

The Twelfth Synod of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

16th-19th August 2018

First Agenda Book

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1) Notice of Synod

Summonses having been issued for 18:00 hrs on Thursday 16th August 2018, the Bishop requires all licensed clergy and all lay representatives to be present at Christ Church Cathedral, Polokwane (82 Biccard Street) except those who have received his written permission to be absent.

Please prepare yourself prayerfully and come ready for a wonderful time of worship and hard work. It is a great opportunity to renew our vision and seek God's will together.

Lay representatives who find that they are unable to attend must hand their papers to the alternate lay representatives of their Parish. Synod will be opened with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, at which members of Chapter shall be expected to robe. After the Nicene Creed, the Registrar, having certified to the Bishop that a quorum consisting of not less than one-third of the members of Synod is present, the Bishop shall declare the Synod duly constituted.

The Bishop will then deliver his charge.

2) General Information

1 Synod Agenda Committee

The Synod Agenda Committee advises the Bishop on all matters relating so Synod. Bishop Martin expresses his thanks to the members for their support and guidance.

- ✦ Martin Breytenbach (Bishop)
- ✦ Matsaro Semenya (Chancellor)
- ✦ Pam Oberholzer (Registrar)
- ✦ Luke Pretorius (Dean)
- ✦ Freda Chigumadzi (Administrator)
- ✦ Wendy Orange (Receptionist)
- ✦ Thabang Bengani (Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral)
- ✦ Walter Setshedi (Training for Ministries Coordinator)

2 Transport, Parking And Accommodation

Members of Synod are asked to ***make their own arrangements for transport and accommodation.*** Each parish is requested to make sure that a car is available at Synod for the purpose of ferrying their synod members to and from the place(s) where they are accommodated.

Free and safe parking will be made available at the church premises. Please do not leave any valuables in the car e.g. wallets and cell-phones.

3 Dress

For the Opening Service members of Chapter are requested to wear vestments including Copes; Clergy to wear Chalbs or Albs and Stoles. During Synod Clergy are requested to wear Clerical Shirts. The Laity are asked to wear "Smart Casual" attire.

The Liturgical Colour throughout Synod will be **Green**.

Diocesan Vision: *To make disciples in vibrant, self-sufficient congregations established and linked to each other by sharing in resources; ministry & service; outreach & evangelism.*

4 Synod Timetable

The Agenda Committee proposes that Synod adopts the following timetable.

Thursday

17:00	Registration
18:00	Eucharist
20:00	Dinner
20:45	Opening Session

Friday and Saturday

07:30	Sign in and Preparation
08:00	Morning Prayer and Bible Study
09:30	First Session of Synod
10:45	Tea
11:15	Second Session of Synod
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Third Session of Synod
15:30	Tea
15:50	Fourth Session of Synod
17:30	Evening Prayer
18:00	Light Supper: Soup
19:00	Committee of Synod (not required!)

Sunday

07:30	Sign in and Preparation
08:00	Eucharist (with Christ Church Cathedral)
10:00	Tea
10:30	Final Session of Synod
End	Snack-Pack (for those who need it)

5 Worship

5.1 Opening Eucharist

At the opening Eucharist Bishop Martin Breytenbach will be the celebrant and will deliver his Charge as the sermon. The service will be organised by Bishop Martin and Dean Luke. The Voices of St Mark have agreed to help lead the music, together with various Diocesan musicians.

5.2 Worship Duties

†Martin has asked Rev Thabang Bengani, assisted by the Diocesan Interns to help coordinate the worship duties. Morning and Evening Payer should be for 30 minutes – no sermon please! Noon Prayer should be 5 to 10 minutes long.

Friday Morning Prayer	Kopanong & Vhembe Archdeaonries
Friday Noon	Women's Organisations (MU & AWF)
Friday Evening prayer:	Lepelle & Waterberg Archdeaonries
Saturday Morning Prayer	Mopani Archdeaonry
Saturday Noon:	Diocesan Youth Leaders

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Saturday Evening Prayer: West & South West Archdeaconries

Sunday Eucharist: Bishop Martin & Dean Luke Pretorius

Thabang Bengani will identify a convenor for each of these acts of worship. The convenor is asked to form a team to plan and lead the worship time. †Martin will choose themes for the Worship and will organise the Bible Studies.

Synod members are reminded that the Sunday Eucharist will be held with the congregants of Christ Church Cathedral. All Synod members are also reminded that Synod ends on Sunday afternoon (after promulgation) and not before or during the service.

