

MINUTES OF THE 118th SESSION  
OF THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF RUPERT'S LAND  
October 14-15, 2022  
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**1st SITING - FRIDAY EVENING October 14, 2022 - St. John's Cathedral**

The 118th Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land opened with a service of Holy Eucharist.

During the Eucharist service, the Bishop, **The Rt. Rev** Geoffrey Woodcroft, addressed Synod members, beginning by giving thanks that even politics, pandemics and wars cannot destroy "the DNA of Christ." His charge challenged the Diocese to admit that we are "out of rest on our laurels" time, and focused on the need to cultivate lives of discipleship and the ability in all disciples to "articulate a unique and compelling case for Christ," in order that we can do "all in our power to support" new disciples in their life in Christ.

The following people received the Order of Rupert's Land:

- Ruth Booth
- George Campbell
- Marilyn Kenny
- Karen Watson
- Bob Wedlake

The Bishop appointed The Ven. James Dugan as Archdeacon Emeritus.

**2nd SITTING - SATURDAY MORNING SITTING - October 15, 2022 - Canad Inns Polo Park (1405 St. Matthews Ave., Winnipeg)**

The Second Sitting commenced at 9:00 with The Rt. Rev. Geoffrey Woodcroft in the Chair.

Following the Opening Worship (led by The Rev. Rachel Twigg), the Bishop began with a land acknowledgement, giving thanks for all the peoples of this land, remembering especially the Anishinaabe, Cree and Metis Nation, giving thanks to God and praying that we would all learn to be good and just stewards of this land.

**Report of the Credentials Committee**

The Chair of the Credentials Committee, The Rev. Deacon R. Susan Smandych, reported as of nine o'clock,

a total of 55 (of a possible 86) clergy had registered and  
117 of a possible 156 laity had registered, constituting a quorum.

**Bishop's Declaration of the Synod**

The Bishop declared the 118th Session of Synod to be regularly called and ready to



proceed in accordance with the Constitution.

#### Appointment of Honorary Secretaries

MOTION The Rev. Andrew Rampton/ The Ven. Simon Blaikie

RESOLVED THAT the following be appointed as Honorary Secretaries for the 118<sup>th</sup> Session of Synod:

- The Rev. Bonnie Dowling
- Bob Wedlake

#### CARRIED

#### Approval of the Synod Agenda Committee

MOTION: The Rev. Andrew Rampton / Bob Wedlake

RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for this morning's sitting be as follows:

- Announcements
- Welcome to New Members
- Announcement of Diocesan Council Appointees
- Announcement of Youth Appointees
- Resolution on Synod Appointees
- Privileges of the floor
- Appointment of Scrutineers
- Announcement of Closing of Balloting
- Resolutions from the Bishop's Charge
- Motion to adopt Acts of Diocesan Council & Executive Council
- Motion to receive the reports in the Convening Circular
- Finance Report
- Announcements
- Coffee Break
- Resolutions
- Announcements
- Grace & dismissal for lunch

#### CARRIED

The Rev. Andrew Rampton instructed Synod members on how to address the Synod if they wished to speak as well as giving several house-keeping instructions.

The Bishop issued a special welcome to all clergy and lay delegates for whom this was their first Synod, and extended a general welcome to all delegates. The Bishop acknowledged and welcomed Bishop Larry Robertson's presence with us. The Bishop welcomed his colleague, Bishop Jason Zinko and Archbishop Linda Nicholls, and expressed his gratitude for her presence, wisdom and love with us. The Bishop then acknowledged that 4 years have passed since our last in-person synod, and extended prayerful considerations of all past members of Synod who have passed away or have had life changing experiences.

The Bishop then introduced the head table:



- Mr. Bob Wedlake - Secretary of Synod
- The Rev. Andrew Rampton - Chair of the Synod Agenda Committee
- Mr. James Ripley - Chancellor
- Ms. Amanda Wallin - Elder
- Mr. Bill Shead - Elder
- The Rt. Rev. Geoffrey Woodcroft - Bishop of Rupert's Land

The Chair of the Synod Agenda Committee announced the closure of balloting.

