



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Approved 26 September 2026

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

30 May 2026

Camp Medley

Pre-meeting circulation

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes (26 February 2026)
- Officer and Committee Reports
 - Constitutions and Canons: proposed amendments to legislation:
 - Amendment to the Constitution s.3 and Canon Four pertaining to Threshold Ministries
 - Amendments to Canon Four and associated renaming of Regulation 5-4
 - Amendment to Canon Six and adoption of Policy A-10
 - Finance Committee Report
 - Amendments to Policy A-4, Policy A-6 and Policy A-9 and revocation of Policy A-1
 - Treasurer's Report
 - April 2026 Diocesan Income Statement
 - April 2026 Shared Ministry and Employment Assessments
 - April 2026 PH&N Performance Report
 - Human Resources Committee Report
 - Revocation of Regulation 4-3
 - For information: draft Policy B-7, Policy B-8, Policy B-9, Risk Management Guide
 - Director of Mission and Ministry Report
 - Director of Camp Medley

Members Attending

David Bell, Harold Boomer, Michael Briggs, Joanna DiProse, David Edwards, Trevor Fotheringham, Brent Ham, Bonnie Hunt, Cheryl Jacobs, Jim Knight, Gerald Laskey, Laura McNulty, Robert Montgomery, Neil Osiowy, Julian Pillay, Maria Shepherdson, Philip Shepherdson, Nancy Stephens, Diane Todd, Caleb Twinamatsiko.

Member Regrets

Regrets were received from Terence Chandra (on sabbatical), Perry Cooper, Geoffrey Hall, Leo Martin, Rob Marsh, John Matheson and Tony Munn. Connor DeMerchant, Margaret Holder and Chase McLean were absent.

Guests Attending

Shawn Branch (Director of Mission and Ministry), John Galbraith (Director of Camp Medley.

Welcome and Worship

1. David Edwards, diocesan bishop and chair, welcomed everyone and began the meeting at 10:00 am by acknowledging that the diocese conducts its activities on the traditional and unceded territory of the Wabanaki people, which includes the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, and Peskotomuhkati nations, giving thanks for the land itself, for our Indigenous siblings, and for the opportunity to gather as we seek God's guidance for the work before us.

Archbishop David then presided over Holy Eucharist with assistance from Rob Montgomery leading music, Laura McNulty reading the lesson, Nancy Stephens leading the intercessions, and Neil Osiowy assisting with the chalice. In his homily, Archbishop David noted it was an Ember Day and focused on Micah 6:8, asking what it is to be a people who do justice, who love kindness and mercy, and who walk humbly. He also highlighted Paul Tillich and Roberta Tilton (founder of the Women's Auxiliary/ACW for whose day of commemoration it was).

Call to Order

2. Archbishop David called the meeting to order following a brief break. He noted the regrets received and then introduced and welcomed Diane Todd, the new diocesan ACW president.

Approval of the Agenda

3. The chair asked if there were any additions to the circulated revised agenda and then for approval.

MOTION 1: M Shepherdson / G Laskey

That Diocesan Council approve the agenda as presented.

Carried.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

4. The chair asked but received no responses regarding changes to the minutes of the last Diocesan Council meeting (26 February 2026).

MOTION 2: C Jacobs / L McNulty

That Diocesan Council approve the minutes of the 26 February 2026 meeting.

Carried.

Correspondence

5. Cheryl Jacobs, Secretary, noted two pieces of correspondence:
 - a. A letter to the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick to confirm that access to Anglican register pages within the Anglican Registers Project and the Archives

should be in line with access to birth, marriage and death records defined in the New Brunswick Vital Statistics Act.

- b. A letter of thanks sent to Claire Fracker who has resigned from the Property Committee.