6 Registration And Attendance Registers

Registration will be between 17:00 and 18:00 on Thursday 16th August 2018. Separate tables will be made available for the registration of the Clergy and Laity. Walter Setshedi will oversee the tables with the help of the Diocesan Interns. Please note that you will be required to sign the Register on **each of the days** of Synod. Registration will take place at the entrance to Christ Church Cathedral.

On registration you will be handed a nametag. **No nametag no vote.** Nametags should be returned at the end of Synod on Sunday, a box will be made available at the church exit.

7 Seating Arrangements

The House of Laity and the House of Clergy will sit together in the body of the cathedral during business sessions.

8 Observers

Seats will be reserved for visitors or observers in the Side Chapel. Should Parishes or Diocesan organisations wish to send observers they are requested to let the Diocesan office know by the 3rd August 2018. Observers are also advised to make own accommodation or sleeping arrangements.

†Martin has invited members of the Guild of St Mark, the Order of St Mark the Evangelist, Retired clergy and clergy with Permission to Officiate, Members of Diocesan Finance Board and Diocesan Trustees, the Diocesan Legal Team, and Diocesan Institutions to attend Synod as observers.

9 Meals

Breakfast will **not** be provided, but other meals will be served at Christ Church Cathedral – including a “snack-pack” for those who need it at the end of Synod on Sunday.

Thursday:	Dinner will be served to all, including invited guests
Friday and Saturday:	Tea will be served on arrival Lunch will be served for all A light supper of soup will be served for those who need it
Sunday:	On departure from Synod a snack-pack will be provided

10 Rules Of Procedure And Debate

The daily order of proceedings shall follow the Standing Rules of Provincial Synod as far as possible but may be varied by the Synod were necessary.

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The length of time for speakers will be seven (7) minutes for the proposer of a motion, five (5) minutes for the seconder and three (3) minutes for others speaking on the motion. The form of address to the Bishop shall be "Mr. President", "Bishop", or "Bishop Martin" or what is appropriate in the person's own language. Then introduce yourself by saying who you are and who you are representing (parish or organisation).

11 Motions

You are reminded that all motions for debate by Synod should be at the Diocesan Office no later than **16th July 2018** so that they may be included in the Second Agenda Book.

12 Submission of Reports to Synod

Who should submit reports: All Parishes, Archdeacons, Organisations, Ministries and Institutions in the Diocese should submit reports. These will become part of the official history of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist.

Reports should please be sent electronically if at all possible – ie by email or on a flash drive. They must reach the Diocesan Administrator at the Diocesan Office **no later than 16th July 2018** so that they can be included in the Second Agenda Book. **Reports should not be more than 2 pages long, and should follow these guidelines:**

- 1) Name of Parish, Archdeaconry, Organisation, Ministry or institution.
- 2) Highlights since Synod 2016
- 3) Special challenges facing you at the moment
- 4) Your vision and plans for the next three years.

A few photographs would add to the readability of your report!

These reports will be tabled for reception by Synod en-bloc. Synod will consider and discuss the reports in Conference. Members of Synod will have freedom of choice in the topics that interest them most. Conference groups will be required to report to Synod in plenary, and will be allowed to propose motions arising from their discussions.

13 Synod Offertory

The Synod Agenda Committee proposes that the offertory at Synod go to the Bishop's Ordination Candidates' Fund to be used for their training.

14 Help Guide

This section aims to help you understand what happens at Synod and how to be involved actively, so that you can contribute. Remember, the President of Synod (Bishop Martin) is there to help and guide you in this process.

14.1 Preparing for Synod

Prepare thoroughly by reading the Standing Rules of Synod at the back of the Constitution and Canons of ACSA. This can be bought at the Diocesan Office.

Standing Rules

- ⌘ 1-3 Basic ground rules and definitions
- ⌘ 4-9 Various deadlines what is required in the Agenda Books

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- ⌘ 10-13 What must happen on Thursday evening
- ⌘ 14 Daily Order of Business. We spend most of our time on (h), looking at the Measures and Motions printed in the two Agenda Books and additional Motions that arise during Synod.
- ⌘ 15-21 More ground rules and the rights of members of Synod
- ⌘ 22-29 More detail on some of the items from the daily order of business
- ⌘ 30-41 Motions – see information below
- ⌘ 42-47 Changes to Rules of the Diocese – called Measures

It looks as though we do not have any proposed Rule changes at this Synod... but this section is included for your information anyway.

This process is lengthy but necessary, much like the making of laws in Parliament or the Provincial Legislature. These Rules have the force of law in the Diocese and cannot be made or changed lightly.

