



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

## MINUTES

### 161<sup>st</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF SYNOD

Friday, November 18, 2022 and Saturday, November 19, 2022

Online Event Platform

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#### **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

1. **Eucharist**

Synod opened with a service of Holy Communion, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints, Kingsway.

2. **Bishop's Charge**

The Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, delivered his Charge to Synod. See Schedule A for the text.

The following deceased members of Synod were remembered during the Eucharist, during the Intercessions:

The Rev. Richard Johns, The Rev. Canon Joyce Barnett, Mrs. Marie (Mari) Pryce, The Rev. Jeffrey Donnelly, The Rev. William (Bill) Watson, The Rt. Rev. Douglas Blackwell, The Rev. Chamberlain Jones, Mr. Wayne McLeod, The Rev. Marlene Carscallen, The Rev. Beverly Hall, The Rev. Canon Ian Noseworthy, The Rev. J. Stanley Whitehouse, The Rev. Edward (Ted) Briffett, The Rev. David Williams, Mr. William Beatty, The Rev. Canon Brother Christian Swayne, OHC.

#### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022**

1. **Morning Prayer**

Morning prayer from the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine commenced at 10:00 a.m.

2. **Call to Order**

Pursuant to the Notice of meeting, the Bishop of Toronto called the 161<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of Synod to order. We've been calling this year's Synod "virtual", in that we are gathering online, but he assured members this gathering is authentically real.

We acknowledged that where we are meeting to film this is in Mississauga and Brampton South and the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee (ho-den-oh-show-nee) and Anishinabek (ah-nish-nah-bek) Nations, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and the Metis peoples. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. This territory was the subject of Treaty 13A, also known as the Head of the Lake Purchase.

3. **Constitution of the Meeting**

The Notice of Meeting for the 161<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of Synod was issued on the Diocesan website and in the September 2022 issue of *The Anglican*.

4. **Convening Circulars**

The Convening Circular was posted on the Diocesan website on September 30, 2022.

5. **Report of the Committee on Credentials**

Chancellor Clare Burns noted that the Committee on Credentials reports that all Clerical and Lay Members here gathered are entitled to take seats at Synod. The Court on Contested Seats met to consider two clergy: The Rev. Canon Dr. David Harrison and The Rev. Nathan Humphrey. Canon Harrison withdrew his case and is absent, and Rev. Nathan Humphrey is permitted to sit (in Synod) and speak.

The Honorary Secretaries made housekeeping announcements regarding the Agenda Committee, Synod Council, virtual etiquette, and appreciation was extended to Synod sponsors. The voting procedures were explained and tested.

6. **Revised Agenda**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that Synod approve the Revised Agenda for the 161st Regular Session of Synod. **CARRIED.** (Motion #1)

7. **Consent Agenda/Omnibus**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that:

- Synod receive Synod Council's Report.
- Synod adopt the Minutes of the 160th Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held virtually on Nov. 26 and 27, 2021, as prepared by the Honorary Secretaries.
- Synod give the following individuals 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, Susan Abell, ODT, Canon Ian Alexander, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, Dr. Anita Gittens, ODT.
- Synod receive the report of the First York Rectory Commission and appoint the following individuals as Commissioners for the distribution of the First York Rectory Fund and the Etobicoke Glebe in 2023:
  - Vice-Chancellor Marg Creal
  - Joy Packham, PMP, ODT
  - The Rev. Shelly Pollard
- The following be elected by Synod to the Advisory Commission on Termination of Clerical Appointments
  - Vice-Chancellor Brian Armstrong, KC, ODT
  - The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark
  - Kennedy Marshall, ODT.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #2)

8. **Regrets**

The Honorary Secretaries reported that regrets were received from the following active and retired clergy who were unable to attend Synod: The Rev. Julian Aldous, The Rev. Carol Hardie, The Ven. Elizabeth Hardy, The Rev. Karen Hatch, The Rev. Chris Horne, The Rev. Canon Anthony Jemmott, The Most Rev. Colin Johnson, The Rev. John Lockyer, The Rev. Canon Drew MacDonald, The Rev. Joanna Manning, The Rev. Diana McHardy, The Rev. Elizabeth Nelson, The Rt. Rev. Michael Pollesel, The Rt. Rev. Philip Poole, The Rev. Canon Judy Rois, The Rev. Joan Wilson, The Rev. Canon John Wilton.

