



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

## MINUTES

### 159<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF SYNOD

Friday, November 8, 2019 and Saturday, November 9, 2019

Sheraton Parkway Hotel & Suites, Toronto

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## **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019**

Pursuant to the Notice of Meeting, the Bishop of Toronto called the members of Synod to gather for the 159<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto.

### **EUCCHARIST**

Synod opened with a service of Holy Communion, commencing at 10:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel & Suites, Toronto.

### **BISHOP'S CHARGE**

The Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, delivered his Charge to Synod.

Synod remembered the following deceased members during the Eucharist:

The Rev. Ian Stuart, The Rev. John Kirk, The Rev. Dr. Margaret Fleck, The Rev. Donald Catton, The Very Rev. Ted Clarke, The Rev. Philip Gandon, The Rev. David Wainwright, Mrs. Lois Brennan, ODT, The Ven. Gordon Finney, The Rev. Vernon Duporte.

The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes offered Grace. Synod broke for Lunch in Grand York Ballroom.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called the meeting to order. Bishop Asbil thanked all those who prepared and served during the Eucharist, especially the Honorary Clerical Secretaries of Synod – the Rev. Ian LaFleur and the Rev. Andrew MacDonald.

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING**

### Notice of Meeting

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil reported that the Notice of Meeting for the 159<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod was issued on the Diocesan website and in the May 2019 issue of *The Anglican*. Convening Circulars were posted on the Diocesan website on September 30, 2019. A supplementary Convening Circular was posted on the Diocesan website on November 4, 2019.

### Report of the Committee on Credentials

Chancellor Clare Burns noted that the Committee on Credentials reports that all Clerical and Lay Members gathered are entitled to take seats at Synod. This includes:

Voting	310	Lay Members
	<u>270</u>	Clergy
Total Voting	580	

## INTRODUCTION OF HONORARY SECRETARIES

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil introduced the Honorary Secretaries for this Session of Synod:

Honorary Clerical Secretary	The Rev. Ian LaFleur
Honorary Lay Secretary	Peter Newell
Assistant Honorary Clerical Secretary	The Rev. Andrew MacDonald

Honorary Secretaries delivered housekeeping announcements.

## SYNOD SPONSORS

Appreciation was extended to Synod sponsors - our Dinner Sponsor – Letko Brosseau, our Breakfast Sponsor – Burgundy Asset Management Ltd, our Cocktail Reception Sponsor – Fiera Capital, Our Refreshment Co-Sponsors – Canso Investment Counsel Limited and Northleaf Capital Partners, our Wi-Fi Sponsor – Quartet Service Incorporated, our Accessibility Sponsor – Ecclesiastical Insurance, our Environmental Sponsor – M&M International, our Worship Co-Sponsors – Trinity College and Wycliffe College.

## LATE ARRIVALS

The Honorary Secretaries read the names of those given permission in advance of Synod to arrive late. The list includes:

33	Lay Members
1	Bishop's Appointees
0	Youth Members
<u>28</u>	Clerical Members
62	Total number of late arrivals

## Motions to Synod

There are four Notices of Motion that have been received from Members of Synod. They include:

1. Motion #10 - Single-Use Plastics
2. Motion #14 – Affordable Housing
3. Motion #15 – Diocesan Environment Policy
4. Motion #16 – Policies and Regulations for Marriage

## RULES AND PROTOCOLS FOR MOTIONS AND VOTING

A review of rules and protocols for responding to motions was conducted with information displayed on screen. Test voting commenced facilitated by JP Copeland.

## APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian Lafleur and **SECONDED** by Peter Newell that the Agenda for the 159<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod be approved. **CARRIED.**

## OMNIBUS MOTION

Copies of the following motions can be found in Convening Circular on page 18 of Section A.

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian Lafleur and **SECONDED** by Peter Newell that

### 1. Minutes of 158<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod

The Minutes of 158<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held on November 9 and 10, 2018 in Toronto, be adopted,

### 2. Courtesies of the House

That the following be given Courtesies of the House:

- All clergy with “informal permission”, all Postulants of the Diocese, any lay chairperson, Deanery Council member, or Area Council member not a member of Synod, Ecumenical partners, Lay Canons of the Diocese, Lay faculty of theological colleges, members of the Threshold Ministries, Member of the Order of the Holy Cross, Sisters of St. John the Divine, Sisters of the Church,

Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit, Diocesan Parish Administrators, Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat, our Guest Speaker, and Mark Hemingway, presenter and member of the Governance and Decision Making Working Group.

**3. Court on Contested Seats**

That the following membership of the Court on Contested Seats be approved:

- Chancellor Clare Burns, Joyce Badley, ODT, Vice Chancellor Paul Baston, The Rev. Canon Judy Herron-Graham, The Rev. Elivered Mulongo, Gail Smith, and Kit (Christian) Woods.

**4. York Rectory Commissioners**

That the report of the York Rectory Commissioners be received and the following Commissioners be appointed for the First York Rectory and the Etobicoke Glebe:

- Chancellor Clare Burns, The Rev. Canon Stephen Fields, Joy Packham, ODT.

**5. Advisory Commission on the Termination of Clerical Appointments**

That the following membership of the Advisory Commission on the Termination of Clerical Appointments be approved:

- Vice Chancellor Brian Armstrong, The Rev. Louise Peters, Kennedy Marshall, ODT.

**CARRIED.**

Diocesan Council's Report to Synod

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian Lafleur and **SECONDED** by Peter Newell that Synod receive the document entitled *Diocesan Council's Report to Synod*. **CARRIED.**

Scrutineers

Synod was informed that in accordance with *The Constitution*, section 18, at its June 20, 2019 meeting, the Diocesan Council appointed the following members of Synod as Scrutineers for this Session of Synod:

Jessica Nee (St. Thomas, Huron Street)

The Rev. Pamela Trondson (Christ Church, Scarborough)

Timekeepers

Synod was informed that Diocesan Council appointed Postulants of the Diocese of Toronto to be timekeepers for this Session of Synod.

Regrets

The Honorary Secretaries reported that regrets were received from the following active and retired clergy who were unable to attend Synod:

Retired Clergy

The Rev. Canon Milton Barry

The Rev. Theodore Bartlett

The Rev. Canon David Brinton

The Rev. Canon Philip Bristow

The Rev. Annette Gillies

The Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon

The Rev. Carol Hardie

The Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Henderson

The Rev. Chris Horne

The Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft

The Rev. James Houston

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson

The Rev. John Lockyer

The Rev. Joanna Manning

The Rev. Diana McHardy

The Rev. William Montgomery

The Rt. Rev. Michael Pollesel

The Rt. Rev. M. Philip Poole

The Rev. Canon Dr. Jack Roberts

The Rev. Steven Smith

The Rev. Robert Sweet

The Rev. James Wilcox

Active Clergy

The Rev. Susan Haig

The Rev. Susanne McKim

The Rev. Louise Peters

The Rev. Heather Westbrook

### Memorials and Petitions

The Honorary Secretaries reported that no memorials or petitions were received for this session of Synod.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil made the following introductions:

#### Officers of the Diocese

Suffragan Bishops: The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty, the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, the Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, and the Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison

Chancellor: Canon Clare Burns

Vice Chancellor & Registrar: Canon Paul Baston

Vice Chancellor: Brian Armstrong, ODT

Executive Director: Robert Saffrey, ODT

Secretary of Synod: Pamela Boisvert

Treasurer and Director of Finance: Lilian Qian

Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. James: The Very Rev. Stephen Vail

### Chaplain

The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes, OHC

A Chapel was made available located in the Stouffville Room on the lower level.

### **MISSIONAL AND OUTREACH MOMENTS**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil explained that throughout Synod's agenda, you will hear about how our Diocese is living out its vision in our Missional and Outreach Moments. In the Missional Moments, you will hear about how communities in our Diocese are moving beyond their walls to find new ways of meeting people who are not being reached by traditional forms of Church. In the Outreach Moments, you will hear about how our churches are reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the homeless, and all those most vulnerable members of our society.

### **MISSIONAL AND OUTREACH MOMENT**

#### ***St. Martin, Bay Ridges and their Social Media Journey***

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on Lee Lynn and Denise Farrugia to tell us about St. Martin, Bay Ridges and their Social Media Journey.

### **CONSTITUTION AND CANON CHANGES**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on Chancellor Clare Burns and Mark Hemingway to present.

Chancellor Clare Burns provided a primer on the organization of the church and explained that the Canadian Church is organized at three levels, the national Church, four ecclesiastical provinces and the Diocese of Toronto, established in three statutes which permit us to establish a constitution, under which we have canon law, under which we govern ourselves. Every time we have Synod, we are confronted with ways to govern ourselves. The two items presented today are housekeeping changes, and policy changes. Housekeeping changes include looking for spelling mistakes, anything which is non-understandable, and convert it to English. All of this is in the convening circular. Before the next Synod, the committee will carefully look over everything to ensure spelling and English is correct.

