

**TORONTO DIOCESAN ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD BY ZOOM – 10:00 a.m.
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024**

REGISTRATION

As in recent years, the business portion of the Annual General Meeting was held electronically. Approximately 40 people signed in by computer and/or telephone.

WELCOME

Toronto Diocesan ACW President, Enid Corbett, welcomed everyone to the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women's Annual General Meeting and explained how the Zoom meeting would be conducted. We have used this format the last four years but it is still a work in progress. Please be patient as we work through this together. There may be a slight pause before information is "shared" on the screen. A trial poll was taken in preparation for votes that would be cast during the meeting. We were pleased to welcome Enid's daughter, Cheryl, as the co-host. We were advised that this meeting was being recorded but would be deleted after four weeks.

INDIGENOUS DECLARATION

The Indigenous Declaration was read by Janice Hodgson as follows:

We gather together today from across our Diocese, on lands which have been the home to First Peoples from time immemorial. Our Diocese is situated on the traditional territories of the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishnaabe people. We acknowledge and give thanks for their stewardship of this land. Within our Diocese we specifically acknowledge the Curve Lake FN, the Chippawas of Rama FN, the Chippawas of Georgina Island, Hiawatha FN, Alderville FN, the Mississaugas of Scugog Island and the Mississaugas of the Credit FN, as well as the many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island who have come to call these lands home.

The lands on which we gather are covered by the Dish-with-One-Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe and the allied nations to peaceably share and sustain the land and resources around the Great Lakes. As we repent of the role our Church has played in the colonial project and the harms it has inflicted on Indigenous communities, families and individuals, we strive toward right relationship with all, honouring the spirit of the Dish-with-One-Spoon covenant and its values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility and mutual aid.

HYMN

With computers muted, everyone was invited to join in the singing of "This is the Day".

ACW PRAYER

With computers muted, the ACW Prayer was said together.

*Almighty and Eternal God, enable us through Worship, Learning and Service to live a life in Christ that strengthened by the Holy Spirit we may show forth your love to others throughout the world.
Amen.*

GREETINGS

College of Bishops:

Enid Corbett welcomed our Diocesan Bishop, Andrew Asbil, and invited him to bring greetings from the College of Bishops.

On behalf of the College of Bishops, Bishop Asbil wished to express gratitude for the work of Anglican Church Women across the Diocese, saying that we make such a difference. He was especially grateful to be with us today as we welcome new leaders and celebrate the leaders who have brought us this far.

The Bishop's wife, Mary Asbil, was pleased to tell us that she had been invited to speak to a women's federation group while representing the Diocese of Toronto in South Africa last year. She was proud and honoured to share our work with them.

Catholic Women's League:

Enid Corbett welcomed Kate O'Quinn, President-Elect of the Catholic Women's League, and invited her to bring greetings.

Kate O'Quinn extended greetings on behalf of the Catholic Women's League. Their theme is "Here I am Lord – Send Me". Their convention is to be held at the end of April, including guest speakers each day plus a banquet. They now have a total of ninety-seven councils. This marks the completion of a five-year strategic plan. Workshops have been held to help members adjust to the new structure. Food Insecurity is also their Social Justice initiative.

Women's Inter-Church Council of Toronto:

Enid Corbett welcomed Savitri Rose, Secretary of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Toronto, and invited her to bring greetings.

Savitri Rose brought greetings on behalf of WICC and shared a short synopsis of the past year's activities. In 2024, the World Day of Prayer service was written by the Christian Women of Palestine. The theme was "I beg you – bear with one another in love". Unfortunately, some churches expressed concern regarding the possibility of violence due to the current situation in the Holy Land. The World Day of Prayer service for 2025 is being written by the women of Cook Islands. The theme will be "I made you wonderful". Donations received are used to help struggling women.

Enid Corbett commented that we are very lucky that our Past President, Anita Gittens, provides us with updates on WICC activities, having also served as an executive member of the Women's Inter-Church Council.

Toronto Diocesan ACW Past-Presidents:

Enid Corbett welcomed, and acknowledged, the Past Presidents of the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women who were with us today: June Dyer (2001-2004), Marion Saunders (2004-2008), and Anita Gittens (2008-2019). Enid Corbett noted that all of these women continue to be involved at the Diocesan level.

