

Minutes – Diocesan Council
Saturday, November 2, 2024 – 9:30 a.m. at St John’s College

Present = P; Regrets = R; Absent = A

Ex-Officio = (*); Appointed = (a)

P	Abra, Dr. Allison (* Warden, St. John’s College)	R	Gomez, The Rev. James
P	Aitken, Mary	P	Kawka, Bill (* Diocesan Treasurer)
R	Akinwale, The Rev. Wilson	P	Laldin, The Ven. Karen (* Archdeacon)
R	Barter, The Rev. Dr. Jane	P	Lampman, The Rev. Paul
P	Bellay, Vic (* Chancellor)	P	Manzongo, The Rev. Naboth
P	Bender, Karen	R	Mawejje, The Ven. Godfrey (* Archdeacon)
P	Blaikie, The Ven. Simon (* Administrator)	P	McIntosh, The Rev. Wayne
R	Bonnett, Elizabeth	P	Richens, The Rev. Liz
P	Bowman, The Rev. Matthew (Meeting Secretary)	P	Russell, Canon Gary
R	Brown, Eva	P	Schoeck, The Ven. Lauren (* Archdeacon)
P	Buxton, Deb	R	Whitmore, Chris
P	Caouette, Jena		
P	Dorrian, Colin		<i>Staff and non-voting (N.V.) members</i>
R	Doyle, The Hon. Justice Robert (* Vice Chan.)	P	Turnbull, Dr. Ryan (Discipleship Dev.; N.V.)
P	Dugan, The Ven. James	P	Wedlake Bob (*Secretary of Synod; N.V.)
P	Giroux, The Rev. John		

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Regrets, Opening Prayer

S. Blaikie called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Be it resolved that the Agenda for the 2 November 2024 meeting of Diocesan Council be approved.

P. Lampman/W. McIntosh

Carried

3. Welcome to Diocesan Council

S. Blaikie welcomed new and returning members to Diocesan Council and gave members a brief introduction to the scope of the Council’s jurisdiction and activities. Meetings will be held at St John’s College in the hybrid classroom, which will enable members of Diocesan Council who live outside Winnipeg to join via Zoom, with members living in Winnipeg requested to continue to meet in person.

L. Richens asked about whether children are able to attend meetings. S. Blaikie answered that meetings are not private unless Diocesan Council moves *in camera*, which is a rare occurrence.

G. Russell asked whether hybrid meetings will be recorded. S. Blaikie answered that a recording will be made solely for the purpose of assisting with recording of Minutes, with the recording destroyed once Minutes are completed.

4. Approval of September 21 Council Minutes

S. Blaikie explained that the approval of the draft Minutes of the 21 September 2024 meeting of Diocesan Council are on hold and will be circulated for approval at a future meeting.

5. Approval of October 24 Council Minutes

Motion: Be it resolved that the Minutes of the 24 October 2024 meeting of Diocesan Council be approved, as corrected. [Correction: J. Caouette incorrectly marked as absent.]

N. Manzongo/P. Lampman

Carried

6. Report of Compensation Committee

Motion: Be it resolved that the Diocesan Council approve the recommendation from the Compensation Committee entitled “Clergy Housing and Minimum Stipend Scale for 2025,” as circulated.

J. Giroux/L. Richens

Carried

7. Receipt of PEC June 5th Minutes

Motion: Be it resolved that the Minutes of the 5 June 2024 meeting of the Provincial Executive Committee be received.

M. Aitken/E. Brown

Carried

8. Discussion of Episcopal Election

S. Blaikie led members in a discussion of several potential procedural routes to the upcoming episcopal election given the Bishop’s announcement at Synod that he intends to retire on 1 June 2025 and the further announcement about his health and the immediate appointment of an Administrator.

S. Blaikie explained that the role of the canonically mandated Search Committee is to do the work of discernment around the creation of a “Diocesan Profile,” similar to what is created at the parish level during the vacancy of an incumbency. Such a committee could begin its work as soon as the Metropolitan gives permission, and Diocesan Council and the Provincial Synod are able to appoint their respective members.

Several members asked questions about the scope of the Administrator’s authority, and how this might impact the desirability of a longer or shorter elector process. S. Blaikie explained that the largest difference is that an Administrator is unable to conduct episcopal sacramental functions such as ordinations and confirmations, but that discussions are ongoing regarding the involvement of retired bishops performing these functions as necessary.

Several members likewise expressed caring and concern for the Administrator and the additional workload that his expanded role entails, with several members expressing support for pursuing the shortest route possible both to alleviate this added workload and to provide the people of the Diocese with a sense of certainty about our future direction. S. Blaikie recounted a recent conversation with C. Whitmore (who sent regrets for this meeting) who suggested that the Diocesan Council begin to wrestle with the question, “Who are we as a diocese?”

J. Dugan, who was chair of the previous episcopal search committee, explained that concerns had been expressed that the previous search committee had lacked diversity. M. Bowman stated that the search committee could be requested to consult with existing diocesan groups such as the Queer Advisory Committee and the diocesan chapter of Black Anglicans. P. Lampman expressed confidence and trust in whoever might be appointed to the search committee and stated that there will always be people who will be critical of the membership makeup of any particular committee, regardless of efforts taken to ensure diverse representation.

J. Dugan clarified that the search committee does not have the ability to reject a duly nominated candidate who meets the stated requirements, and that there is no limit to the number of permitted candidates.

Members rose for a coffee and stretch break from 10:45am to 10:58am.

9. Motion to Petition the Provincial Executive for the Constituting of a Search Committee

Motion: Be it resolved that the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Rupert’s Land petition the Provincial Executive Council, with the concurrence of the Metropolitan, to waive Provincial Canon 9.04 and allow the Diocese of Rupert’s Land to elect or appoint a Search Committee in accordance with Provincial Canon 9.08 for the purpose of electing a new bishop between 15 May and 15 June 2025.

L. Schoeck/C. Dorrian

Carried

S. Blaikie explained that the next step in the timeline for the constituting of a search committee is contingent on the timing in which the Metropolitan responds to the above request.

10. Appointment of 3 Lay Individuals (Outside Winnipeg) to Diocesan Council

S. Blaikie requested that members of Diocesan Council send him the names of Synod delegates from outside Winnipeg who might be willing to stand for appointment to Diocesan Council.

11. Overview of November 30 Council Meeting

S. Blaikie asked that in preparation for the November 30 meeting members read and consider the 'C' Resolutions referred by Synod to the Diocesan Council, as these motions will need to be considered in the coming months. Further, the Common Ministry and Mission Working Group will provide an update on the feedback received from the Synod discussion groups, and the Interim Diocesan Treasurer and Finance Staff will present a financial update at this meeting.

12. Future Meeting Dates

Regular meetings of the Diocesan Council will be on November 30, January 25, March 29, and May 31 at 9:30am with all meetings being held in Room 201 at St John's College and offered in a hybrid format for members living outside Winnipeg.

Members agreed to an extraordinary meeting to be held December 14 at 9:30am at St John's College for the purposes of appointing a search committee.

13. Motion to Request Area Archdeacons to Canvas Archdeaconries for Search Committee Nominees

Motion: Be it resolved that the Diocesan Council request the area Archdeacons canvas their respective archdeaconry and come to Diocesan Council on November 30 with two lay and two clerical nominees to possibly search on the search committee.

K. Laldin/L. Schoeck **Carried**

14. Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

N. Manzongo **Carried**

S. Blaikie declared the meeting adjourned at 11:30am.