



# THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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**Adopted 2 November 2024**

## **MINUTES OF THE 138<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON**

5 November 2022

The Most Reverend David Edwards, Chair  
Christ Church Cathedral,  
150 Church St, Fredericton, N.B.

The 138<sup>th</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton was convened in Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton, NB. Registration of members began at 8:00 am.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Most Reverend David Edwards, Bishop of Fredericton, called members and observers to order at 8:50 am acknowledging the unceded and unsurrendered Wolastoqiyik territory on which we meet today, as well as the Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati territories on which the diocese sits, and thanked them for allowing us to gather.

The Bishop joined with Synod members in the Prayer for Synod and led the memorial prayer for past members of Diocesan Synod listed in the convening circular beginning on page A-8.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Reverend David Peer, Secretary of Synod, noted the location of building exits and washrooms and the location of first aid kits, the AED, and fire extinguishers. He asked that members and observers silence their cell phones.

### **REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

The Bishop reported that the Credentials Committee had advised him that, as of 8:50 am, the number of members registered was as follows:

- Clergy: 55 registered out of a possible 73 (75%)
- Lay: 128 registered out of a possible 175 (73%)

Quorum was declared and the 138<sup>th</sup> Session of Diocesan Synod officially opened.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion 138-01** – David Peer / Susan Jack  
**That the agenda be approved as presented.**

Motion carried.

### **REGRETS**

The Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Council in Canada, the Rev. Kevin Borthwick, the Rev. Canon Wally Corey, the Rev. Arnold Godsoe, the Rev. Jon Hallewell, the Rev. Canon Gregory McMullin, the Rev. Douglas Painter, the Rev. John Paul Westin, Ann Bishop, David Blacklock,

Hannah Blizzard, Ann Marie Cairns, Al Chapman, Margaret Clark Ouellette, Hailey Colwell, Lynette Hallewell, Judi Harvey-Isaac, Greg Hiltz, Judith Ingraham, Peter Irish, Jeena Jacob, Beverly Janes, Margaret Johnson, Ellen Kelly, Margaret Laking, Elizabeth Matheson, Harold McInnis, Norman McLeod, Trevor Price, Christine Risk, Samantha Risk, Lisa Stewart-Munn, Larry Taylor, Kelly VanBuskirk.

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE HEAD TABLE**

The Bishop called on the Vice Chair of Diocesan Council, Susan Jack, to introduce those sitting at the head table:

The Very Rev Geoffrey Hall, Dean of Fredericton  
Mr. David Bell, Chancellor of Synod  
The Most Rev David Edwards, Bishop of Fredericton  
The Rev. David Peer, Secretary of Synod  
Ms. Susan Jack, Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW SYNOD STAFF**

The Bishop introduced Justin McCoy who has joined the Synod office since the last Session of Synod.

### **SYNOD ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Bishop acknowledged the Chairs of the Sessional Committees:

Synod Planning – the Rev. David Peer  
Credentials – Cheryl Jacobs  
Nominations – Robert Taylor  
Resolutions – David Bell

The Bishop welcomed observers.

### **REVIEW OF THE RULES OF ORDER AND DECORUM**

The Chancellor reminded Synod that the voting process for changes to the Constitution and Canons requires a two-thirds majority in both houses of clergy and lay and the consent of the Bishop. He noted where the Rules of Order and Procedure could be found in the convening circular and reminded members that anyone wishing to place a motion before Synod must provide a written draft of his, her, or their resolution to the Resolutions Committee before 9:30 am.

### **PROVINCIAL SYNOD DELEGATE NOMINATION AND VOTING PROCESS**

Robert Taylor, the chair of the Nominating Committee, explained the process for nominating a delegate to Provincial Synod, and followed with an explanation of the voting process. Three persons had been previously nominated.

There were no further nominations for clergy delegates from the floor. The Bishop asked for a motion to cease nominations for clergy delegates.

**Motion 138-02 – Robert Taylor / Susan Jack**  
**That this Synod cease clergy delegate nominations for Provincial Synod.**

Motion carried.

Cathy Laskey and David Peer were acclaimed as clergy delegates.

There was one further nomination for lay delegate from the floor: Robert Taylor was nominated by David Peer. The Bishop asked for a motion that nominations for lay delegates cease.

**Motion 138-03 – Robert Taylor / David Peer**  
**That this Synod cease lay delegate nominations for Provincial Synod.**

Motion carried.

Shara Golden and Robert Taylor were acclaimed as lay delegates.

Two nominations for the youth delegate were proposed from the floor: Neil Osiowy nominated Erik Beek and Lucy Russell nominated Christopher Pillay. The Bishop asked for a motion to cease nominations for the youth delegate.

