

**Anglican Diocese of Calgary
Minutes of the 79th Synod, October 13-14, 2023**

Friday, October 13, 2023

Registration

Registration at St. Peter, Okotoks opened at 4:00 pm and continued until 5:45 pm. A light supper was available.

Opening Worship

Opening worship began at 6:00 pm with a Eucharist Service, with Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson presiding. In place of the sermon, Archbishop Greg gave his Bishop's Charge to Synod (Appendix A).

Opening Comments

Archbishop Greg called the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Calgary to order at 7:50 p.m. and welcomed those present. He introduced those seated at the head table.

The Archbishop asked that all cell phones be turned off or put on silent during this Synod and that no video recordings be made of the proceedings. The Synod will be recorded for minute-taking purposes. Those wishing to be masked for health concerns may do so.

Notices of motion have been received from the Legislative Committee and have been sent out to all members of Synod.

The Archbishop introduced Rev. Charmaine Evans, Diocesan Registrar, and Vice-Chancellor, Jeff Davidson.

Report of the Diocesan Registrar

Rev. Charmaine reported the following:

- Number of licensed clergy members of Synod present was 49 of a possible 54.
- Number of elected lay members of Synod present was 69 of a possible 87.
- Number of other members of Synod (including members of the Diocesan Council, Officers of Synod, and Bishop's Delegates) was 8 of a possible 11

Jeff reported that Quorum is 50% of each house. Clergy Quorum is 27. Laity Quorum is 49 (these numbers include the other members of Synod).

- Total present is 126

Registration was closed for the evening.

Jeff as Vice-Chancellor reported that pursuant to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Calgary and the Report of the Diocesan Registrar, a quorum is present and this Synod is duly constituted.

Appointment of Recorders

Pursuant to Section C30 of the Constitution, Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson nominated Kim Getty as Lay Recorder and Charmaine Evans as Clerical Recorder for this 79th Convention of Synod.

The nominations were ratified

The duties of Clerical and Lay Recorders shall be to keep the Minutes of the Sessions of Synod and to prepare them for publication by the Secretary of Synod. As this Synod is being recorded electronically, their role will include observing and supporting the orderly process of this Synod.

Appointment of Scrutineers

Pursuant to Canon 2, Section 20, Archbishop Greg appointed Karen Larsen and Peter Crisfield as Scrutineers, and Chris Dowdeswell as the Elections Officer for the 79th Convention of Synod.

Approval of Minutes of 78rd Synod

MOVED: Pilar Gateman
SECONDED: Peter Crisfield

THAT the Minutes of the 78th Synod as made available on the Diocesan Website be approved.

Carried

Reception of Reports in the Convening Circular

MOVED: Pilar Gateman
SECONDED: Peter Crisfield

THAT the Reports from the Secretary of Synod, Diocesan Council, and the other reports set out in the Convening Circular be received for information purposes only.

Carried

Additional Lay Members of Synod

The Constitution permits the Bishop to name up to 8 additional lay members of Synod. Archbishop Greg has appointed the following who have both voice and vote:

Lisa Boulet (ACW president)
Emily Krause (Youth Delegate for Glenmore)
Tessa Muirhead (Youth Delegate for High River)
Beatryce Hardock (Youth Delegate for Palliser)
Hannah Wygiera (Youth Delegate for Red Deer/Drumheller - not able to attend)

Courtesies of the House

Archbishop Greg granted courtesies of the House to the following:

Larry Taerum and Bernard Van Blokland, tech crew
Dr. John Bowen, Keynote Speaker
The Rev. Adrian Martens (Vicar of Lay Associations, The Catholic Diocese of Calgary)
The Ven. Junior Ballantyne (Companion Diocese of the Windward Islands)
The Rev. Rick Beck (Moravian Church of Canada)

Observers

The Rev. Margaret Hogarth, Church of the Good Shepherd, Calgary
Theresa Ferry, Holy Trinity, Rocky Mountain House
Linda Holt, St. Andrew, Gleichen
Peter Strikes With A Gun, St. Cyprian, Piikani
Doreen Weasel Bear, St. Cyprian, Piikani
Jeannie Delores Provost, St. Cyprian, Piikani
Bernice Heavy Runner, St. Paul, Kainai
Jack Goodall, St. Cuthbert & St. George, Sundre

