

Ecclesiastical Province of Canada

Provincial Council

October 14, 2023

Via Zoom beginning at 12 noon EDT, 1pm ADT, 1:30 NLT

The meeting of Provincial Council commenced at 1:10pm ADT.

The Right Reverend David Edwards, Metropolitan for the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, opened the meeting of Provincial Council with a Land acknowledgment as follows:

Archbishop David read the Land Acknowledgement.

We acknowledge that the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada conducts its activities on the traditional and unceded territories of the Abenaki, Algonquin, Anishinabeg, Atikamekw, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, Innu, Kanien'keha:ka, Malecite, Mi'kmaq, Naskapi and NunatuKavut, Peskotomuhkati and Wolastoqiyik peoples.

We see a new relationship with the first people here, one based on honour and respect, and we thank them for their hospitality.

Housekeeping

Sean Branch, Diocese of Fredericton, present as Zoom host/facilitator, was invited to provide some housekeeping information, particularly on voting.

Roll Call

Archbishop David noted that the position of Prolocutor is vacant with the resignation of the Reverend Trevor Lightfoot (Diocese of NS & PEI) for health reasons. The Archbishop expressed his gratitude to Dion Lewis who stepped up to the plate. There is actually no mechanism to replace the Prolocutor should they have to resign mid-term. On behalf of Synod, Trevor was send a thank-you letter and gift for his service to the Province of Canada.

Deputy Prolocutor, Dion Lewis, did a roll call to facilitate the recording of attendance for the minutes. They were:

Archbishop David Edwards, Metropolitan;
Dion Lewis, Deputy Prolocutor;
David Bell, Chancellor;
Jan Connors, Lay Secretary;
Bishop John Watton, Diocese of Central Newfoundland,
Bishop Sandra Fyfe, Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island;
Bishop Bruce Myers, Diocese of Montreal;
Bishop John Organ, Diocese of Western Newfoundland;
Reverend Joanne Mercer, Diocese of Central Newfoundland;
Reverend Andy O'Donnell, Diocese of Montreal;

Robert Taylor, Diocese of Fredericton (and Provincial Treasurer);
Irma Moores, Diocese of Western Newfoundland.

Official Regrets were noted: Ven. Charlene Taylor, Clerical Secretary; Bishop Sam Rose, Diocese of Eastern NL and Labrador; Bishop Mary-Gibson; Diocese of Montreal. Kyle Riggs, Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador was not able to be contacted. Absent: Dale Keats, Diocese of Quebec; Eden Mancor, Youth Member

We do not have a quorum. Robert Taylor does not count as an additional person in his dual capacity. The meeting continued with no substantial motions to be voted on.

Agenda

The updated agenda was displayed

Moved by Andy O'Donnell

Seconded by Sandra Fyfe

***That the agenda be approved as corrected, with the date of Provincial Synod from 2025 to 2024.
Carried.***

Courtesies of the House

Archdeacon Alan Perry was extended courtesies of the house, to speak with us, but with no vote.

Moved by Dion Lewis,

Seconded by Jan Connors

that this Provincial Council extend courtesies to Archdeacon Alan T. Perry, General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Carried

Prayer and Study

Prayer and study is from *A Disciple's Prayer Book* and followed Gospel Based Discipleship, asking;

- What words or ideas did you hear?
- What is the Gospel (Jesus) saying to you?
- What is the Gospel (Jesus) calling you to do?

Archbishop David lead the worship with one speaker (Jan) providing the audible response on behalf of all members. He recited the Scripture passage for today, Matthew 9:35-10:1 (NRSV) for Members to reflect on in the breakout rooms.

Archbishop's Introduction of the Primate's Commission – Proclaiming the Gospel

Archbishop David explained that while the original agenda showed the Archbishop's Charge in this slot, subsequently at a meeting of the House of Bishops the Primate asked that upcoming meetings of Synod or Councils consider the Primate's Commission; Dion Lewis is on that Commission. Archbishop David read the opening statement.