9. **Memorials and Petitions**

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

## 10. Introductions

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

### **Officers of the Diocese**

Suffragan Bishops: The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, the Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson

Chancellor: Canon Clare Burns

Vice Chancellor & Registrar: Canon Paul Baston

Vice Chancellors: Canon Brian Armstrong, KC, ODT, Marg Creal, Mark Hemingway, Gail Smith, and John van Gent.

Interim Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. James: The Very Rev. Peter Wall

Executive Director: Canon Rob Saffrey, ODT

Secretary of Synod: Pamela Boisvert

Controller: Patricia D'Souza

### **Honorary Secretaries**

The Honorary Secretaries for this session of Synod are:

- Honorary Clerical Secretary: The Rev. Andrew MacDonald
- Honorary Lay Secretary: Sheila Robson
- Assistant Honorary Clerical Secretary: The Rev. Lisa Newland

### **Scrutineers**

Synod is informed that in accordance with *The Constitution*, section 18, the Diocesan Council appointed the following members of Synod as Scrutineers for this session of Synod:

- The Rev. Theadore Hunt
- Leslie Hajdu, ODT

### **Chaplains**

The Synod Chaplains are:

- The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty
- The Rev. Fran Kovar

## 11. Since Synod 2021

Synod watched a video created by the Property Committee.

## 12. Announcement related to Voting Results

Chancellor Burns spoke to the results of the last vote. We noticed that a significant number of voting members are not voting, not voting correctly or not using the correct platform. As a result, another practice vote was done.

## 13. Missional & Outreach Moment

Synod watched a Missional and Outreach Moment submitted by St. Luke, Creemore.

## 14. Notice of Motions from Members of Synod

Chancellor Clare Burns explained that we have received five Notices of Motion about church property, and four notices of motion related to housing, and these were sent to all members in advance. She explained the motions relate to one another in simple terms, and that Synod has to deal with motions in the order received by the Secretary of Synod.

### a. Affordable Housing

**MOVED** by Frank Cormier and **SECONDED** by Marion Thompson that the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto direct the Synod Council to draft,

1. Revisions to the policies, Canons, and Constitution, as applicable, of the Diocese to facilitate parishes engaging in creative and innovative land uses and partnerships; and
  2. Diocesan policies that give preference to the use of surplus Diocesan lands for the purpose of affordable housing and other community centric uses, where appropriate.
- And that those draft revisions be brought forward at the next session of Synod for consideration.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil opened the floor for debate.

- Frank Cormier (St. Anne, Toronto) spoke in favour of the motion. The hope is to provide guidance to the work of the Property Committee to seek creative land use at the parish level.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #11A)

**b. Allotment**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan and **SECONDED** by Isuru Weerasekera given that parish allotments can not meet the primary financial needs of the diocesan budget, this synod requests that a detailed report be submitted to the next session of synod from Diocesan Council outlining the ways the budget can be balanced through decreasing expenditures without increasing parish allotments.

(Motion #11B)

Chancellor Clare Burns reported that the following motion to amend was received.

**Amendment**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan and **SECONDED** by Gail Browne that given parish allotments can not meet the primary financial needs of the diocesan budget, this synod requests that a detailed report be submitted to the next session of synod from Diocesan Council outlining, that because Diocesan staff and ministries are important, how they can be maintained in the future and how past and future budget deficits can be covered using Diocesan investments rather than increasing parish assessments.

(Motion #11G)

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil opened the floor to debate.

