



# The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

Anglican Church of Canada

The Right Reverend Michael A. Bird, Bishop

## Welcome to Synod 2014

November 8, 2014

from Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod

### “What is it to be Anglican?”

Welcome to our Annual Synod in the Diocese of Niagara. This is the second Synod of 2014, as we met in early April for a Special Synod.

#### What's New?

This year, our lead into Synod looks a bit different. We are experimenting this year with our Pre-Synod Orientation by delivering a video and our information packages electronically. If you need help accessing the information, or if you need a copy and do not have a printer, please ask your church to print you the agenda and financial information. You can find a Pre-Synod Video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOZYCGXYkf0> and all the information and documents pertaining to Synod is here: <http://niagaraanglican.ca/synod/2014>

#### What IS Synod, after all?

The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Niagara is the legal entity with responsibility for the dealings of the Anglican Church within its diocesan boundaries. As such, there are a number of legal responsibilities that we must fulfill at every Synod meeting: approving minutes, electing Synod Council, reviewing financial statements and budgets, and authorizing the actions of Synod Council. But a meeting of Synod is much more than that: it provides us both with structure and with a sense of what it is to be part of the family of Anglican Church within the Diocese of Niagara. At Synod, we have a unique opportunity to gather and give expression to our diverse community under the leadership of our Bishop, The Right Reverend Michael A. Bird.

#### Core Business of Synod

**Synod** will convene promptly on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, with registration in Myler Hall beginning at 8:00 am. **The Bishop's Charge** will be delivered in our Opening Worship.

This year our fundamental business will be to hear and reflect upon the Bishop's charge, to elect Provincial Synod Delegates, receive financial statements, discuss and approve the 2014 budget and receive reports. This year, we will discuss an alternative format for our Annual Synods, going forward. We will also talk about approving the Annual Budget in a different way. At this Synod, we will receive and update on the proposed Cathedral Place Development Project. We will discuss our key theme of: “What it is to be Anglican?”, and to that end there are questions provided to help you to reflect on the themes of the Pre-Synod Video.

#### Where?

The venue for this year's Synod will be at Christ's Church Cathedral, 252 James Street North in Hamilton. To get to the Cathedral, from Main, King or York, go north (towards Lake Ontario). Parking is limited in the direct area, so there is a map included in this mailing. We encourage you to demonstrate care for creation, by driving together – perhaps even sharing driving with a neighbouring parish! Meeting at Cathedral Place significantly helps us to save thousands of dollars rather than meeting at a Convention Centre.

Cathedral Place, 252 James Street North, Hamilton ON L8R 2L3

Tel: 905-527-1316 • Fax: 905-527-1281 • Fax, Finance & Program: 905-527-0963

[www.niagaraanglican.ca](http://www.niagaraanglican.ca)

**Important Details:**

The Convening Circular will be posted at this web address:

[www.niagaraanglican.ca/synod/2014](http://www.niagaraanglican.ca/synod/2014) . All motions, as well as the budget and other important information at Synod, will be presented on a large central screen. There will be a few printed copies of the line item budget available at Synod.

We ask to bring an item of canned or packaged food for donation to a Food Bank.

The Cathedral is a Wi-Fi enabled facility, which will facilitate delegates accessing Synod related documents on their wireless devices. It will also allow us to share the work of Synod widely through our Facebook page (Anglican Diocese of Niagara) and Twitter feed (@niagaraanglican). The Bishop's charge will be posted on Facebook and our website ([www.niagaraanglican.ca](http://www.niagaraanglican.ca)). If you are using Twitter, please use #synodniagara as the hashtag for Synod related posts.

**About Synod Fees:**

Each year some of the costs related to Synod meetings are included in the diocesan budget - specifically the cost of staff time and planning. The costs of the meeting itself (such as site rental, food services, AV services, and mailing) are shared among the members of the Synod and the resulting "fee" is billed to parishes. We plan carefully to keep this fee as low as possible.

**A Few Last Words:**

The emergency phone number in case you need to be contacted is: **905-527-1316**.

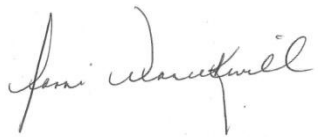
This year, our lunch will be provided by three food trucks, which will have an ample selection of choices which we hope will accommodate a variety of dietary needs. There will be coffee, tea, water and other snacks available throughout the day.

While you are at Synod, please set your phones to mute, as a courtesy to the people and process of Synod.

**Preparation and Evaluation**

As we lead up to Synod, we invite you to view the pre-Synod video previously noted. You can see it either together with your Parish Council, during Worship, with other Synod Delegates or at home, curled up in your easy chair. Please help us get better in our Synod Planning and at Synod by filling in an evaluation form at the end of our Annual Meeting. Each meeting of our Diocesan family is different and we take seriously the feedback that we receive at each and every Synod.

**Questions?** Contact Mary Anne Grant at 905-527-1316 Ex 380 or [maryanne.grant@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:maryanne.grant@niagaraanglican.ca)

**See you at Synod!**

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod  
[marni.nancekivell@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:marni.nancekivell@niagaraanglican.ca)

# Cathedral Place Christ's Church Cathedral

From Burlington  
Exit at York Bl.

Enter cathedral parking lot  
off Hughson. Other parking  
available on York Blvd.  
opposite Eaton Centre and  
on Wilson just east of  
Hughson. (York changes to  
Wilson at James St.)

Burlington St. from QEW  
Niagara Falls