Guest Speakers:

A special welcome was extended to Ida Mukuka (Zambia) and Niambi Martin-John Director of Development, from the Stephen Lewis Foundation. We will hear from them later.

Enid Corbett also welcomed Deacon Virginia Gabriel, an ACW bursary recipient, and Jim Harris a Special Projects recipient from New Path. We will also hear from both of them later in the meeting.

AGENDA

The agenda for today's business meeting was briefly reviewed.

OPENING DEVOTION

Toronto Diocesan ACW Chaplain Rev'd Canon Joan Cavanaugh (Incumbent, St. Paul Minden)

The Rev'd Canon Joan Cavanaugh reflected on today's theme, opening with a very appropriate prayer – the prayer of St. Francis. “Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace ...”

Peace and Hope ...

Hope is important to all aspects of our life. Hope is a mechanism developed in the brain to deal with complex situations. Human hope comes in many forms and in many different ways. However, biblical hope is quite different. It is the promise of resurrection and His love. People everywhere search for hope in God. Our hope depends solely on our faith.

The first thing that Jesus said after his resurrection was “Peace be with you”. The peace that depends on salvation. World peace is built on other factors including uncertain compromise. God's peace is built on sure foundation.

God's hope and peace combined brings us to a place in our life where we always have the strength to go forward.

OPENING REMARKS

Toronto Diocesan ACW President Enid Corbett, ODT

Enid Corbett submitted the following comments in writing:

Hope and Prayers for Peace are critical as we face today's world. It is hard to be hopeful when we read the newspapers, listen to or watch the news. Our hope is based on faith. We have confident expectation of what God has promised: wisdom, healing, love, joy, peace, and patience. Each Sunday we pray for peace in various countries around the world, but the list keeps growing. Please add prayers for peace to your own prayers if you have not already done so.

Hope is the foundation for our Special Projects. We are supporting organizations that provide hope for those facing challenges today. The Special Project Theme for the last two years has been Mental Health for children and youth. The theme for this year and next is Food Insecurity. We encourage you to take time to discover what the issues are for your Archdeaconry and how we as Anglican Church Women can help. Please contact your Archdeaconry Vice-President or the ACW office if you know of a local organization dealing with Food Insecurity that can use our help. There will be information about the selected organizations that we will be supporting in 2024 and 2025, in the coming newsletters.

As you read the annual report (found on our website), please pay special attention to all the work that is already being carried out by our Anglican sisters in the Diocese.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD APRIL 22, 2023

MOTION: It is moved by Janice Hodgson, and seconded by Marlene Gardiner, that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held April 22, 2023, be accepted as circulated in the on-line Annual Report. **CARRIED.**

BUSINESS ARISING

Enid Corbett reported the following:

The Articles of Amendment form has been sent to the Ontario Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery to confirm that we are in compliance with the new Non-Profit Corporation Act.

The Special Project Theme for 2024 and 2025 is Food Insecurity.

There was no other business arising.

PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORTS

Diocesan ACW Secretary-Treasurer, Sandra McPhail, reviewed the financial statements for 2023 as posted on the Diocesan website.

MOTION: Moved by Sandra McPhail, and seconded by Janice Hodgson, that the Review Engagement Financial Statements for 2023 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2024

MOTION: Moved by Sandra McPhail, and seconded by Janice Hodgson, that the accounting firm John L. Loreta CPA be appointed to provide the Review Engagement for the year 2024. **CARRIED.**

APPOINTMENT OF SIGNING OFFICERS

A motion is needed to appoint our Signing officers for the coming year. Two signatures are needed on each cheque or document.

MOTION: Moved by June Dyer, and seconded by Marlene Gardiner, that Enid Corbett, Janice Hodgson, Mary Macnamara, Mavis McKenna, and Sandra McPhail serve as signing officers. **CARRIED.**

PRESENTATION OF 2024 BUDGET

Diocesan ACW Secretary-Treasurer, Sandra McPhail, presented the proposed budget. This was for information purposes only and did not require a vote.