Each measure goes through three stages or readings:

- 1) **First Reading:** The *principle* behind the measure is debated on Friday morning. If the principle is accepted, we move on to the second stage.
- 2) **Second Reading:** **Committee of Synod** (made up of the proposers of the measures being proposed, our legal team, and any other interested members of Synod) checks the wording of the measure in detail. This takes place on Friday evening. The Chair of Committee reports back to Synod on Saturday morning. Synod may accept the report or refer the measures back to Committee for more work. The measure then has to wait until the next day for final approval.
- 3) **Third Reading:** Synod debates the measure in its final form and finally approves or rejects it. If approved it becomes part of the Rules of the Diocese.

- ⌘ 48-52 Voting
- ⌘ 53-69 Rules of debate: try to come to terms with these beforehand.
- ⌘ 70-87 These items deal with committees that only meet during Synod, and how they go about their work.
- ⌘ 88 Brings Synod to a close

14.2 Motions and Amendments (Standing Rules 30-41)

14.2.1 Motions

Notice of proposed Rule changes (Measures) must be submitted three months before Synod. They are included in the First Agenda Book.

Notices of Motions must be submitted four weeks before Synod (but see (2) below).

There are other kinds of motions that you may propose but don't need to be printed in the Agenda Books:

- ⌘ Rule 30 (a) iii – New Motions
- ⌘ Rule 30 (a) iv – Motions to do with the work of Synod

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- ⌘ Rules 30 (b), 32, 34, 38, 39 and 40 to do with procedure.

14.2.2 Amendments to Proposed Motions

Any member of Synod may propose amendments to any motion (Standing Rules 35-37).

- ⌘ Should something in the wording be deleted before you can support it?
- ⌘ Should the motion be worded more carefully to avoid misunderstanding?

If you want to propose an amendment, please make **three written copies** (see Standing Rule 35) – one for the President of Synod, one for the Secretaries and one for you. You must also have a seconder for your amendment (Standing Rule 33).

Only one amendment may be dealt with at a time. Synod votes on it before passing to other amendments or returning to the motion. You may not propose an amendment while another amendment is being debated.

Don't be intimidated! You will pick up the procedure as you go, and the President of Synod is there to guide and protect you. All these rules are necessary to run a large meeting in an effective and orderly way.

3) Synod Office Bearers

1 Elections

The Synod Agenda Committee proposes the following people to be elected by Synod:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1) Chair of Clergy | Luke Pretorius |
| 2) Chair of Laity | Kgabo Ledwaba |
| 3) Clerical Secretaries | Thabang Bengani, Caroline Chaba-Mamabolo |
| 4) Lay Secretaries | Jenny Stamp, Kgabo Ledwaba |

2 Appointments

Having received advice from the Agenda Committee, †Martin informs Synod of the following appointments:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1) Chair of Committee | Matsaro Semanya |
| 2) Time Keepers | Diocesan Interns |
| 3) Minutes Scrutineers | Robbie Novella, Shearsby Mupfudzapake |
| 4) Electoral Officer | Matsaro Semanya (Assisted by Pam Oberholzer) |
| 5) Communications & Media | Luke Pretorius & Communications Team |

4) Measures to Amend Diocesan Rules

One measure to amend the rules of the Diocese was submitted. However, our Legal Advisors ruled that it did not qualify as a rule change. It has therefore been re-worked into a motion that will come before Synod (see (2) below).

The following measure arises out of the resolutions of the 11th Diocesan Synod in 2015.

1 Requirement for Lay Ministers

Proposer: Thabang Bengani

Secunder: Gail Blunden

1.1 Principle

This Synod notes that the word “mature” in the Diocesan Rule 19.3 could give the impression that Licensed Lay Ministers should be “mature in years”. This is potentially misleading as it is not the intention of the paragraph to suggest that young age is a barring factor in the Bishop’s licensing of Lay Ministers.

1.2 Rule Change

The word “mature” be deleted from Diocesan Rule 19.3, and replaced with the word “God-fearing”.

5) Motions

1 Funerals of Non-Anglicans or Even Non-Believers

Proposer: Tshaka Motshudi

Secunder: Khazamola Baloyi

This Synod

Noting that:

- 1) Our clergy are at times approached to conduct the funerals and burials of non Anglicans or even non-believers;
- 2) Often families do not belong to any church but wish to bury their loved ones in a dignified and respectful way;
- 3) Most of our chapelries are anxious to grow their congregations;
- 4) One meaningful way of drawing them into the church is to reach out and respond during a time of grief to non Christians or to families who do not normally attend a church as their normal custom;

Believing that:

- 1) The church has a responsibility to comfort those in need during a difficult period;
- 2) If handled in a sensitive and caring fashion, undertaking funerals of non-churchgoers or even unbelievers is an important way of drawing individuals or even families into the church and closer to God;

- 3) Providing people with comfort and solace and sharing God’s love during their time of grief, giving them closure through a Christian funeral service is our calling as Christians;

Respectfully requests Diocesan Chapter to draw up guidelines for clergy to bury non-churchgoing or even non-believing deceased persons, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The family submit a written request to the church council;
- 2) The family agrees to pay certain costs (which could be standardized).
- 3) Such burials are not conducted on Sundays.

