

Draft Minutes for 102nd Synod – November 1-2, 2024

The 102nd Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia opened with Holy Eucharist Friday, November 1, at 7 pm in Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria. It continued in the Baumann Centre in Victoria Saturday, November 2, at 9:30 am.

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement

Bishop Anna welcomed delegates and opened with prayer and Territorial acknowledgement,

During this service, Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee gave the “Charge to Synod”. The Bishop’s “Charge to Synod” may be found in the attached document. (Appendix 1).

Agenda for the 102nd Synod was accepted (Appendix 2)

Guest Speaker

Executive Director Brendon Neilson introduced the Rev Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, executive of the Diocese of Edmonton and animator for ecumenical and interfaith relations for the Anglican Church of Canada. Scott spoke on the theme of ‘synodality’ and, after a presentation, invited us to discuss two questions:

1. Based on how they were defined, in what ways are you, as a diocesan family of churches, already being collegial, dialogical, and provisional, and in what ways is there some more room to grow?
2. What other sorts of ideas or possibilities might you imagine could emerge in your parishes and ministries if you were to embrace more deeply the idea that a synod is not something you do but something you are?

Brendon thanked Scott for his insight and thought-provoking contribution.

Report of the Registrar on behalf of the Credentials Committee

MOVED BY: Michael Wolff – registrar

SECONDED BY: Lon Towstego

THAT the report of the Registrar be received as presented:

“The Right Reverend Bishop of the Diocese of British Columbia and members of Synod:

*I confirm that **45** clergy and **68** laity have registered as present for this synod, and therefore, the synod has quorum and is organized for business.*

I beg to report that in accordance with the Canons, we have furnished a roll of clergy canonically entitled to be seated in the Synod. All records required to be made by the Registrar, both by the bishop and by the Synod since the last Synod, have been duly entered up. All these records are up-to-date and kept in a safe place of deposit provided by the Synod for this purpose.

Dated at Victoria, British Columbia, this 2nd day of November 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wolff, Registrar

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Election of clerical and lay secretaries

Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee put forward the names of the Reverend Heather Robinson as Clerical Secretary, and Susan Rand as Lay Secretary.

Bishop Anna asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were no further nominations.

The bishop declared the Reverend Heather Robinson acclaimed clerical secretary, and Susan Rand acclaimed lay secretary for this session of Synod until the 103rd regular Synod.

Appointment and membership of the following Sessional Committees:

Executive Archdeacon the Ven. Eric Partridge announced the following appointments:

Registration Committee: Michael Wolff, Registrar
Karen Hill
Amanda Unrau

Agenda Committee: Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee
Paula Blundell
Brendon Neilson

Resolutions Committee: Isabel Weeks, Chancellor
Archdeacons:

- Craig Hiebert
- Elizabeth Northcott
- Lon Towstego
- Eric Partridge
- Alistair Singh-McCollum

Scrutineers: Selinde Krayenhoff

Election of Treasurer

The bishop announced the nomination of Joel Hefty as Treasurer.

The bishop called for any further nominations. None were forthcoming. Joel Hefty was acclaimed as Treasurer until the next regular Synod.

Election to Diocesan Court

The bishop announced the nomination of Walter Stewart and Jane Morley as lay members and the Ven. Elizabeth Northcott as clergy member to diocesan court.

The bishop called for any further nominations. None were forthcoming. Elizabeth, Jane, and Walter were acclaimed as members of the Diocesan Court until the next regular Synod.

Acknowledgement of Election of regional representatives to Diocesan Council (Appendix 3)

Archdeacon Lon Towstego, chair of the Nominations committee, acknowledged the election results from each of the five Regions within the Diocese. This synod will be the last time delegates will have to vote to accept the regional elections, as that vote will be eliminated in the proposed new canons. The following Regional Representatives to Diocesan Council are:

North Island

Clergy Representative

Marion Edmondson

Lay Representative

Marjorie Aitken

Cowichan/Mid Island

Clergy Representative

Trish Vollman-Stock

Lay Representative

Ed Norman

Greater Victoria

Clergy Representative

Craig Hiebert

Lay Representative

Cory Herrera

Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands

Clergy Representative

Kelly Duncan

Lay Representative

Helen Love

MOVED BY: Lon Towstego

SECONDED BY: Elizabeth Northcott

That regional elections for representatives to Diocesan Council be accepted by Synod.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Nominations for Provincial and General Synod representatives received from the Synod (Appendix 4)

The slate of nominations for diocesan representatives to Provincial and General Synod were presented to Synod. The bishop asked if there were any further nominations from the floor.

