

The Prayer Book Society of Canada

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, May 11, 2024

- 1) The Revd. Canon Dr. Gordon Maitland, the National Chairman, opened the meeting with a collect for the commemoration of Sts. Cyril and Methodius on May 11th.
- 2) Fr. Maitland welcomed those present and called the meeting to order. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, he asked Diana Versegby to take the minutes. In attendance were: Kerry Dickson, Fr. Chris Dow, Fr. Louis Harris, Fr. Gordon Maitland, John Matthews, Fr. Matthew Perreault, Fr. Christopher Samsom, Mthr. Alexandra Stone, Diana Versegby, Fr. Benjamin von Bredow, Eleanor Wolf. Regrets were received from Fr. Armand Mercier and Fr. Richard Spencer.
- 3) The agenda was accepted as previously circulated.
- 4) The minutes of the previous AGM were presented. Acceptance was moved by Diana Versegby, seconded by Fr. Matthew Perreault. Carried.
- 5) There was no business arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.
- 6) National Chairman's report. The Chairman began by thanking various members of Council for their labours on behalf of the Society over the past year. He commended the continuing work on the Common Prayer Canada app, the development of a set of Old Testament lections to complement the Epistles and Gospels in the Prayer Book eucharistic lectionary, the annual bursary programme for theological students, the quarterly mailings to the membership, and the contributions of the Treasurer, Membership Secretary and website custodian. He highlighted the General Synod which would be upcoming in 2025, at which it was hoped that the PBSC would be able to have a publicity and information booth. He also touched on the "Anglican Way" conference recently held in Savannah, Georgia, that he had attended in March, which had proven to be a most encouraging and inspiring event. Acceptance of the Chairman's report was moved by Diana Versegby, seconded by Fr. Christopher Samsom. Carried.
- 7) National Treasurer's report. The reviewed financial statements for the year ending January 31st, 2024 were presented. Moved by Fr. Matthew Perreault, seconded by Mthr. Alexandra Stone, that the statements be accepted. Carried. Fr. Maitland commended the work done by website custodian Kerry Dickson in producing a financial overview narrative snapshot for the benefit of PBSC members and other interested parties such as General Synod members, outlining at a glance the Society's activities and projected income and expenditures. The formal proposed budget for 2024-2025 was then reviewed. Moved by Fr. Matthew Perreault, seconded by Eleanor Wolf, that the budget be accepted. Carried.
- 8) Appointment of an auditor. Moved by John Matthews, seconded by Fr. Benjamin von Bredow, that Brian Fogarty continue to be so appointed. Carried.
- 9) Website custodian's report. Kerry Dickson spoke to her report, reviewing her work on the website and the Society's Facebook page. The website continues to generate steady interest and shows slow but steady growth. The Facebook page is also garnering gradually increasing traffic. Moved by Kerry Dickson, seconded by Diana Versegby, that the report be received. Carried.

- 10) PBSC National Officers. The list of PBSC officers that had been elected at the meeting of the National Council held earlier in the day was read out by the National Chairman. The position of Episcopal Visitor was at the time still vacant.
- 11) PBSC National Councillors. The slate which had recently been posted on the PBSC website was reviewed. There being no further nominations, it was moved by Fr. Matthew Perreault, seconded by John Matthews, that the slate be accepted as presented. Carried.
- 12) Honorary President of the PBSC. It had previously been moved by Diana Versegby, seconded by Pat Bryan, that the Rt. Revd. Michael Hawkins, the retired Bishop of Saskatchewan, be elected to this position. Carried.
- 13) Questions and inquiries. Eleanor Wolf asked Fr. Maitland to comment on the continuing closure of PBSC branches. Fr. Maitland explained that in the late 1980s when the Society was first formed, there were no means of electronic communications, so all the work of the Society had to be done via face-to-face meetings and regular mail. Email and social media have since rendered such means of communication largely obsolete, especially for younger members. Thus the PBSC has been transitioning from local branches to an on-line community. It is regrettable that personal, face-to-face contact has thus been greatly decreased, but platforms such as Zoom do enable the participation of a much larger number of people from across the country than is possible with in-person meetings.
- 14) Other business. The suggestion was raised that an effort might be made to collect the email addresses of members for whom we do not as yet have them, to facilitate more efficient communications. Fr. Maitland said that a request to this effect could be sent out with the next paper mailing. Diana Versegby suggested that a line could also be added to the reply coupon for donations, asking for donors to supply their email addresses.
- 15) Adjournment was moved by Mthr. Alexandra Stone. The National Chairman closed the meeting with prayer.