The Bishop announced the Diocesan Council Appointees [*Constitution 2.01(d)(ii)*]

- The Ven. Simon Blaikie
- The Rev. Deacon Matthew Bowman
- Ms. Debbie Buxton
- Ms. Debra-Jean Moore
- The Rev. Deacon R. Susan Smandych
- The Rev. Deacon Marlene Wruck

And the Youth Appointees [*Constitution 2.01(d)(i)*]

- Joel Odogun
- Brittany Perkins

#### Synod Appointees

MOTION The Rev. Andrew Rampton / Bob Wedlake

RESOLVED THAT Synod appoints the following people as Synod Appointees, pursuant to Constitution 2.01(d)(iii):

- Ellen Cook
- The Rev. Marcus Rempel

**CARRIED**

#### Privileges of the Floor

MOTION The Rev. Andrew Rampton / Bob Wedlake

RESOLVED THAT Synod extends a warm welcome, and grants privileges of the floor, without the right to vote to:

- The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada
- The Rev. Jason Zinko, Bishop Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- Mr. Bill Shead, Elder
- Ms. Amanda Wallin, Elder
- Ms. Joy Valencerina, Director of Finance

**CARRIED**



### Appointment of Scrutineers

MOTION The Rev. Andrew Rampton / Bob Wedlake

RESOLVED THAT the following persons be appointed as Scrutineers for the 118<sup>th</sup> Session of Synod:

- Joan Steer
- Cass Smith
- Laurel McPherson
- Ammar Naseer
- Wendy Henderson
- Ted Henderson
- Karen Terlinski

CARRIED

The Bishop called on Susan Roe-Findlay and Barbara Larson to present resolutions on behalf of the Bishop's Charge Committee.

### Presentation of Resolution A-1

MOTION Susan Roe-Finlay / 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.

CARRIED

### Presentation of Resolution A-2

MOTION Susan Roe-Finlay / 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.

CARRIED

### Presentation of Resolution A-3

MOTION Barbara Larson / 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.

CARRIED.

### Presentation of Resolution A-4

MOTION Barbara Larson / 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 of others in our neighborhoods, communities, and wider world.



Cassandra Golondrina (St. Thomas, Winnipeg).

Amendment: Replace "all" with "All creation" and "including sexual orientation"

Seconded by Elizabeth Bonnett (St. James, Winnipeg)

**AMENDMENT DEFEATED.**

Brittney Perkins (Youth Appointee):

Move to return to the language of the original motion.

Seconded by Richard Pilbeam (St. Paul's, Fort Gary).

**CARRIED**

Elizabeth Bonnett (St. James Winnipeg):

Amendment: that the word "others" to be changed to "all people."

Seconded: Mr. Ben McGillivray (St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg).

**AMENDMENT CARRIED.**

Cathie Clow (St. Helen, Fairford):

Amendment: Can we take out "all people" and just have it "respond to the needs of our neighborhoods, communities, and wider world."

Seconded by Vincent Solomon (Epiphany Indigenous, Winnipeg / Urban Indigenous Ministry Developer)

**AMENDMENT CARRIED**

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 neighborhoods, communities, and wider world.

**CARRIED**

Acts & Resolutions of Diocesan Council and Executive Council

MOTION The Rev. Andrew Rampton / Bob Wedlake

RESOLVED THAT the Acts & Resolutions of Diocesan Council and Executive Council found in the Convening Circular, be received.

**CARRIED**

Reports of Convening Circular

MOTION The Rev. Andrew Rampton / Bob Wedlake

RESOLVED THAT the reports in the convening circular, and those amended reports received after the printing of the convening circular, be received.

**CARRIED**



### Report of the Treasurer

Diocesan Treasurer Sharon Routley made a brief presentation, key points as follows:

Noting closing balance in operating fund \$57,803 in operating fund. From 2018 to 2021, parish contributions have decreased by approximately \$35,000 (or roughly 5%) and operating expenses have increased by \$41,559. Overall decrease of about 9.8%.

Our projected deficit is \$118,245. As of the end of August the deficit was sitting at \$78,831. The issue of Common Mission and Ministry is something we need to resolve in an equitable cooperative manner. Gary Russell is obtaining information from other diocese regarding how they are handling common mission and ministry.