MOVED BY: Ingrid Anderson

SECONDED BY: Jacqueline Strober

That Georgina Love be elected as Youth Delegate to General Synod.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

There were no additions to the lay ballot for General Synod.

A nomination was made by Lon Towstego to add Alistair Singh-McCollum to the clergy ballot for General Synod.

There were nominations made by Colleen Lissamer to add Cory Herrera and by Ian Alexander to add Michael Wolff to the lay ballot for Provincial Synod.

Nominations were made by Jacqueline Strober to add Alistair Singh-McCollum and by Alistair Singh-McCollum to add Stephanie Wood to the clergy ballot for Provincial Synod

Opening of voting for Provincial and General Synod

Voting for members of Provincial and General Synod was declared open at 10:45 am.

Break: 10:45 am for 15 minutes.

Meeting re-convened: by Bishop Anna at 11 am

Approval of the No-Debate List (Appendix 5)

MOVED BY: Ian Alexander

SECONDED BY: Marion Edmondson

That the items on this no-debate list be adopted through a single motion to approve.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Financial Report (Appendix 6)

Joel Hefty, treasurer for the Diocese, outlined the 2024 diocesan financial picture, and the 2024 budget. He expressed thanks to the finance committee and the investment committee and stated the continued commitment to clarity in reporting. Joel introduced the new diocesan finance officer, Gregory Ptolemy, and welcomed him to Synod.

MOVED BY: Brian Evans

SECONDED BY: Penny Holt

That the financial reports to date for 2024, and diocesan budget for 2024 be received by Synod.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Amendments to Canons and Regulations (Appendix 7)

The three motions being presented to Synod by Chancellor Isabel Weeks and Executive Archdeacon Eric Partridge have all been moved by Diocesan Council and therefore do not require seconding. The votes will be taken by orders.

MOVED BY: Diocesan Council

That Synod 2024 approve the motion that was approved by Synod 2023 and laid over to this Synod that Article 1 be amended by deleting in its entirety the definition of 'Regional Dean'.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED IN BOTH ORDERS

MOVED BY: Diocesan Council

That Synod 2024 approve the amendment of the Constitution by:

A. Repealing in its entirety Article I thereof, and enacting in its place the following:

ARTICLE I - DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

A. This constitution and the canons of the Synod and all regulations made thereunder shall be interpreted in their plain and literal sense provided that words of an ecclesiastical meaning and words of a financial meaning shall be construed in their specific context as shall other words having technical meaning.

B. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing in this constitution, in the canons and in all regulations made thereunder the following definitions shall apply unless the context otherwise requires:

"Act of Synod" is a direction given by the Synod to one or more of its officers or other persons or body to perform some special act(s). It remains in force until it has been complied with or until the next session of Synod.

"Assisted parish" is a parish which, after completion of a full parish review, is found to be unable to finance its own operations and pay its assessment

“Administrator” is the person appointed or elected as provided in the canon in the vacancy of the See or the incapacity of the bishop.

“Bishop” is the bishop of the Diocese of British Columbia, or any bishop coadjutor, bishop suffragan, bishop assistant, administrator or commissary acting for the time being in the bishop’s place and stead upon the bishop’s authority or the authority of the metropolitan.

“Bishop assistant” is a bishop appointed by the diocesan.

“Bishop coadjutor” is a duly elected and employed bishop with right of succession.

“Bishop suffragan” is a duly elected and employed bishop who may have territorial jurisdiction as ordered by the bishop of the Diocese.

“Canon” is an enactment of the Synod declared so to be upon its adoption.

“Church” is the Anglican Church of Canada.

“Clergy/cleric” unless otherwise qualified is every person in holy orders from the Anglican Church of Canada and the ELCiC and those churches in full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada, whose name is on the clerical register of the Diocese of British Columbia.

“Commissary” is a cleric of the Diocese of not less than ten years standing appointed under the hand and seal of the bishop, for such duties as the bishop may define.

“Communicant” is any parishioner who has communicated, where having an opportunity of so doing, at least three times in the preceding year.

“Congregation” is the ecclesiastical division recognized by the bishop.

“Dean” is appointed by the bishop, and is, after the Bishop, the senior cleric of the Diocese, regardless of years of service.

“Delegate”

a.

i. the clergy under provision of Article III (B)

ii. a lay representative under the provision of Article V

iii. a youth lay delegate under the provisions of Article III (G).

b. is a clerical or lay representative to the General and/or Provincial Synod duly elected by Diocesan Synod.

“Diocesan” is the bishop of the Diocese.

“Diocese” is the Diocese of British Columbia, unless otherwise qualified.

