

# **Welcome to Diocesan Synod 2008!**

## **Start Here!**

### **From Rick Jones, Secretary of Synod**

Welcome to the 134th session of Synod! Thank you for offering your gifts to build up the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Niagara.

#### **One Day Synod**

This will be our second one-day synod as we continue with our new cycle of alternating one and two-day sessions for Synod. The rationale for this new pattern was to ensure good stewardship of the time and talents of Synod members, while still providing for flexibility for future Synod Planning. This one-day session of Synod will focus on the core business of Synod and there will be no time available for presentations by groups and committees for information purposes. We hope that you will have time to visit the display booths adjacent to the meeting space.

#### **Worship and the Bishop's Charge**

We will begin Synod with Eucharistic Worship at the Cathedral November 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 p.m. The Bishop's Charge will be live on the website and downloadable for parish or individual use.

#### **Core Business of Synod**

The core business of this year's Synod will be to hear the Bishop's Charge, elect Synod Council, elect members to Provincial Synod, approve financial statements, discuss the budget, receive reports and vote on two Canon changes. There will be an opportunity to reflect on the Bishop's Charge together and study the implications of his vision for the life of the Diocese of Niagara. There will be an update on the Blessing of Same Sex Unions motion that was passed at last years Synod.

#### **Electing Members of Provincial Synod**

Provincial Synod meets every three years. The next meeting will be in Cochrane, hosted by the Diocese of Moosonee, October 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We will be electing 4 clergy and 4 lay delegate members for Provincial Synod (the Bishop and Chancellor are members ex-officio), in addition a youth will be appointed by the Bishop. Clergy elect the clergy and laity elect the lay delegates. Nominations were solicited through Archdeacons and Regional Councils, in the Niagara Anglican and on the diocesan website. The Coordinating Team of Synod Council acted as the nominating committee, ensuring that enough nominations were received in both orders, that there was an equal number of male and female nominations, and that the biographies of all nominees were made available. It is possible for nominations to occur at Synod however the proposed delegate must provide a 60 word biography in the same format as the ones contained in this Circular. Ballots will be given to all delegates at registration and no replacement ballots will be available. We will vote from 9:25 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. with the results announced at 4:00 p.m. We will have the quiet room available to meet and greet the nominees during the breaks and after lunch.

**Responding to the needs of our Communities: St. Matthew's House Food Drive**

Across the diocese many of our churches are supporting local food banks in cities and towns. Many churches have local initiatives as well. One of our historic diocesan initiatives is St. Matthew's House. We have been reminded that St. Matthew's House is constantly in need of support and food supplies for its clients. Often the shelves are bare and people are turned away without food. The Reverend Canon Wendy Roy, Director of St. Matthew's House, and Bishop Michael Bird, Member of the Board of Directors, have made arrangements for bins to be at registration for delegates who wish to make non-perishable food donations to the St. Matthew's House Food Bank. There is a list of suggested items on the diocesan web site. Thank you for considering supporting people through this important and historic ministry in our diocese.

**Short and Sweet**

The timing of this year's Synod requires us to end our business at 4:30 p.m. The Hamilton Convention Centre requires us to leave the building before 5:00 p.m. or suffer a substantial penalty. We will need to govern ourselves accordingly. As with all Synods we welcome your evaluation and particularly this year as we are experimenting with something new. Please fill out an evaluation form and tell us what you think. This is your meeting and we are trying to make it work in the best possible way for you. There will be the usual exhibitor's room for delegates to browse. We hope that this Synod will be a meaningful and important occasion in the governance life of our diocese.

**Thank you! See you at Synod!**

The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones, Secretary of Synod