Sandra McPhail commented that this is a post-Covid balanced budget. There is to be a one-time special appeal grant to the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine for their building campaign. The budget is a work in progress. Noting Special Project donations in particular, if donations exceed expectations, the budget will be adjusted accordingly.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Sandra McPhail was very pleased to introduce “an angel” from Church of Christ the King, Etobicoke, bursary recipient the Rev’d Virginia Gabriel.

GUEST SPEAKER

The Rev’d Virginia Gabriel began by speaking of her time working at a school in Cape Town, South Africa. It was there that she began to feel a deep conviction to transition into lay ministry. She knew that she needed to gain knowledge and counselling. She was able to take a course that was extremely helpful. She felt a call to work as a hospital chaplain. She continued on to complete her under-graduate studies but, unfortunately, she did not receive any support in South Africa.

At that time, the decision was made to immigrate to Canada. On arrival in Toronto, she joined the Church of Christ the King, Etobicoke. Doors that were closed in Cape Town were now opened! She was able to find part-time work but it was not enough to cover the cost of additional training. She found out about the Toronto Diocesan ACW bursary for lay ministry through a website search. She applied, was approved, and received a cheque! Rev’d Virginia said she “thought her heart would burst”. She was a newcomer, not familiar with ACW, but she was awarded. This was life-changing. Rev’d Virginia applied to the Master’s program for Pastoral Studies. During this time, she felt the call to the Diaconate. After twelve years in Canada, she has experienced God’s call and promises.

Rev’d Virginia wished to express her heartfelt thanks to the ladies of the ACW for being God’s people in this place.

----- **BREAK** -----

HYMN

With computers muted, everyone was invited to join in the singing of “Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands”.

ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2023 Annual Reports are posted on the Diocesan website. It is hoped that you have had, or will have, a chance to read them.

MOTION: Moved by Mary Macnamara, and seconded by Janice Hodgson, that the Board, Committee and Area reports be accepted as circulated in the on-line Annual Report. **CARRIED.**

NOMINATIONS REPORT

We wish to thank all who have served on the Board and the Finance Committee. In particular we wish to acknowledge Dorothy MacLeod and Julia Nicholls who are stepping down this year.

Toronto Diocesan ACW Past-President June Dyer presented the slate as follows:

President	Janice Hodgson
Immediate Past President	Enid Corbett
Secretary-Treasurer	Sandra McPhail
Chancel	Ruth Briffett and Peggy Perkins
Nominating	Enid Corbett
West Archdeaconry	Valma Hay (Vice President), Ruth Briffett, Anita Gittens
Central Archdeaconry	Marlene Gardiner (Vice President), June Dyer, Linda Hadaway, Mary Macnamara
North Archdeaconry	Carol Cryer
East Archdeaconry	Marion Saunders (Vice President), Carolyn Atkinson, Gerri Currier, Mavis McKenna
South Archdeaconry	vacant
Chaplain	The Rev'd Canon Joan Cavanaugh

It was noted that help is needed especially in the South Archdeaconry, North Archdeaconry, and on the Finance Committee. It is possible to join the Board and/or Finance Committee at any point through the year.

MOTION: Moved by June Dyer, and seconded by Mavis McKenna, that the Nominations Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

OFFICIAL BALLOT

The ballot was cast verbally by Toronto Diocesan ACW Secretary-Treasurer, Sandra McPhail.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Bishop Andrew Asbil was called upon to officiate at the Installation of Officers. Joan Reid-Bicknell was the designated responder.

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT

Diocesan ACW Secretary-Treasurer, Sandra McPhail, was invited to present the Special Projects report. The Special Project theme for 2022-2023 was Mental Health for Youth and Children. Projects for 2023 were reviewed as follows and it was noted that each of them received \$1,000 in 2023.