- The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan (St. Paul, Uxbridge) spoke to the amendment. He said that the deficit needs to be dealt with by selling property not increasing allotment.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #11G)

**MOVED** by the Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan and **SECONDED** by Gail Browne that given parish allotments can not meet the primary financial needs of the diocesan budget, this synod requests that a detailed report be submitted to the next session of synod from Diocesan Council outlining, that because Diocesan staff and ministries are important, how they can be maintained in the future and how past and future budget deficits can be covered using Diocesan investments rather than increasing parish assessments. **CARRIED.**

(Motion #11G)

**c. Staff Position**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Canon Hernan Astudillo and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Dr. Catherine Keating that the 161st Synod of the Diocese of Toronto recommends that the Diocese responds to the affordable housing crisis across the Diocese by appointing and hiring a full-time Director who is completely experienced in building affordable housing, the funding for this position to be realized through the establishment of partnership and require Synod Council to make any necessary adjustments to the budget to make the hiring possible reporting back to Synod and the Diocese in 6 months and continue to do so at 6 month intervals until a Director has been hired.

Chancellor Clare Burns reported that this motion is in order because it is a recommendation to Synod Council, not directional which would be a management rather than a governance matter.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil opened the floor for debate.

- The Rev. Canon Hernan Astudillo (San Lorenzo, Dufferin) with Rev. Dr Catherine Keating (St. John, York Mills). There is an opportunity to cast the net! He spoke of the opportunity to offer common table and select food from the garden. He shared a story of a woman who lost her husband during the pandemic and did not have money to eat or pay rent. She ate pasta during the pandemic and cried upon receiving vegetables from the garden. “Poverty does not have a skin colour”.
- The Rev. Jesse Parker (St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope) said that he was glad to have this motion on affordable housing but will be voting against the motion. He is concerned that the motion calls to hire a full-time director. At first glance it seems a good gesture, but there is work already underway between Kindred Works and the Property Committee that represents a considerable achievement for our Diocese and a way forward. The work will address affordable housing and also environmental matters. Partnership goes beyond building, includes management of building post construction. Working with Kindred Works should allow better development and more so than what we can do with internal staff. Surely it is our job as the Diocese to act – we have already found a way to put our best foot forward with Kindred Works.
- Chancellor Clare Burns reminded Synod that the motion is to recommend the hiring, does not direct the hiring.
- The Rev. Dr Catherine Keating (St. John, York Mills) thanked Synod for receiving the motion. She is unsure how Kindred Works gets along, perhaps she missed a report, and apologized. Asked if a report could be shared on this work.
- Peter Patterson, ODT (Christ Church-St. James) He said he is speaking against the motion. This would hinder rather than help the process already started, and already have a highly experienced, skilled, volunteer committee. We may lose these folks if we proceed with this. Further, he asked why have volunteers if the Diocese prefers to pay people.

**NOT CARRIED.**

(Motion #11C)

**d. Church Energy Management**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Dr. Alison Kemper and **SECONDED** by Stuart Hutcheson, ODT that the Diocese of Toronto adopt the national Net Zero Churches Network approach as a model for management of diocesan property:

1. Every church to begin to assess their energy management challenges by completing a self-guided building audit and energy audit no later than their next required building survey.
2. Churches contemplating renovations/upgrades to HVAC to complete thermal imaging whenever possible, and be given information by the Diocese about recommended energy solutions for their building.
3. Diocese to connect parishes with the necessary expertise and assistance (incl. potential financial assistance) to pursue net-zero type solutions.
4. All redevelopment projects to clearly demonstrate efforts to adopt energy solutions that will bring them closer to net-zero GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil opened the floor for debate.

- The Rev. Dr Alison Kemper (St. Matthias, Bellwoods) said as a member of the Bishops Committee on Creation Care, they have been trying to find ways for parishes to get on board with the movement towards zero emissions. While they have very limited resources, and it is hard to imagine how they can do it, there is a national initiative to get churches on board. It creates collaboration with parishes and Property Committee and Creation Care Committee to shift from high emissions to zero emissions through energy audits.

- Stuart Hutcheson, ODT (St. Peter, Erindale) stated that the Property Committee considered the Bishop’s Committee on Creation Care’s proposal and decided they would like to support it. Will review materials parishes deliver to eliminate greenhouse gases.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #11D)

**15. Lunch**

**16. Cast the Net**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil welcomed everyone back and introduced the Co-chairs of the Cast the Net Steering Committee, the Rev. Dr. Alison Falby and Dave Toycen, ODT. Bishop Asbil introduced the Consulting Team of the Cast the Net strategic process: Canon Ian Alexander, the Very. Rev. Peter Elliott and Dr Anita Gittens. Synod divided into eight random break-out rooms for discussion & bible study.

