

Diocese of Christ our Hope Annual Synod
Saturday, November 9, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Church of the Holy Spirit, Roanoke, Virginia
Presiding Officer: The Rt. Rev. Alan Hawkins
Parliamentarian: The Rev. Mark Rudolph
Secretary: The Rev. Canon Ben Bowman
Recorder: Ms. Kelly Ostergren

- Welcome and call to order: Bp. Alan Hawkins
- Prayer: Bp. Quigg Lawrence
- Quorum Established, announcements, and test vote: Rev. Ben Bowman
- Bishop Ordinary Report: Bp. Alan Hawkins
 - Expressions of gratitude to bishops and wives of bishops
 - Bp. Alan spoke about transition and the passing of authority; the transitory nature of leadership
 - Resolution concerning thanksgiving for Bp. Steve
 - We have been faithfully served by Bp. Steve and Sally; their ministry has caused the diocese to flourish and grow
 - Bishop Steve will be titled Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Christ Our Hope (DCH)
 - Gratitude to DCH Staff Team, Diocesan Council, Deans, Canons and Deans of Pro Cathedrals
 - Soon-to-be named Canon: Jeff Patterson at High Point will be Canon for helping churches disaffiliating from Wesleyan and Methodist churches
 - Development of Colleges
 - The Rev. Steven Breedlove Jr. as Chair and the Rev. Benji Davis as Vice Chair
 - Deacon Anna Friedrich as Chair and Deacon Jan Buchanan as Vice Chair
 - College of Lay Leaders: Update given. Will elect leaders next year.
 - Reception of Churches (votes of affirmation)
 - To receive the churches in the Great Plains Missionary District (GPMD).
 - The motion passes.
 - Wants crisis response team created after hurricane Helene to be ongoing (raised \$41,000 to send to Christ the King Church in Boone, NC).

- Convocation and Synod team will be created to facilitate planning and organization (speaker, location, etc.)
- Anchor Fund: raising money to accomplish the mission from people in diocese and outside of it.
 - Plan is to raise funding in this way for the next 5–6 years as grow into operational stability.
 - Raised \$200,000; need \$100,000 more.
- 9 Adjectives Going Forward
 - **Simpler:** Forward thinking to help churches plan and prepare well. Heartbeat of diocese is the agenda of the local church (diocesan activity at a minimum).
 - **Clarity:** Colleges to bring clarity on policies, processes, procedures.
 - **Longer:** Longer term vision for the Diocese (planting new churches and new dioceses).
 - **Larger:** Growing numerically because we preach the gospel and are faithful to do what God has asked of us.
 - **Smaller:** Deaneries becoming more important for missions expansion, prayer, ordination, etc.
 - **Safer:** More preventative work in equipping and training in area of ethics for clergy and laity. How to grow in maturity to handle conflict. Title IV development and peacemaking work.
 - **Deeper:** Emphasize “faith once delivered”; more robust discipleship and catechesis.
 - **Richer:** Expand diocese by reflecting all tribes and nations.
 - **Further:** Sudan, Great Plains, Rwanda, Kenya
- Priorities
 - The local church at the heart of the gospel. The best place for mission and decision-making is the local level. (Diocese serves churches, not vice versa.)
 - In order to go forward, we must go backwards to “the faith once delivered”
 - To be hopeful as we plant and sustain new churches
 - Expanding Every Tribe Tongue and Nation
 - Healthy clergy/healthy churches. Bishop pastors rectors.
 - Next Generation - Booyah, work with college students, curacy accelerator
 - Becoming a missionary church
- Announcement of Transfer Clergy, Missions, and Congregations

- To accept the list of transfer clergy, missions, and congregations
 - The motion passes

• Treasurer Report and 2025 Budget: Rev. Ryan Willers

- Annual financial inspection completed this year; no significant weaknesses noted.
- Gratitude to Finance Committee; seeking additional candidates
- Highlights 2024 YTD
 - Revenues
 - Church contributions YTD near budget (2% below)
 - Fundraising at \$106k out of \$300k target (affected by giving seasonality)
 - Expenses: 9% below budget (operational efficiencies and some delayed starts of ministry grants)
 - Financial Position: Year end forecast of \$120,000 in reserves
 - 2025 Budget
 - Revenues: Expecting growth rate of 8% for existing churches and adding two new congregations
 - Expenses
 - Personnel increase reflects cost-of-living adjustments and staffing updates from new Ordinary
 - After small contribution to reserves, leaves balanced budget
- Discussion
 - Rev. Brandon Walsh (Great Bay Anglican Church) — Fundraising for operations instead of missions. What is the rationale, vision, and timeline?
 - Response: Keeping missions as budget allows us to go and do missions instead of waiting for funds to come. Plan is to decrease Anchor Fund over time for operations costs but keeping it for missions fundraising.
 - Andrew Evans (Church of the Resurrection, Washington DC) - Asking for information regarding the relationship between GPMD and the budget.
 - Response: Want GPMD to keep their money to plant churches, etc. Their tithing is going back into the Mission District instead of to the Diocese of Christ Our Hope (DCH). Budgeting is consistent with the way DCH is structured: 10%, 45%, 45%.
 - Plan is for GPMD to become its own diocese eventually.
 - Note revenue line item of GMPD paying DCH for admin support.