Parishes & Diocese need to provide the money for services that it provides. The Diocese needs funds to operate. Somehow, we need to resolve this issue quickly and in a cooperative manner. We need to find a way to work together to accomplish our goals.

### Presentation of Motions by Treasurer

MOTION: Sharon Routley on behalf of the Finance Committee

RESOLVED THAT the audited statements for the Diocese of Rupert's Land for the years ended Dec. 31, 2018, 2019 & 2020 plus the draft statements for the year ended Dec. 31, 2021, be received.

**CARRIED**

MOTION Sharon Routley on behalf of the Finance Committee

RESOLVED THAT the audited financial statements for the Rupert's Land Capital Fund Inc. for 2019, 2020, 2021 and draft financial statements for 2022 be received.

**CARRIED**

MOTION Sharon Routley, on behalf of Finance Committee

RESOLVED THAT the interim financial statement for August 2022 for the Synod of Diocese of Rupert's Land be received.

**CARRIED**

Motion Sharon Routley on behalf of the Finance Committee

RESOLVED THAT the preliminary Budget for 2023 for the Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land be approved.

The Bishop called for discussion three times. Hearing none, the Bishop called the question.

**CARRIED**



The Bishop expressed his thanks to the Treasurer and finance committee for their work throughout the pandemic.

Secretary of Synod Bob Wedlake, called forward Dave Labdon, Vincent Solomon and Simon Blaikie to make announcements:

Dave Labdon made an announcement on behalf of the Ministry Developer Working group. The group's aim is to put together a job description for someone to help diocese develop its ministry. One track is training lay ministers. Second track is looking at how we develop ministry in our parishes. The group has brought a questionnaire and request synod delegates to fill in a questionnaire before end of day.

Vincent Solomon made an announcement regarding the sexual misconduct policy as well as the workplace policy. With Simon Blaikie, here to explain both policies. Both policies available on the website. Sexual misconduct policy is an explanation of policy against any exploitation or sexual abuse against a minor or other adult which will not If you have experience sexual abuse you can file a complaint with Mary Holman, and if she is not available you can direct your complaint to the Archdeacon. Telephone number on the website, dedicated to sexual abuse complaint.

Simon Blaikie: Respectful workplace policy is newest policy approved by Diocesan Council. Please read it if you have not already. Created by provincial statute, in compliance with Manitoba and Ontario law.

The Secretary of Synod announced that the agenda is to move up by an hour, with a planned end time of 4:00pm.

Coffee Break

The Bishop called Synod back to order through prayer.

#### Presentation of Resolution C-1

MOTION        The Rev. Theo Robinson / The Rev. Andrew Rampton

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

Theo Robinson read a Letter from Provincial Executive Council, regarding the possibility of changing the name of the Province of Rupert's Land, in order to better reflect the provincial peoples, history and languages.

-Three possibilities have been announced: Province of the Northern Lights; Province of Aurora Borealis; Province of Auroramiut.

-Letter asks three questions: What is your response to the proposal to change the name? Do you have a preference of any of these suggested names? Do you have alternative suggestions?

-Welcome to adopt a memorial to the Provincial synod.

**CARRIED**



### Presentation of Resolutions C-2, C3, C4 & C5:

The Rev. Wilson Akinwale and The Rev. Deacon R. Susan Smandych presented the background of motions C2, C3, C4 & C5.

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.

### Presentation of Resolution C-2:

MOTION moved by The Rev. Wilson Akinwale / The Rev. 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.

**CARRIED**

### Presentation of Resolution C-3:

MOTION moved by The Rev. Wilson Akinwale / The Rev. Deacon R. Susan Smandych  
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.

**CARRIED**

Presentation of Resolution C-4:

MOTION moved by The Rev. Wilson Akinwale / The Rev. Deacon R. Susan Smandych Smandych

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

Friendly amendment to change "diversity" with "anti-black racism and diversity"

RESOLVE THAT the result of this examination of anti-black racism and diversity be shared during Faith Horizons in the fall of 2023.

From a procedural motion perspective. It was a friendly amendment made, and we accepted it, but in light of the other voices we have heard we are going to now take back our acceptance to the original motion.

