

# The Report of the National Chairman of the Prayer Book Society of Canada To the Annual General Meeting of the PBSC

31 May 2025

I want to begin by talking about some personal changes in my life, and how these have impacted my role as National Chairman of the Prayer Book Society of Canada. Since our last Annual General Meeting I have retired from active ministry. Those who are retired clerics know that “retirement” is a relative term, and that many of us continue to be active in ministry despite now drawing a pension. All of this is to say that I will continue to act as National Chairman for the PBSC for several more years to come. I am now living in Kingston, Ontario, because my wife, the Venerable Jane Humphreys, has taken on a new position as the Executive Archdeacon and Diocesan Executive Officer of the Diocese of Ontario, whose see city is Kingston. I mention this because our new national mailing address is now a post office box in Kingston, and this new address will begin to appear on our literature, newsletters, and website.

In a serendipitous turn of events, I am pleased that the Bishop of Ontario has agreed to be the Episcopal Visitor for the PBSC. The fact that he resides in Kingston will mean that we are in regular contact with one another. We are thankful that Bishop Cliff is willing to speak on our behalf in the House of Bishops.

Once again, I want to take a moment to thank all my fellow-workers in the Prayer Book Society, especially those who serve on the National Council. I have often named a number of people who are particularly important in the work of the Society, but on this occasion, I want to name just one. That person is Anne Chisholm, our treasurer. After many long years of service, she is seeking to step down and have another take her place. We are profoundly thankful for the work that she has done and certainly wish her well in the future. Vaughn Smith, who has often assisted Anne, also deserves our thanks. We are now actively searching for a new treasurer, and are grateful that Anne will stay on until we have found a replacement.

I want to remember at this time a long-time member of our National Council who has recently passed away. Pat Bryan was a faithful and interested participant in our Society and I will certainly miss his wit and ready laugh. We give thanks to God for his Christian witness and humble service.

I was privileged to be able to attend again The Anglican Way Conference last February in Savannah, Georgia. This conference is sponsored by our sister Prayer Book Society in the USA. One of the best speakers was the Rev. Canon Ashley Null, one of the world's foremost scholars on the theology of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. His talk on Cranmer's Eucharistic Theology was very insightful and interesting. Canon Null was recently consecrated as Bishop of North Africa in the Anglican Province of Alexandria. It was great to see such a distinguished scholar before he left North America for his new episcopal ministry in what must be one of the most dangerous and challenging places on the planet to be a Christian, never mind a Bishop.

This summer the Prayer Book Society of Canada will once again have a presence at the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. For reasons beyond anyone's control, very few groups were allowed to have a presence at the last General Synod held in Calgary. This time, proper space has been made available for any group who wishes to have a display. We are trying to update our display material at this time, and hope to make a good showing at the Synod. As far as we can tell, there are no motions or business that has a bearing on the BCP itself. However, we do hope to find out why the republishing of the Prayer Book has been so long delayed. At the last General Synod we were told that it would make an appearance in 2024. We are now well into 2025 and there is still no news as to when new copies of the BCP will be made available. We hope that things can be resolved soon.

I am very pleased that we have seen a number of large projects started and completed over the last five years. Our website was completely overhauled and now has a vast array of resources for people to peruse. Our Facebook page has been given new attention and has increased the traffic that we receive on that site. I am very thankful for Kerry Dickson's tireless efforts in making these things possible. The Old Testament supplement for the BCP Eucharistic Lectionary has been published and has generated renewed interest in the traditional lectionary itself. And finally, the BCP App has been successful beyond my hopes and dreams, and it is being used in many places here in Canada and beyond. Both the Old Testament Supplement project and the BCP App are ongoing initiatives to which we hope to add even more features in the future.

At the moment it is hard to discern what our next great project might be. We are always open to new ideas, and I am privileged to be surrounded by creative and enthusiastic people on our National Council who are ever ready to bring new initiatives

to fruition. It is by offering new resources to Anglicans in Canada and around the world that we prove our usefulness to the ongoing life and ministry of the Church. It is my prayer that the Society will continue to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in whatever way he inspires us by his Holy Spirit. By God's grace, the Society can continue to be an instrument of renewal in the Church and a good steward of our Anglican heritage.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Gordon R. Maitland,  
National Chairman of the PBSC