2 Requirements for Membership

Proposer: Rev Olive Senyatsi

Secunder: Rev Thabang Bengani

This Synod,

Noting:

- 1) The requirements for membership in Rule 13.1;
- 2) That the Diocese expects members to give to the church in proportion to their income – with the tithe as the standard we aspire to;

Recognises that:

- 1) Those who have no regular income may find it difficult to pledge or give financially in a regular way;
- 2) Parishes can encourage them to give by means of practical service to the church, under the authority of the Incumbent and Church Council.

3 Constitution of Jane Furse Memorial Village

Proposer: Ven Philip Moseki

Secunder:

This Synod gives thanks for progress made, and approves the new Memorandum of Incorporation for the Jane Furse Memorial Village as a Non-Profit Company.

4 Constitution of St Mark’s College

Proposer: Ven Philip Moseki

Secunder: Canon Malin Mokou

This Synod approves the new Memorandum of Incorporation for St Mark’s College as a Non-Profit Company – an Anglican Church School in partnership with the Limpopo Department of Education.

6) Clergy Movement

3 Movement Since Synod 2015

3.1 Moved to...

Frauke Ackermann	Tlhatlaganya
Kwena Makgoka	Mashashane, Baken-Matji
Kedibone Makhobela	Mapela
Philip Moseki	Lebowakgomo
Solomon Setshedi	Mokopane

3.3 Joined the Diocese

Solomon Baloyi	Sekhukhuneland
Jonathan Meintjes	St Pauls United, Haenertsburg

3.4 Ordained as Deacons

Thabang Bengani	2018
Caroline Chaba-Mamabolo	2017
Susan Elliott	2018
Linda Makgamatho (Mapela)	2018
Alpheus Mashita	2017
Gloria Monyemangene (Tlhatlaganya)	2017
Esrom Sefsike (Ga Seabe)	2017

3.2 Left the Diocese

Frauke Ackermann	Returned to Germany
Lutz Ackermann (2018)	Returning to Germany
Moses Nemakhavhani	Passed away
Kwena Makgoka	Studying at UOFS
Bertha Gowera	COTT, Grahamstown

3.5 Ordained as Priests

Caroline Chaba-Mamabolo	2018
Lucia Komape (Seshego)	2017
Dennis Lepaaku (Ga Seabe)	2017
Suzan Mahlase (Seshego)	2017
Alpheus Mashita (Matlala)	2018
Gloria Monyemangene (Tlhatlaganya)	2018
Philip Moseki (Christ Church Cathedral)	2016
Maria Mvundlela (Lebowakgomo)	2017
Rhoda Nyanhongo (Modimolle)	2016
Engenas Ramatla (Mo Samaria)	2015
Esrom Sefsike (Ga Seabe)	2018

7) Elections

Notice is hereby given in terms of rule 7.5 of this diocese that, on Sunday 19th August 2018, clerical and lay representatives will be elected to the following Provincial and Diocesan institutions and bodies. The names of those presently serving in the various capacities are shown against the name of the relevant institution or body.

Please Note:

Those nominated to the positions above do not need to be members of Synod. However:

- 1) Those who make nominations and their seconders must be members of Synod
- 2) They must have obtained the agreement of those whom they are nominating.

Nomination forms will be posted on the notice boards at Christ Church Cathedral from the start of Synod. ***Please come prepared to nominate those whom you believe will be able to serve the Diocese and wider church well in the various positions.***

1 Provincial Synod

Note: Provincial Synod last met in 2016 and is scheduled to meet again in 2019.

In accordance with Canon 1.2, Diocesan Synod will be required to elect **three (3) Clerical and three (3) Lay Representatives to Provincial Synod and their alternates**. Clergy vote for clerical representatives only. Laity vote for lay representatives only.