“Elector” is a parishioner not less than 16 years of age.

“Incumbent” is the cleric who has the cure of souls in a parish and who is licensed and appointed by the bishop to perform ecclesiastical duties therein.

“Memorials in churches” include metal, stone or wooden plaques, ornaments, fixtures, articles of furniture, furnishings, lights, windows, or anything of a like description.

“Motion” is a form of words by which it is sought to elicit an expression of opinion, regarding some proposal contained therein.

“Parish” is an organized congregation or group of congregations within the Diocese of British Columbia.

“Parishioner” is any baptized person who shall have been in regular attendance at a parish church of the Diocese for a period of not less than three months.

“Petition” is a written or printed request addressed to a person or body of persons for the redress of some wrong or for the granting of some favour.

“Rector” is the incumbent of a self-supporting parish.

“Region” is a group of parishes within the Diocese linked together for the purposes of administration and mutual assistance save where the context directs otherwise as in the case of Christ Church Cathedral.

“Regional conference” is a meeting of appointed and elected clerical and lay members of a region.

“Regulation” is an instruction or order specifying the manner in which certain duties of officers and members of the Synod shall be performed, and in which the powers, authorities and duties specified in certain articles of the constitution and canons of the Synod may be carried out.

“Seniority”- after the Dean, seniority of clerics shall be determined by number of continuous years of service in the Diocese.

“Session” is the regular and/or special meeting of the Synod, and covers the period from opening to final adjournment.

“Synod” is the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia.

“Vestry” is an annual or special meeting of parishioners duly convened and constituted for the transaction of business in accordance with the canons on that behalf

B. Amending Article II by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“The Diocesan Synod may deliberate on all matters affecting the interests of the church in the Diocese; but, except as delegated by General Synod, shall have no competence to

- (a) change doctrine or worship as set forth in the official formularies of the Anglican Church of Canada, or*
- (b) decide other matters assigned to the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada or the Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon.”*

C. Amending Article III by deleting “(e) President of Anglican Church Women”, and re-lettering subsequent subparagraph (f) as (e) and subparagraph (g) as (f).

D. Amending Article III B by deleting the last sentence thereof.

E. Amending Articles V, IX and XI by replacing the terms “he/she” and “his/her” with “they” and “them”, respectively, and in Article V changing the verb “thinks” to “think” and in Article XI changing the verb “desires” to “desire”, to parallel tense with the noun.

F. Amending Articles X, XIV and XV by deleting the word “council” wherever it occurs and replacing it with “diocesan council”.

And that these amendments to the Constitution, if approved at Synod 2024, be laid over to the next Synod for consideration.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED IN BOTH ORDERS

MOVED BY: Diocesan Council

That effective on January 1, 2025 the canons and regulations in force at the start of this Synod 2024 be repealed and in their place, the following canons and regulations be enacted: (Appendix 7)

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED IN BOTH ORDERS

Bishop Anna thanked the Canons Committee for their tireless work and commitment to these much overdue revisions.

REFLECTION

The Rev Canon Dr. Scott Sharman remarked on the extensive preparation done by the diocese in advance which has made for a smooth synod.

MOTION OF THANKS

MOVED BY: Craig Hiebert

SECONDED BY: Vernon Foster

THAT this Synod thank all who have contributed to ways for the planning, organization, operation, and success of this 101st Synod. We give thanks for the dedication and leadership of our Bishop, Anna Greenwood-Lee. We thank the out-going members of Diocesan Council, and we thank those who offer themselves in leadership throughout our diocese, and at provincial and national church.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

Report of Election Results

Results reported to Synod by Elizabeth Northcott. The results of the elections are reported as follows:

Provincial Synod

Lay (3) elected	Helen Love, St Michael & All Angels, Royal Oak (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands) Cory Herrera (Greater Victoria) Julie Foster, St Paul, Nanaimo (Cowichan Mid-Vancouver Island)
Clergy (2) elected	Lon Towstego, Parish of Central Saanich (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands) Stephanie Wood, St Peter, Campbell River (North Island)

General Synod

Youth (1) elected	Georgina Love, St Michael & All Angels, Royal Oak (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands)
Lay (3) elected	Helen Love, St Michael & All Angels, Royal Oak (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands) Ian Alexander, Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria (Greater Victoria) Michael Wolff, Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria (Greater Victoria) Elizabeth Murphy, St Anne and St Edmund, Parksville (Mid-North Island)
Clergy(3) elected	Lon Towstego, Parish of Central Saanich (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands) Jenny Replogle, the Synod Office (Greater Victoria) Kirsten Evenden, St Mary's, Nanoose Bay and St Anne & St Edmund, Parksville (North Island)

Destruction of ballots

Bishop Anna stated, "Having completed the elections, and before I direct that the ballots be destroyed, I ask if any voter wishes to challenge any ballot." No challenge was forthcoming. "Hearing no challenge, I order that the ballots be destroyed."