Business Arising

6. Archbishop David provided a recap on the **140th synod session** held in April. He noted it had gone in a different direction than what he expected from the Greater Chapter meetings. He indicated this is a fine result, but it means that the bishop and the whole diocese now need to take responsibility. This shared responsibility is already beginning to emerge with parishes and groups having sent donations to the Cathedral restoration fund. David will next establish an initial action group to be in place for a year to get the process started and is currently in discussion with the person he hopes to make the chair of this group. Cheryl Jacobs noted that a dedicated page has been created on the diocesan website.

7. The chair opened the floor to questions:

Brent Ham asked if there are items that are quite urgent and should be addressed this year. David suggested that once the action group is formed, they will meet with Tom Morrison, the author of the issues report. There is a sense that a new roof and monitoring of the south clerestory window section need to happen fairly quickly, but the roof may need to wait until more is understood about the movement of the clerestory section.

Julian Pillay asked what actions and plans might be in place from the Cathedral especially with the Dean retiring. The Dean has approved the start of the PAC process before he retires – and Shawn is meeting with them this week. David is going to attend meetings of Bishop and Chapter (normally only when asked to) and making as many opportunities as he can to be present for worship on Sundays in the Cathedral. A lot of the ministry apart from Sundays happens in the hall

Harold Boomer suggested putting a structural engineer on the payroll through the process. David noted this will be sorted out by the action group.

Laura McNulty noted that many of our parishes do not see the Cathedral as part of the ministry to the whole diocese though there was some discussion at the synod session about how the Cathedral could become more so. She indicated it is difficult to ask northern NB parishes to fundraise when they are busy doing so for their own churches, and it is hard for them to participate in activities there. David responded that this will be part of the conversation.

Gerry Laskey wondered if, with the second session motion putting the emphasis on the parishes, confirmations could take place on weekdays to free the archbishop up on Sundays.

Caleb Twinamasiko noted he finds the gulf between the parishes and the diocese hard to imagine and wonders what the parishes expect or what is not happening as Abp. David is already doing what he is supposed to do. He suggested more education about the structure of the diocese. David responded that this way of thinking is in our diocesan DNA. Having read much of Bishop Medley's history when preparing for the synod session, he notes the parishes were much on their own prior to Medley coming. He also noted that we are one of two dioceses in the country where most property is vested in the parishes, making the parishes quite independent. This and the suggestion that Bishop Medley's cathedral and his Tractarianism were not very popular at the time play together into who we are as a diocese. Caleb asked if there is a possibility of revising the constitution, to make the diocese more episcopal. David responded that this is the "twelfth year of our consecration" indicating it was not something he was ready to initiate. He asked the chancellor to comment, and the chancellor deferred to the bishop's comment.

There were further suggestions regarding parishes visiting the Cathedral more, and it was noted that recent bishops have not been consecrated at the Cathedral due to space constraints. David noted that he and the previous bishops were installed in the Cathedral following consecration.

Cheryl reminded all that there has been no call for parishes to begin fundraising. The synod has been encouraged by some doing so as well as neighbours of the building pledging donations, but nothing official will be in place until the action group does its work.

8. At the last meeting, during discussion of amendments to Policy B-6 Criminal Record Check, members asked for clarification around pardons of criminal records. The secretary spoke to the report she produced with the chancellor. As a result of the information gathered, Cheryl proposed that a similar phrase to what was removed from this policy at the last meeting be added back; that is, s.7: "No person found guilty in a judicial proceeding of physical or sexual assault for which their record has not been suspended".

Gerry Laskey asked if parishes are allowed to ask this question. David Bell noted that within the human resources documentation on the website are model questions, including a well formulated one for this type of offence (*"Do you have any known barriers or conflicts of interest that may affect your ability to carry out the duties?"*).

MOTION 3: C Jacobs / G Laskey

That Diocesan Council approve amendment to Policy B-6 Criminal Record Check, s.7, as presented.

Carried.

Ministry Update

9. Bonnie Hunt updated members on Saint John Inner City Youth Ministry (ICYM) highlighting their existing programs, including Lunch Connection, and new initiatives because of the new provincial school lunch program beginning in September.