**Motion 138-04 – Robert Taylor / Susan Jack**  
**That this Synod cease youth delegate nominations for Provincial Synod.**

Motion carried.

The Bishop asked Erik and Christopher to come to the front so that members would know who they were when voting.

#### **MINUTES– 137<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF SYNOD**

The Secretary noted that the word "Synod" is missing in the minutes from motion 137-06 on the status of resolutions from the 136th session, on page C-4 of the convening circular, where it should say "Diocesan Synod of Fredericton".

**Motion 138-05 – David Peer / Susan Jack**  
**That the minutes of the 137<sup>th</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton be adopted as circulated with the change to the wording of motion 137-06 (Section C, pages 1-12)**

Motion carried.

#### **STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS – 137<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF SYNOD**

**Motion 138-06 – David Peer / Susan Jack**  
**That the report on the Status of Resolutions of the 137<sup>th</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton (Section C, pages 13-15) be approved as circulated and amended.**

Motion carried.

#### **MORNING PRAYER**

The Dean led the Synod at Morning Prayer.

#### **BISHOP'S CHARGE**

The Bishop delivered his Charge. He reminded members of the difficult road we have travelled together over the past 2½ years and how the diocese continued to worship, supporting each other and our communities. But now we see a changed landscape. The Bishop closed by calling

upon all to take the risk of walking by faith, not by sight.

Copies of the charge were distributed to the Synod members and posted on the web.

### **BREAK AND DISCUSSION GROUP TIME**

At 10:25 am, Shawn Branch, Parish Development Officer, provided instructions on the discussion group work, explaining that a facilitator has been appointed for each group to help the groups consider their response to the Bishop's Charge. He asked members to join their discussion group by 10:50 am.

### **LUNCH**

Discussion groups completed their work at 11:45 am and the Synod paused for lunch at 12:00 pm. Food was served in the Cathedral and Memorial Hall. Each discussion group said grace before eating.

### **CLOSE OF VOTING FOR PROVINCIAL SYNOD DELEGATES**

Voting for delegates closed at 12:55 pm.

### **REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

The Credentials Committee advised the Bishop that, as of 1:00 pm, the Session still had Quorum, the number of members in attendance was as follows:

- Clergy: 61 present out of a possible 73 (83.5%)
- Lay: 132 present out of a possible 175 (74.53%)

### **EUCHARIST**

Cheryl Jacobs announced that a Synod offering would be collected during the Eucharist for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). The Dean presided at a Come Worship Eucharist, with music by the Cathedral Come Worship Band. In his homily, Dean Hall spoke of the presence of Jesus and how Jesus showing himself in the breaking of bread connects the physical world to the invisible God. God is not so far off when the divine spirit is among us.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

The Session moved to temporal matters of Synod at 1:50 pm. The Chancellor spoke to the first five motions, all legislative. These motions require a two-thirds majority in both the house of lay and the house of clergy. The full text of each of the legislative motions are found in the convening circular on pages D-3 to D-6.

#### **Amendment of Canon Three (timeline flexibility for episcopal election)**

**Motion 138-07** – Susan Jack / David Peer

The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote in both the lay and clergy houses.

#### **Amendment of Canon Five (Synod investment policy)**

**Motion 138-08** – Susan Jack / David Peer

The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote in both the lay and clergy houses.

#### **Amendment of Canon Six (episcopal role in parish governance)**

**Motion 138-09** – Susan Jack / David Peer

The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote in both the lay and clergy houses.

**Amendment of Canon Six (annual meeting financial statements)**

**Motion 138-10** – Susan Jack / David Peer

The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote in both the lay and clergy houses.

**Amendment of Canon Six (parish purchase of land)**

**Motion 138-11** – Susan Jack / David Peer

The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote in both the lay and clergy houses.

**Charter for Racial Justice**

**Motion 138-12** – Thomas Nisbett / David Page

**THAT the Charter for Racial Justice of the Anglican Church of Canada become the policy of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton.**

An explanation of the motion is found in the Additional Notices of Motion provided to members upon registration. Thomas Nisbett noted that the motion arose from discussion in the Parish of Newcastle-Nelson-Hardwicke. The Charter has been around for a long time, but on investigation the parish discovered the diocese had never adopted the Charter as policy.

The motion commits the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton to adopting the Charter as a statement of values and aspirations that will influence the policies and procedures of the Synod, the Diocesan Council, and committees.