Mark Hemingway presented, on behalf of the Governance & Decision-Making Working Group, the proposal to amend/introduce a pilot project to run between now and next Synod. The reason this was considered is because the structure was getting in the way of the missional work of the Diocese. It is unclear how to get what you need/which committee to go to, and committees do not have authority to make decision but only to recommend to Diocesan Council. Sarah McDonald, ODT, steered the group to address this issue. It was decided to create a nimble governance structure that makes sense within the context of the diocese. There has

been wide consultation throughout the diocese, including meetings with Archbishop Johnson, Bishop Andrew, Area Bishops, Area Councils, and the Chancellor.

The recommendation: Diocesan Council and Executive Board combine into one Synod Council with a maximum of 25 members. Six committees will function under this group's authority: Audit, Finance, Property, HR, Programs, and Risk and Governance. It is recommended that members of these committees have decision making authority delegated to them within parameters established by Synod and Synod Council. See slides.

The Chancellor drew attention to the fact that in the past, Synod has agreed to lift or suspend portions of a Canon until the next regular session of synod. The Constitution and Canons were reviewed, and it was decided to lift all canons that relate to Diocesan Council in order to operate the pilot project for two years. We would gain experience and tweak as necessary to create a formal redraft at the conclusion of the pilot project.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil began with housekeeping changes.

### **Housekeeping Changes (Motion #9A)**

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Vice Chancellor Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution and Canons, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to housekeeping at pages 12 to 14.

Despite the invitation, there was no debate on the housekeeping changes.

Chancellor Burns announced to Synod that the following four Lay Members and four Clerical Members have requested, pursuant to section 37(13) of The Constitution, that votes taken at the upcoming Regular Session of Synod on the topic of governance changes be taken by order.

Jill Aitken (St Bartholomew)

The Rev. Donald Beyers (Christ Church, Bolton)

Jon Ingall (St Olave, Swansea)

The Rev. Canon David Harrison (St Mary Magdalene)

David Pickering (St Olave, Swansea)

The Rev. Dr. Alison Kemper (St Matthias, Bellwoods)

John Spragge (St John, West Toronto)

The Rev. Robert Mitchell (St Olave, Swansea)

Bishop Asbil repeated the motion:

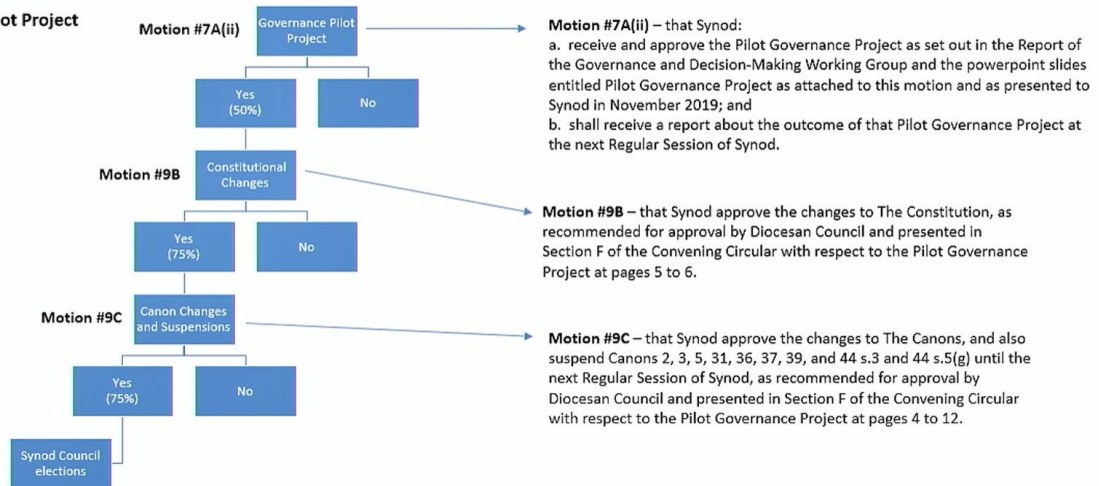
**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Vice Chancellor Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution and Canons, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to housekeeping at pages 12 to 14.

**CARRIED IN THE ORDER OF CLERGY.**

**CARRIED IN THE ORDER OF LAITY.**

The Chancellor explained the process for dealing with the motions relative to the Governance Pilot project.

## Governance Pilot Project



The Rev. Dr. Eric Beresford (St. Timothy, North Toronto) approached the microphone for a point of order to ask how Synod can approve the governance pilot project in principle if then the other motions are defeated? The implications of passing the first motion implies changes to the following motions.

Chancellor Clare Burns responded that if Synod approves the pilot project in principle, then defeats the following motions, then Synod has effectively changed its mind between conceptual approval and actual implementation of the pilot project and the pilot project will not move forward.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil continued with the Governance Pilot Project.

### **Governance Pilot Project (Motion #7A(ii))**

MOVED by Canon Clare Burns and SECONDED by Canon Paul Baston that Synod:

- a. receive and approve the Pilot Governance Project as set out in the Report of the Governance and Decision-Making Working Group and the power point slides entitled Pilot Governance Project as attached to this motion and as presented to Synod in November 2019; and
- b. shall receive a report about the outcome of that Pilot Governance Project at the next Regular Session of Synod.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called for debate. Any questions raised during debate will be responded to at the end in an accumulative way.

The Rev. Dr. Alison Kemper (St. Matthias, Bellwoods): Stated that regarding the initial motion, concerned that at pre-synod meeting presenters asked for metrics, and asked what are we measuring? Stated that we should not do pilot project unless we have some notion for what we are measuring. Pilot project that takes down Trusts Committee and does not make clear how our property is protected is concerning in our current climate. Concluded that pilot project would do irreversible change to the Diocese.

Julia Schindeler (Trinity East): Spoke in general favour of the pilot project and raised a question regarding the Growing in Christ Strategic Plan which outlined five working groups and asked if the chairs of these working groups would be included in proposed new Synod Council?

The Rev. Robert Mitchell (St. Olave, Swansea): Thanked committee for hard work in preparing changes. Stated that the changes presented are problematic, for two reasons. 1. Diocesan Council should be representative of Synod. Currently structured so that bishops and their appointees represent less than 48% of the votes. If we

adopt, those bishops and their appointees would have over 60% of votes on Diocesan Council. Troubling because it would shift the balance of power governed by clergy and laity to bishops being in charge. 2. Model where the bishop can appoint members not already a member of Synod to a chair is insulting, and asked “don’t we have capable people?” Concluded that it is insulting to shift to system of people not made up of Synod members, and implored Synod to consider this.

The Rev. Canon John Wilton (St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole): Spoke in favour based on experience as an Incumbent of a parish that did much visioning of Church in society, and that commissioned a study to look at needs in their community and asked themselves how to reorganize internally in order to reach goals. They decided to sell half the land and build new church that would be able to host community events. Much complex work ensued with Diocese, city planning, subway system, etc. with difficult negotiations. Made whole thing difficult which delayed project which meant church obtained a mortgage.

The Rev. Simon Bell (St. Margaret, Barrie): Stated that Governance system dates to medieval system married to micromanagement business model. Referenced plan presented a decade ago to do something similar. This new proposal has no budget attached, and asked “how do we know what it will cost us?”

Jeff Coatsworth (Christ Church-St. James): Asked the same question about what this will cost and has it been allocated for financially?

The Rev. Jesse Parker (St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope): Noted that nobody gets as excited about governance as Anglicans do! This identifies how we are focused on mission and God or try to be. The new governance structure will be nimble in allowing us to navigate uncertain waters of culture and ministry we face as well as taking care of mundane points of church like installing ramps. Regarding the matter of stewardship: spoke of membership on Executive Board and Diocesan Council as a joy, and wonders about resources regarding members driving back and forth to downtown office and has asked himself if committees are too large, and if his input is actually needed. The current make-up is over broad and large, and new pilot project is going to do well and have two years to test.

The Rev. Maggie Helwig (St. Stephen in-the-Fields): Raised the great deal of authority 6 committees will have, and this is concerning because it reflects a vision of diocese that is troubling where one committee dealing with a broad range of diverse and urgent concerns that will be too hard, too much, with a risk that good people will be pitted against each other for funding.

The Rev. Canon David Harrison (St. Mary, Magdalene): Stated that we say we are episcopally led and Synodically governed. There is a meta theme running that Synod is like parliament and Diocesan Council is like government. The Rev. Jesse Parker had to drive for two years back and forth, and I did it for four years. It is a red herring. We trust that Trusts Committee does the detail work and Diocesan Council has governance role between synods. We have a cultural issue of the diocese to address, not a structural issue. This is not decentralizing power but making us nimble to centralize power. One of the benefits of being Anglican is not being nimble. Motions such as this would have been immediately out of order back in medieval times. We are beyond arguing about the cost, this is an existential moment. If we do not get it right now, we are in trouble.

David Pickering (St. Olave, Swansea): Would support if we were moving to decentralized power but this is centralizing power. Additionally there is no cost analysis attached.

George DeWolf (St. Bride, Clarkson): Stated that we had faith in this (current) system/structure. Asked if other dioceses are operating this way.