Provincial Synod meets in Residence, normally for three or four days, every three (3) years and is the premier decision making body in and for ACSA. During its session it considers:

- ✦ Changes to the Constitution and Canons
- ✦ The Care of the Clergy
- ✦ Church Unity
- ✦ Liturgical Changes
- ✦ The Ministry of Bishops, Priests and Deacons
- ✦ The Missionary Call of the Church
- ✦ Partners in Mission
- ✦ The State of the Nation
- ✦ Other Matters of concern to Dioceses and Parishes
- ✦ The Business of the Provincial Standing Committee (i.e. Finances)

Clerical Representatives	Attendance	Lay Representatives	Attendance
Malin Mokou Shearsby Mupfudzapake Luke Pretorius	All attended	Tshaka Motshudi Gayley Maburimisa Freda Chigumadzi	All attended
Clerical Alternates	Attendance	Lay Alternates	Attendance
David Maubane Thembeke Gwija- Mothiba	Not required to attend	John Galane Solomon Makololo	Not required to attend

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2 Provincial Standing Committee

In accordance with Canon 43, Diocesan Synod will be required to elect **one (1) Clerical and one (1) Lay representative and their alternates**. Clergy vote for clerical representatives only. Laity vote for lay representatives only.

Provincial Standing Committee meets annually (except in the year of a Provincial Synod,) for two to three days to review the work of the ACSA and to set budgets for the coming year. It also monitors the work of the ACSA in implementing the resolutions of Provincial Synod.

Clerical Representative	Attendance	Lay Representative	Attendance
Luke Pretorius	Attended regularly	Freda Chigumadzi	Attended regularly
Clerical Alternates	Attendance	Lay Alternate	Attendance
Thembeke Gwija-Mothiba	Not required	Kgabo Ledwaba	Not required to attend

3 Electoral Advisory Committee

In terms of Rule 3 of the Rules of the Diocese and Canon 4, Diocesan Synod will be required to elect:

- ✦ **A Lay Chairperson and Deputy Lay Chairperson**, elected by all houses together
- ✦ **Four (4) licensed Clergy, with alternates**, elected by the clergy
- ✦ **Four (4) Lay people, with alternates**, elected by the laity respective orders.

The Electoral Advisory Committee was not required to meet during this period, but it is certain that it will be required to meet during the next period.

Lay Chairperson		Deputy Lay Chairperson	
Not elected	Not required to meet	Not elected	Not required to meet
Clerical Representatives	Attendance	Lay Representatives	Attendance
Shearsby Mupfudzapake Malin Mokou Gail Blunden Olive Senyatsi	Not required to meet	Anna Shivambu John Galane Abby Ledwaba Charles Luther	Not required to meet
Clerical Alternates	Attendance	Lay Alternates	Attendance
Thembeke Gwija-Mothiba	Not required to meet	Rebecca Shika	Not required to meet

4 Diocesan Board of Trustees

In terms of Rule 8.1 of the Rules of the Diocese, Synod will be required to elect **three (3) people, of whom at least two (2) shall be lay**. (N.B. The Archdeacons and the Diocesan Officers are Trustees ex officio and the Bishop may nominate two additional (2) Trustees, of whom at least one (1) shall be lay).

Diocesan Trustees meet approximately every three months to consider the property of the Diocese, that is land and buildings, loans granted by them, the investment of monies invested with the

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Trustees by Parishes and Institutions, as well as considering any purchases or sales of property by the Diocese and the plans and financing of any new development within the Diocese.

Clerical Representative	Attendance	Lay Representatives	Attendance
Philip Moseki	Attended regularly	Solomon Makololo	Attended regularly
Clerical Alternates	Attendance	Lay Alternates	Attendance
Pat Lennox	Not required	Edwin Nyatlo	Attended when required

5 Diocesan Finance Board

In terms of Diocesan Rule 9.1, Diocesan Standing Committee (DSC) will be required to elect **three (3) people of whom at least two (2) shall be lay**, to serve on Diocesan Finance Board. Since DSC acts on behalf of Synod, it is proposed that this election should take place at Synod. The Archdeacons attend meetings, and the Diocesan Administrator and Bursar are ex officio members of Finance Board.

Diocesan Finance Board meets approximately each quarter to consider the day-to-day finances of the Diocese. This includes preparing the annual Diocesan Budget, and monitoring progress with pledges from the parishes.

Clerical Representative	Attendance	Lay Representatives	Attendance
Pat Lennox	Attended regularly until he left the Diocese	Abby Ledwaba	Attended regularly
Clerical Alternates	Attendance	Lay Alternates	Attendance
Michael Makosholo	Attended regularly	Edwin Nyatlo	Not required

6 Diocesan Auditors

In terms of Rule 6 of the Rules of the Diocese, Synod will be required to elect an auditor.

In 2015, Synod SizweNtsalubaGobodo Inc as our auditors. We have established a good working relationship with them, and they have conducted the audits for 2016 to 2018 very thoroughly.

DFB proposes SizweNtsalubaGobodo Inc as Diocesan Auditors for the next three year term.

