

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, COURTENAY

FUTURES WORKSHOP - SUNDAY JANUARY 25 2026 (11:25AM) COMPLIATION OF VERBAL/WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM +/- 35 PARTICIPANTS

PART 1=PRESENTATION LEAD BY REV ALASTAIR (see below-pg 1)

PART 2=QUESTION/ANSWERS FROM BREAKOUT TABLES (see reverse-pg 2)

PRAYER = “We walk by faith, not by sight.” 2Corinthians 5:7

PURPOSE = preparation for Vestry (Sun Feb 22). Provide background info and gather input

WHAT IS VESTRY = AGM for whole parish

Receive reports, approve budget, elect leaders willing to listen, share thoughtfully and make difficult decisions, share responsibility, prayerful discernment, celebrate where God has taken and is taking the parish, open sharing with respect,

WHAT IS PARISH COUNCIL = Leadership between Vestries

Support Rector, guide ministries, listen for God’s call, turn vision into action, energy / time to implement, communicator to/from specific area of interest, commitment to shared lay and clergy leadership

WHAT IS SYNOD = Gathering of the Diocese. Fall 2026 in Victoria. Will revisit 12 yr old Vision with Bishop

Clergy and Lay Delegates elected from each parish meet with Bishop to discern priorities, shape policy, give life to vision, support ministry across region (46-47 churches) especially rural/isolated. Sometimes change takes 2 synods to approve and implement

HOW DO WE SYNOD (WALK) TOGETHER

Share stories/realities, listen deeply, join our voice to wider forum because SJTD voice matters

HOW CAN WE GET INVOLVED

Pray for openness, wisdom, courage, unity, generosity, faithfulness. Attend Vestry, consider leadership role, talk to Rector/Wardens about where you feel called.

AFTER THE PRESENTATION, THOSE PRESENT WORKED WITH TABLE-MATES TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS POSED (ON REVERSE-PG 2)

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, COURTENAY

FUTURES WORKSHOP - SUNDAY JANUARY 25 2026 (11:25AM) COMPLIATION OF VERBAL AND WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM +/- 40 PARTICIPANTS

PART 1=PRESENTATION LEAD BY REV ALASTAIR (see reverse-pg 1)

PART 2=QUESTION/ANSWERS FROM BREAKOUT TABLES (see below-pg 2)

AFTER PRESENTATION OF DISTINCT VS. SHARED ROLES OF SYNOD, VESTRY, PARISH COUNCIL AND PARISHIONERS, REV ALASTAIR POSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

ICE BREAKER – What brought you to / keeps you at SJTD?

Christmas service/candles, message “wherever you are on journey, you are welcome here”, informed/relatable/inspiring sermons, coffee/lunch invitation, demonstrably open to ALL, positive attitude, felt like home/family/community where skills could be shared/valued

VESTRY AND PARISH LIFE

Excited about - new social group, kitchen, outreach programs, clergy TEAM, increase in numbers (families), baptism very moving, music ministry, friendships, pastoral care, garden club, blessing boutique, seniors’ ministry, Anglican identity with mix of traditional, celtic, indigenous and other liturgies. Focus on – increasing membership, communication, involving people

LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

Make stepping forward easier by - actively INVITE people when help needed, invite more and not overwhelm others, accept people where they are, realistic ask, be clear about expectations/roles, clear leadership

WALKING WITH DIOCESE

Need more info, don’t know who does what, “WE are Synod and WE are Parish Council”, vote for rep’s who shares values/voice

VISION AND PRAYER

WHAT IS ONE HOPE OR PRAYER YOU’D LIKE TO CARRY INTO VESTRY THIS YEAR

Better communication, workshop like one at Campbell River, good topic to explore and learn together

Rev Alastair invited anyone interested in becoming more involved to speak with him, Rev Marion or Wardens C Davis and M Aitken.

Worship ended at 11:55am