She first noted that ICYM was established in 1989 as a project of the Diocese of Fredericton and local parishes to provide more effective ministry to the residents of the south end of Saint John. She highlighted the mission is about fostering meaningful relationships and the holistic well-being of children and youth, families and communities. The three key areas of focus are food security, literacy and relationship. The ministry has always been about going where the need was and working there; but when the needs change, ICYM changes.

Their successful and long-running Lunch Connection program, providing subsidized healthy, child-friendly lunches to schools, served 50,000 lunches to 12 schools last year. They are not in a position, however, to be a lunch provider with the new government run program, so they are initiating a revised and a new program: Morning Connection, a breakfast program in schools, and Meal Connection, nutritious easy-to-prepare meals and snacks offered through a web app.

Bonnie also briefly described their other continuing or restarting programs, including Lunch Connection Summer Edition, Summer Backpack Program, Table Connection, Family Connection, Youth Connection, Lending Kits and Reading Clubs. Further details are available from the ICYM website (icym.ca) and in an article included in a diocesan eNews edition published following this meeting.

10. The meeting broke for lunch provided by Camp Medley. The meeting resumed at approx. 1:00 pm. Caleb Twinamatsiko gave his regrets for the afternoon session.

Reception of Reports

11. The chair asked for a motion to receive all reports as circulated.

MOTION 4: T Fotheringham / B Hunt

That Diocesan Council receive all reports as presented.

Carried.

Constitution and Canons

12. Chancellor David Bell presented proposed changes to the Constitution and Canons to be recommended to the next Diocesan Synod along with some further housekeeping changes.

Amendment to the Constitution s.3 and Canon Four pertaining to Threshold Ministries

13. Chancellor David proposed a change to the Constitution to permit the role of licensed evangelist even for a person not connected with Threshold Ministries, and to add the role of licensed missionary. There was no further discussion.

MOTION 5: D Bell / B Ham

That Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend s.3 of the Constitution as presented.

Carried.

14. David introduced the proposed change to Canon Four noting it deletes a reference to the Threshold School of Ministry which no longer exists. There was a question about adding Huron University College to the list; the response being no as the three remaining in the list have a more direct relationship with our diocesan bishop; for example, the bishop/synod appoint members to their boards.

MOTION 6: D Bell / J Pillay

That Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend s.21(1) of Canon Four (Diocesan Governance) as presented.

Carried.

Amendments to Canon Four and associated renaming of Regulation 5-4

15. Chancellor David introduced a further proposed change to Canon Four to formally recognize the practice of parish assessments by the synod that has been in place since at least 1950 (the earliest he found any related information) noting his surprise that this is missing. This proposed change will authorize legislation that already exists, that is, the regulation that sets out the formulation of the assessment. There was no further discussion.

MOTION 7: D Bell / G Laskey

That Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend s.16 of Canon Four (Diocesan Governance) as presented.

Carried.

16. Since Council passed the previous motion, the chancellor proposed a change in the number of the associated regulation pertaining to parish assessments with the rationale that it be linked to the authorizing Canon Four (Diocesan Governance) rather than Canon Five (Diocesan Business).

MOTION 8: D Bell / C Jacobs

That Regulation 5-5 Shared Ministry become Regulation 4-5 Shared Ministry.

Carried.

Amendment to Canon Six and adoption of Policy A-10

17. Chancellor David proposed changes to allow for the extension of parish warden service, noting the Canon Six amendment is simply a reference to the ability to extend with the details as to the process and length in new proposed policy.

Archbishop David gave some background as to why he requested the amendment. Every year he receives requests from parishes who have no new candidate(s) for one or both parish wardens. He gives permission for existing wardens to remain past their allowed

term with the proviso that he does not have the jurisdiction to do so, while recognizing that a lack of wardens means a corporation can not technically exist.