Clergy Excused:

At the request of the following licensed clergy and for good reason, they have been excused from being present at Synod:

The Ven. Noel Wygiera, St. Luke, Red Deer
The Rev. Tim Webster, St. John, Claresholm
The Rev. Rob Cowie, Christ Church, Nanton
The Rev. Guy Snell, All Saints, Medicine Hat
The Rev. Eldean Parnell, St. Ambrose, Redcliff
The Rev. Dr. Oz Lorentzen, St. Barnabas, Medicine Hat

Clergy Changes:

Clergy changes since the last Meeting of Synod are reported in the Registrar's Report in the 2023 Convening Circular, pages 30 and 31.

Keynote Address

Dr. John Bowen, Retired Professor of Evangelism at Wycliffe College, was introduced by Ven. Pilar. Further information on Dr. Bowen can be found at <https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/users/john-bowen>. His address to Synod is Appendix B.

Thanks were offered by Archbishop Greg following the keynote address.

After closing prayers and dismissal, the Friday evening session of Synod was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 14

Late Registration and pick up of Keypads occurred from 8:00 am to 8:50 am.

Morning Prayer

The Archdeaconry of Macleod led Synod in Morning Prayer. Synod resumed at 9:30 a.m.

Motion to approve use of Keypads

MOVED: Pilar Gateman
SECONDED: Charmaine Evans

THAT all subsequent voting at this Synod on substantive motions may be conducted by electronic means, using the keypads supplied, unless a recorded vote under Section 18 of Canon 2 is required.

Carried

Report of the Diocesan Registrar – final numbers

Rev. Charmaine reported on the final registration numbers:

- Number of licensed clergy members of Synod present is 52 of a possible 54
- Number of elected lay members of Synod present is 82 of a possible 87
- Number of other lay members of Synod (including members of Diocesan Council, Officers of Synod, and Bishop's Delegates) is 11 of a possible 11.

Jeff reported: Quorum is 50% of each house. Clergy Quorum is 29. Laity Quorum is 44.

- Total Present 145 of a possible 152. Registration was closed.

A reminder that there is a prayer chapel provided by the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer for those wishing to pray or be prayed for, and they are praying for us.

Greetings from Invited guests

A letter from Bishop Larry Kochendorfer of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories was read by Rev. Carol.

Archbishop Greg introduced The Rev. Adrian Martens, Vicar of Lay Associations, Catholic Diocese of Calgary. He brings greetings from Bishop William McGrattan of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary. He noted that the purpose of Mission is to extend the scope of communion.

Archbishop Greg introduced The Rev. Rick Beck of the Moravian Church of Canada. In June, the General Synod approved the full communion of the Moravian Church. He explained the history of the Moravian Church briefly. "We've lost something in the eyes of the public." But there's something new taking place. Instead of looking at our differences, what makes us the same? Full communion does this. Why are we here? Would it matter if the church wasn't here? We are on the verge of "something else" and what is God going to do through you? What is the church going to be in the future?

Archbishop Greg introduced The Ven. Junior Ballantyne of the Windward Islands. He brought greetings from Bishop Leopold Friday. He offered a description of his diocese. During Covid and the eruption of a volcano on St. Vincent, he described how the church responded to the needs of the people, with mental health support, basic needs of food, clothing, finances and even farm animals. Where can our two dioceses strengthen our companion relationship? He suggested becoming pen pals through paper or electronic means, exchanges of Sunday School teachers, church groups or clergy sabbaticals, and especially continuing to pray for one another.

COFFEE BREAK

Introduction of Motions (which were voted on after lunch)

Motion to amend the Constitution

Jeff listed the members who form the Legislative Committee. This vote requires 2/3 majority of each house for approval. He spoke to the reasons for amendments, mainly to streamline the text and make the Canons and Constitution more user-friendly. The reasoning for each amendment was outlined in a separate document sent out at the end of August, 2023.

