

**The Minutes of the 1st Session of
The 144th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara
Saturday, March 3, 2018, at Christ's Church Cathedral**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Archbishop Colin Johnson who opened Synod with a territorial acknowledgement. Seated at the head table with Archbishop Johnson were The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod, Mr. Greg Tweney, Vice Chancellor, and Canon Rob Welch, Chancellor.

Opening Eucharist

Archbishop Johnson presided and preached at the Opening Eucharist.

BREAK

Organizing of Synod

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod, thanked the Cathedral staff and volunteers for their hospitality; as well as both the synod office staff and members of the Episcopal Nominations and Planning Committee for all of the work in coordinating this synod.

Canon Nancekivell welcomed clergy new to the diocese: the Reverend Paul Walker, the Reverend Garfield Wu and the Reverend Canon Dr. Dawn Davis; new members of synod and Archbishop Colin Johnson. Canon Nancekivell noted that past bishops Ralph Spence and Walter Asbil were present to observe the election.

Canon Nancekivell welcomed all candidates, their spouses and chaplains as well as other guests who had come to support the candidates:

The Venerable Dr. David Anderson, Kathryn Anderson and the Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin

The Reverend Canon Susan Bell, Tom Bell, the Reverend Paul Walker and Archdeacon Stephen Vail

The Reverend Canon David Burrows, Krista Burrows the Reverend Lucy Reid and the Reverend Aaron Thorpe

The Reverend Canon Robert Fead, Veronica Fead and the Reverend Will Alakas

The Reverend Canon Robert Hurkmans, Sally Hurkmans, and John Bowen

The Reverend Canon Stuart Pike, Katherine Pike and the Reverend Canon Joseph Asselin

The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarinic, the Reverend Dan Tatarinic, and Paul Chapman

Canon Nancekivell welcomed and thanked the scrutineers the Venerable Jim Sutton and Mr. David Hyatt, from the Diocese of Huron.

Credentials Committee Report

Mr. Greg Tweney, Vice Chancellor, reported that as of 9:45 am 88 of 97 clergy (90%), and 181 of 189 lay delegates (96%) were present and all 90 parishes were represented. Quorum was achieved with over 2/3 of the eligible voters in each order in attendance as per Canon 2.1.

MOTION: *Mr. Greg Tweney/The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell*
'THAT the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted.'

CARRIED

Election of Synod Secretaries

MOTION: *Canon Pat Davis/The Reverend Ann Turner*
'THAT Ms. Carol Summers be elected as the Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod and the Reverend Dean Cormack be elected as the Honorary Clergy Secretary of Synod at this session of this Synod.'

CARRIED

Adoption of the Agenda and Convening Circular

MOTION: *The Reverend Ann Turner/Ms. Claire Christoff*
'THAT the agenda as amended by the Agenda Committee and the Convening Circular be adopted.'

CARRIED

Use of Clickers

John Paul Copeland of Data on the Spot gave an introduction on the use of the clickers and a couple of sample questions were used to demonstrate how voting would work.

MOTION: *Mr. Greg Tweney/The Very Reverend Peter Wall*
'THAT notwithstanding the Rules of Order, where possible, all votes at this electoral Synod will be cast, registered and counted with the aid of "clicker" technology.'

CARRIED

Overview of Electoral Synod Process

The Reverend Ann Turner, Chair of the Electoral Synod Nominations & Planning Committee reported on the secret ballot nominations process for nominations at the December Synod Council meeting; as a result of the balloting, members of the diocesan audit committee reported that 10 nominees had been identified. 1 nominee declined being a candidate for the election and after 9 candidates were confirmed, 2 of these nominees subsequently withdrew. No further nominations had come forward before this synod. The candidates submitted profiles and filmed videos, attended 3 "meet and greet" evenings around the diocese and responded online to a final set of questions collected and selected by the ESNPC committee.