PRIMATE'S COMMISSION – PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL

We have a national church structure and model of governance created in a different time and context. If we were to develop a national church today – what would we imagine? Where are the gaps? Where are the needs given the available resources? Emerging demographics? What alternatives do we see? Keeping in mind what is achievable in 18-20 months

The Commission is invited

- to explore; develop ideas; test with key constituencies;
- to prepare recommendations to GS2025 for discussion/testing.

to discern a vision that identifies the ‘elephants in the room’ (what is not working or ‘assumed’ and perceived as untouchable) – and offer creative possibilities to test.

Archbishop invited Dion to speak to this and then opened discussion.

Dion reported that the initial meeting was just a week ago. Looking at the magnitude of this; any guidance would be appreciated. Comments will be fed back to the Primate and the Commission. This is not a debate, just a discussion. It is a big set of questions. There will be consultations with the dioceses striving for consensus to move forward together. Asking about ‘the elephants in the room’ segued to discussion.

- Bishop Bruce Myers suggested looking for every possibility to work ecumenically, sharing programmatic work, staffing, etc. He is delighted that we will be sharing office space with the United and Presbyterian Churches, which hopefully is more than a lease agreement. It saves money but more especially is working out God’s mission to come together as the Church of Christ.
- David Bell would find it helpful for the Commission to articulate its understanding of the National Church
- Irma Moores notes there are fewer and fewer children; there is lots of competition but as they get out of the worship routine it becomes less and less important. This is a big challenge
- Andy O’Donnell raised two concerns: we are a smaller church with top-heavy structures; we need to rebalance; and do away with voting on motions in Synod by House.
- Sandra Fyfe used an analogy of Archbishop Ron Cutler’s when leading a clergy quite day years ago: The Church in general is on a ship in need to refit it while we are on the way. We need to add things and take things away without restructuring everything. We need to radically rethink everything. She has great hope in our young people who are doing courageous things demanding human rights and fighting for the environment. Worship now does not engage them in their longings. If we started again, would we worship on Sunday morning?
- Dion confirmed that they are asking what might be the new way
- Bruce Myers wonders if we are going to be truly radical, do we need a national church as we know it. There are other models in the Anglican Communion.
- John Organ generally speaking his is much more hopeful around the church not that there are not challenges, even the current structure. But the structure does cause a lot of pain. It’s not perfect but the best we’ve got. With respect to how to connect with people, it is a message to the wider world that we get through these struggles. It is our

Lord's Church and not just ours. We do seem to be top heavy, and it's frustrating when the House of Bishops votes differently than the clergy and laity. But we are working to improve. He is hopeful.

Archbishop David curtailed the discussion. Further comments may be directed to the Commission. He invited Robert Taylor to give the Financial Report.

Financial Report

Income statement document for 2022, and 2023 January – September was displayed on the screen. Robert explained that the assessment process is based on dioceses' assessable income. The \$60,000 investment income refers to the money held if we decide to have an in-person synod. Investment interest lags behind by a quarter. As long as the investment remains over \$60,000 we receive 1% per quarter of investment interest.

Our chief expenses are the ACPO Conference which is held in June. Office supplies are minimal; computer software is for Sage which might not be necessary in future. Visa credit card has a \$5,000 limit. The cost of the Zoom platform results in low cost meetings.

The largest budget is for professional services. Last year there were only 20 transactions for the whole year. The Executive deemed a financial review was unnecessary for the particular year, but will be required before Synod. Insurance costs have been over the \$2,000 budget amount for each year. The proposed budget will reflect an increase.

There is a tiny deficit showing for this year.

Appendix #1: Financial Statement

Archbishop David reminded that these will go to Synod for approval. Regarding the unpaid assessment, discussions have taken place with the diocese in question and should be resolved.

2025, 2026 & 2027 Budget

The document is a preliminary stab at budgeting for the next triennium.

The assessment is the last figure to be put in place as updated assessable income is needed. Expenses are fairly predictable.

The budget assumes the meetings of the Executive, Council and Synod will be on Zoom. Conference services expense is much the same. Office supplies amount has been reduced based on history. Computer software has been reduced by \$300 leaving a \$300 provision. Bank charges were just explained. For professional service Robert has considered an audit or at least a professional review would need to be done before a Provincial Synod. Insurance has been increased by 4% each year and is so reflected.