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

**CARRIED**

Presentation of Resolution C-5:

MOTION moved by The Rev. Wilson Akinwale / The Rev. Deacon R. Susan Smandych Smandych

RESOLVED THAT the Board on Canons and Rules of Order, with input from and in collaboration with the Diocese's Dismantling Anti Black Racism Committee, dedicate time and effort to develop a new policy [procedure] and associated procedure regarding representation of marginalized persons on Diocesan-level governance and decision-making bodies, and that the status of this policy/procedure be reported on at Synod 2024.

(Chancellor): I believe this is inappropriate and I believe it should refer to Diocesan Council. If desired I so move an amendment. To read:  
RESOLVED THAT the *Diocesan Council* (Board on Canons and Rules of Order),...  
Seconded: Richard Pilbeam St. Paul's

AMENDMENT CARRIED.

(Smandych) want to amend our motion to remove reference to diocesan Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Committee.



The Bishop called recess for lunch. We will come back to this motion when we return.

The Secretary of Synod made some announcements.

#### LUNCH BREAK

The Secretary of Synod made some announcements and asked delegates to take their place.

#### 3rd SITTING - SATURDAY AFTERNOON SITTING - October 15, 2022 - Canad Inns Polo Park (1405 St. Matthews Ave., Winnipeg)

The Saturday afternoon sitting began at 1:10 with Mid-Day Prayer led by The Rev. Bonnie Dowling.

MOTION            The Rev. Andrew Rampton / Bob Wedlake  
RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for the Afternoon Sitting be as follows:

- Resolutions, including Resolution C5
- Stretch Break
- Closing procedures
  - Report of the Scrutineers
  - Destroying of Ballots
  - Appointment of Auditors
  - Bishop's Appointments
  - Vote of thanks
- Bishop Jason's Greetings
- Primate's Reflections
- Elders' Reflections
- Bishop's Concurrence
- Announcements
- Motion to Adjourn
- Closing worship

#### CARRIED

The Chair paused discussion of Resolution C5 to move to Resolution C6.

#### Presentation of Resolution C-6 Parochial Sponsors of Baptizands

MOTION            The Rev. Rachel Twigg / The Rev. 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."

#### CARRIED



Returning to discussion of Resolution C5:

The Rev. Vincent Solomon friendly amendment to Resolution C5 (seconded by The Rev. Jane Barter):

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.

**CARRIED**

The Bishop asked question of Synod Agenda Chair if there is an addition to the agenda. The Synod Agenda Committee chair: there is another motion that was received and entertained by the chair, which will need the synod's permission to take up, which we will do all at once.

**Presentation of Resolution C-7 Developing Discipleship in our Communities**

MOTION moved by The Rev. Andrew Rampton / seconded by The Rev. Deacon R. 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.

**CARRIED.**

**Presentation of Resolution C-8 Examining Stewardship as Disciples**

MOTION moved by The Rev. Andrew Rampton / The Rev. Deacon R. 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.

**CARRIED**



Presentation of Resolution C-9 Bishop as Model of Discipleship

MOTION      The Rev. Andrew Rampton / 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.

**CARRIED**

Presentation of Resolution C10:

MOTION      Mary Stanger / 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.

**CARRIED**

The Synod needs a two third majority to approve voting on Resolution C11 Anglican Chaplains Network in Rupert's Land (Moved by Chris Salstrom and Seconded by The Rev. Theo Robinson.)

The Chair asked the Secretary of Synod to make announcements as the presentation of Resolution C11 is prepared.

The Secretary invited Murray Still (St. Stephen & St. Bede, Winnipeg) and Ben McGillivray (St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg) to make an announcement regarding the Initiative for Just Communities, which is looking for additional members. If interested, please email [rondjanzen@gmail.com](mailto:rondjanzen@gmail.com)

The Bishop directed the Synod's attention to Resolution C11.

Motion to entertain Resolution C11

MOVED      The Rev. Andrew Rampton / Bob Wedlake

RESOLVED THAT this Synod accept Resolution C11 which was presented after the closing of resolutions for discussion.

**CARRIED.**

Presentation of Resolution C11

RESOLVED 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.

**CARRIED**



The Secretary of Synod made some more announcements and asked all delegates to complete a Synod evaluation form.