The Rev. Jim Seagram (St. Athanasius, Orillia): Stated that the trial is positive, respecting Synod, to improve on what has been decided does work. Expect we have culture of Christ to make the most of it and look forward to Chancellor's answers on the evaluative report back to Synod.

The Rev. Douglas Michael (All Saints, Collingwood): Spoke of the pleasure of spending time on Diocesan Council for few years and noted the challenge of technical matters before us. Questioned the sub-group breakdown and raised concern about program and finance groups and suggested more centralized discussion would be good. Said that we can be comfortable if we have authority to set parameters of decision making and can trust Council if we knew that Council had authority to change parameters if it becomes clear that we need to change.

The Rev. Dr. Eric Beresford (St. Timothy, North Toronto): Thanked the committee for the work they have done. Stated that we do need to simplify the decision-making processes and many aspects of the proposal seem positive. However, appointments in the hands of the bishops lead to a growing sense of episcopal governance and this is concerning. As a former Roman Catholic, he takes this seriously. Asked what accountability will be in place between Synod and Council. Stated the structures are misleading: image one included all the current (structures) and the needs are clear, but the new model does not have them all.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Barry Parker (St. Paul, Bloor Street): Referenced St. Paul's very large (building) project 15 years ago and was grateful to hard working people at that time but we cannot continue with large, bulky committees and need to be nimbler. Ironic that we are sitting in a big room, twice the size of the house of commons to host our large size. Likes two-year pilot project and trusts the bishops because they are the ones with the responsibility to make it work.

Chancellor Clare Burns responded:

- In order to measure success, Synod Council will be guided by the evidenced based decision-making principle in the Strategic Plan, and if passed, Synod Council it will define the task and report back.
- With respect to the Trusts Committee and does this model move to an ungoverned system? No, under the Trustee Act in the Province of Ontario, we are obliged to do certain things and those things will continue to be done (investment plan, property insurance, etc.)
- Synod Council *is* Synod between Synods: Appointments are in charge rather than representatives, and this has been the case for the last 20 years - we have never had a problem.
- Concern about episcopally led vs synodically governed: On the proposed new Synod Council there would be five bishops and 25 members. Yes, the bishop would have appointees, but highlighted the unlikely scenario of the bishop appointing someone who is not a committed Anglican because why would they agree to serve?
- If we do not like decision of delegated authority – In experience as Chancellor, Canon Burns has never seen an unhappy Anglican who does not find a way to get a message to the bishop.
- This proposal has been to Diocesan Council and comes recommended by Diocesan Council. It does not include a proposal for increased staff at the synod office but a plan to make Canon Missioner role full time.
- Regarding the scope of the Programs Committee too large, Committees will ask if they need more help/extra committee members and highlighted this is why it is a pilot (to enable room for assessing needs and tweaking to meet needs). What if committee goes wild and finances overextend – Remember, we will all sit together at Synod Council once a month as chairs (built in accountability).

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil repeated the motion:

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Vice Chancellor Paul Baston that Synod:

- c. receive and approve the Pilot Governance Project as set out in the Report of the Governance and Decision-Making Working Group and the power point slides entitled Pilot Governance Project as attached to this motion and as presented to Synod in November 2019; and



- d. shall receive a report about the outcome of that Pilot Governance Project at the next Regular Session of Synod. **CARRIED.**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil continued with Constitutional Changes.

**Constitutional Changes (Motion #9B)**

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Vice Chancellor Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to the Pilot Governance Project at pages 5 and 6.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called for debate.

**Amendment to Constitutional Changes (Motion #9B)**

**MOVED** by John Spragge and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Dawn Leger that Motion 9B be amended such that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to the Pilot Governance Project at pages 5 and 6, except that the first sentence of paragraph one be changed to delete the first occurrence of “Risk and Governance Committee” and substitute with “Program Committee”.

John Spragge (St. John, West Toronto), the mover of the amendment, explained the purpose of the amendment is to strike a nominating committee because the power to nominate carries much weight in our current structure. Believes responsibility should be assigned and the more authority the organizational chart gives to the government and risk committee suggests that the church at its core is concerned about managing risk and assets, rather than taking extravagant risks for the kingdom of God.

The Rev. Dawn Leger, St. John, West Toronto, the seconder of the amendment, added that the Nominating Committee has a lost of power in this structure next to the diocesan Bishop. This power rests best with those charged with carrying out the work and mission of the church.

As a member of Synod, Chancellor Burns indicated that: it is functionally impossible. If Synod Council has to have a Program Committee, there is no current chair of committee and no committee. Accordingly, it is impossible to have a non-existent chair of a non-existent committee being charged to appoint a Nominating Committee. 2 – although it comes from a good missional place, all the Risk and Governance Committee will do is to appoint the Nominating Committee, which will be 4 members of clergy and laity and will be drafted under the constitution. Any member (of Synod) can be appointed or disqualified. Asked to give those nominations instead to Synod Council as to who shall serve on committees, and Synod Council will appoint.

John Spragge responded and said that unfortunately Anglicans are a deferential bunch, and Synod tends to accept the nominations of Nominations Committee, without too much dissension. If this gets voted down, he hopes more will stand up to say we want a stronger role in submitting appointments to committees and taking nominations from the floor, and he still believes it is appropriate to make (this) statement.

Bishop Asbil repeated motion for amendment and called for vote.

**MOVED** by John Spragge and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Dawn Leger that Motion 9B be amended such that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to the Pilot Governance Project at pages 5 and 6, except that the first sentence of paragraph one be changed to delete the first occurrence of “Risk and Governance Committee” and substitute with “Program Committee”. **AMENDMENT DEFEATED.**

## Constitutional Changes (Motion #9B) - continued

Bishop Asbil repeated the motion.

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Vice Chancellor Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to the Pilot Governance Project at pages 5 and 6.

Debate and comments continued from the microphones.

The Rev. Robert Mitchell (St. Olave, Swansea): Indicated that his heart was broken that we had just handed over Diocesan Council to a body that is not “*ours*”. Someone earlier raised the issue of parliament and said we are here to give over decision making authority to people not in this room. He hoped we understood what we are doing today, and “*we*” still have an opportunity to stop this process.

The Rev. Andrea Budgey (St. Theodore of Canterbury): Spoke to express unease. The last time we heard language of efficiency and nimbleness of reduction of council was regarding (Toronto) city council. The same language being used with respect to governance of church fills her with unease. She agreed improvement should be made but not with this language.

The Rev. Jim Seagram (St. Athanasius, Orillia): If the pilot moves forward, asked whether there will be an opportunity for parishes to have a voice in the report back to Synod from Synod Council.

The Rev. Erin Martin (St. James the Apostle, Sharon): Commented on the concern regarding non-members of Synod being appointed to Synod Council; she “ran” (for Diocesan Council) and was uncontested. Commented that it is sometimes like pulling teeth to get people to volunteer on Council, Committees, etc.

The Rev. Dawn Leger (St. John, West Toronto): Spoke of what has been heard, which was a great appeal to trust the people in place. She indicated that she knows most of Synod and likes the members and trusts the members. But these canons and constitutions are not written about you (members of Synod) but about your offices. Those holding a certain office are not abusing their power. The information that has been asked for is still not forthcoming, but we are being asked to trust, and suspending our governing laws to do so.

The Rev. Samantha Caravan (All Saints, Peterborough): Highlighted colleague Dawn Leger’s comments, who spoke what she wanted to say. Said to Bishop: “You employ me, so you can fire me.” Named the elephant in room: concerned about this motion. Indicated mistrust of some of our processes and the feedback that those of “us” get on the ground. Referenced experience of starting appointment in parish having to fix screening matters, resulting in a letter saying it would suspend her pay (if not resolved).

The Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave (Holy Trinity, Trinity Square): Stated that everyone knows that this gathering does not concern itself with the matters that a House of Parliament does or City Council of Toronto, we are the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto. We have a long history, our society is changing, and cautioned not to make perfection the enemy.

The Rev. Terry Bennet (Trinity Church, Barrie): Referenced experience of one who lives in the north, and the difficulty of getting to Toronto and back with regards to heavy traffic. Asked for consideration for those who live in the north from those who live in the south.

Margaret Blackman (Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa): Heard concern about non-Synod members and indicated that lay members of Synod hold qualification. This is her second session (of Synod) and has been learning and growing and wants to take expertise to continue to serve. Said “I am hearing after three years I cannot continue, and my term is done. Let us serve.”

John Spragge (St. John, West Toronto): Said that it was said that people can always appeal to the bishop and get their concern to the bishop. He referenced a time when he was younger and the pastor did not care, the bishop did not care, and he left. Asked that this be considered regarding the new governance structure.