Total expense were a little higher for this triennium verses the next triennium. There could be a reiteration of the budget before it goes to Synod next year.

Appendix #2: Draft Triennium Budget

There were no questions.

BREAK

Archbishop Linda Nichols: Video

Archbishop David introduced a video greeting from the Primate. She was invited to attend Provincial Council but she would be in Labrador and offered to prepare a message. She spoke on the Strategic Plan and its five aspirations, affirmed at General Synod that now are commitments. The core is discipleship that is rooted in the Gospel. Around it are four others; walking together with indigenous people, honour the dignity of every human person, better stewardship of creation, and right relationships locally, and internationally, with other faiths.

The plan will shape and challenge each diocese. Management Team of GS will be setting goals for the next two years. Key work will be networking and communicating across the church, connecting people and resources so the work can continue. Interesting is what we might be doing that would help others. Theological reflection: MAID for example; collection of essays. Season of Creation working with other Christian Churches.

Archbishop Linda hopes we will discuss the commitments and think about what we can do in our context, proclaiming with joy the good news of the Bible.

Link to Primate's video message: <https://youtu.be/ggDltokSN1U>

Archbishop David thanked the Primate noting that Council will enter discussion following the General Secretary's presentation.

Archdeacon Alan Perry: Presentation

Alan Perry, General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada provided Council with a General Synod Update.

Alan expressed his pleasure being here, especially having served on Provincial Synod as Prolocutor for several years. General Synod and the Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCiC) met in late June and early July in Calgary, Alberta. All information is available on the Anglican Lutheran website.

There were minor wording changes to the Declaration of Principles and Constitution. The formula changed for the number of delegated to attend General Synod. Rules of Order were approved integrating Kerr & King's more user-friendly approach. Former EPC Chancellor, Charles Ferris helped tremendously with this. Some Canons were cleaned-up and the Prayer for Reconciliation with the Jews passed for the required second time. Canon 13 which regulated the order of deaconesses was repelled, The Canadian Church Historical Society was linked with the Archives, and Canon 17 on Licensing for safeguarding for a safer Church were passed. General Synod voted to be in full communion with the Moravian Church, an on a controversial call for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine. Dismantling racism, and the climate emergency – moving to Net Zero in our churches and in our lives, were major topic of consideration. Archdeacon Perry concluded noting that General Synod meets in two years' time to get back on the triennium track after Covid 19 delayed the last General Synod by a year.. It will be held in London, Ontario at the RBC Conference Centre June 23-29, 2025.

The Metropolitan thanked Alan and invited questions and comments on the Primate's and/or General Secretary's presentations.

Asked about how he sees our way of life with the First Nations folks in the Anglican Church of Canada unfolding, Archdeacon Perry expressed it is too soon to tell. The Sacred Circle has worked through regulations for their life together in conjunction with the Indigenous Archbishop. He sees an interface with the Solemn Declaration of the non-indigenous church. It is exciting to watch and needs our prayers.

The question was asked if General Synod meeting in Assembly with the Lutherans will be ongoing. Alan responded that it will not happen in 2025 but possibly after that. The Lutheran's Constitution does not allow for a change in their meeting cycle. There are regular staff meetings with the Lutherans. The relationships continue and strengthen.

Executive Report

Dion Lewis, Deputy Prolocutor, reported: The Executive Council met over 15 times since the Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada met via Zoom in June 2021. Faithfully we opened and closed each meeting in prayer. The minutes of the Synod were certified by the officers. The hour-long meetings were filled with discussions about the Provincial jurisdiction and how it compares to other Provinces in Canada and reviewing how to serve the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada best.

The Cunningham Report was circulated in full to the members of the Provincial Synod as per the direction of the Synod. The Executive followed with a survey of the members. Less than half of the members of the Synod replied. The responses received were precious and enlightening because they confirmed the needs of this community but still could not provide a clear direction in regard to their prioritization.