Closing Comments and Blessing

Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee thanked the members of Synod for their commitment to the life of the Diocese. The bishop then gave a blessing.

Adjournment at 11:58 am

DRAFT

Opening Message from Bishop Anna

Dear friends,

Thank you for serving as a delegate to our 2024 diocesan synod. Please take the time to read the 'Synod Primer' from our guest speaker, The Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman. Scott explains that the word *synod* comes from the Greek and means, literally, together on the way. We gather as a synod because the Christian journey is never a solo journey, but always a pilgrimage that we undertake *together*.

Travelling together is of course different than travelling alone. Scott reminds us that as we travel together, we take the time to listen to one another, share with one another, deliberate with one another and, when the spirit calls us, change course, together. I look forward to Scott's Saturday morning keynote address calling us, as the church, to be more collegial, dialogical and provisional.

One of my own observations about being "together on the way," is that *we can only move at the speed of trust*.

Unfortunately, we know as church that when there is no trust in the system things fall apart. Nothing gets done. Meetings are held, minutes are taken, but nothing truly good or life giving comes. But where there is trust, that is where the Spirit breaks in. That is when, by glory, God's power working in us does infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

As you prepare to come to Synod 2024, I ask you to remember that our primary task as we gather as a synod is to build trust. At synod we will elect representatives, disclose and explain our shared financial situation, and consider adopting revised, more straightforward canons to govern ourselves by. These tasks might seem dull or routine but are, in fact, us as the church putting in place the proper building blocks so that we can, by God's grace, build the trust we need to journey together out into the world to live out our baptismal covenant of loving and faithful service to all God's people.



+Anna

SYNOD 2024

Agenda – Regular Meeting of Synod 102nd Session, November 2, 2024

9:00am	Registration Opens	
9:30am	Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement	Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee
9:35am	SYNODALITY Guest Speaker and Synod Observer	The Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman
10:35am	Report of the Registrar on behalf of the Credentials Committee	Michael Wolff, Registrar
	Election of Lay Secretary and Clerical Secretary	Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee
	Appointment of Synod Sessional Committees	Eric Partridge
	Election of Diocesan Treasurer and Diocesan Court Lay Member and Clergy Member	Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee
	Regional Representatives to Diocesan Council	Lon Towstego, Regional Archdeacon
	Election to Position:	
	❖ General Synod – Clergy (3)	
	❖ General Synod – Lay (3)	
	❖ General Synod – Youth (1)	Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee
	❖ Provincial Synod – Clergy (2)	
	❖ Provincial Synod – Lay (3)	
	Break and Voting (15 minutes) – Ballots into box by end of break	
	Approval of the No Debate List	Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee
	Report from the Treasurer	Joel Hefty, Treasurer
	Amendments to Constitution, Canons and Regulations	Isabel Weeks, Chancellor and Eric Partridge, Executive Archdeacon
	Report on Elections	Elizabeth Northcott, Returning Officer
	Reflections	The Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman
	Motion of Thanks	Craig Hiebert, Regional Archdeacon
	Closing Comments and Adjournment	Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee
	Blessing	Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee

Lunch will be provided. Next regular meeting of the Diocesan Synod will be held in the Fall of 2026.

Nominations List

OFFICERS OF SYNOD

Heather Robinson – **clerical secretary**
Susan Rand — **lay secretary**
Joel Hefty — **treasurer**
Walter Stewart — **lay diocesan court**
Jane Morley — **lay diocesan court**
Elizabeth Northcott — **clergy diocesan court**

GENERAL SYNOD

Lay (3)

1. Helen Love, St. Michael & All Angels, Royal Oak (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands)
2. Ian Alexander, Christ Church Cathedral (Greater Victoria)
3. Michael Wolff, Christ Church Cathedral (Greater Victoria)

Clergy (3)

1. Christine Conkin, St George, Cadboro Bay (Greater Victoria)
2. Lon Towstego, Parish of Central Saanich (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands)
3. Trish Vollmann-Stock, St John the Baptist, Duncan (Cowichan Mid-Vancouver Island)
4. Jenny Replogle, The Synod Office (Greater Victoria)
5. Denise Doerksen, Holy Trinity, North Saanich (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands)
6. Kirsten Evenden, St. Mary, Nanoose Bay (Mid-North Island)