The chancellor did offer a warning with respect to this change; that is, once someone thinks someone else will be warden for many years there is no incentive for others to offer. If a parish cannot provide the canonical number of wardens for several years, the parish has more issues to deal with. He also added that the proposed change correctly makes this a synod question, rather than one for the bishop.

Maria Shepherdson, noting that there are situations where people have been in positions of power and perhaps a parish needs a change, asked what the process for application might look like, particularly would the incumbent be asked if this is the best situation? The chancellor responded that a report is required from the parish and the assumption would be that, if there is an incumbent, the incumbent supports the report.

Harold Boomer reflected that the dissolution of the Parish of the Tobique, in part due to that parish not being able to fill the warden roles, has been a godsend to the other parishes in the area – in the form of a warning to pay attention to the situation.

Trevor Fotheringham asked about the case where a parish warden extension has been permitted but a new nomination is offered at the annual meeting; can there be an election or is the extended person automatically in place. The chancellor responded that the proposed change to the Canon says a parish is still free to replace the current warden. Laura McNulty noted that their nominating committee calls every household prior to the annual meeting, so they never expect someone to be nominated at the meeting. There was further discussion on this situation, particularly on ways to ensure the extended warden withdraws from the election if there is a new nomination after an extension has been granted.

MOTION 9: D Bell / G Laskey

That Diocesan Council recommend that Synod amend s.2 of Canon Six (Parish Governance) as presented.

Carried.

18. The chancellor then proposed a new policy, A-10 Applications to Extend a Church Warden's Tenure of Office, which outlines the process the parish would follow in seeking permission. He noted it would not be practical for the whole Council to deal with these requests so they would go to the Executive Committee. Point 3 of the policy opens the opportunity for some back and forth between the parish and the Executive Committee, so that the latter would become more familiar with the state of the parish and take further intervention if it seemed necessary; that is, it is not just a per forma application. This would serve to make the Council more acquainted formally with the more marginal and other parishes.

Rob Montgomery asked, with respect to the previous conversation, if more specific instruction can be made to the Executive Committee. The chancellor noted the Executive Committee would create the application form.

MOTION 10: D Bell / M Briggs

That Diocesan Council adopt Policy A-10 as presented, to come into effect if and when the Synod adopts the proposed related amendment to Canon Six.

Carried.

Finance

19. Jim Knight, Chair of the Finance Committee, offered his report. He noted the committee has had an issue getting quorum the last couple of meetings, so he has spoken to the chair of Nominating. He briefly reviewed his report, particularly highlighting that some details in Policy A-2 Proceeds from the Sale of Residential Properties are under review. He then introduced proposed changes to other policies.

Amendments to Policy A-4 Obtaining Financial Assistance

20. Jim referred to the current and proposed new version of Policy A-4, the revised Synod Grant application, and the new Project Completion Form in the meeting package. He noted the committee would like to see these revisions in place before the next round of grant applications in early September. Philip added that the changes are about streamlining our own process, as well as with the Anglican Foundation of Canada grant process.

Gerry Laskey asked for the main highlights of the proposed changes. Cheryl responded that these include a simplification of the request categories and fewer questions overall, noting the original application was based on the former AFC application form and included questions the synod does not need to ask parishes. Philip additionally added that there was an effort to align more with the Five Marks of Mission.

Brent Ham noted that the proposed changes remove the requirement for archdeacons to write a letter of support. It was agreed this is the case; they are still welcome to do so, but this removes pressure if the archdeacon is not in support.

MOTION 11: J Knight / P Shepherdson

That Diocesan Council approve the amendments to Policy A-4 Obtaining Financial Assistance and associated application form and project completion form, as presented.

Carried.

Amendments to Policy A-6 Outstanding Synod Financial Support

21. Jim referred to the current and proposed new version of Policy A-6 in the package. Cheryl noted this was passed by the Finance Committee a year ago but missed being brought to Council.