- The motion to approve the budget passes unanimously.
- Constitution & Canons Committee (CCC) Report: Daniel Gibson
 - **2024.1 Process for Constitutional Amendments**
 - CCC is currently supposed to give report 120 days before Synod. That is currently when recommendations are due to the CCC.
 - Motion passes unanimously
 - Rationale for Revised Policy for Amendments to Constitutions and Canons.
 - Setting forth deadlines for when proposals get to the CCC, how they will go to colleges, DCH council, and bishop. Goal is to make time at Synod as efficient and effective as possible.
- Diocesan Council Elections: Bp. Alan Hawkins (Electronic vote by candidate)
 - Elaine Townley (lay 3 year term)
 - Motion passes.
 - Katherine Heidenthal (Lay 3 year term)
 - Motion passes.
 - Martin Rhodes (Clergy 3 year term)
 - Motion passes.
 - No Candidate for remaining lay 3 year term
- CCC Nominees Election (Electronic vote by candidate)
 - Rev. Ralph Hawkins
 - Motion passes.
 - Joshua Hawkins
 - Motion passes.
 - Allen Calhoun (bishop appointment)
- Ecclesiastical Trial Court (Electronic vote by candidate)
 - Wesley Wintermyer (Lay 3 year term)
 - Motion passes.
 - Clergy candidates for 2 positions: Benji Davis and Hilary Van Wagenen (3 year terms)
 - Motion passes.
- Provincial Council Delegates Election (nominations from the floor welcomed)

- Lay Delegates: Jerald Walz, Seth McGinnis, Lee Hilts (alternate)
 - Motion passes unanimously (verbal)
 - Clergy Delegates: Ryan Willers, Ben Bowman (alternate)
 - Motion passes unanimously (verbal)
- Diocesan Council Report: Vice Chair Jeff Whitworth
- January 2024 retreat: further budget discussion; discussed systems, vision, clarity
 - Created 6 working groups (incorporates more people in the diocese and their gifts): Ministry grants, credentialing, safeguarding, governance, human resources, and executive
 - 4 ministry grants approved this year (\$750,000 over the next 6 years)
 - To date have funded grants totaling more than \$5 Million
- Colleges Report from Convocation
- Purpose of colleges: Opportunity for groups to have a common voice to communicate with one another: colleges of bishops, presbyters, deacons, and laity.
 - Chair of College of Presbyters, Rev. Steven Breedlove, Jr., noted a greater desire for support & collegiality among members
 - Chair of College of Deacons, Rev. Anna Fredrick, spoke of desire to create something functional and beautiful as well as diversity of deacon roles and having the conversation about women's roles
 - Katherine Heidenthal shared as member of the laity design team that the college of laity will be a place for lay voices to be heard and communicate with the other colleges.
 - Alan invited the laity to the floor if anyone desired to speak.
 - Vicky Gunning (Church of the Resurrection, Flower Mound, TX)— Gratitude for hospitality and sense of family and noted that DCH is organized.
 - Hannah Ostoj (All Saints, Durham NC) — Vestry member shared gratitude for space for laity to speak and have a voice.
 - Daniel Gibson (CCC Chair) —Gratitude for accountability and checks and balances within our church government; emphasized +Alan's point about both episcopal leadership and subsidiaries. Appreciates that there is space for all shareholders in diocese to give feedback.
 - Lay Gentleman (All Saints, Newport, NC) — Challenged laity to pray for clergy. Gratitude for +Steve.
 - Daniella Royer (Church of the Advent, Washington DC) — Appreciated +Alan's focus on moving forward and empowering teaching on questions of

anthropology and human flourishing. Speaking as someone in the secular working world.

- Ann Gachene (Restoration Anglican, Charlotte, NC) — Testimony of support they have received as a church plant. Tangible ministry from +Alan and others. Felt warmth and love of brothers and sisters' ministry to them in a time of grief. Loves structure and accountability of Anglicanism.
- Jenny Noyez (Church of the Redeemer, Greensboro, NC) — Appreciates support from clergy for lay leaders. Challenging ordained leadership that they are to equip the lay people and the saints to be evangelists that go out into the world. Who are your prophets and intercessors and apostles? Are you listening?
- Chris Heidenthal (Church of the Incarnation, Richmond, VA) — Encouraging laity to look for the new people and bring them into the fold. Excitement about college of laity.
- Rives Gentry (Restoration Anglican Church, Staunton, VA) — Works at Virginia Mennonite Missions. Encouraged by global, Revelation 7, missions focus, the way the worldwide family of God was represented here.

◦ Encouragement from Bishop Andudu

- Shared about Sudanese churches outside Sudan and South Sudan. Sudanese form their own churches but don't have same structures as other churches in DCH. Sudanese are offering their faith and the difficulties they are living through. Gratitude for financial support and desire for continued partnership with DCH.

◦ Prayer in Small Groups

◦ Report from Bp. Steve Breedlove

- Gratitude to the DCH staff members, deans, and others
- Future plans: Sabbatical, future work with Diocese, Province, and GAFCON

◦ Motion to adjourn.

- Motion passed unanimously.

◦ Prayer: Bp. Quigg Lawrence