8) Acts and Resolutions of Synod 2015

20th-23rd August 2015 at Christ Church Cathedral, Polokwane

1 Synod Office Bearers

Synod **elected** of the following Office Bearers:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6) Chair of Clergy | Luke Pretorius |
| 7) Chair of Laity | Solomon Makololo |
| 8) Clerical Secretaries | Kwena Makgoka, Lesiba Meso |
| 9) Lay Secretaries | Jenny Stamp, Felicity Roberts |

†Martin confirmed the **appointment** of the following Office Bearers:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1) Chair of Committee | Matsaro Semanya |
| 2) Time Keeper | Olive Senyatsi, Pam Oberholzer |
| 3) Minutes Scrutineers | Linda Lubbe, Malin Mokou |
| 4) Electoral Officer | Matsaro Semanya (Assisted by Jacky Machaba) |
| 5) Communications & Media | Luke Pretorius & Communications Team |

2 Rule Changes

2.1 Rule 26

In exceptional circumstances, in every chapelry or parish where the numbers are either very small or where there are no new people to serve on the new council, those who have served for more than six years may continue serving- provided that vestry has:

- 1) Been made aware that every effort must be made to find fresh members,
- 2) Has agreed on a two-third majority vote that Rule 26.2.1* cannot apply,
- 3) The bishop has given his prior consent.

**Renumbered accordingly for rules 27, 28 and 29*

2.2 Editorial Changes to Rules 28 and 29

The following motion was passed:

This Synod, noting that

- 1) Two Diocesan Rules are in contradiction with themselves and with the Provincial Canons. Namely, Diocesan Rules 28.7 (Of Chapelry Councils – Power to Co-Opt) and 29.10 (Of Parish Councils - Power to Co-Opt) are in contradiction with the Provincial Canons 28.2 (Members of Council) and 28.3 (Power to Co-Opt). Diocesan Rules 28.7 and 29.10 are also in contradiction with Diocesan Rule 28.1 and 29.3 which speak to those eligible for election; namely that they be communicants in good standing;
- 2) The Anglican Church of Southern Africa a number of Provincial Synods back chose to not restrict leadership in the church to those of a certain age, and that our rules, with the exception of these two rules, were amended to reflect the Provincial Canons;

Respectfully requests the Diocesan Legal Team to make the necessary editorial change to bring Diocesan Rules 28.7 and 29.10 into line.

After the editorial work was done, the wording of the existing rules was changed to read as follows:

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Rule 28(7) Anything in this Rule to the contrary notwithstanding, a council shall have power to co-opt one member of council who shall be a communicant. Such co-opted member shall have the power to speak but not to vote.

Rule 29(10) Anything in this Rule to the contrary notwithstanding, a council shall have power to co-opt one additional member of council who shall be a communicant. Such co-opted member shall have the power to speak but not to vote.

3 Synod Resolutions

3.1 Multiplication with Transformation – All-Encompassing Church Planting with Discipleship

This Synod notes that:

- 1) Many people, especially the youth, are not part of an existing church structure and are not likely to join any existing church;
- 2) Much progress has been made in multiplying parishes;
- 3) The Diocese is committed to making disciples of unchurched and de-churched people by developing inter alia Fresh Expressions of Church.

Synod therefore:

- 1) Commends those parishes that have multiplied;
- 2) Encourages all our parishes to plant new churches (Fresh Expressions or more conventional);
- 3) Encourages all parishes to grow the spiritual depth of their members.

This Synod respectfully requests:

- 1) Clergy to enrol for the Mission Shaped Ministry course;
- 2) Archdeacons to promote multiplication and transformation in Archdeaconry Council Meetings;
- 3) The Bishop to continue to promote church multiplication and transformation in his Ad Clerum letters;
- 4) That Multiplication with Transformation be a regular agenda item at all Parish and Diocesan meetings;

Synod commits the Diocese to involve young people in all these processes.

3.2 Age Requirements for Church Council Members

Arising from the Diocesan Youth Synod held on 27th June 2015

This Synod, noting that it is necessary to clarify for congregations the qualities sought after in prospective chapelry and parish councillors, and the criteria that prospective councillors must meet for them to be nominated and elected as councillors;

Respectfully requests the Diocesan Office to ensure that all nomination forms include the relevant wording from the Diocesan Rules (28.1 and 28.1.2 on chapelry councillors and 29.3 and 29.3.2 on parish councillors), and in so doing, draw particular attention to the absence of any specified age restriction.

3.3 Requirement for Lay Ministers

Arising from the Diocesan Youth Synod held on 27th June 2015

This Synod notes that the word “mature” in the Diocesan Rule 19.3 could give the impression that Licensed Lay Ministers should be “mature in years”. This is potentially misleading as it is not the

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intention of the paragraph to suggest that young age is a barring factor in the Bishop's licensing of Lay Ministers.