MOVED: Jeff Davidson
SECONDED: Pilar Gateman

THAT as proposed by the Legislative Committee and as approved by Diocesan Council, this 79th Convention of Synod of the Diocese of Calgary hereby adopts and enacts those amendments to Sections C3 through C&, C14, C15, C32, C35, C36, C37, C42 and C43 of the Constitution of The Synod of the Diocese of Calgary as set out in the document entitled "The Constitution of the Diocese: revisions for 79th Synod" which was included as a supplement to the Convening Circular for this Convention of Synod.

Carried
(Clergy: unanimous
Lay:unanimous)

Amendments to the Canons

MOVED: Jeff Davidson
SECONDED: Carol Tubman

THAT as proposed by the Legislative Committee and as approved by Diocesan Council, this 79th Convention of Synod of the Diocese of Calgary hereby adopts and enacts those amendments to the following Sections of the Canons of The Synod of the Diocese of Calgary:

Canon 1
Canon 5.4
Canon 5.11
Canon 6.6
Canon 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.6, 7.8, 7.9, 7.10, 7.11, 7.15, 7.16
Canon 9.2, 9.3, 9.4
Canon 13.1
Canon 13.4

Canon 13.20
Canon 13.30
Canon 13.78
Canon 16.5

as set out in the documents entitled “Canon 1 of the Diocese of Calgary: revisions for 79th Synod” and “Canons 2 to 18 of the Diocese of Calgary: revisions of 79th Synod” which was included as a supplement to the Convening Circular for this Convention of Synod.

Carried

Amendment of Wording to Constitution and Canons

Archbishop Greg spoke to this motion from a historical perspective.

MOVED: Jeff Davidson
SECONDED: Chris Dowdeswell

THAT as proposed by the Legislative Committee and as approved by Diocesan Council, this 79th Convention of Synod of the Diocese of Calgary hereby amends the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese to replace “archdeacon” with “archpriest.”

Tabled until the next Diocesan Synod

ELECTIONS

Report of the Synod Steering Committee

Rev. Charmaine, as Co-Chair, introduced the members of the Synod Steering Committee for 2023. She outlined the tasks for this committee, the dates of meetings, the circulation of documents, and offered thanks to this committee for their efforts in organizing this event.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Rev. Kersi Bird, as Chair, introduced the members of the Nominating Committee. She highlighted the meeting dates and the task of collecting names and biographies of those putting their names forward for elections. All positions have at least one nominee. She thanked the committee and Rev. Carol for their assistance. She introduced all those letting their names stand for each election, noting that Rev. Eyad Ajji has withdrawn his name.

Where only one name came forward, these positions would be filled by acclamation.

Election Officer and Scrutineers

A reminder that according to Canon 2, Section 20, the following scrutineers have been duly appointed: Peter Crisfield and Karen Larsen, and the Elections Officer: Chris Dowdeswell.

Presentation of Electronic Voting Process

Larry Taerum and Bernard van Blokland were introduced. Larry handled the electronic tabulation and Bernard was responsible for the on-screen information. Larry explained the electronic voting process, and testing of the keypads occurred.

Results of Elections

General Synod

Clergy Delegates

Very Rev. Dr. Chris Dowdeswell
Ven. Jacqui Durand
Ven. Noel Wygiera

Clergy Alternates

1. Rev. Derwyn Costinak
2. Rev. John Chuol
3. Rev. Joan Carson

Lay Delegates

Connie Jensen
Donna Wilson
Hannah Wygiera

Lay Alternates

1. Winnifred Hume

Youth Delegate

Tessa Muirhead

Youth Alternate

Beatryce Hardock

Provincial Synod

Clergy Delegates

Ven. Dr. Pilar Gateman
Ven. Jacqui Durand
Rev. Carol Tubman

Clergy Alternates

1. Very Rev. Dr. Chris Dowdeswell
2. Rev. John Chuol
3. Ven. Noel Wygiera
4. Rev. Joan Carson

Lay Delegates

Winnifred Hume
Jim Tubman

Lay Alternates

1. Connie Jensen
2. Donna Wilson

Youth Delegate

Hannah Wygiera

Youth Alternate

Tessa Muirhead

Diocesan Council

Clergy

Rev. Brent Schulze
Rev. John Chuol
Rev. Bonnie Luft
Rev. Dr. Norbert Haukenfrers
Rev. Steve Bateman