Trent Durham	Carea Community Health Centre
York-Scarborough	The Neighbourhood Organization
York Simcoe	New Path Youth and Family Counselling Services of South Simcoe County
York Credit Valley	Youth Without Shelter

The Special Project theme for 2024-2025 will be Food Insecurity. This is a rural, urban, and global issue. The proposed budget commits \$1,000 per Archdeaconry per year. The organizations we will be supporting will be highlighted in the coming newsletters.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Enid Corbett invited Janice Hodgson to introduce our next speaker. Janice was pleased to introduce Jim Harris, CEO of New Paths Youth and Family Counselling Services. It was noted that Anglican Church Women have supported New Paths as the Special Project for York-Simcoe for the past two years.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jim Harris wished to express his thanks for the generous donation received from the ACW. New Paths is a registered not-for-profit agency that provides a full range of services including individual and family counselling. They provide timely access, free of charge. They experienced a 26% increase during the pandemic. Last year this demand was virtually unchanged and Jim Harris noted that this is significant. New Paths is not provincially funded – they depend on donations. Funds are used to provide support as needed, in an accessible and nurturing environment. He shared the testimony of one mother. Not only had her daughter stabilized, she had flourished as a result of her experience with New Paths.

Jim Harris expressed his thanks for the invitation to speak today and said that he had really enjoyed his time with us.

MEMORIAL BOOK

Marlene Gardiner, Vice President Central Archdeaconry, read the names that were inscribed in the Book of Memory for 2023. These names are also printed in the on-line Annual Report.

Margaret Close	St. Cuthbert, Leaside	December 4, 2021
Tony Buckle	St. Cuthbert, Leaside	July 31, 2022
Betty Armstrong	St. Cuthbert, Leaside	December 1, 2022
Doreen Marks	Holy Trinity, Thornhill	January 3, 2023
Judith Stevenson	St Cuthbert, Leaside	January 25, 2023
Lila Anne McOuat	Grace Church, Markham	April 12, 2023
Mary Kearns	Holy Trinity, Thornhill	October 3, 2023
Madeleine Daly	Holy Trinity, Thornhill	October 22, 2023
Margret Wolstencroft	Holy Trinity, Thornhill	December 15, 2023

INVITATION TO WOMEN'S GATHERING

Enid Corbett invited everyone to a Women's Gathering at St. James, Orillia, on Saturday June 1. It is to be a day of fun and fellowship. The guest speaker will share information about their 2023 medical mission to Kenya. Please register* if you plan to attend so our hosts can be prepared. This event is open to all women, not just ACW group members.

** Event flyer, with registration information and other details, was sent by e-mail to all parishes in the Diocese following the AGM.*

APPRECIATION OF BOARD

Enid Corbett expressed her appreciation of the Board as follows:

I would like again to welcome Janice Hodgson as the new president of Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women.

We say farewell to Dorothy MacLeod who served Diocesan Anglican Church Women for 18 years as a member of the Finance Committee, Board Treasurer, secretary of the Finance Committee and signing officer. Well done Good and Faithful servant.

We say thank you to Julia Nicholls, Huronia Deanery rep, who is leaving us to take on more strenuous duties in her Parish.

I would like to say thank you to The Board and to some special ladies.

To - you, the Board, who have been so supportive during these past five years. It has been a delight to work with you mainly, virtually. Thank you!

To – Sandy MacPhail who has been carrying out her duties as treasurer electronically, while spending much time in Nova Scotia, thank you.

To - The Finance committee who meet monthly to assist Sandy, thank you

To - June Dyer who cheerfully works with me behind the scenes putting together the newsletter and recruiting new Board members, thank you.

To - Rev Joan Cavanaugh, our chaplain – for your reflection today and your insightful talks at our Board meetings, thank you.

To - Judy Beal – for all the work you do to keep the office running smoothly and for all the work you have done to make our AGM run smoothly. Judy has done all the behind the scenes work in preparing the Annual report, sending out the invitations to all the parishes and taking the minutes for Board meetings and this meeting.

To – Cheryl Gallagher who acted as co-host manager today.

Newly elected President, Janice Hodgson, wished to acknowledge Enid Corbett's unwavering commitment to the Board, having served five years as President and thirteen years as Treasurer. Enid was virtually presented with two beautiful long-stemmed ACW wine glasses, as members of the Board and Finance Committee toasted her by raising a glass on-screen.

Enid Corbett responded that it had been a pleasure to work with all, and pledged her continued support.

ADJOURNMENT

The business portion of the Annual General Meeting was adjourned.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKERS

Enid Corbett was pleased to introduce Niambi Martin-John, Director of Development, Stephen Lewis Foundation, in conversation with Ida Mukuka, Special Advisor, Grandmothers to Grandmothers (Zambia).