The Chancellor reviewed the Constitution and confirmed that decision-making within the Province falls under the Provincial Synod, Provincial Council, and Officers of the Synod. Furthermore, succession and turnover planning should also be in the scope of the work.

The accessibility of the Archives and possible digitization were discussed. It was determined that we would need to employ specific persons, get a specific grant for this and partner with Librarians and Archivists.

The electronic records stored on the Provincial website were updated, We asked among ourselves how the Provincial Prayer Care cycle can be re-established. I hope that someone will feel and respond to the call to take up that very important task. Praying by name for each other can be a wonderful action that can unite and encourage.

As per the prescribed guidelines, The Provincial Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination received funds. Assessments were collected and dispersed following the budget passed at Synod. A review of how, at the Province level, we can support and enhance proper safeguarding specifically in non-criminal situations.

Fortunately, we have not had to convene a provincial court for disciplinary matters but an outstanding task is to make sure we have the right persons in place.

Finally, I would also like to express my gratitude to the members past and current of this iteration of the Executive the Metropolitan: The Most Reverend David Edwards, Diocese of Fredericton, Prolocutor: The Reverend Trevor Lightfoot, Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island, Lay Secretary: Jan Connors, Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island, Clerical Secretary: The Venerable Charlene Taylor, Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador, Treasurer: Robert Taylor, Fredericton (@ January 1, 2022 replacing Peter Irish) Chancellor: David Bell, Fredericton (@ January 1, 2022 replacing Charles Ferris) Assessor: James Travers, Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island Assessor: David Bell, Fredericton

Proposed Motions to the 2024 Synod:

David Bell, Chancellor, reported:

The first proposed motion is an amendment to a Canon. He would invite the Council to recommend this to the Provincial Synod.

A Diocesan Bishop who submitted their resignation, under particular circumstances might withdraw their resignation. David explained the example situation which the electoral synod could not convene. It was a misfortune for the Diocese and for the finally newly elected bishop. While it is a rather 'exotic' situation, it calls for the provision proposed. This would not be an issue if there was a Coadjutor Bishop.

This will go to Provincial Synod in 2024; David invited comments or observance of flaws.

Bishop Sandra and Archbishop David both cited situations where something similar was either done or the absence of a provision caused a temporary vacancy.

Second Recommendation:

Role of Executive Committee of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada

David Bell reminded that the Executive Committee has met 15 times since the last Synod. The Council has only met once. This motion is really about Section 3 role of the Executive putting it in black and white. This is to layout the responsibility of the Executive.

Appendix #3 Proposed Motions to Provincial Synod 2024

There were no questions or comments.

Evening Prayer

Evening worship followed the same format as opening worship. While invited to consider the last two questions (Matthew 9:35-10:1), in the interest of time we did not enter break-out rooms

- What is the Gospel (Jesus) saying to you?
- What is the Gospel (Jesus) calling you to do?

Adjournment

John Organ motioned to adjourn at approximately 3:30pm ADT.

Provincial Synod dates: **Friday, June 14th and Saturday, June 15th, 2024** via Zoom.

APPENDIX #1

**SYNOD OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF
CANADA****INCOME STATEMENTS****JAN - DEC 2022****JAN - SEPT 2023****Revenues**

Assessments Received (<u>Note 1</u>)	\$6,472.00	\$ 6,472.00
\$60K Endowment Income	\$ 2,634.27	\$ 1,996.69

Total Revenues**\$9,106.27****\$ 8,468.79****Expenses**

ACPO	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Website Maintenance	\$ 25.00	
Office Supplies	\$ 52.17	
Computer Software (Sage50)	\$ 465.74	\$ 616.38
Bank Charges	\$ 3.50	\$ 109.50
Conferencing Services (Zoom)	\$ 23.00	\$ 113.36
Professional Services (Secty)	\$ 79.00	
Insurance	\$ 2,286.00	\$ 2,510.00
Other (Gifts)	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00

Total Expenses**\$8,734.41****\$ 8,749.24****Net Income****\$371.86****-\$ 280.45****Closing Bank Balance****\$33,801.67****\$ 33,521.22****Note 1**