Red Deer/Drumheller
Palliser
Glenmore
High River
Lethbridge/Medicine Hat

Lay

Connie Jensen
Debbie Bradley
Donna Wilson
Wendy Cranch
Barbara Edgecombe-Green

Red Deer/Drumheller
Palliser
Glenmore
High River
Lethbridge/Medicine Hat

Archbishop Greg thanked all who put their names forward.

MID-DAY PRAYERS led by The Rev. Derwyn Costinak

LUNCH

INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES PRESENTATION

Ven. Jacqui Durand, Archdeacon of Indigenous Ministries, welcomed everyone and introduced the smudging ceremony by Diocesan Elder Eric Crow Shoe. This is a process of “making relatives, cleansing and purifying.” She introduced other Indigenous leaders: Doreen Weasel Bear, Eric’s wife; Erin Black; Alexis Gladstone and Bernice Heavy Runner, granddaughters of Senator James Gladstone; and The Rev. Larry Waterchief. Eric prayed in Blackfoot, then smudged those on stage along with Archbishop Greg and Ven. Pilar.

Alexis spoke on her grandfather’s life of his Anglican faith and advocacy for the Native peoples in government, in areas of voting rights, education, equality and self-government. Her parents, Horace Gladstone and Nora Ayoungman, were influential in supporting the faith for the Siksika Nation.

Erin spoke of her inspiration from her father, The Right Rev. Sidney Black in his ministry and her gaining confidence through participating in the national Sacred Circle.

Rev. Larry shared that after years of working for various levels of government, he came back to help his people. During the pandemic, he conducted over 100 funerals due to drugs and alcohol in his community. This was numbing. The loss of lives continues. Death is a part of life. Through Christ and through powerful prayer, we gain strength and keep going.

Eric closed this presentation by sharing the Indigenous communities’ thankfulness for Ven. Jacqui being brought to these communities. She has been given the Blackfoot name, “the bright star below the moon.”

MOTIONS and DEBATE

Approval of the Amendments to the Constitution and Canons

Amendment to Constitution: carried unanimously

Discussion re: Amendment to the Canons:

Question: Age 16 for Council – Age 18 for Wardens – signing rights are at age 18. Question regarding whether the age of 18 is too young. We need more youth to be involved in the church. Young people should be exposed to the workings at the parish level.

The parish should know who has the wisdom and maturity to function in this capacity.

Question: Creation of youth position on Parish Council – “possibility of,” not a requirement.

Friendly Amendment: re-wording: “...**a youth member of parish council, if available, as shall be determined by the parishioners.**” (non-substantive change).

Discussion: re: Amendment to Wording to Constitution and Canons: change from “archdeacon” to “archpriest”:

We would be the only Diocese using this term.

This may be confusing.

Honorifics versus Titles – how would that be affected?

“Archdeacon” carries weight; “Archpriest” does not have a job description. “Archdeacon” has the custom as the senior priest in their territory.

In tradition, archdeacons were the senior deacons but this custom has slowly faded.

We are trying to recover the fuller expression of deacons.

This is a poor topic to discuss in light of what the speakers have been presenting.

Motion to table for three years:

Moved by Norman Knowles

Seconded by (not able to hear who did this)

Carried

MOTION TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Chair of Administration and Finance Committee Karen Larsen spoke to the challenge of preparing financial statements, and bringing numbers up to date from 2020, during a pandemic. She presented the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Financials which were sent out prior to this Synod.

MOVED: Karen Larsen
SECONDED: Malcolm Kern

THAT this Synod of the Diocese of Calgary approves the acceptance of the Financial Statements as presented, for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Carried

Discussion:

Reviewed versus Audited Statements: audits were completed in 2018, and again in 2019. We now only need a review going forward, at about a third of the cost of an audit. This is good stewardship. In the future, it will be decided by Admin & Finance Committee and Diocesan Council if there should be an audit.