Niambi Martin-John began by saying that they were grateful for the opportunity to raise awareness of their work. Stephen Lewis was the United Nations' AIDS Envoy for Africa at the peak of the epidemic. He met with older women who were bearing the brunt of the missing generation and orphaned children, and felt compelled to launch a foundation on his return to Canada. Ida Mukuka was identified as a leader in her community.

Ida was invited to talk about the challenges of HIV AIDS and the affect on the community. She expressed her thanks for the invitation and noted that she is currently in Canada, studying for her Master's degree at the University of Waterloo.

What gives her hope and peace? Seeing her two children educated, independent, and contributing towards a better country!

When the pandemic hit, she thought Africa would be wiped away. Focusing on grandmothers, we need to understand the contribution they have made. She is proud of that contribution. Supporting grandmothers has resulted in them now being recognized as feminists.

Ida was invited to talk at the United Nations in 2019. Standing in solidarity gained recognition beyond just giving money. Thinking more about her presentation to the United Nations, Niambi asked Ida about the gender impact of HIV AIDS and how it affected the political climate in the United States and Canada. Ida responded that we all live in a global community. Medication and treatment were not available in Africa. They needed international help. Government bureaucracy impeded progress. The Stephen Lewis Foundation decided to do the work differently, trusting organizations to determine what was necessary.

Niambi asked Ida if the grandmothers were able to amplify the voice of the voiceless. Ida responded that they needed more funding to support orphans and grandmothers due to the demands that were being made of them. However, grandmothers are now in a place of power, setting priorities for programs post-Covid. They have gone from fear to hope as they make demands of government. There is a perception that things have improved in Africa but several issues are still priorities. The challenge of HIV should be the focus of advocacy. There is still time to do this work.

Niambi noted that HIV AIDS is not on the radar in North America, due to available treatments. It is a different experience in Africa, with inequality at the root of the problem.

Ida commented on how frustrated they were but the difference in community is as simple as a smile – from frailty to strength. They now share stories about family focused on progress, celebrating the impact grandmothers have made.

Niambi commented on the importance of solidarity and asked how people in Canada can participate. Ida spoke about her visit to Zimbabwe. She was shocked that the first action was to provide her with a mask. They had learned to accept the disease and the impact of Covid. The organization is still supported and it is very important that this not be dependency but total solidarity.

Niambi again noted the gendered impact of HIV AIDS. The majority (70%) affected were young women. Ida responded that they are overcoming the patriarchal system. Grandmothers are becoming decision makers, demanding changes, not afraid of Members of Parliament.

Questions:

Marion Archibald wished to speak in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. St. Timothy's North Toronto has a grandmothers' group known as the "Old Orchard Blossoms". They have supported the Stephen Lewis Foundation for the past eighteen years. They have held fundraising efforts that have been hugely supported by the parish. Hope is the result of what has happened (progress). She concluded by saying that she fully supports the mandate of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the wonderful association between Canadian and African Grandmothers.

The Rev'd Canon Joan Cavanaugh asked if there is an opportunity to use story-telling skills to share information that would touch hearts. Niambi Martin-John responded that stories are very personal and important sharing experiences. Webinars bring partners together. Funds raised go to over one-hundred organizations supported in Africa.

It was noted that the grandmothers will be participating in a June event showing solidarity in Pride. Rampant laws and stigma are being fought; however, as one example of the challenge, a trip to Uganda had to be cancelled because activists could be criminalized on arrival.

Thank You:

Enid Corbett wished to thank Niambi Martin-John and Ida Mukuka for their interesting presentation. It was noted that the Toronto Diocesan ACW will be sending a donation to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

CLOSING HYMN

With computers muted, everyone was invited to join in the singing of "Let There be Peace on Earth".

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

The Rev'd Canon Joan Cavanaugh was invited to say the closing prayer. Bishop Andrew Asbil offered the blessing.

ADJOURNMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:50 a.m. Thank you everyone who joined us today.

Minutes taken by Judy Beal.

These minutes were reviewed by Enid Corbett and Janice Hodgson.