Stretch break.

The Chair called the room to order.

Chair called forward Elizabeth Bonnet (St. James, Winnipeg) and Mrs. Eulah Matheson (St. Saviour, Winnipeg).

Elizabeth Bonnet spoke about an event happening at St. James. Today is the international pregnancy and infant loss memorial day. We started a campaign at St. James of the "wee souls memorial service" which will be Monday 4:00 at our heritage church.

Mrs. Matheson spoke to encourage the Synod to know that we are the hands and feet of Christ. All God sees in us is His beloved children.

### Report of the Scrutineers

The Ven. Naboth Manzongo presented the report of the Scrutineers: Bishop, on behalf of the Nomination Committee and the Scrutineers I present to you the results of the balloting.

The Rev. Deacon Di Panting thanked the members of the nominating committee and read the names as elected:

## Diocesan Council

CLERGY - Outside Winnipeg - ACCLAIMED  
Dolloff, John - St. Mary la Prairie, Portage la Prairie  
MacDonald, (Elda) Lynn St. Luke - Dryden  
Robinson, Theo St. Cyprian - Teulon

CLERGY - Winnipeg - ELECTED  
Akinwale, Wilson - St. Thomas, Weston  
Bowman, Matthew - Council Appointees  
McIntosh, Wayne - St. Francis, Winnipeg  
Panting, Diane - Church of the Good Shepherd, Winnipeg  
Rampton, Andrew - Holy Trinity, Winnipeg  
Roe-Finlay, Susan - St. Luke, Winnipeg  
Smandych, R. Susan - Council Appointees

Clergy Alternate (in order of votes received) -  
Falconer, Henry - St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg



LAITY - Outside Winnipeg - ACCLAIMED

Aitken, Mary - St. Luke, Dryden

Larson, Barbara - St. Alban Cathedral, Kenora

Mawejje, June Rachel - St. Clement, Mapleton

An additional lay delegate to be elected by Diocesan Council

LAITY - Winnipeg - ELECTED

Bonnett, Elizabeth - St. James, Winnipeg

Brown, Eva - St. James, Winnipeg

Buxton, Debbie - Council Appointees

Cummings, Lucy - St. Mary, Charleswood

Dorrian, Colin - St. Peter, Winnipeg

McGillivray, Ben - St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg

Pilbeam, Richard - St. Paul, Fort Garry

Russell, Gary - Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church

Laity Alternate (in order of votes received) -

Sherman, Dorian - St. George, Transcona

Newransky Moore, Debra-Jean - Council Appointees

## **Board on Canons and Rules of Order**

CLERGY - ACCLAIMED

Ford, Brian - Exofficio Members

An additional clergy to be elected by Diocesan Council

LAITY - ELECTED

Aitken, Mary - St. Luke, Dryden

Larson, Barbara - St. Alban Cathedral, Kenora

Laity Alternate (in order of votes received) -

Wright, Marion - St. Alban Cathedral, Kenora

## **Diocesan Court**

CLERGY - ACCLAIMED

Lampman, Paul - St. Luke, Winnipeg

Robinson, Theo - St. Cyprian, Teulon

An additional clergy delegate to be elected by Diocesan Council

LAITY - ELECTED

Larson, Barbara - St. Alban Cathedral, Kenora

Pilbeam, Richard - St. Paul, Fort Garry

Wright, Marion - St. Alban Cathedral, Kenora



Laity Alternates (in order of votes received) -  
Aitken, Mary - St. Luke, Dryden  
Sherman, Dorian - St. George, Transcona

## **General Synod Delegates**

### **CLERGY - ELECTED**

Blaikie, Simon - Council Appointees  
Rampton, Andrew - Holy Trinity, Winnipeg

### **Clergy Alternates (in order of votes received) -**

Manzongo, Naboth - St. Luke, Dryden  
Robinson, Theo - St. Cyprian, Teulon  
McIntosh, Wayne - St. Francis, Winnipeg  
Falconer, Henry - St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg

### **LAITY - ELECTED**

Russell, Gary - Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church  
Webster, Tannis - St. Mary Magdalene, Winnipeg