Bishop Asbil repeated the motion:

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Vice Chancellor Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to the Pilot Governance Project at pages 5 and 6. **DEFEATED.**

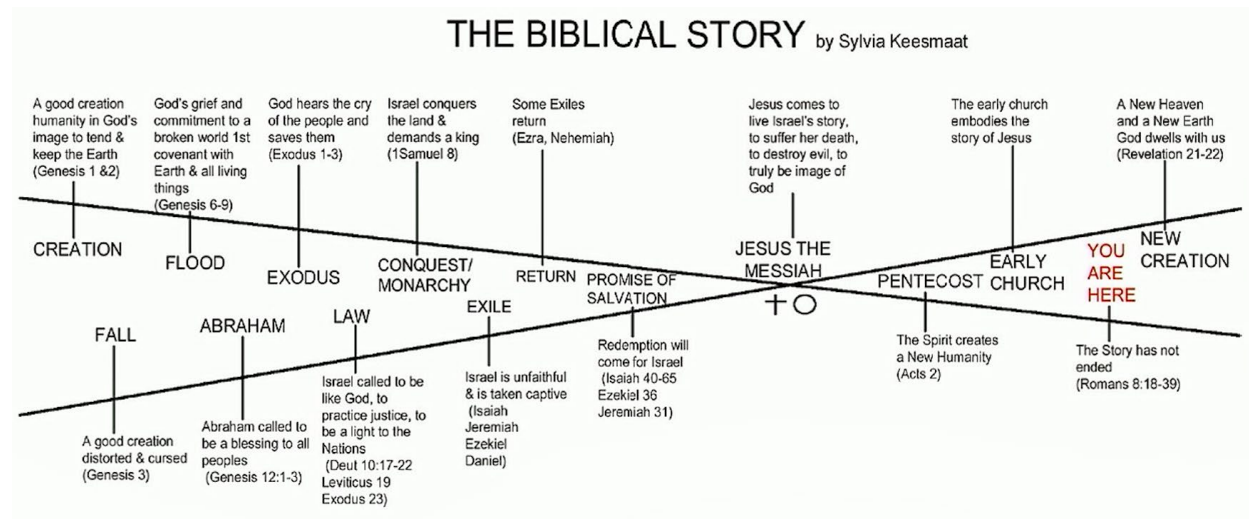
The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil suggested the following changes to the Agenda and obtained Synod’s approval by a show of hands:

- Shift the Missional and Outreach Moment to dinner,
- Cancel Members’ Time today and add 15 minutes to tomorrow, and
- Move the General Synod presentation to tomorrow.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat to speak to Synod. Dr. Keesmaat is an adjunct speaker at Wycliffe College and Trinity College and a renowned speaker. She is a published author and biblical scholar.

Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat spoke about the biblical story and our role as earth creatures and as carriers for creation.



Bishop Asbil thanked Dr. Keesmaat.

Due to time constraints, the General Synod and Clergy Remuneration Working Group reports will be postponed to tomorrow.

## **Breakout Sessions**

Members participated in one of the following seven Breakout Sessions:

- Can you give 1% more?
- Power of Legacy Gifts
- Diocesan Grant Process
- Indigenous Ministries and you
- Discipleship
- Vital Ministry and Mission
- Clergy Remuneration Working Group

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Following the Breakout Session Synod will adjourn until 6:10 p.m.

## **SYNOD RECONVENES**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil welcomed Synod to the banquet dinner and thanked our dinner sponsor, Letko Brosseau.

The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes said Grace.

## **MISSIONAL AND OUTREACH MOMENT**

### ***Toronto Urban Native Ministries (during dinner)***

The Rev. Leigh Kern and representatives from the Toronto Urban Native Ministry presented.

## **Canons of the Cathedral Announcement**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil announced the following new Canons of the Cathedral of St. James:

- The Rev. Judy Allen
- Brian Armstrong, QC, ODT
- The Rev. Hernan Astudillo
- The Rev. Joyce Barnett
- The Rev. Dr. Eric Beresford
- The Rev. Richard Dentinger, CHRL
- The Rev. Gloria Master
- The Rev. Lucy Reid
- The Rev. Geoffrey Sangwine
- The Rev. Paul G. Walker
- The Rev. Ruthanne Ward
- The Rev. Darrell Wright

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

The Rev. Andrew Federle introduced Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat.

Dr. Keesmaat presented to Synod - *"We've repeated these words so often they've lost their radical edge."*

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil thanked Dr. Keesmaat for her presentation.

Closing Hymn: Brilliant spring paints beauteous landscapes

The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes led closing prayer.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Synod adjourned until 8:30am on Saturday November 9, 2019.

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019**

### **SYNOD RECONVENES**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called the meeting to order.

### **A Liturgy of Remembrance**

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19*

### Announcements

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil thanked Burgundy Asset Management Ltd. for being our breakfast sponsor.

With the consent of Synod by simple show of hands, the following changes were made to the agenda:

- A written General Synod Report will be posted on the Diocesan website following Synod.
- The Clergy Remuneration Working Group convene area meetings in the New Year for the presentation and subsequent discussion.
- The Secretary of Synod reports that the mover and seconder of Motion 16 has indicated their desire to withdraw the motion.

### **A WORD TO THE BISHOP**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil invited Synod members to speak directly and openly to himself for a maximum of three minutes on the topic of equal marriage, and how they are feeling regarding same-sex marriage in the Church. The Bishop introduced norms for speaking and asked everyone to speak their mind and heart but not a debate or questions. The Bishop asked members who do not wish to speak to 600 people to send comments to him via email. The Bishop read the norms for our conversation that included:

1. We grant that as people of faith we are all sincere our beliefs, including our reverence for Holy Scripture.
2. We are neighbours now and we will continue to be neighbours.
3. We know that people of diverse sexuality and gender identities are present.
4. We value inclusion and will strive for greater understanding of each other.
5. We will speak in the first person. We will use "I" statements rather than "they" or "everyone".
6. We will not use language known to be offensive to others.
7. We respect the right of people to speak of their own experiences.
8. We respect the privacy of others. What others say is their story to tell, not yours.
9. We will ask no questions that we are not prepared to answer ourselves.

The floor was opened and highlights included:

- The Rev. Dr. Alison Kemper (St. Matthias, Bellwoods): Used two words yesterday that meant the world to us. One was *home*, one was *equal*. We could all reach out to someone nearby and say you are home. It is (to) all of us, we are all home and equal.
- Steven McNeil (St. Dunstan of Canterbury): The world is changing, youth are changing, so we need to change. Better to be a leader as opposed to follower. Need a new way forward. We can seek the advice of our Lord; we have to have it in our heart.
- Ainsley Munroe (St. David Anglican-Lutheran, Orillia): Thank you for holding time and space, Bishop. Grew up in St. Peter, Maple Lake, a small town, as a youth questioning, and it is important to have space

for these conversations not just in downtown core but in rural spaces. Friends in rural community do not feel space to have conversations and engage questions of sexuality. Please do not forget rural communities.

- Chris Ambidge, ODT (Redeemer, Bloor St.): When you go on holiday as a little kid, you ask “are we there yet?” When you come into your own town you think “hey, we are here!” Back in 1991, Jim Ferry was found to be with a boyfriend and that splattered all over church pages. At Synod that year I outed myself because I did not want (him) to be the only one. That was 28 years ago. I echo Alison in saying your words are incredibly important, and we are almost home. When we get equal marriage promised by 2020, please can this be that last time the homeless in the church are on the floor of synod. Do not want to be seen as just a gay man. Put this behind us.
- The Rev. Margaret Rodrigues (St. John, West Toronto): Hope comments are relevant. As lead clergy member for transgender ministry in the diocese, was honoured to sign petition to federal government on behalf of Diocese to add gender identity to discrimination list. Now there are 16 prohibited grounds of discrimination. As Anglicans we have to be honest with ourselves. Asking council to adopt strategic policy framework that do not require canonical changes, but gives us strategic framework for making decisions.
- The Rev. Eileen Steele (Parish of Penetanguishene and Waubaushene): This is hard for me to say: On October 28 I got home to a letter in mailbox that said you are not home, from a Canadian Forces member, please forgive us for what we did to you, for abuse you suffered at the hands of your soldiers and government. Please forgive us and we hope you can turn the page. I will keep turning the page as I keep writing my story - do not let me go through this again.
- Elise Lafleur (St. Stephen in-the-Fields): identify as a Prayer woman and Youth – here because I left the Catholic church on account of gay marriage, as there was not a future for me in that church. I love *this* church and I want to stay – but I came because of the hope of equal marriage and right now there are several blockers. This equal marriage is a refuge for those who want to live in faith (in Anglican church) that they are willing to leave the church(s) they were born into.
- Ben Harris (St. Clement, Eglinton): When in the bible it says love your neighbour as yourself, it is talking specifically about SSM. LGBTQ are our neighbours not just in the church but in the world. Our own siblings are feeling isolated in the world. I love you as a bishop and everyone here, and I want a promise that you will not rest until not only the Diocese allows SSM but also the Church of Canada. Does it give hope in areas where they are not exercising local options? No. We cannot rest until everyone feels safe.
- The Rev. Claire Goodrich Dyer (Retired): I am over 40. It has been a journey. When I was 20 and had a serious boyfriend, he was well behaved – was shocked when he made a pass at my brother. I had to look it up in the dictionary. Thanked everyone who has come forward over the years. Thank you, Chris Ambidge, for your courage and journey. There is also a journey for those who do not understand.
- The Rev. Daniel Brereton (St. John the Baptist, Dixie): One of missional moments spoke of social media activity and importance. There isn't a day that goes by when I don't get a message or two from people anywhere that are reaching out because I am the only person they know who is ordained, Christian, gay, has support of bishop, etc. It is important that someone like me has the support and platform to be Christian and gay and public about it. Thank you to the Diocese to welcome us all home.
- The Rev. Dawn Leger (St. John, West Toronto): Has been honoured to be called ally of the “community” – a role I am continually learning. Moderator of a group on Facebook that advocates for changing the marriage canon. Community has been built across country, 1500 Anglicans all over Canada and beyond. Place to express support, rage, etc. I am a Priest of a parish that flies the flag and is affirming and vocal about it, led by LGBTQ community. More often than not I am saying “I am so sorry for the experience you had in your home church...last month, in the last year, week that has brought you here”. Whenever we reach Pentecost, apology needs to come.
- The Rev. Jonathan Turtle (Parish of Craighurst and Midhurst): After General Synod, it was clear that the vast majority of our church accepts new teachings on SSM. There are those who cannot go that way, we are still hear and cannot give up historic teaching. I am thankful bishop for your message. It is increasingly difficult on the ground. Before General Synod, Cormac (Culkeen) reached out to me to ask if we could pray with one another. I accepted with gratitude and we have continued relationship to this day. This is what it will take to go forward, commitment to pray.