Ms Turner explained that there would be 1 minute for each vote, after which the candidates would hear the results and have time to reflect before the results were shared on the floor. In the case of additional nominations, forms were available. To be elected, a candidate would need the majority vote in each order.

Introduction of Candidates and Call for Additional Nominations

The candidates were asked to stand as Archbishop Colin Johnson called their names. The Archbishop asked if there were any additional nominations; there were none. Archbishop Johnson called all candidates to the front of the nave and thanked them for allowing their names to stand; this was met with a standing ovation.

Electoral Synod Balloting Begins

Archbishop Colin Johnson read from 1 Corinthians and said a prayer before the vote at 10:55 am.

Results from the 1st ballot	180 Laity 91 needed	88 Clergy 45 needed
The Venerable Dr. David Anderson	11	10
Reverend Canon Susan Bell	49	20
Reverend Canon David Burrows	23	7
Reverend Canon Robert Fead	34	18
Reverend Canon Stuart Pike	16	13
Reverend Canon Robert Hurkmans	30	11
Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic	17	9

Results from the 2nd ballot	178 Laity 90 needed	88 Clergy 45 needed
The Venerable Dr. David Anderson	5	7
The Reverend Canon Susan Bell	60	20
The Reverend Canon David Burrows	12	4
The Reverend Canon Robert Fead	51	29
The Reverend Canon Robert Hurkmans	33	11
The Reverend Canon Stuart Pike	8	9
The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic	9	8

- *David Anderson, Stuart Pike, and Martha Tatarnic withdrew after second ballot*

GRACE & LUNCH

Results of 3rd ballot	179 Laity 90 needed	88 Clergy 45 needed
The Reverend Canon Susan Bell	66	32
The Reverend Canon David Burrows	5	3
The Reverend Canon Robert Fead	78	42
The Reverend Canon Robert Hurkmans	30	11

- *David Burrows and Robert Hurkmans withdrew after 3rd ballot*

The Archbishop recognized that Bishop Terry Brown was present as a member of synod.

Results of 4th ballot	179 Laity 90 needed	88 Clergy 45 needed
The Reverend Canon Susan Bell	88	45
The Reverend Canon Robert Fead	91	43

Results of 5th ballot	179 Laity 90 needed	88 Clergy 45 needed
The Reverend Canon Susan Bell	95	47
The Reverend Canon Robert Fead	84	41

Announcement and Presentation of Bishop Elect

Bishop Michael Bird walked to the front of the Cathedral with both candidates and their spouses. Archbishop Colin Johnson announced that a majority had been attained in both houses and announced that the Bishop-elect was the Reverend Canon Susan Bell. Asking all of the candidates to come forward, Archbishop Johnson thanked them for the wonderful range of their gifts, stating that the diocese is blessed.

The Reverend Canon Rob Fead called for the unanimous acclamation of the Reverend Canon Susan Bell as Coadjutor Bishop of Niagara.

Archbishop Colin Johnson called Tom Bell forward and thanked him and all of the spouses of the candidates for their support through the electoral process. Bishop-elect Susan Bell thanked her fellow candidates and asked members of synod to support each of them. Bell also thanked Archbishop Colin Johnson for his support and mentorship in the Diocese of Toronto; and thanked the Reverend Ann Turner for her leadership. Bell thanked Synod and promised to serve the diocese with dedication and diligence.

Archbishop Colin Johnson congratulated Bishop Michael Bird and all past bishops for their leadership in the diocese. The Archbishop also recognized that this was Canon Rob Welch`s last synod as diocesan chancellor and thanked Rob for his ministry which was met with a standing ovation. The Archbishop called for a motion to prorogue the session.

A Certificate of Election was produced verifying that the Reverend Canon Susan Bell had been elected as the Coadjutor Bishop.

Dismissal

After a final blessing by Bishop-elect Susan Bell, the Synod was prorogued at 2:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod

The Reverend Dean Cormack, Honorary Clergy Secretary of Synod

Ms. Carol Summers, Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod

Ms. Mary Anne Grant, Administrative Assistant