Members were welcomed back. Bishop Asbil encouraged Synod to dream and to imagine what the future might look like. He expressed gratitude to the Steering Committee and asked for people to reach out to them to give feedback.

**17. Notice of Motions from Members of Synod**

Synod continued considered the Notices of Motion received from Members of Synod.

**a. Affordable Housing Plan**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Angie Hocking and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Jeff Nowers that this Synod ensure that the Affordable Housing Plan (Motion #11, 2019) is implemented in a way that prioritizes the wellbeing of our communities as well as our congregations by

- i. aiming to increase the number of affordable units in each new housing project;
- ii. ensuring that a meaningful portion of new housing is financially accessible to those with incomes equal to or less than current social assistance levels;
- iii. considering all diocesan lands as potential sites for affordable housing, especially vacant and under-utilized lands.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil opened the floor for discussion.

- The Rev. Angie Hocking (Redeemer, Bloor St.) said that all Notices of Motion mean the Spirit is at work already, let us be thankful. The situation is dire for people who are unhoused. For the sake of clarification, this motion differs from the others because it is not simply about building affordable units, it is about increasing the individual affordability of each unit, and the number of affordable units we choose to create in each new project.
- The Rev. Jeff Nower (St. Aidan, Toronto) was absent but his statement was read by the Rev. Angie Hocking. The pandemic has impeded the 2019 motion and the plan has not been developed. We call on Synod that the over-due affordable housing plan be executed. If our buildings/rectories are not utilized every single day, we are morally compelled to act to relinquish the burden of our wealth and prioritize the poor.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #11E)

**b. Amendment to Motion #11 from Synod 2019**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Dr. Jason McKinney and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Angie Hocking that this Synod request Synod Council 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; and
- iv. clearly define the meaning of affordability for each project.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil opened the floor for debate.

- The Rev. Dr Jason McKinney (Epiphany-St. Mark, Parkdale) said that the original motion lacked clarity, and the calls in the motion have not been completed hence the reason for the amendment. He knows that the Property Committee has been working hard, however, it is still not fulfilling the will of Synod to create and implement a Diocesan plan for all Diocesan land with achievable targets. This will result in the matter remaining ad hoc. We are relying too heavily on individual parishes, with already depleted resources. We have more land than we need. Kindred Works is doing great work, but they are also limited. Appreciate and thank Property Committee but we still need to step up.
- John van Nostrand (Messiah) pointed out conflict here between Motion #11 and Motion #11C. Motion #11 spoke explicitly to homeless situation. Heard a whole statement earlier about housing homeless people and have dropped interest. How can we go forward without bringing out attention down to the people who are worst off?
- Chancellor Clare Burns responded to say that it is true that Synod has passed contradictory motions. This motion will determine the feasibility of building affordable housing on diocesan land.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #11F)

#### **18. Governance Pilot Project**

Chancellor Clare Burns reported that an evaluation was done in June 2022 by Robert Hart, ODT and Joy Packham, ODT to ascertain if the new model was proving effective. The evaluation was submitted to the Risk & Governance Committee in October. Most of the response was positive and supportive of Synod Council. At this juncture, Synod is asked to receive their report. We continue to evaluate the pilot project until Synod 2023. One year in, the governance model functioned largely as planned, with a few tweaks based on feedback and operational evidence. Synod is being asked to suspend canons 2, 3, 5, 31, 36, 37, 39, 44 s.3, and 44 s.5(g) until the next Regular Session of Synod.