- The Rev. Erin Martin (St. James the Apostle, Sharon): We have a lot of youth who are not supported, some of whom come to our parish. I have to go to my bishop to ask for support of them (regarding programming, etc.). Thank you for your support.
- Drew Badgley (St. Bartholomew): I am a gay man under 40 but believe in traditional marriage. As space is made for community, have to ask questions that the church has never asked before. I am questioning and thankful for the messiness.
- The Rev. Lori Pilatzke (St. David Anglican-Lutheran, Orillia): Snuck in as an ordained Lutheran pastor. When the Anglican church and Lutheran Church in Canada came together you inherited a bunch of siblings. This too shall pass. It will get easier with those to have conversations on opposite ends. (The Church is) big enough for all of us.
- Canon Phyllis Creighton (Christ Church, Deer Park): The struggle to include all of us as humans goes back much further. 1976, report to love and care for all was a challenge. Try to continue sharing and supporting. This was a powerful moment, kept on saying we are all human, a lesson I am still learning.
- Lorraine Mitchell (St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea): Spent most of life at St. John, Weston, and middle child came out as gay recently. Mark Kinghan was their priest, and he was not able to do the wedding. Hopefully, those will be able to have their own priests do their weddings, in the church (in future).
- The Rev. Susan Spicer (St. George, Pickering Village): Life is long; in my life I have been in love with a man, and a woman. I have had two children, and walked with a woman who has meant the world to me. Life is not straight and simple- I love that my church is struggling to be a place where I can speak my truth about who I am. Firstly as a follower of Jesus, made in God's image. I want my church to be spacious and life giving for all those coming along their journeys. I have walked with trans people seeking to belong, let us be a welcoming home for all.
- The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark (Parish of Minden-Kinmount): Spoke on behalf of parents of a young man who came out being gay in small village. I have permission to tell their story. They attended a fundamental church, and were told to leave or leave their son. They left their church and came to Anglican church. Our church made the boy Jesus in the Christmas play, and we were so proud. They asked me to share what it is like as parents of a child who is being cast out. It is so difficult for her to accept their love, because for so long she has been taught otherwise. We need to keep up the good work.
- The Rev. Jim Seagram (St. Athanasius, Orillia): I need to speak to about 1/3 people in this room who feel uncomfortable saying how they feel or what they believe because they don't want to offend others. May be temptation to speak as those who have any rights at all. We speak from our hearts today. At General Synod, something happened in a vote that almost 75% voted and I understand how people are hurt. How did House of Bishops undermine members in General Synod vote? Using authority to vote their conscience?
- The Rev. Canon John Wilton (St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole): When I saw this issue on agenda, part of me said really, again? I have been ordained 30 years and wonder why we are discussing again? Why are we so emotional again? I have been moved by many people who spoke. No secret that I have wished for a long time that I could marry anyone who comes to me. I respect other views. I commend Jonathan Turtle for his compassion and humble manner of speaking today. I will celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> (wedding) anniversary this year and I cannot imagine being someone who is not allowed to stand up and make vows to one another. Cannot imagine being part of a church that does not allow that.
- Tim Ralph (All Saints, Whitby): I had two teens that came to a cottage this summer and watched General Synod in July. Teens are looking for relevance. Truth is – nothing has changed. What has changed is the lights have come on – the marginalized are in the room where they have always been. Spotlights were on us. The kids are not changing the lights. We need to look beyond our spotlights, recognize they have come on. The race is on and we are a part of it. This is all about youth. We are not racing to relevance with youth. Who will fix the roof in 30 years? The lights are on so the roofs can be fixed in 2030.
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Dean Mercer (St. Paul, L'Amoreaux): For 30 years I have sought charity and clarity in truth in Jesus Christ. Similarly striking what is occurring in Anglican Church: when one side uses "moral right" we end up at General Synod and what happens is a spectacular crash. Thank you, bishop, for

opportunity to share word. We need to tell the truth – where the house is divided is on matters of truth and principle. Is there reconciliation in the church?

- George De Wolf (St. Bride, Clarkson): My dad was a conservative Anglican priest. When this organization would marry and then divorce people it tore him apart. He could not see a way out. There is only one person who knows what happens in our homes. What we hurt here on earth, we hurt here on earth.
- The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson (Area Bishop of York-Scarborough): Took opportunity to thank everyone in the room for a variety of reasons. I am married to my same sex partner. I am aware that since my marriage I have been something of a lightning rod. I am mindful today of those who have paved the way, who have said the kinds of things we have heard today. I acknowledge those who have interacted with me who have been respectful, who are hard pressed to welcome me in their parish. Thank you to them. Last January I had the opportunity to be in Canterbury with over 30 international bishops. During that week the article was put out about certain spouses not welcome to Lambeth Conference, my spouse being one of them. Later that day a bishop came and told me that people in their parishes are gay, and it is not safe to confide in anyone. I want you to know as we sit in relative comfort here, there are many Anglicans whose lives are at risk because of their orientation.
- The Rev. Dr. Catherine Sider Hamilton (St. Matthew, First Ave.): I have not been able to find in scripture or in the world that the way we seek to go with the church is of Christ. I am glad though for the honesty with which we are able to speak to one another in this room. Grateful for friendship and respect with those whom I disagree with. Grateful for honesty and passion among us. Difficult now to call this a conversation about equal marriage – this skews the conversation. There is a question for me about what marriage is. We have been asked to embrace theological diversity, but question what theology is true. I teach theology. Jesus was begotten, not made. Our canon has been recently upheld, I wonder about the honesty of proceedings to open marriage generally as if it had not been. I am seeking to keep vows I made in ordination. I am not sure how to continue to do that faithfully.
- The Rev. Greg Carpenter (St. Jude, Wexford): I am a gay man. I am just over 50. A few years ago, a couple came to me to ask to be married. Over a couple conversations with Archbishop Johnson at the time, permission was given. SSM has to be performed in the church currently. What about people who want to be married in outside venues? If we are going to celebrate equal marriage for couples who come to us to do offsite, how do we do that?

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil thanked everyone for speaking, and committed to take these comments seriously over the next few weeks.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil vacated the Chair and the Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty assumed the Chair.

### **MISSIONAL/OUTREACH MOMENT – *Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program***

The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty called the Rev. Christian Harvey and Cormac Culkeen to present.

Bishop Anderson invited to speak about YMAP and its future. YMAP has been shaping youth for over a decade and it would not have happened without Rev. Christian Harvey who has been active in ministry for more than 15 years and who developed with Jenny Salisbury, and grew and expanded YMAP. He is stepping down to focus on outreach of St. John the Evangelist (Warming Room). A delight to dream about expanding youth ministry across the Diocese. This past year we have doubled the program with 2 coordinators. East end coordinator will continue to be Cormac Culkeen and West end coordinator now Ali McIntosh. Bishop Jenny invited applause and ovation for Christian who has been a pioneer for youth ministry in the diocese.

### **Election of Provincial Synod Members**

The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty introduced the election of Provincial Synod nominees. Under *The Constitution* of the Diocese of Toronto and *The Constitution* of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, Synod is required to elect



four clergy and four lay members to serve as members of Provincial Synod. The next Provincial Synod will be held in 2021 Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

The Provincial Synod meets every three years and considers matters of interest in the provincial sphere such as theological education, social issues, government relations, chaplaincies, and vocational diaconate ministries.

The slate of nominees together with biographical information was included in the Convening Circular, Section A, starting at page 13 and the Supplementary Convening Circular, Section AA at page 5.