### **Laity Alternates (in order of votes received) -**

Pilbeam, Richard - St. Paul, Fort Garry  
Bonnett, Elizabeth - St. James, Winnipeg  
Larson, Barbara - St. Alban Cathedral, Kenora  
Aitken, Mary - St. Luke, Dryden

### **YOUTH - ACCLAIMED**

Perkins, Brittany - Youth Appointees

## **Provincial Synod Delegates**

### **CLERGY - ELECTED**

Ford, Brian - Exofficio Members  
Manzongo, Naboth - St. Luke, Dryden  
Robinson, Theo - St. Cyprian, Teulon

### **Clergy Alternates (in order of votes received) -**

McIntosh, Wayne - St. Francis, Winnipeg

### **LAITY- ELECTED**

Brown, Eva - St. James, Winnipeg  
Pilbeam, Richard - St. Paul, Fort Garry

### **Laity Alternates (in order of votes received) -**



Larson, Barbara - St. Alban Cathedral, Kenora  
Aitken, Mary - St. Luke, Dryden  
Bonnett, Elizabeth - St. James, Winnipeg

**YOUTH - ACCLAIMED**

Perkins, Brittany Youth Appointees

Motion re: Destroying of Ballots

MOTION       The Rev. Andrew Rampton / Bob Wedlake  
RESOLVED THAT the ballots be destroyed by the Scrutineers.

CARRIED.

Motion re: Appointment of Auditors

MOTION       The Rev. Andrew Rampton / Bob Wedlake  
RESOLVED THAT the Auditors be Price Waterhouse.

CARRIED.

The Bishop made the following appointments for the Synod Agenda Committee 2024:

- Secretary of Synod: Bob Wedlake
- Agenda Committee Chair: The Rev. Andrew Rampton
- Nominations Committee Co-Chairs: The Rev. Deacon Di Panting & The Ven. Naboth Manzongo
- Resolutions Committee Chair: The Rev. John Dolloff
- Credentials Committee Chair: The Rev. Deacon R. Susan Smandych

The Bishop read the “slate of change” in Human Resources over the last two years at the Synod Office, and expressed thanks especially to Melissa Nixon.

Motion re: vote of thanks

MOTION       Mary Stanger / Seconded by The Rev. Liz Richens

RESOLVED THAT this 118th Session Synod express its thanks to all who have made this gathering possible.

- The staff at Canad Inns Polo Park - the event coordinators, the catering staff and all who made us feel welcome in this space. Special thank you to our AV person.
- The Cathedral Parish of St. John; The Very Rev. Paul Johnson, and members of the Cathedral staff, the members of the Choir and the Musicians, and Cathedral volunteers who helped with the Opening Service.
- Those involved with the live streaming of the Opening Service.
- The Worship Team - The Rev. Bonnie Dowling, The Rev. Theo Robinson, The Rev. Rachel Twiggs, and those who led the worship on Friday and Saturday.



- The Bishop's Charge committee for their work in bringing forward resolutions from the Bishop's Charge.
- The Rev. Brian Ford who created the data base for our Synod's use and ran the projector today.
- Bishop Jason Zinko of the ELCIC, for taking time to bring greetings to our Synod.
- Primate Linda Nicholls for joining us for our Synod and for addressing the Synod last night and today.
- The Rev. Andrew Rampton, Chair of the Synod Agenda Committee and the members of the Synod Agenda Committee for work leading up to this Synod.
- The Chair of the Credentials Committee, The Rev. Deacon R. Susan Smandych, and the volunteers who assisted with the registration process.
- The Chair of the Resolutions Committee, The Rev. John Dolloff and members of his committee for their careful work in ensuring the resolutions were clear and succinct.
- The Co-Chairs of the Nominations Committee, The Rev. Deacon Di Panting and The Ven. Naboth Manzongo, and members of their committee, for seeking out and organizing the nominations.
- The Scrutineers, for their careful tallying of the ballots .
- The Recording Secretaries: Bonnie Dowling and Bob Wedlake for their recording of the proceedings of the Synod.
- Our Treasurer, Sharon Routley, for her presentation today and her advice and guidance throughout the year.
- Our Chancellor, Jim Ripley, for his wisdom and advice, not only during the Synod, but on many matters leading up to Synod.
- Elder Bill Shead, for his council and direction leading up to and including this session of Synod and for welcoming us to the land at last night's service.
- Elder Amanda Wallin, for her council and direction leading up to and including this session of Synod and for providing us with the Smudging Ceremony this morning.
- Anglican Centre Staff who provided administrative and organizational assistance prior to and throughout the Synod, The Ven. Simon Blaikie and especially Melissa Nixon who just a few months ago didn't even know what a Synod was.
- The Secretary of Synod, Bob Wedlake, for his careful attention to detail in preparing all the arrangements and organization required for this Synod
- Bishop Geoff, for his guidance and leadership, not only through this Synod, but in all aspects of leadership as Bishop of Rupert's Land.
- To all of you, the members of Synod, who have given so freely of your time and energy in preparation for and during this Synod.

