

Minutes – Diocesan Council
Saturday, September 20, 2025 – 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

Present = P; Regrets = R; Absent = A

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

P	Abra, Dr. Allison (* Warden, St. John's College)	A	Giroux, The Rev. John
P	Aitken, Mary	P	Gomez, The Rev. James
P	Akinwale, The Rev. Wilson	R	Laldin, The Ven. Karen (* Archdeacon)
P	Bellay, Vic (* Chancellor)	P	Lampman, The Rev. Paul
R	Bender, Karen	R	Manzongo, The Rt. Rev. Naboth (* Bishop)
P	Blaikie, The Ven. Simon (* Exec. Archdeacon)	P	Mawejje, The Ven. Godfrey (* Archdeacon)
P	Bonnett, Elizabeth	R	Mawejje, June Rachel
P	Bowman, The Rev. Matthew (Meeting Secretary)	A	McIntosh, The Rev. Wayne
P	Brown, Eva	P	Richens, The Rev. Liz
P	Buxton, Deb	P	Russell, Canon Gary
R	Caouette, Jena	P	Schoeck, The Ven. Lauren (* Archdeacon)
P	Cotton, Ted (* Treasurer)	A	Whitmore, Chris
P	Dolloff, The Rev. John		<i>Staff and non-voting (N.V.) members</i>
P	Dorrian, Colin	R	Nixon, Melissa (Office Coordinator; N.V.)
P	Domenick, The Ven. Dr. Lee (* Archdeacon)	R	Valencerina, Joy (Finance Director; N.V.)
R	Dugan, The Ven. James	P	Wedlake, Bob (*Secretary of Synod; N.V.)

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Regrets, Opening Prayer

S. Blaikie called the meeting to order at 9:30a.m. with a prayer and land acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Be it resolved that the amended Agenda for the 20 September 2025 meeting of Diocesan Council be approved.

P. Lampman / E. Brown **Carried**

3. Approval of Diocesan council Minutes March 29, 2025

Motion: Be it resolved that the Minutes of the 24 May 2025 meeting of Diocesan Council be approved as circulated.

E. Brown / P. Lampman **Carried**

4. Companion Diocese

S. Blaikie provided Council with an update about the decision of the May meeting to pursue a Companion Diocese relationship with the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh. As Diocesan Administrator, Archdeacon Blaikie reached out to Bishop Lydia Mamakwa, but due to the busyness of summer has yet to receive a response. The resolution has now been given to Bishop Naboth for further engagement and next steps.

5. Compensation Committee Report

T. Cotton presented the Compensation Committee's annual report.

Following provincial data on increases to the cost of living, the proposed increase in the Clergy Housing Allowance for 2026 is 4.5%. The proposed increase in Minimum Stipend is a 1.9% cost of living adjustment, along with a \$1000 adjustment as part of a multi-year effort to align clergy salaries with those offered by similarly sized dioceses. The adoption of the \$1000 increase for 2026 brings the total adjustment to \$5,000 of the total \$10,000 gap identified at the start of the effort.

The Travel Allowance has been split into two pieces: a Motor Vehicle Allowance and an Alternative Transportation Allowance. The proposed increase to the Motor Vehicle Allowance is \$0.01/km, which reflects increases in costs beyond the cost of gasoline. The proposed 2026 Alternative Transportation Allowance is \$30 per month.

Motion: Be it resolved that the recommendations contained in the Clergy Housing and Minimum Stipend report of the Compensation Committee be adopted as presented.

T. Cotton (on behalf of Compensation Committee) **Carried**

6. Finance Report

T. Cotton presented the financial report.

Motion: Be it resolved that the Diocesan Council receive the financial report of the Diocese of Rupert's Land for the period ending August 2025 as presented.

T. Cotton (on behalf of Finance Committee) **Carried**

7. Draft 2024 Audited Financials

T. Cotton presented the draft audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Motion: Be it resolved that draft audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024 be received.

T. Cotton (on behalf of Finance Committee) **Carried**

8. Executive Archdeacon Update

S. Blaikie let members know that he has advised the Bishop of his intention to retire as of December 31, 2025. The job posting will be submitted to the national church job bank in the coming days and will be open to applications for three weeks, with the intention that a new Executive Archdeacon be in office by December 8, 2025.

G. Mawejje asked that a vote of thanks be given to S. Blaikie for his care for and guidance of the diocese during his time as Administrator. Members indicated unanimous assent with a round of applause.

S. Blaikie noted that the Committee examining Resolution C6 (reconciliation and sale of real property) has continued to meet and remains on track to report back with recommendations at the end of January 2026.

9. Members updates

D. Buxton reminded Council that Synod 2024 referred several resolutions to Diocesan Council for action prior to Synod 2026. Action on these resolutions had been paused due to the episcopal election. S. Blaikie indicated that these progress on these resolutions will be reviewed at the November meeting of Diocesan Council.

D. Buxton noted that General Synod had been a fantastic experience and suggested its outcomes ought to be shared widely. L. Shoeck is in the process of writing an article for Rupert's Land News. L. Richens asked whether there is an executive summary for the General Synod Pathways document. General Synod delegates will followup about this.

A. Abra gave an update on the new academic year at St John's College, which has brought a significant increase in enrollment for theology courses, along with many other great initiatives currently underly. The Bishop will be installed as Chancellor of the College on September 24, 2025.

E. Bonnett let members know that the Alongside Hope Mapping Exercise will be offered at St John's College on September 30.

L. Domenick noted he will be offering a seminar on church growth without spending money at Faith Horizons.

10. Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

L. Domenick **Carried**

S. Blaikie declared the meeting adjourned at 10:31a.m.