### **Clerical Nominees**

- The Rev. Dana Dickson (Trinity Church, Bradford)
- The Rev. Canon Christopher Greaves (Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa)
- The Rev. Canon David Harrison (St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto)
- The Rev. Dawn Leger (St. John, West Toronto)

The following additional clergy were nominated:

- The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan
- The Rev. Bob Bettson
- The Rev. Patrick McManus
- The Rev. Claudette Taylor

On a motion duly **MOVED** and **SECONDED** the nominations for clergy were closed. **CARRIED.**

### **Lay Nominees**

- Bill Bickle, ODT (St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope)
- Sandy Richmond, ODT (St. George, Allandale)
- Mary Walsh, ODT (St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges)
- Laura Walton, ODT (Holy Trinity, Clearview)

On a motion duly **MOVED** and **SECONDED** the nominations for laity were closed. **CARRIED.**

The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty clarified that clergy will vote for clergy and laity will vote for laity. The clickers are programmed to take this into consideration.

The Scrutineers will tally the results and provide a report following Members' Time later this morning.

The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty vacated the Chair and the Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil assumed the Chair.

### **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2018**

Don Gillespie, Chair of the Audit Committee, came forward to present the 2018 financial statements.

Included in Section C of the Convening Circular are three documents pertaining to the 2018 fiscal year end. These documents are:

1. Financial Report for 2018 prepared by the Treasurer and Director of Finance
2. Audited financial statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, and
3. Audited financial statements for The Cemetery Fund

The statements were recommended by the Audit Committee and were approved by Diocesan Council on behalf of the corporation on September 26, 2019.

The financial statements and the financial report were discussed at each of the four Pre-Synod meetings and Q&A from those meetings were posted to the website.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil thanked Don Gillespie and asked if there were any questions. Seeing none, he put forward the motion.

**Motion #4**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian LaFleur and **SECONDED** by Peter Newell that Synod receive the Financial Report for 2018 from the Treasurer and Director of Finance. **CARRIED.**

**Motion #5**

**MOVED** by the Ian LaFleur and **SECONDED** by Peter Newell that Synod receive the Audited Financial Statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and the Cemetery Fund for the year ended December 31, 2018. **CARRIED.**

**AUDITORS**

**Motion #6**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian LaFleur and **SECONDED** by Peter Newell that the firm of Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants, be appointed to conduct the audit of the Financial Statements of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and on behalf of unitholders, as Auditors for the Cemetery Fund for the year ending December 31, 2019, at a fee to be approved by the Audit Committee. **CARRIED.**

**FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR 2019**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on Lilian Qian, Director of Finance and Robert Saffrey, Executive Director.

Lilian Qian provided a year-to-date financial update for 2019. As of August, there is a surplus of \$118,900, which is favorable to the revised forecast by \$105,116. The main drivers for this favourable result are:

- Timing difference for expenses such as curacy grants, Area Council, Synod.
- We anticipate that we will achieve the forecast 2019 budget target.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil thanked Lilian Qian.

**PRIORITIES AND PLANS 2019-2021**

Robert Saffrey presented the Priorities and Plans for 2019 through 2021 can be found in Section D of your Convening Circular.

**Motion #7A(i)**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian LaFleur and **SECONDED** by Peter Newell that Synod:

- a. receive and approve the document Priorities and Plans 2019-2021 (other than the Pilot Governance Project as described in motion 7(a)(ii)); and
- b. shall receive a report about the Priorities and Plans 2019-2021 (other than the Pilot Governance Project as described in motion 7(a)(ii)) at the next Regular Session of Synod.

The Diocesan Council forwards this motion to Synod, with the recommendation that it be adopted.

The Rev. Andrew Asbil called for debate. Seeing no debate, motion was repeated.

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian LaFleur and by Peter Newell that Synod:

- a. receive and approve the document Priorities and Plans 2019-2021 (other than the Pilot Governance Project as described in motion 7(a)(ii)); and

- b. shall receive a report about the Priorities and Plans 2019-2021 (other than the Pilot Governance Project as described in motion 7(a)(ii)) at the next Regular Session of Synod. **CARRIED.**

### **FINANCIAL BUDGETS 2020-2021**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian LaFleur and **SECONDED** by Peter Newell that Synod receive and approve the document Financial Budget 2020-2021 as set out in section D of the Convening Circular.

The Diocesan Council forwards this motion to Synod, with the recommendation that it be adopted.

Bishop Asbil called Rob Saffrey & Lilian Qian:

Robert Saffrey explained the five key areas in the budget, as presented at Pre-Synod meetings, also found in Convening Circular. The Supplementary Convening Circular contains additional information on three program categories.

Lilian Qian explained three key assumptions that support the budget. Firstly, there is no increase in Assessment Rate; secondly, compensation increases were based on cost of living adjustment, and thirdly, there is no significant increase in program budgeting. In terms of methodology, the 2018 actual income and expenses formed the baseline and the 2019 forecast and 2020-2021 budget were built based on a projection of the operation plans. The operating budget is on track to meet the 2019 projection.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called for debate. Seeing no debate, motion was repeated.

### **Motion #7B**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian LaFleur and **SECONDED** by Peter Newell that Synod receive and approve the document Financial Budget 2020-2021 as set out in section D of the Convening Circular. **CARRIED.**

### **ASSESSMENT RATE**

Information on the 2020 and 2021 Assessment rate can be found in Section E of your Convening Circular.

### **Motion #8**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian LaFleur and **SECONDED** by Peter Newell that the Parish Assessment Rate, as defined in Canon 4, section 2, be set at 24.70% for 2020, and 24.70% for 2021.

Amendment to the Assessment Rate motion

**MOVED** by the Rev. Samantha Caravan and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Canon David Harrison that Motion #8 be amended to read, that the Parish Assessment Rate for 2020 and 2021 of 24.70% be reduced to 23.70%, and that the words be added “and that Diocesan Council (or Synod Council) is mandated by this Synod to 1) find the necessary expenditure savings to balance the budget in 2020 and 2021 and 2) explore new and different models of church structure that allow for the possibility of moving us from an unsustainable model to a sustainable model.”

The Chancellor reported that the amendment was received by the Secretary of Synod earlier today and has not been received by Diocesan Council.

The Rev. Samantha Caravan (All Saints, Peterborough) stated that the amendment comes from a deep personal concern about the recent publication of statistics on Anglicans in the church, and questions about and questions about the sustainability of our future, which is threatened by parish property decline, fatigue in parishioners, and declining numbers. The Statistics report by the House of Bishops is a sobering read. The Church has been in decline since 1961. In 2017, when we reached 35 million people, only 1% identified as Anglicans = decline of over 1 million members since 1961. Ministry success if/how we change and transform

parishioners' lives. We must change the model we are currently embedded in. She was personally excited by the Bishop's charge - what do we have to let go of to make things new? Time to have courage and go forward. Offering this amendment with gratitude for budget committee.

The Rev. Canon David Harrison (St. Mary Magdalene) added his desire to acknowledge that this is uncomfortable. He had yet to talk to anyone in a parish who would easily balance their budget this year. It is hard to do this in all parishes. The role of the diocese is very important and asked the diocesan structure to help make ends meet: "could you do a little bit of pencil sharpening at 135 and help us?"

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil invited Rob Saffrey to talk about numbers more in depth.

Rob Saffrey spoke to the slides about number crunching on screen and indicated that he had a lot of phone calls and conversation with people about numbers. The Diocesan office is doing their best to run workshops and engage and teach with new resources.

Stephen Powell (St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges) asked for the slide regarding the allotment to be shown again and asked what the allotment is.

The Ven. Elizabeth Hardy (St. John, East Orangeville): Spoke against the amendment, as a parish priest and as former staff working at the diocese. Indicated her experience of knowing how long it takes to prepare the budget and how many people it involves and how much thought goes into it about how it will impact parishes. Indicated the impact on us would be to only save \$100. Does not cover all the times she has had to call the diocese and get help from people at the office. Quality, compassionate, skilled people at the office who help us are covered for free (in assessment rate). Too much/not fair to make us make a quick decision on the fly Saturday morning after already having disruptions yesterday.

Suzanne Lawson, ODT (St. Peter, Cobourg): The parish in Port Hope has had a difficult two or three years. We are moving to make careful decisions about our future. We have had incredible, thoughtful, encouraging help from the diocese. Voting against amendment.

Stuart Hutcheson, CMA, ODT (St. Peter, Erindale): Against amendment. Spoke of experience working at the office and helping finance department, noted two items in Diocesan budget are salaries of the bishops/lay people in the office, and support for the wider church/national church. Cannot support having either of these items decided on the fly. We must do so in a more studied and measured way, perhaps over next two years.

The Rev. Dawn Leger (St. John, West Toronto): Identified as proud and specialized pastor to small churches. "This is my jam!" \$500 in small church pays for half of our discovery kids camp. 1/3 of kids come for free that way. Please do not consider those amounts insignificant. Also raised a point of order that movers and seconders do not have access and privilege to power points and asked diocesan staff to be mindful of that in the future.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil noted that because we knew this amendment was coming we felt it was important to talk accurately on the floor of Synod. When we talk about round numbers, it is difficult to look at small percentages and not look at what it means over two years. It is not in his mind to be manipulative but rather educational.

Tom Fletcher (Trinity Church, Aurora): Indicated the priorities where we grow in faith, and what (we) are being asked to consider is to carry forward.