APPLAUSE



The Bishop welcomed forward Lutheran Bishop Jason Zinko.

Bishop Jason brought greetings from the Northwestern Synod of the ECLIC. The partnership extends beyond shared office space, lunches and occasional clergy gatherings. Together we share in the work of God in our communities. Together we see a fuller picture of what God has done through our churches for the sake of the world. Our partnership helps us to discern where God is leading us in this time and in this place. There is no other diocese in Canada in which the Lutherans and Anglicans work as closely as they do here. Our partnership

The MNO Synod Council recently met to review our ministry principles. I'd like to share an overview of where the Lutheran church in MB is headed over the next few years. We have identified four main priorities:

- 1) Empowered discipleship leads us to centre our communities around Word and Sacrament, focused on the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Faithful transformation: to us this means remaining rooted in foundations of our faith while seeking to stay open to re-imagining traditional forms of church.
- 3) Community & Connections: welcoming and supporting those in need, with a desire for community transformation.
- 4) Mutual Support: we share our experiences and resources to strengthen the ministries of various churches.

I hope you'll notice that our priorities are not much different from those of your church, and that they have a deliberate focus on discipleship. For both of our churches, discipleship is the most important and pressing need. It is why we exist as the church and it is what Christ calls us to do. I hope the MNO Synod and the Diocese of Rupert's Land will continue to do this work together, for our mutual strength and benefit.

Bishop Geoff called upon our Archbishop Linda Nicholls.

Primate Linda Nicholls expressed her thanks for the invitation to be present. Part of the job of Primate is to try to look at the whole of the ACC and to tell the story of one side to another, and to draw together the threads of our story.

I would like to tell you what I see as an observer, a guest to your synod. And then secondly to make some connections to the work the national church seeks to do to support you. Bp Nicholls acknowledged that every level of Church governance

First, observations regarding the Diocese of Rupert's Land. You have a Bishop with a tremendous amount of energy and commitment to discipleship. I heard the same passion and energy in this synod. I sensed it last night. There was a joy in the room. When most of the clergy in this room are leading worship, they can feel the congregation. You clearly had joy, passion and delight as you gathered for worship. Through this day as I have listened to you respond to the motions put before you, I know that we can get bogged down in arguing over words, but what that time said to me was that the content of the motions mattered to you. So those motions are things that are at the core and heart of who you are. I heard the Bishop last night



argue that the starting place is to know your own compelling case for Christ - what is it about Jesus Christ that has changed your life? Because it is when we know the answer to that question, we know we have something to share, something to give. I loved the fact that when someone got up to talk about finances, they said we didn't talk about money for a whole year. We need to be talking about the mission of God, somehow, we find the resources. We have hard work to do, but if we can start from the place where we're asking what God is doing in our midst. She suggested everyone read Henry Nouwen's book on fundraising. You don't start with the dollars, you ask them to share in your vision, in the vision of what God is calling us to do. If you have a compelling case for the vision that God has put in your heart, people do respond.

Expressed thanks for important even if brief mention of the importance of becoming a safer church through effective sexual misconduct and safe workplace policies. Our reputation in the public is not good in that department, because of other times when we have failed to guard and take care of one another, and to listen when someone comes and says they have been hurt. Thank you for your focus on that, I can assure you we are doing the same at the national level. She urged everyone to consider the workshops on "Becoming a Safer Church".