It was commented that the IRCC may require an audit. The Refugee Committee Chair, Rev. Canon Erin Phillips stated that because the records and funds for Refugees are held outside of diocesan finances, the normally-requested full audit from the government has been lowered to a “carved out” audit of only the portion of Refugee funds. We have had “stunning” reviews, and another “carved out” audit will be requested in five years.

Traditionally, not-for-profits are not audited, they are reviewed.

APPOINTMENTS TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

There were no changes to the Legislative Committee members, so no ratification was required.

FINAL ADDRESS FROM GUEST SPEAKER

Ven. Pilar introduced Dr. John Bowen for his second address to Synod. He spoke, using the verse from Matthew 11:28 to 30. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” He compared the sharing of the yoke of two oxen, one who is

stronger, with our lives and Christ yoked with us. The Church is a school; Jesus is the teacher and we are the disciples, the students.

There was no transcript from this address, as the audio was indecipherable.

Thanks were offered by Archbishop Greg following this address.

PRESENTATIONS

Missional Coaches – Ven. Dr. Pilar Gateman

Ministry Development Team – Rev. Br. Jason Carroll and Rev. Elizabeth Short

Church Planting – Rev. Daniel Joseph

These presentations were indecipherable on the audio.

RESPONSE TO THE BISHOP'S CHARGE

Sheila Vanderputten thanked Archbishop Greg for his gentle leadership.

Rev. Steve Bateman spoke of the model of Jesus being not “bendable;” we are to be shaped by Jesus. At the center of our faith is the cross of Christ.

Archbishop Greg thanked the two responders.

Address to Synod by Sid Holt

Sid spoke of the good work of the Fr. Greene Society, and the request to create a Drop In Centre in Gleichen.

Archbishop Greg thanked Sid.

Bishop's Assent

Archbishop Greg assented to all the Acts and Resolutions of Synod, as per Constitution C40 and Canon 2, paragraph 3.

CLOSING MOTIONS AND THANKS

Rev. Derwyn Costinak extended thanks to:

- The Ven. Dr. Pilar Gateman and The Rev. Charmaine Evans for their hard work as Co-Chairs of the Synod Steering Committee, and to the rest of the members of the Committee for successfully organizing our 79th Convention of Synod.
- Rev. Charmaine as Diocesan Registrar for all her detailed work in Synod registration, along with the volunteers (Barb Gogol, Dianne Widney and Suzan Pedersen).
- Peter Crisfield and Karen Larsen as our Scrutineers and The Very Rev. Dr. Chris Dowdeswell as Elections Officer.
- The worship leaders in offering their time and talents in leading last night's Eucharist, this morning's Morning Prayer and the Mid-Day Prayer service.

- The Rev. Carol Tubman for her work on the Convening Circular and administrative assistance, and Barb Gogol for financial assistance in the registration process.
- The Rev. Kersi Bird for her work as Chair of the Nominations Committee.
- Larry Taerum and Bernard van Blokland for providing our audio-visual service, and Data-on-the-Spot for providing our electronic voting process. As well, thanks to Larry for organizing the power point presentations.
- The members of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer and their volunteers who supported the meeting with prayer throughout the day in the Prayer Room.
- St. Peter, Okotoks, The Rev. Dr. Norbert Haukenfrers and the parishioners who volunteered, as our hosts throughout this Synod, and John Hartley for handling the details of the catering.

CLOSING PRAYERS AND ADJOURNMENT

Archbishop Greg closed the meeting with prayer, followed by the Doxology.

All members of Synod were reminded to fill in a Feedback form and place it in a basket before leaving the venue today. As well, members were asked to return all nametags and keypads.

MOVED: Carol Tubman
SECONDED: Charmaine Evans

THAT this Synod of the Diocese of Calgary be adjourned

Carried

Synod adjourned at 5:10 p.m. Dismissed by Rev. Carol.

The Most Rev. Greg Kerr-Wilson
Chair

Mr. Peter Crisfield
Chancellor

The Rev. Deacon Charmaine Evans
Clerical Recorder

Mrs. Kim Getty
Lay Recorder