The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan (St. Paul, Uxbridge): 1. Value the office so much and has received so much from the staff. 2. Support in principle what is being proposed in the amendment and prayer for Diocesan Council to take seriously. 3. Have already passed our parish budget and do not want to revisit.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Eric Beresford (St. Timothy, North Toronto): Spoke of experience attending political meetings over past years as insulting because he could not vote because not from here (Canada), but accepted rights and statues of citizenship including taxes. Understands the anxiety of small and declining parishes but is a road he has gone down and does not want to go down again - consequences were not much relief for the parishes. As parishes get smaller, they need more and more support from diocese. If parishes are struggling, they need strategic support from the Diocese.

The Rev. Canon Beth Benson (St. Mary and St. Martha): Cannot support amendment to motion. Noted the various support and help that the amalgamation of her parish has received has been key from the diocese and will continue to be key. Let us not vote for this.

The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark (Parish of Minden-Kinmount): Noted service on social justice committee, nominations committee, ACW Chaplain, and Diocesan Council through which she has learned a lot. Voting against amendment because it will hinder growth at parishes, spoke of own experience of receiving much help from the diocese, and noted resources available would be greatly diminished. Stated need for a big paradigm shift - need to share (our) resources. Noted example of parish receiving a website; paid a lot and had a lot of help from the Diocesan staff and resources and could not have done the job themselves without the tools and help.

The Rev. Pam Trondson (Christ Church, Scarborough): Stated the feeling of *us* and *them* between Diocesan office and churches, and that it is NOT godly. "We are together, we are community, we are the Anglican church." Spoke of yesterday's sense of fear and mistrust.

The Rev. Samantha Caravan (All Saints, Peterborough): Asked about budget totals and stated the budget is huge spanning over two years. Stated that the issue of our structure is more important than just letting it go, and the only way to address this is on the floor (of Synod) because there is no other way to get in.

**MOVED** by the Rev. Samantha Caravan and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Canon David Harrison that Motion \*8 be amended to read, that the Parish Assessment Rate for 2020 and 2021 of 24.70% be reduced to 23.70%, and that the words be added "and that Diocesan Council (or Synod Council) is mandated by this Synod to 1) find the necessary expenditure savings to balance the budget in 2020 and 2021 and 2) explore new and different models of church structure that allow for the possibility of moving us from an unsustainable model to a sustainable model."  
**AMENDMENT DEFEATED.**

#### **Motion #8 continued:**

The Diocese Council forwarded this motion to the Synod, with the recommendation that it be adopted. The Diocesan allotment is the portion of the Diocesan budget to be raised from parishes and represents the amount needed to balance the Diocesan budget. Canon 4 sets out how each congregation's share or allotment is to be determined.

The assessment rate is solely based on the just-approved budgets for 2020 and 2021 and the three-year average assessable income.

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian LaFleur and **SECONDED** by Peter Newell that the Parish Assessment Rate, as defined in Canon 4, section 2, be set at 24.70% for 2020, and 24.70% for 2021. **CARRIED.**

#### **MISSIONAL AND OUTREACH MOMENT**

*St. John, Peterborough's Tent City – withdrawn due to time constraints*

#### **MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF SYNOD**

Chancellor Clare Burns presented the motions from Members of Synod. The motions require a simple majority to be approved.

### **Motion #10 - Single-Use Plastics**

A Notice of Motion dated September 17, 2019 was received from the Rev. Canon David Harrison and the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford. Pursuant to Canon 1, the Notice of Motion was placed on the Agenda of the September 26, 2019 meeting of Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council forwards the following Notice of Motion to Synod with the recommendation that it be adopted.

**MOVED** by the Rev. Canon David Harrison and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford that this diocesan Synod

1. Encourages parishes to curtail their purchase of single-use plastic products, with the intention of ending their use by 2023, taking into consideration the accessibility needs of their communities.
2. Encourages individual Anglicans to reduce their reliance on single-use plastic products.
3. Encourage the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care to develop and promote resources aimed at supporting local efforts toward plastics reduction.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil invited the mover to speak to the motion.

The Rev. Canon David Harrison: Stated that Synod has things to talk about. He hated to push other things out of the agenda and asked for Synod to be longer. Asked Synod to ask the leadership and parishes to act.

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford, the seconder, indicated he had nothing to add.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil repeated the motion and called for debate.

**MOVED** by the Rev. Canon David Harrison and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford that this diocesan Synod

1. Encourages parishes to curtail their purchase of single-use plastic products, with the intention of ending their use by 2023, taking into consideration the accessibility needs of their communities.
2. Encourages individual Anglicans to reduce their reliance on single-use plastic products.
3. Encourage the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care to develop and promote resources aimed at supporting local efforts toward plastics reduction.

**CARRIED.**

### **Motion #14 - Affordable Housing Plan**

A Notice of Motion dated October 16, 2019 was received from the Rev. Dr. Jason McKinney and the Rev. Canon David Harrison. Pursuant to Canon 1, the Notice of Motion was placed on the Agenda of the October 24, 2019 meeting of Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council forwards the following Notice of Motion to Synod with the recommendation that it be adopted. The wording of the motion can be found in Section AA of the Supplementary Convening Circular on page 12.

**MOVED** by the Rev. Dr. Jason McKinney and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Canon David Harrison that this Synod request Diocesan Council (or its successor) to respond to the affordable housing crisis across the diocese by developing an Affordable Housing Plan. This Plan will

- i. determine the feasibility of building affordable housing on diocesan-owned lands;
- ii. prioritize strategic partnerships with industry experts in the fields of planning, development, and affordable housing provision;
- iii. establish specific achievable targets (e.g. 250 units by 2024)

The Plan should be completed by November 30, 2020 at which time a report to Synod and to the diocese will be made.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil invited the mover to speak to the motion. The Rev. Dr. Jason McKinney: Indicated two reasons to do this; we should and we can. SJAC has done much good work, pointing to priorities around

advocacy. Motions calling on provincial government should continue this advocacy. Morally responsible to do something about this. We can build strategic partnerships. We can learn from existing models. 1. Under-utilized land. 2. Look within Anglican Communion and Diocese of Ottawa. Have agreed to build certain number of affordable housing based on partnerships from very beginning. This makes us consider land, property, not just as financial assets but as opportunities to impact neighbourhood and community.

The Rt Rev. Andrew Asbil invited the seconder to speak.

The Rev. Canon David Harrison indicated that he had nothing to add.

#### **Motion #14**

MOVED by the Rev. Dr. Jason McKinney and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon David Harrison that this Synod request Diocesan Council (or its successor) to respond to the affordable housing crisis across the diocese by developing an Affordable Housing Plan. This Plan will

- i. determine the feasibility of building affordable housing on diocesan-owned lands;
- ii. prioritize strategic partnerships with industry experts in the fields of planning, development, and affordable housing provision;
- iii. establish specific achievable targets (e.g. 250 units by 2024)

The Plan should be completed by November 30, 2020 at which time a report to Synod and to the diocese will be made. **CARRIED.**

#### **Motion #15 - Diocesan Environment Policy**

A Notice of Motion dated October 16, 2019 was received from the Rev. Canon David Harrison and the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford. Pursuant to Canon 1, the Notice of Motion was placed on the Agenda of the October 24, 2019 meeting of Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council forwards the following Notice of Motion to Synod with the recommendation that it be adopted.

#### **Motion #15**

MOVED by the Rev. Canon David Harrison and SECONDED by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford that Synod requests the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care, working through a creation care lens and in the context of our developing relationship with Indigenous Peoples, to develop and propose environmental policies and resources for all diocesan operations that reflect the need to increase the use of renewable energy services and decrease our carbon footprint. In particular, Synod requests a review of and development of policies pertaining to:

- i. our spending practices;
- ii. our travel policies;
- iii. our land use and development;
- iv. the creation of a fund to assist parishes to reduce their carbon footprint;
- v. the creation of a fund to assist clergy to purchase or lease zero emission vehicles;
- vi. the curtailment of the purchase of single-use plastic products, with the intention of ending their use no later than the beginning of 2023, taking into consideration the accessibility needs of our communities;
- vii. developing modules for clergy and lay formation on the connection between creation care and the Gospel; and
- viii. promoting reduced consumption as part of a Christian Rule of Life.

Synod and the Diocese shall be provided with a report on the work of the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care and the progress made on these issues by June 30, 2020 and every six months thereafter until the next Regular Session of Synod.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil invited the mover of the motion to speak.

The Rev. Canon David Harrison indicated that the motion comes almost word for word from a policy paper received by Diocesan Council in March 2019, appreciated this on the agenda and told the Bishop it is the right thing to do.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil asked if the seconder had anything to add.

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford: Indicated he had nothing to add.

The Rev. Pam Trondson (Christ Church, Scarborough): Asked how does it work for Synod to tell a committee what to do, and how does word get passed to committee and where does work come from?

Chancellor Burns responded that Synod cannot direct a bishop's committee to do anything which is why this motion is framed as a request. The Chancellor was asked to help redraft the motion to make sure it was in order, and it is. It is a suggestion to the committee, and will be taken seriously.