I heard loud and clear your concern for racism, and your struggle to define what that means and the effect it has on our communities. I heard all of the concern you have for anti-black racism, for the concern for indigenous racism...we have a lot of work to do. The racial justice charter passed on 2007 has had some work done on it but not nearly enough. We are asking members of the council of General Synod that they must sign that charter in the same way they must sign the sexual misconduct policy. I want to promise you are not alone in that work. In our nominations for committees, we have to do a better job, so I look to the support of your anti-black racism committee, to the work that you will be doing in this. There need to be nodes and hubs in diocese across Canada that are doing this work.

I know you have gifts to share in this synod. Please consider nominating those from your diocese who can help in committee work at the national level.

When the national Church's strategic plan Vision 2019 came to its natural end (in 2019) we began to re-start a visioning process, and then Covid happened. And everything we thought we might do no longer seemed possible. And we decided/realized what we needed to do was just to listen to Anglicans. What evolved from that was a series of aspirations: what do we want our church to look like?

That's what we have captured on the leaflet handed out to members of this Synod. And one of those aspirations we discovered needed to be at the centre, and it is the same aspiration you have made the centre of your Diocese: we want to be a church that invites and deepens life in Christ. That's discipleship.

The other aspirations identified in the national church:

A church that embraces mutual interdependence with the Indigenous Church (sacred circle), a church that nurtures right relationships among people of faith in local,



national and global communities and networks, a church that stewards and renews God's creation, protects and sustains the earth, pursues justice for all and a church that champions the dignity of every human being, working to dismantle racism and colonialism.

It has been encouraging to hear the passion and commitment of this diocese; despite all the difficulties there is the energy and courage to move forward. God bless you in your next two years of work, may God grant you the grace to proclaim the gospel with joy wherever you may be.

The Bishop called upon Mr. Bill Shead and Ms. Amanda Wallin to share the Elders' reflections.

**Mr. Bill Shead** told a story, asking the Synod to listen to it like it's a parable. In 1992 the Indigenous service organizations (volunteer, non-profit) bound together to purchase the old CP railway station at Higgins and Main St. The vision of the organizations was to come together to share space, to cooperate and perhaps economize on their overhead. When I first arrived the first thing I received was a tax bill from the City of Winnipeg for \$50,000, and I also received a bill from MB Hydro of about \$50k to keep the electric and heat on. When I took the bills to the chair of the Board of Directors, he said, where are we going to get this money? I told him we didn't need money, we needed friends. We needed \$6million to renovate the building for its new occupants. First thing we did was move all the organizations into the building so they could pay rent to themselves not to anyone else. 30 years later we have no debt on the building. We have built several services into and out of the building.

I tell the story because you have just been challenged not just by yourselves but by the Primate. The story is a lesson: don't give up. But the first thing I urge you to do which was to follow the motto when we first started the building project: it's not enough to dream, we must do. And you're going to have to go out and do something, because you have the challenge well defined.

**Ms. Amanda Wallin** expressed a sense of honour to be present. Said she wanted to start by expressing pride in being an Anglican, for the work that we have done in addressing and incorporating needs of Indigenous communities and members. But we have much more to do.

Some months ago, she was honoured to do a smudging ceremony as part of a ceremony to raise an orange survivor flag at the Canada Life Centre. She thought, "why can't the church do this"?

A survivor flag is an expression of remembrance. It is meant to honour the survivors of systemic racism and residential schools. She then described the symbols on the survivor flag.



She is calling on Synod to take action to teach about the survivor flag in the diocese and in parishes, and to have a survivor come to the parish once a month to share their story. I believe raising this flag is a way to signal the intention of the Anglican church to work toward healing and reconciliation.

The Bishop gave his concurrence with the Acts and Resolutions of the 118<sup>th</sup> Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land.

The Bishop asked all delegates to give a full report to their parishes at the main Sunday service, if possible, within the next two weeks.

The Bishop reminded the Synod that this work carries on after we adjourn. It is work that stays with us and must continue.

#### Motion to Adjourn

MOTION: Moved by The Rev. Andrew Rampton / Bob Wedlake

RESOLVED THAT following the closing worship, this 118<sup>th</sup> Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land be adjourned.

**CARRIED.**

**Closing worship**

**Adjournment**