##### **a. Motion 4 – Governance Project**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that Synod receive the Governance Review report dated September 22, 2022. **CARRIED.** (Motion 4)

##### **b. Motion 5A – Suspension of Canons**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that Synod suspend Canons 2, 3, 5, 31, 36, 37, 39, 44 s.3, and 44 s.5(g) until the next Regular Session of Synod, as recommended for approval by Synod Council and presented in Section E of the Convening Circular with respect to the Governance Pilot Project. **CARRIED.** (Motion #5A)

#### **19. Episcopal Leadership Implementation Team**

The Rev. Canon Stephen Kirkegaard and Susan Abell, ODT, co-chairs of the Episcopal Leadership Implementation Team (ELIT), shared a video on their work. The work has provided clarity to roles, effectiveness of the archdeacon role in support of bishops, and leadership and financial realities. A recruitment plan and process were executed, people applied for the positions, and interviews were conducted. Gratitude was expressed to Canon Mary Conliffe and the HR team for their support.

## **20. Members' Time**

The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw assumed the Chair with Vice-Chancellor John van Gent acting as Assessor.

- Jazmin Espino Sabucio (San Lorenzo Ruiz) spoke about outreach programs at their parish. The church has done vaccine clinics over the past few years, and has also worked with another group to provide fresh fruits and vegetables for the community. The parish also sent a container to Honduras, filled with face masks, hand sanitizer, bikes and toys, and a card for the priest. It was reported that the outreach programs are going well, and the parish is enjoying services and getting together afterwards to eat and socialize.
- The Rt. Rev. Patrick White (retired clergy) – spoke about dreaming of being the Bishop of Utopia. He asked, where or what consideration being given to advocacy in various levels of government, municipal and provincial? Parents want kids in school, but justice needed for unions.
- The Rev. Jim Seagram (retired clergy) spoke about a group of 650 doctors and biologists called Canadian COVID Care Alliance. Jim continued to express the need to revisit, revise, and reengage our approach to our relationship; keep our lamps full of holy oil, pray together and alone.

## **21. Missional & Outreach Moment from All Saints Whitby**

The parish demonstrated their community garden and outreach partnership with the local foodbank, made possible thanks to a Reach Grant from the Diocesan

## **22. Adjournment**

Synod adjourned until Saturday November 19, 2022.



## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022**

### **1. Synod Reconvened**

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

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil explained that in consultation with Agenda Committee, the agenda would be amended for the sake of time. Having consulted with Chancellor Clare Burns and Secretary of Synod Pamela Boisvert, it was determined unnecessary to make a formal motion.

The phone line was opened for a few minutes should any member wish to comment or make formal motion.

- The Rev. Dr. Alison Kemper (St Matthias, Bellwoods) spoke about teaching governance, and need to document and be careful. We don't want to look back and say we were in a rush to get home. Would like a motion to do due diligence.

### **2. Agenda Amendment**

**MOVED** by the Rev Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that the Revised Agenda be amended to allow for Motions #5B, #5C and #5D to be voted on together.

**CARRIED.**

### **3. Constitution and Canons Changes**

Chancellor Clare Burns explained The Constitution and Canon changes and stated the vote would be three together and one separately.

#### **a. The Constitution, Canon 10 and Canon 48**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that Synod approve the changes to the Constitution, Canon 10 and Canon 48 as recommended for approval by Synod Council and presented in the Convening Circular.

The floor was opened for discussion.

- The Rev. Samantha Caravan (All Saints, Peterborough) spoke to the proposed change to Canon 10 and is concerned by the change, as the Diocesan Bishop holds our licence. She asked how this would fit in with clergy as being agents. How does this relate to all the work done by the Remuneration Working Group?
- The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil responded that to change it is in sharing responsibility with suffragan bishops, and always in consultation with the Diocesan bishop. Bishop Asbil added that the work of the Remuneration Working Group continues.
- The Rev. Dr. Alison Kemper (St Matthias, Bellwoods) spoke about being a person who had their licence removed by a Diocesan bishop. Some years ago, when she and the late Rev. Canon Joyce Barnett were outed by Lewis Garnsworthy, they were inhibited from functioning, their licences were removed, and they were put on a list of sexual offenders. This was done deliberately and with the assistance of the archdeacon, who has repented. It was a momentous occasion in the diocese and in their lives. That is the nature of removing clergy licences and firing them. Encouraged to retain this responsibility in the office of the Diocesan Bishop, as it requires the moral authority of the diocesan. Suffragans closer to nitty gritty than the Diocesan Bishop is. Encouraged Bishop Andrew to keep this responsibility in his portfolio.
- The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil replied that he is not giving up responsibility but sharing responsibility and sharing in non-disciplinary work all the same. He thanked Alison Kemper for her comments.
- Denise Byard (Holy Trinity, Guildwood) asked a question about amendment. If this is approved, could the delegation go to archdeacons in the new governance structure?