Terence Chandra commended the motion. He has been on the receiving end of racism. He believed that it is time the diocese had a discussion, but that the charter was not the best document for starting the conversation. Cole Hartin agreed, noting it was not necessary to adopt the charter as policy as it already is policy at the national level. Rob Langmaid raised a concern that this motion would have Synod adopt the policy and then a subsequent planned motion would require Synod to figure out the implications. Rob recommended tabling the motion until the next Session explaining that it would be better to have Diocesan Council consider this policy and its implications and report back to Synod before a decision.

**Motion to Table Motion 138-12 Until the Next Session of Synod**

**Motion 138-13** – Robert Langmaid / Paul Mills

Approved.

Motion 138-12 was tabled.

**Task Force on Racial Justice**

**Motion 138-14** – Thomas Nisbett / David Page

**THAT the Diocesan Council establish a Task Force on Racial Justice made up of at least one representative from each Archdeaconry to:**

- **examine the implications for the Diocese of Fredericton of the Charter for**

**Racial Justice in the Anglican Church of Canada;**

- **educate congregations about issues of racial justice, racism, xenophobia, prejudice and discrimination in the Christian context; and**
- **make recommendations concerning implementation of the Charter for Racial Justice across the Diocese.**
- **Report at the 139<sup>th</sup> session of Synod**

An explanation for the motion is found in the Additional Notices of Motion. Rob Langmaid and Gerry Laskey spoke in support of the motion. Lionel Hayter requested a friendly amendment to add the requirement for the Task Force to report at the next Synod, to which the mover and seconder agreed.

The reworded motion carried by voice vote.

**Provision of Information, Openness, Accountability and Transparency**

**Motion 138-15 – Geoffrey Hall / David Barrett**

**THAT the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton resume and continue the compilation, publication, and printing of year-end reports at each Synod for the completed years since its prior session including:**

- **Corporation (parish/congregation) statistical information**
- **Corporation (parish/congregation) financial information**
- **Corporation (parish/congregation) investment information**

**and that errata pages be added to the 138<sup>th</sup> session convening circular with the information for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021.**

Information on the motion is found in the Additional Notices of Motion.

The motion carried by voice vote with a few dissenting voices.

**REPORTS**

**Diocesan Officer Reports and Diocesan Council Report**

**Motion 138-16 – Susan Jack / David Peer**

**THAT this Synod receive the Diocesan Officer Reports and Diocesan Council Report as found in this convening circular.**

Reports are found in Sections E and F of the convening circular. No discussion occurred on this motion.

The motion carried by voice vote.

**Review Engagement Report and Financial Statements 2019, 2020, & 2021**

**Motion 138-17 – Susan Jack / David Peer**

**THAT this Synod receive the Diocesan Review Engagement Reports and Financial Statements for the years ending 31 December 2019, 2020, and 2021.**

The Diocesan Review Engagement Reports and Financial Statements for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 are in the convening circular as Appendices 1-3.

Heather Harris-Jones pointed out to members that the statement format has changed over the past three years to streamline them and make them more transparent and easier to understand. The Statement of Operations provides the best measure of the Synod's financial performance. Focus should be on the excess of revenue over expenditures, as that metric excludes unrealized market fluctuations and shows how well the financial affairs of the Synod have been managed to the budget.

Overall, Heather is pleased with how the Synod weathered the past three years. Shared Ministry Assessment rates decreased and the level of service to the parishes increased. Although the financial numbers are good, our financial future holds challenges like volatile market conditions, inflation, and continued declining shared ministry assessments. Synod staff will continue to focus their effort towards balancing the budget. The Treasurer's full report is found on pages E-18 to E-21 of the convening circular.

Lionel Hayter thanked Heather and the finance team for their effort managing Synod resources and for their effort in making the financial statement transparent.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Bishop thanked Heather and the Synod finance staff for the work they have done and noted that our finances have been extremely well managed over the past three years. We are in substantially better financial position and better understand our financial risks and opportunities than most other dioceses in the Anglican Church of Canada.

## **ELECTIONS**

Robert Taylor, Chair of the Nominating Committee rose to speak about the Diocesan Council elections noting that there is an almost complete turnover of Greater Chapter clerical and lay representatives to council.