PROVINCIAL SYNOD

Lay (3)

1. Helen Love, St. Michael & All Angels, Royal Oak (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands)
2. Julie Foster, St Paul, Nanaimo (Cowichan Mid-Vancouver Island)

Clergy (2)

1. Trish Vollmann-Stock, St John the Baptist, Duncan (Cowichan Mid-Vancouver Island)
2. Lon Towstego, Parish of Central Saanich (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands)
3. Denise Doerksen, Holy Trinity, North Saanich (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands)
4. Kirsten Evenden, St. Mary, Nanoose Bay (Mid-North Island)

NO DEBATE LIST

1. That the reports and notices of motion printed in the 102nd Synod Convening Circular and the supplementary materials be received.
2. That the Ratified Motions of Diocesan Council be received and approved.
3. That the minutes of 101st Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia held May 13, 2023 be approved.
4. That the List of Appointments, Resignations, and Ordinations be received.
5. That the Diocesan Ministry Reports be received.
6. That the report of the diocesan council and finance committee from May 2023 to September 2024 be received and the actions be approved.
7. That the Rules of Order be suspended, and the following persons be allowed on the floor of Synod with voice but no vote:
 - Lisa Alexander
 - Paula Blundell
 - Robert Gill
 - Karen Hill
 - Zena McCreary
 - Jibril Mohamed
 - Brendon Neilson
 - Mark Oldnall
 - Brian Rendell
 - Jacob Shoesmith
 - Amanda Unrau
 - Selinde Krayenhoff
 - Scott Sharman
8. That the fifth Mark of Mission (*“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”*) is a priority in the diocese. And that synod affirm that all communities have the right to safe, clean and sustainable drinking water and commits to ongoing advocacy to ensure access to safe drinking water for all communities on these Islands and Inlets.

Motions: Proposed Revisions to Constitutions, Canons and Regulations

Motion #1

Moved by Diocesan Council:

That Synod 2024 approve the motion that was approved by Synod 2023 and laid over to this Synod that Article I be amended by deleting in its entirety the definition of “Regional Dean”.

Motion #2

Moved by Diocesan Council:

That Synod 2024 approve the amendment of the Constitution by:

A. Repealing in its entirety Article I thereof, and enacting in its place the following:

ARTICLE I - DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

A. This constitution and the canons of the Synod and all regulations made thereunder shall be interpreted in their plain and literal sense provided that words of an ecclesiastical meaning and words of a financial meaning shall be construed in their specific context as shall other words having technical meaning.

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“Bishop” is the bishop of the Diocese of British Columbia, or any bishop coadjutor, bishop suffragan, bishop assistant, administrator or commissary acting for the time being in the bishop’s place and stead upon the bishop’s authority or the authority of the metropolitan.

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“Delegate”

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- i. the clergy under provision of Article III (B)
- ii. a lay representative under the provision of Article V
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b. is a clerical or lay representative to the General and/or Provincial Synod duly elected by Diocesan Synod.

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“Incumbent” is the cleric who has the cure of souls in a parish and who is licensed and appointed by the bishop to perform ecclesiastical duties therein.

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“Synod” is the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia.

“Vestry” is an annual or special meeting of parishioners duly convened and constituted for the transaction of business in accordance with the canons on that behalf.

B. Amending Article II by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“The Diocesan Synod may deliberate on all matters affecting the interests of the church in the Diocese; but, except as delegated by General Synod, shall have no competence to

(a) change doctrine or worship as set forth in the official formularies of the Anglican Church of Canada, or

(b) decide other matters assigned to the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada or the Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon.”

C. Amending Article III by deleting “(e) President of Anglican Church Women”, and re-lettering subsequent subparagraph (f) as (e) and subparagraph (g) as (f).

D. Amending Article III B by deleting the last sentence thereof.

E. Amending Articles V, IX and XI by replacing the terms “he/she” and “his/her” with “they” and “them”, respectively, and in Article V changing the verb “thinks” to “think” and in Article XI changing the verb “desires” to “desire”, to parallel tense with the noun.

F. Amending Articles X, XIV and XV by deleting the word “council” wherever it occurs and replacing it with “diocesan council”.

And that these amendments to the Constitution, if approved at Synod 2024, be laid over to the next Synod for consideration.

Motion #3:

Moved by Diocesan Council:

That effective on January 1, 2025 the canons and regulations in force at the start of this Synod 2024 be repealed and in their place, the following canons and regulations be enacted:

*(see the document linked in the convening circular:
“Revised Canons and Regulations for Adoption”)*