MOTION 12: J Knight / C Jacobs

That Diocesan Council approve amendments to Policy A-6 Outstanding Parish Support, renaming to Policy A-6 Outstanding Synod Financial Support, as presented.

Carried.

Revocation of Policy A-1 Application to the Anglican Foundation

22. Cheryl referred to the rationale as provided in the meeting package, particularly noting that the policy is mostly redundant with Policy A-4 and out-of-date with respect to the Anglican Foundation details.

Gerry Laskey asked if we would need to renumber the other policies as a result of removing A-1. Somewhat tongue-in-cheek, Jim suggested a new A-1 policy on how to pass legislation.

MOTION 13: C Jacobs / J Knight

That Diocesan Council revoke Policy A-1 Application to the Anglican Foundation.

Carried.

Amendment to Policy A-9 Purchase of Real Property and New Construction and Renovation

23. Cheryl referred to the report in the meeting package, recommending that the maximum value for blanket permission for new construction or renovation/expansion be increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000, as noted in sections 3, 5 **and 12** (the last having been forgotten in the report) of Policy A-9.

MOTION 14: C Jacobs / J Knight

That Diocesan Council approve amendment to Policy A-9 Purchase of New Property and New Construction or Renovation, as presented.

Carried.

Treasurer's Reports

24. Treasurer Philip Shepherdson presented the highlights of his report along with the April statements included in the package. He noted we are still waiting on the examiner's report regarding the 2025 finances but hopes to have it in front of Finance at the June meeting. He would like to get the charities report to the Canada Revenue Agency by the June deadline.
25. With respect to the current financial picture, we are slightly under in income due to timing of investment income. Investment fund managers have said they expect we will make our target. He highlighted the redistribution of the income from the sale of the West Saint John rectory into the proper fund. Philip noted that expenditures tend to lag behind in the first four months but tends to catch up, thus the report suggests we are doing better than might be accurate, though he does expect to do better than the budgeted deficit by the end of the year.

26. With respect to the SMB and employment assessments, Philip indicated that five parishes are behind on SMB assessments totalling \$14,300, and one parish, plus one with arrears from last year, are behind on employment payments. He has been in contact with these parishes. This is in line with prior years at 96% and 99% collection respectively.

Gerry Laskey noted that last year we were in a similar position with waiting on the examiner, though Philip responded that we were even later last year. Gerry asked if the Council could do a provisional approval. Philip noted he had no report to offer but would use the Finance Committee or the Executive Committee as necessary.

27. Philip briefly reviewed the DCIF portfolio report, reminding everyone that about 45% of the portfolio belongs to parishes. There is currently a return of 3.75% but this is fluctuating depending on the geopolitical situation. He is confident the fund managers will realize what they have promised.
28. Referring back to the Finance Committee report, Brent asked about Miscellaneous item #3, to clarify that the \$50,000 refers to the amount of the potential settlement rather than our lawyer fees. His clarification was confirmed as accurate.

Human Resources

29. Michael Briggs, chair of the Human Resources Committee, invited questions to his report for which there were none.

Revocation of Regulation 4-3 Diocesan Lay Employees Remuneration and Benefits

30. Michael then proposed revoking Regulation 4-3 as it is now redundant given changes made to the Regulation 7 group to include lay employees. Cheryl Jacobs further drew attention to the sections in the regulation identified as not redundant with other legislation and the associated recommendations from the Committee to ensure these items are not lost.

MOTION 15: M Briggs / G Laskey

That Diocesan Council revoke Regulation 4-3 Diocesan Lay Employees Remuneration and Benefits, effective immediately.

Carried.

31. Cheryl Jacobs provided an update on the Safe Church framework revisions. She noted the new Regulation 4-4 Safe Church and Policy B-3 Misconduct were slated for enactment on June 1. She drew attention to the three draft new policies and the draft Risk Management Guide in the meeting package and asked Council members to provide any feedback to her. The plan is to have final drafts for approval at the September Council meeting. In the meantime, Ben Bourque, Diocesan Safe Church Officer, is making good headway with new training videos. Reformatting of the Safe Church section on the diocesan website is also in process.