Assessments Receivable	\$ 2,784.00	\$ 2,784.00
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Respectfully submitted
Robert Taylor, Treasurer
October 14th, 2023

APPENDIX #2

	Approved 2022-2024	Draft 2025	Draft 2026	Draft 2027	Draft Total
INCOME					
Assessments	27765	8150	8150	8150	24450
Investments	4500	2000	2000	2000	6000
Total Income	32265	10150	10150	10150	30450
EXPENSES					
ACPO	15000	5000	5000	5000	15000
Conference Services	690	250	250	250	750
Office Supplies	450	100	100	100	300
Computer Software	1800	300	300	300	900
Bank Charges	150	100	100	100	300
Professional Services	5175	100	100	1900	2100
Insurance	6000	2600	2700	2800	8100
Contingency / Other	3000	1000	1000	1000	3000
Total Expenses	32265	9450	9550	11450	30450
Net Income	0	700	600	-1300	0

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, Treasurer

October 14th, 2023.

Motions

The Executive Committee asks the Council to consider recommending the following two motions for enactment by the 2024 Provincial Synod.

* * *

1. **Amendment to Provincial Synod Canon Three -- Election, Appointment, Consecration and Resignation of Bishops**

Moved that Provincial Council recommend to the Provincial Synod as follows:

Moved that Canon Three be amended as follows:

6.(1) Subject to any applicable secular law, a bishop ceases to hold office when he or she attains the age of 70 years.

(2) A bishop may resign before attaining the age of 70 years by submitting a resignation to the Metropolitan and the House of Bishops.

(2.1) Where a diocesan bishop has submitted a resignation that would, on taking effect, result in a vacancy in the episcopal see, the bishop may, with the permission of the Synod executive council, notify the Metropolitan and the House of Bishops that the resignation is withdrawn.

(3) A bishop who is the Metropolitan may resign before attaining the age of 70 years by submitting a resignation to the diocesan bishop in the province senior by consecration and the House of Bishops.

(Note that “Synod executive council” is generic language referring to the body that in some dioceses is known as the Diocesan Council.)

Background: The concern reflected in this proposed canonical amendment comes from the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In that diocese the incumbent bishop submitted his resignation under subsection (2) (above) and an electoral synod was scheduled accordingly. Then came the Covid crisis, which precluded holding the planned electoral synod. There being no procedure whereby the incumbent bishop could withdraw his resignation, the diocese fell vacant when his resignation took effect. This had two consequences: (1) the diocese became and remained vacant for a considerable time, until a novel form of electoral synod finally took place, and (2) the priest finally elected bishop had no period of overlap with her predecessor.

The motion proposed for the Provincial Synod would create a route whereby a diocesan bishop who had announced his/her resignation could, under certain circumstances, withdraw that resignation. The circumstances are (1) that the resignation, if it took effect, would leave the see vacant (that is, no coadjutor bishop was in place), (2) the withdrawal of resignation had the permission of the Diocesan Council, and (3) the Metropolitan and provincial bishops were notified of the withdrawal. (The required level of Council approval – whether simple majority or super majority – would be up to the Diocese.)

2. Executive Committee

Moved that Provincial Council recommend to the Provincial Synod as follows:

Moved:

1. That there be an Executive Committee of the Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada;
2. That members of the Executive Committee be the Metropolitan (or senior diocesan bishop by consecration), Prolocutor, Deputy Prolocutor, clerical and lay Secretaries, Treasurer and Chancellor (or Vice-Chancellor); and
3. That, subject to the direction of the Provincial Synod or the Provincial Council, the responsibility of the Executive Committee be to carry out or co-ordinate the day-to-day administrative, financial and legal work or concerns of the Ecclesiastical Province between meetings of the Synod and the Council, including preparation for those meetings and implementation of their directives.

Background: The Executive committee (as defined in s. 2 of the above motion) meets between meetings of the Synod and the Council, about six times a year. This work is useful and practically necessary. The motion's significance is in acknowledging this role explicitly, via s. 3.