- Chancellor Clare Burns clarified that it would not be delegated to archdeacons, this delegation would only apply to suffragan bishops.

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that Synod approve the changes to the Constitution, Canon 10 and Canon 48 as recommended for approval by Synod Council and presented in the Convening Circular. **CARRIED.** (Motion #5B, #5C and #5D)

**b. Canon 14**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that Synod approve the changes to Canon 14, as recommended for approval by Synod Council and presented in the Convening Circular.

The floor was opened to questions.

- The Rev. Samantha Caravan (All Saints, Peterborough) stated that she has had multiple discussions about this motion at her parish. It is hard to find an auditor and hard to pay for it. Cost of audits are increasing, and standards are changing rapidly. An annual review engagement would be more acceptable to parishes.
- The Rev. Michael van Dusen (St. Aidan, Toronto) appreciates the recommendation to change the limit. But after completing grant application, we still require audits for everything. Would the Diocese consider extending the provision to FaithWorks applications? Many small non-for-profits are looking at fees just to comply. Revenue Canada does not require audits for small businesses.
- Canon Rob Saffrey responded by stating that we can talk to FaithWorks and ask them to consider but that is not what we are considering today. In response to Samantha's question, Rob understands and appreciates the costs involved in an audit and that is why the Finance Committee has considered this change. Approximately 34% of parishes in the Diocese would be audited. Every circumstance and parish is unique and Finance Committee found that \$200,000 was suitable.
- Stuart Hutcheson, ODT (St. Peter, Erindale) asked how many would be audited at the \$500,000 threshold?
- Canon Rob Saffrey answered five parishes would be audited at the \$500,000 threshold.

For clarification, Chancellor Clare Burns explained that if this motion fails, the audit limit will remain as it currently is at \$100,000 because nobody has moved amendment to increase from \$200,000 to \$500,000.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #5E)

**4. Financial Overview**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil explained that there would be one discussion opportunity for both motions, presented by Patricia D'Souza, Diocesan Controller. Despite the invitation, there were no questions.

**a. Financial Statements**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that Synod receive the Audited Financial Statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and the Cemetery Fund for the year ended Dec. 31, 2021. **CARRIED.** (Motion #6)

**b. Auditors**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson 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 ended Dec. 31, 2022, at a fee to be approved by the Audit Committee. **CARRIED.** (Motion#7)

## 5. Priorities and Plans 2023

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil called on Canon Robert Saffrey and Patricia D'Souza to present the Priorities & Plans and budget. It was explained that due to the uncertainty of COVID, a one-year budget was prepared for the year 2022, and the same has been done for the year 2023. The material is included in the Convening Circular, Section D.

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that Synod receive the document entitled *Priorities and Plans for 2023* and the *Financial Budget for 2023* and approve the priorities and the financial budget contained therein and that Synod Council report back to Synod on this plan. It will be further moved that Synod approve that the Assessment Rate, as defined in Canon 4, remain at 24.7% for 2023.

The floor was opened for debate. A summary of the comment made included:

- Dale Warburton (St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea) asked whether Indigenous Ministry should be a separate line item and where the interest paid online appears in the statement and the budget?
- Patricia D'Souza responded that we can separate Indigenous Ministry in budget. Responding to second question, indebtedness happened in 2020, and in 2021 there was no interest in debt.
- The Rev. Nathan Humphrey (St. Thomas, Huron Street) asked what the allotment rate is that the Diocese pays to the National Church?
- Canon Rob Saffrey responded that we fill out a return and we give them a flat amount. We do not base our assessment on a percentage. Canon Rob Saffrey continued to explain that it is complicated because when we talk percentages, we are talking about many different numbers. It is different at the National Church than what we have at the Diocese with regards to parish levels and numbers. We have held our contribution to the National Church steady even in declining revenues during COVID pandemic.