Synod therefore requests the Diocesan legal team to prepare a rule change to correct this at the next Synod of the Diocese. It is suggested that the word "mature" be deleted from Diocesan Rule 19.3, and replaced with the word "God-fearing".

3.4 Community Development and Social Responsibility

Emerging from the discussions at the DFB Lekgotla on 6th May 2015, this Synod notes that:

- 1) It is imperative for all parish and chapelry councils to consider community development and care of the environment as an integral part of their responsibility, in keeping with Canon 28.4 of the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and the Diocesan Rules 28.8.1 and 29.12.1;
- 2) This is in keeping with the example and teaching of Jesus, highlighted by his stated mission in Luke 4:18-19 and his warning in Matthew 25:31-46;
- 3) Many church properties are under-used: land that could be used for vegetable gardens, buildings that could be used more effectively for community needs, and roofs that could help harvest rainwater;

This Synod therefore:

- 1) Calls on all chapelry and parish councils to develop ways to use their land and buildings to serve the wider community, and to include their young people in these projects;
- 2) Directs that Archdeaconry meetings should take on a wider and more exciting, functional role in the life of the Diocese in this area. Archdeaconry meetings should be the formal forums for monitoring and coordinating Community Development as well as the Orphans and Vulnerable Children and the Rooted in Jesus programmes.

3.5 Youth Volunteers

The following motion arises from Diocesan Youth Synod held on 27th June 2015

This Synod notes that:

The youth of the Diocese at the Youth Synod held on 27th June 2015 recognise that the role of the church includes reaching out to the needy (spiritually, materially, emotionally, socially and educationally) in the surrounding communities. Church buildings and land can be used for vegetable gardening, child care, homework clubs, support groups, drop-in centres and many other community and family support activities.

In the light of this and especially in the light of the teaching of Jesus, the Youth Synod calls on Diocesan Synod to adopt the motion below:

Therefore:

This Synod respectfully requests the Bishop to set up a formal programme for young interns and volunteers. This should involve training and opportunities to help churches to serve their local communities, for the purposes set out above.

3.6 Implementation of Training

This Synod, whilst appreciating the various "Growing the Church" initiatives which have developed in our Diocese, recognizes that there is often a lack of accountability and a failure to implement on the part of the leaders and Parish reps, and so respectfully requests the Bishop to remind clergy and lay reps who attend various trainings and workshops that they are expected to communicate

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back to their parishes what they have learnt and to implement any new ideas and skills which they may have gained.

3.7 Audited Accounts

The audited accounts of Diocesan Finance Board and Diocesan Trusts Board were approved.

3.8 Diocesan Auditors

The appointment of SizweNtsalubaGobodo Inc as Diocesan Auditors was approved.

3.9 Musina Mission Arrears

This Synod, noting that Musina Mission:

- 1) Has successfully kept up to date with their pledges to the Diocese since the beginning of 2014;
- 2) Is still faced with municipal debts as a result of their ministry to Zimbabwean refugees in 2008 and 2009;

Therefore resolves to write off their arrears to the Diocese prior to 2014.

3.10 Staff Meetings, Sharing and Communication

This synod, recognizing the goal of every parish is to have a stipendiary rector, team of self-supporting clergy and many lay leaders, notes that problems may arise in these parishes if the leaders do not meet together regularly, and so requests the Bishop to set in place procedures which compel rectors to have regular staff meetings and to create other opportunities, apart from the parish council meetings, for sharing and communication to happen.

3.11 Prayer Book App

This Synod, acknowledging the need to engage with the youth on every level, and recognising their love for and involvement in technology, requests the Province to consider providing an “app” for cell phones and tablets that would enable people to have instant access to the Prayer Book as they already do for the Bible, so that youth may engage with and get to know the prayer Book alongside the Bible as a resource for their Anglican Spiritual Formation.

3.12 Practical Discipleship and Base Line Study

This Synod notes that:

- 1) Many of our people are looking for practical teaching and guidance on how to live in the real world as disciples of Jesus Christ;
- 2) This is particularly important in reaching out to young people.

Synod therefore requests:

- 1) Diocesan Chapter to develop a simple questionnaire to help us do a “base line study” of the areas in which people believe they need such teaching and guidance;
- 2) Parishes and Chapelries to scan their immediate social and economic environments to identify the needs of their communities in order to respond to them;
- 3) Parishes and Chapelries to explore ways to make our worship services more attractive to people of all ages, especially the youth, to help educate and convey our heritage of Word and Sacrament in worship.

