger
 Seconded by Rick McLeod

RESOLVED THAT that in further response to Bishop Woodcroft's challenge to live as disciples in this world, that members of this Synod report to their respective vestries the wording of resolution A-4 as passed by this Synod. It is further requested that this resolution be presented for discussion at the 2023 annual general meetings of the delegate's respective parishes.

Resolution C-11 Anglican Chaplains Network in Rupert's Land

MOTION: Moved by Chris Salstrom
 Seconded by Theo Robinson

RESOLVED THAT that the Anglican Chaplains Network in Rupert's Land be recognized as an official ministry of the Diocese and commissioned by the Diocese of Rupert's Land.