At the end of the discussion, the motion was voted on.

**CARRIED.**

## 6. Confirmation regarding General Synod and Synod Council

Chancellor Clare Burns explained Motions #3A and #3B that can be found in Section A of the Convening Circular.

### a. **General Synod**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that Synod hereby confirms that the members elected at the 160th Regular Session of Synod to serve as General Synod members for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of General Synod continue to represent the Diocese of Toronto. For clarity the clerical names are the Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields (St. James Cathedral), the Rev. Molly Finlay (St. John the Baptist, Norway), the Rev. Roshni Jayawardena (Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit), the Rev. Canon Erin Martin (All Saints, King City) *acting substitute*, the Rev. Mark Regis (St. Mary and St. Martha), the Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner (Grace Church, Markham), and the Rev. Canon Claudette Taylor (Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale). Lay Members are Chris Ambidge, ODT (Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St), Yvonne Murray, ODT (St. John the Divine, Scarborough), Vice-Chancellor Gail Smith (St. Andrew, Scarborough), Marion Thompson, ODT (St. Peter, Oshawa), David Toycen, ODT (Trinity, Streetsville), Laura Walton, ODT (Holy Trinity, Clearview), and Mary Walsh, ODT (St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges). **CARRIED.** (Motion #3A)

### b. **Synod Council**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald and **SECONDED** by Sheila Robson that Synod hereby confirms that the members elected at the 160th Regular Session of Synod to serve as Synod Council members remain in their positions for the duration of the Pilot Governance Project. For clarity the

elected members are Chris Ambidge, ODT (Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St), the Rev. Canon Simon Bell (St. Margaret, Barrie and Trinity Church, Barrie), the Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields (St. James Cathedral), the Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD (St. George on Yonge), the Rev. Maria Ling (Grace Church on-the-Hill), Heather McGregor, ODT (St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto), the Rev. Jesse Parker (St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope), David Toyce, ODT (Trinity Church, Streetsville), Laura Walton, ODT (Holy Trinity, Clearview), Eirene Wee (St. Paul, Bloor St).  
**CARRIED.** (Motion #3B)

**7. Missional & Outreach Moment: St. John, Bowmanville**

The Rev. Lucia Lloyd shared about idea for a Prayer Labyrinth based on time at silent prayer retreat in summer. Churchwarden Cathy McCabe shared how they found the pattern and created the design on the lawn. Testimonies were shared from participants.

**8. MEMBERS' TIME**

The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson assumed the Chair with Vice-Chancellor Marg Creal acting as Assessor.