### **Archdeaconry Greater Chapter Elections to Council**

**Motion 138-18** – Shawn Branch / David Peer

**THAT This Synod accept the Archdeaconry Greater Chapter elections to Diocesan Council, as presented.**

<b>Chatham</b>	<b>The Rev. Canon Gerald Laskey (Derby &amp; Blackville) Ms. Laura McNulty (New Bandon)</b>
<b>Fredericton</b>	<b>The Rev. Paul Ranson (Douglas and Nashwaaksis) Ms. Nancy Stephens (Douglas and Nashwaaksis)</b>
<b>Kingston &amp; the Kennebecasis Moncton</b>	<b>The Rev. Robert Montgomery (Gondola Point) Mr. Robert Taylor (Rothesay) Mr. Michael Briggs (St. Philips) The Rev. Julian Pillay (Riverview)</b>
<b>Saint John</b>	<b>The Rev. Jasmine Chandra (St. Mark, SJ) Mr. Trevor Fotheringham (Fundy &amp; the Lakes)</b>
<b>St. Andrews</b>	<b>Ms. Martha Barker (St. George) The Rev. Robert Cheatley (St. Andrews)</b>

Woodstock

The Rev. Robert LeBlanc (Wicklów, Wilmot, Peel, Aberdeen)  
Ms. Marilyn Wilson (Richmond)

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **Provincial Synod Election Results**

<b>Clergy Delegates (2)</b>	<b>Lay Delegates (2)</b>	<b>Youth Delegate (1)</b>
The Ven. Cathy Laskey	Ms. Shara Golden	Mr. Christopher Pillay
The Rev. David Peer	Mr. Robert Taylor	Mr. Eric Beek (Alternate)

The clergy and non-youth lay delegates were elected by acclamation.

### **Destruction of Ballots**

**THAT this Synod destroy the ballots for the Provincial Synod delegate election.**

**Motion 138-19** – Robert Taylor / David Peer

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

### **RESPONSE TO THE BISHOP'S CHARGE**

Connor DeMerchant, of the Parish of Kingston, delivered the response to the Bishop's Charge. The response was developed from the contribution of Synod members by a response team of Jasmine Chandra, Connor DeMerchant, Leo Martin, Joni Richardson, and Shawn Branch.

Connor concluded by reminding members that shaping the future of the diocese will take all of us, it will take time, and it will be uncomfortable; however, we have each other to encourage, support and challenge, and we have renewed hope! Our hope is in Christ alone! "Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39) This is the hope we cling to.

### **GREETINGS OF SYNOD**

**Motion 138-20** – Robert Taylor / Susan Jack

**That the greetings of the 138<sup>th</sup> Session of Diocesan Synod be extended to:**

- 1. His Majesty King Charles III, through his representative in Canada, Her Excellency, the Governor-General, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, and the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, the Honorable Brenda Murphy, the customary expression of its loyalty and affection.**
- 2. Our Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, and our Premier, the Honourable Blaine Higgs.**
- 3. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Justin Welby.**
- 4. Our Primate, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls.**
- 5. Our former Diocesan Bishops, the Rt. Rev. William Hockin and the Most Rev. Claude Miller, and to their spouses Mrs. Isabelle Hockin and Mrs. Sharon Miller, and also Mrs. Lois Lemmon.**
- 6. Our Companion Diocese, the Diocese of Ho, through their bishop, the Rt. Rev. Matthias Medadues-Badohu.**
- 7. Our prayer partner diocese, the Diocese of Yukon and their bishop, the Rt. Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame.**



**8. The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their bishop, the Most Rev. Hosam Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem.**

The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

**THANKS TO THE ORGANIZERS**

Michael Briggs, a lay delegate from the Parish of St Philip's, Moncton, on behalf of members, guests, and observers, thanked the Dean for hosting Synod at Christ Church Cathedral and Archbishop David, Cheryl Jacobs, Synod Secretary David Peer, the Synod Planning team, Sessional Committee members, and the many other volunteers for the work they did before hand and during the day to make this session of Synod run smoothly. Michael noted that it took a lot of preparation and work. Thanks to all who have made this Synod possible.

**CLOSING REMARKS AND ASSENT**

The Bishop also expressed his gratitude to the organizers and to all those who were present for this 138<sup>th</sup> Session of Diocesan Synod. He particularly thanked Synod for their response to his charge, noting that the work ahead will require much prayer.

The Bishop granted his assent to all motions passed by Synod.

The Bishop also noted that a copy of his charge will be on the Diocesan web site and that all Synod members will be receiving an evaluation form. He encouraged everyone to complete and submit it as soon as possible. The Bishop closed the 138<sup>th</sup> Session of Synod in prayer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion 138-21 – Bob LeBlanc**

**THAT this 138<sup>th</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton be adjourned.**

The motion carried

Synod adjourned at 2:55 pm.

**EVENING PRAYER**

At 3:00 pm, the Dean led the Synod members in closing prayers, which completed at 3:10 p.m.



The Rev. David Peer  
Secretary of Synod



The Most Rev David Edwards  
Bishop of Fredericton