Tim Ralph (All Saints, Whitby): Indicated concern about broad recommendation; are we giving the suggestion that the Diocese will carve out of the budget in future, funds for climate relief and for zero- emission vehicles or are we recommending that they consider a policy and that that policy would need to come forward under a proper budget process.

Chancellor Burns responded that Synod is asked to consider how all of our policies will reflect this work.

#### **Motion #15**

MOVED by the Rev. Canon David Harrison and SECONDED by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford that Synod requests the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care, working through a creation care lens and in the context of our developing relationship with Indigenous Peoples, to develop and propose environmental policies and resources for all diocesan operations that reflect the need to increase the use of renewable energy services and decrease our carbon footprint. In particular, Synod requests a review of and development of policies pertaining to:

- i. our spending practices;
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- iii. our land use and development;
- iv. the creation of a fund to assist parishes to reduce their carbon footprint;
- v. the creation of a fund to assist clergy to purchase or lease zero emission vehicles;
- vi. the curtailment of the purchase of single-use plastic products, with the intention of ending their use no later than the beginning of 2023, taking into consideration the accessibility needs of our communities;
- vii. developing modules for clergy and lay formation on the connection between creation care and the Gospel; and
- viii. promoting reduced consumption as part of a Christian Rule of Life.

Synod and the Diocese shall be provided with a report on the work of the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care and the progress made on these issues by June 30, 2020 and every six months thereafter until the next Regular Session of Synod. **CARRIED.**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil indicated that Synod will proceed with Members' Time, followed by Dr. Keesmaat, concluding with Bishop Asbil's closing remarks.

#### **MEMBERS' TIME**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw to chair this portion of the meeting. Vice Chancellor & Registrar Paul Baston served as Assessor.



- The Rev. Susan Spicer (St. George, Pickering Village): Spoke of the Anglican Foundation of Canada grant for rectors, as a recipient of bursary assistance which helped support family. She had no idea of breadth and scope of the Foundation and indicated the Foundation supports work of countless ministries through critical grants (e.g., for children's curriculum, capital repairs, subsidies to youth, Diocesan Choir School, hospice programs). 16 out of 200 Dioceses are members of the Foundation and requires a gift of \$100 or more.
- Ceileigh McAllister (St. Thomas, Brooklin): Spoke of 5<sup>th</sup> mark of mission; to safeguard the integrity of creation. Asked for show of hands to demonstrate if we think we are doing a good job at diocesan, parish and individual level. Asked if we think we can do better. Indicated statistic that that we only have 11 years left to halt climate change. St. Thomas (Brooklin) Sustainability Council meets monthly to fulfill 5<sup>th</sup> mark of mission. They have removed single use plastic, looked at sustainability options, and are committed to creation care. Urged all parishes to form such a council and invited members to make pledges to neighbours at tables to hold one another accountable.
- The Rev. Daniel Brereton (St. John the Baptist, Dixie): Recognized Wendy Passmore for work in Christian education, retreat days, spiritual development and more at St. John the Baptist, Dixie.
- Canon Phyllis Creighton (Christ Church, Deer Park): Spoke about NATO, Nuclear War and how we should be aware and protest both as a Church.
- The Rev. Canon John Wilton (St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole): Spoke of the Diocesan revamp of the Fresh Start program; The team has done much work on how to make it work better through surveying graduates and facilitators and decided to condense the program into a one-year program (currently two year program) beginning in 2020. Program to include appreciative inquiry methods, less emphasis on didactic models and more focus on relationships. Parish Selection Committee modules are also being revamped. Watch for improved changes!
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Philip Der (St. Christopher): Moved by hearing about Anglican Church of Canada and Indigenous people throughout several generations (at General Synod). Spoke of honoured experience of dining with residential school survivors and has found they are very forgiving and want to move forward with love of Jesus Christ. Member from the Arctic shared about parish experience and bible study group. Another asked if he would buy a polar bear fur from him. Went home and felt moved to encourage parish to build relationship with Indigenous people, and shared vision with Metropolitan, Archbishop Anne Germond.
- The Rev. Jonathan Turtle (Parish of Craighurst and Midhurst): Spoke about published statistics report based on 2016 that paints a bleak future picture of the Anglican church. We are failing in the faith and neglecting one task - to go and make disciples. Believes one reason is that we are distracted. Single use plastics, gardening, etc. is important, but unique original calling of church is more important. One task the church is called to: make disciples. Proposed we hone in on that task, make it part of each synod, every gathering. Asked Synod to consider how are we uniquely equipped to make disciples.
- The Rev. Susan Climo (Holy Spirit of Peace): Spoke as representative of the joint Anglican-Lutheran commission; how do we look at ecumenical relationships especially with the Lutheran church? As the newly appointed, reminded Synod that it exists and the work to bring two denominations closer together. Noted celebrating 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020 and asked for prayer for joint commission.

The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw thanked Members of Synod, vacated the chair and Bishop Asbil resumed the chair.

## **ELECTION RESULTS**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on the Scrutineers Jessica Nee and the Rev. Pam Trondson to report the results.

The following people were elected to represent the Diocese of Toronto at Provincial Synod:

### Clergy (in alphabetical order):

The Rev. Canon Kit Greaves (105)  
The Rev. Dana Dickson (90)  
The Rev. Canon David Harrison (95)  
The Rev. Claudette Taylor (107)

### Clerical Substitutes (in order of call to service):

The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan (88)  
The Rev. Dawn Leger (82)  
The Rev. Patrick McManus (82)  
The Rev. Bob Bettson (40)

### Laitie (in alphabetical order):

Bill Bickle, ODT  
Sandy Richmond, ODT  
Mary Walsh, ODT  
Laura Walton, ODT

### Youth Member:

Bronte Anderson, Christ Church Stouffville

In accordance with *The Constitution*, section 31(4) the number of votes received by each elected member of the Provincial Synod and each substitute member are noted in brackets beside the individual's name.

## **GUEST SPEAKER REFLECTION**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat, who spoke to Synod with concluding reflections. After her address, Bishop Asbil thanked Dr. Keesmaat for speaking to Synod, and invited Synod to thank Dr. Keesmaat.

## **ELECTION OF HONORARY SECRETARIES**

**MOVED** by Canon Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Canon Paul Baston that the following be elected for the ensuing two-year term.

- Peter Newell, Honorary Lay Secretary
- The Rev. Andrew MacDonald, Honorary Clerical Secretary
- Sheila Robson, Assistant Honorary Lay Secretary.

**CARRIED.**

## **CLOSING REMARKS TO SYNOD**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil provided reflections to Synod.

Do you remember that hedge? I take you back to a hot summer day in August, standing outside with the principle and a parishioner of my dad's... (looking at the hedge, asking) do you think it'll come back? Well in my experience, if you use a little fertilizer and a lot of water it will come back. The damn thing came back. That is the nature of our faith. We trust that. Every day. I have had the privilege of serving at Redeemer when they couldn't pay their bills. I have always been inspired by the communities in whom I have lived and served and had my being. It takes hard work, faith, and the commitment of the Diocese to come back. Have faith as the

Diocese to live and have our being together. The church does not belong to us. Imagine after the tree has been pruned, standing under the canopy, seeing the big wide leaves above. The Tree in the canopy of life. To be able to live the fruit we have been called to offer the world every single day in the name of the one who came back, Amen.

Bishop Asbil offered appreciation to Pam Boisvert Secretary of Synod, Staff, Ian Lafleur and Sherman Hesslegrave, Bishops, and especially our Chancellor.

### **APPRECIATION**

The Honorary Secretaries thanked the Scrutineers, Timekeepers, staff, and volunteers for their efforts on the day. We would also like to extend our appreciation to Ms. Heidi Wilker, our Conference Manager, and the Sheraton Parkway-Toronto North for their work in making this Synod such a success. Additionally, we extend our gratitude to sponsors: our Dinner Sponsor - Letko Brosseau, our Breakfast Sponsor – Burgundy Asset Management Ltd, our Cocktail Reception Sponsor – Fiera Capital, Our Refreshment Co-Sponsors – Canso Investment Counsel Limited and Northleaf Capital Partners, our Wi-Fi Sponsor – Quartet Service Incorporated, our Accessibility Sponsor – Ecclesiastical Insurance, our Environmental Sponsor – M&M International, our Worship Co-Sponsors - Trinity College and Wycliffe College. Our sponsors have generously helped offset the costs of this event in addition to their ongoing support of the Diocese.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Ian Lafleur that the meeting be terminated.

**CARRIED.**

### **CLOSING PRAYERS & Hymn**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil offered a closing prayer.

### **NOTE:**

At the November 2019 meeting of Synod, a motion was received from the floor of Synod to reduce the parish allotment over a two year period. I misinterpreted the question. I thought that the reduction in allotment was cumulative, that is \$280,000 in the first budget year and double that in the second year. In fact the motion was for a reduction of \$280,000 in the first year, and \$280,000 in the second year. I apologize for my error.

Robert Saffrey, Executive Director