- The Rt. Rev. Patrick White (retired clergy) when he said yesterday, he dreamed of being the Bishop of Utopia Bishop Riscylla offered him a job, but he has had another offer! Bishop Snell asked Bishop Garnsworthy for advice, and received the answer; answer your mail and suffer fools. He (Bishop White) really likes Jimmy Buffet. What happened to all those lovely musical interludes from across the Diocese we have had before? Bishop Robertson said he also enjoyed all music before, and when we return to in-person we will have the opportunity to hear live music again.
- Dale Warburton (St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea) asked if there is an updated account of proposed full union with Catholic church, from Vatican 62, and subsequent declaration. Quoted joint work with Catholic Commission and Anglican Church. Bishop Robertson thanked Dale, and explained we have a couple of dialogues that take place between Anglicans and Catholics. For example, a meeting next Spring -the second dialogue with bishops and the purpose is to cultivate relationships. A good portion is/will be led by our Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls. Hopes for work to continue in Canada and internationally.
- Vice-Chancellor Gail Smith (St. Andrew, Scarborough) felt led to say something. Has been working with theme, Cast the Net. What is the net, why are we casting it, and why (on) the other side. Heart led to say that we should look at what that net is. The net is comprised of liturgy, outreach, all other facets of church life. We need to continue to be prayerful and work together and cast the net. Open to CHANGE what the net looks like. Why are we casting? To include those who are not currently apart or considered, and reach out to those previously apart who we want to rejoin. As we work with those who have rejoined, we can work on issues being discussed. As they relate to Indigenous ministry, affordable housing, all issues we should be concerned with as a church. Why the other side? Have you considered what the church has looked like historically? Doesn't reflect what we look like today – age and culture of participants today. Important to reach out on the other side because we want NEW FISH. All of us are God's people; as we go forward and embark on projects we should be excited as a Church. We need not be fearful! Let go, and cast the net wide and far in God's holy name.
- Ellen Anderson (Holy Trinity, Guildwood) commend and thank all celebrants from bishop to priest still wearing masks to consecrate and administer Eucharist during pandemic to endemic. Modelling servant leadership by protecting all from mutations of covid virus. Ask that the Diocese consider requiring that all celebrants wear masks while preparing and administering. Speaking as one of the weak, afraid of contracting long-covid. Abstains from taking communion from any not wearing masks.
- Marion Thompson, ODT (St. Peter, Oshawa) hopes the Diocese continues to be supportive of small churches serving niche markets. St Peter's is located in a depressed area of Oshawa in the shadow of the GM plant. We are an outlier and believe strongly in outreach and serve those on the margins of society. We operate a weekly foodbank and serve 100 families a month. St Peter's exists by the skin of our teeth and hope there is place in Diocesan heaven for us. Bishop Kevin responded, as a former incumbent of St Peter's, and thanked Marion for advocating for their good work.

- The Rev. Bonnie Skerritt (St. Paul, Lindsay) plug for Canadian Anglican-Lutheran gathering (CLAY), in our backyard of Waterloo. Great opportunity for anyone with youth groups to become involved, worship with our Lutheran brothers and sisters. Hopeful that ties with Lutherans to get stronger and stronger in future, start on road of ecumenism.
- Orphtee Quarcoo (St. Stephen, Downsview) great segue - what can church do to attract young people? Is the church looking into establishing presence on campuses?
- The Rev. Dr. Harold Shepherd (retired clergy) – offered reflections as Director of Anglican Refugee Alliance in 90's. Reminded of advantage of great benefit of refugee settlement; work with other churches, deepen faith, and suggested this work into the Cast the Net strategy.

**9. Election of Honorary Secretaries**

**MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by Vice Chancellor John van Gent that the following be elected for the ensuing term:

- Sheila Robson, ODT, Honorary Lay Secretary
- The Rev. Lisa Newland, Honorary Clerical Secretary
- Constance Kendall, ODT, Assistant Honorary Lay Secretary

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #9)

**10. Thanks**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil expressed appreciation and thanked the following:

- The Rev. Andrew MacDonald for his service as Honorary Clerical Secretary of Synod, a role that he has served in since 2019;
- All Saints, Kingsway for hosting the Synod Eucharist;
- Scrutineers, time keepers, staff and volunteers;
- Our vendors: Caroline Aston of Aston Events, Data on the Spot and AV Canada;
- Our presenting Co-Sponsors: Burgundy Asset Management Ltd. and Canso Investment Council Limited and other sponsors;
- Pamela Boisvert and Jennipher Kean especially with regards to the technical difficulties this Synod;

Special thanks and gratitude was given to our beloved Chancellor Clare Burns retiring after 20 years of service. The Bishop presented Chancellor Burns with flowers and applause. Chancellor Clare Burns responded with heartfelt thanks to everyone online, in the room, and to Bishop Asbil. She said it was an amazing opportunity to serve with everyone. She is leaving the Bishop and the Diocese of Toronto in good hands with Marg Creal.

**11. Closing Remarks**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil said that four years ago he invited the Diocese of Toronto to consider rowing. Now, we are casting the net and its an opportunity to go out into unchartered waters. Pulling together is most important to cast new dreams and vision.

**12. Adjournment**

**MOVED** by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that the 161<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of Synod be terminated.

**CARRIED.**

(Motion #10)

**13. Closing Prayer**

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