4 Unopposed Motions

The following motions of greeting were approved without any votes against them:

- 1) Synod extends congratulations to Bishop Dino Gabriel on his election as Bishop of Natal.
- 2) This synod notes with concern the state of health of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and his frequently reported visits to hospital. This Synod therefore calls for the Diocese to pray for Archbishop Tutu and his family and for Bishop Martin to send him a message conveying our thoughts and prayers.
- 3) This Synod, noticing the absence of Ven Jack Maropeng Kudumela, and being aware of the reason for his absence, requests the Bishop on behalf of Synod to convey to his wife and children our support and assurance that we are with them in prayer as he continues to recover and wish him a speedy and full recovery.
- 4) This Synod congratulates our Archbishop Thabo Makgoba and his foundation for ploughing back to his home province Limpopo, by donating R 100,000 to the Skills and Rural Development Department of the University of Limpopo.
- 10) This Synod gives thanks to God for the many years of faithful service given by the late Mrs Maureen Le Cordeur, who played the organ at many Synods and other Diocesan events, and who passed away into higher service last year. We send greetings and condolences to her husband John, wishing him strength and peace in his bereavement.
- 11) This Synod sends greetings to Rev Moses Nemakhavhani & Mrs Nemakhavhani as Moses has recently had to retire for medical reasons. We give thanks for his many years of faithful service and we wish them both God's healing and blessings in their retirement.

5 Vote of Thanks

Dean Luke Pretorius proposed a vote of thanks to all who helped to make this Synod an uplifting and spiritual time as well as achieving all required of it, in the following words:

Bishop Martin and Members of Synod.

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you today and propose this vote of thanks.

We have arrived at the end of another eventful and wonderful sitting of this the eleventh Synod of the Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist. It also marks another eventful year in the ministry in which we are joined through the love and calling of Christ.

It is therefore to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that I wish first to express our profound praise and thankfulness for his never-failing love, grace and leadership.

We must also express our appreciation to you, Bishop Martin, for your love and leadership in this Diocese. Without your support, encouragement and example we would never have achieved all that we have achieved. Neither would we be as enthusiastic for the ministry potential which lies before us. I know that with your continuing guidance and leadership we will meet all which God places before us. Thank you for being who you are; precious and godly and loving.

We thank you too for your chairing of this Synod and of all the preparatory work you do before it. You have a gentle touch with a profound ability to hear from God and to guide us in the way of Christ. Thank you.

I wish also to acknowledge the leadership and support shown by all members of this sitting of Synod. The debate and decisions taken have been, as always, of a high calibre and fittingly moves this Diocese forward in obedience to God. To those who presented motions and measures and the

budget for 2016 a big thank you for your hard work. I am sure we all are happy we can now go home!

I must also acknowledge the vitally important, supportive and wise role played by our Diocesan Chancellor, Ms Matsaro Semenya, and Registrar, Ms Pam Oberholzer. Two incredibly wise and competent ladies, whose legal expertise guides us all through the minefield that is Canon Law. Your calm and reassuring knowledge and practice of the law makes us all immeasurably richer. Thank you.

There are many who were an integral part of this Synod but who remain largely unseen. They are the unsung heroes who kept us fed, prayed for and equipped with agenda books and sundry pieces of paper. So, to the Mother's Union for their tea and meals, to the intercessory prayer team who unfailingly prayed over each of us through each sitting, to the diocesan staff who quite literally slaved in the diocesan office to get ready the agenda books and distribute them, and to those who set up the registration tables and strived to keep us orderly, presentable and registered; a very, very big thank you. May God bless you all for your willing and helpful hearts.

Our grateful appreciation to all those who agreed to stand for election to the various boards and institutions of this Diocese and of the wider Anglican Church of Southern Africa. Congratulations to those who have been elected to these positions of responsibility.

Thank you to those who took our minutes and to those who scrutinised them. You are all fantastic! To the runners and assistants who distributed and collected and counted; you helped make this Synod a success and you should deservedly be proud. Thank you.

To those who led our worship; thank you for the time and effort you so diligently put into this. We appreciate you all and love you for it.

I wish as Dean to express my gratitude to the staff of the Cathedral. They toiled hard to make ready this church for us to meet in. They will toil again after Synod to ready it for our next service. To our administrators and verger staff a very big thank you. To our Church Wardens who took responsibility to ensure the availability of this church and for their role in the opening Eucharist, and to the media personnel who made sure the microphones and projectors were working and ready for us. To those who unlocked the church and opened the doors and windows for us, please accept our grateful appreciation.

To you all, your commitment and servant heart helped make this Synod the success it was. Thank you.

Finally, should I have inadvertently neglected to mention someone I take full responsibility and apologise unreservedly. You too have been of immeasurable worth to this Synod and we thank you.

I accordingly ask that my vote of thanks be received and accepted.