Director of Mission and Ministry

32. Shawn Branch addressed his report, noting it has been a busy spring. He attended two convocations, his first round since managing the discernment process, sharing that it was a gift to be able to celebrate with the graduates. He is also having conversations with parishes not necessarily in crisis but reimagining mission which have been encouraging and healthy rather than the situation where parishes are too tired to talk about it. He indicated we continue to have a number of people offering themselves for discernment toward ministry (15 formally in the process, 2 discernment committees in the works). Shawn also noted that, God willing, the archbishop would be ordaining 7 individuals on September 12. Gerry Laskey commented that he is impressed on how busy Shawn has been.

Camp Medley

33. Before asking John Galbraith to speak, Archbishop David offered thanks to Reagon and Amy for lunch, to which there was applause. John, Director of Camp Medley, noted that it is good to have Council meeting here and using the old dining hall. He referred to his report in the meeting package.
34. John updated the Council on the pool project. He noted the original envisioned dream pool would require one million litres of water to fill and the estimated cost to build had risen to over \$4 million. Besides also questioning the ability of the camp to maintain it, the fundraiser hired by the diocese, Gillian Doucet Campbell, estimated 2-3 years would be needed to raise the funds. A team has met with the design firm to focus on a redesign for a smaller footprint, reduced maintenance equipment and a cost closer to \$2 million. This has included reducing the number of lanes, the size of the wheelchair access and steel rather than concrete for the sides. He also noted options are being considered for the washrooms to save on the large cost of new underground infrastructure. John also reported he had met with someone with a potential offer of matching funds.

Philip Shepherdson asked about the proposed volume to which John responded the smaller pool would hold about 300,000 litres. There were further comments in support of an accessible ramp and Gerry Laskey commended having the pool available to the community noting that he had brought his children to the camp pool when they lived in Gagetown.

35. John also shared that they are considering reducing the size of the planned storage / maintenance shed to 40 x 80 feet rather than 50 x 100 which should cost around \$250,000 plus tax. To a question from Nancy Stephens, John confirmed the fundraising campaign is for both projects.

For the first time, John has booked two weekend events between regular camps. He also noted the Arcadia Village Council is using the camp to have their swearing in ceremony, commenting that the community loves the camp and they keep an eye on it. He is encouraging parishes to come and enjoy the place and amenities at the June 20 Open House which will serve as a formal start to the fundraising.

Recognition of Dean Geoffrey Hall

36. Archbishop David offered thanks to Geoffrey for his time as Dean of Fredericton, noting he is not just incumbent of the Cathedral, but second in line as senior cleric in the diocese. David also noted that Geoffrey has served as his Commissary, to sign legal documents when the bishop is away, and as Executive Archdeacon with Bishop Claude. David asked that all remember Geoffrey in prayer today at the funeral of his sister and during this transition to retirement, as well as the Cathedral, for both the building project and as they look for a new dean.

Meeting Schedule

37. Archbishop David noted the that the date of the next meeting is September 26 at St. John the Evangelist on Main Street in Fredericton.

2026

Saturday, September 26, 10am–3pm (in person, St. John the Evangelist, Fredericton)
Friday, November 27- Saturday November 28, (in person, overnight, Villa Madonna)

Adjournment

38. David Edwards asked for a motion to adjourn at approximately 2:52 pm.

MOTION 16: G Laskey

That Diocesan Council adjourn this meeting.

39. After adjourning Archbishop David led the members of Diocesan Council in prayer and the Grace and then thanked all for their participation.

Respectfully submitted,

The Most Rev David Edwards
Archbishop and Chair

Cheryl Jacobs
Secretary of Synod