

## **Welcome to Niagara's Diocesan Synod 2013!**

**November 15-16<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

*from Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod*

### **“Partnership in God's World... Acting Boldly”**

If this is your first Synod, we hope that you will be enriched by this experience of the wider church. This year's Synod will be a two-day Synod, and will offer a variety of experiences of what it is to be a partnering Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. At Synod we will seek God's intention for us, as we pray, discern, talk, listen and work at being a Church that holds partnership as a key value within the Diocese of Niagara.

#### **What IS Synod, after all?**

The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Niagara is the legal entity (established by statute of the Legislature in the Province of Ontario) 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, approving financial statements and budgets, and authorizing the actions of Synod Council. But a meeting of Synod is much more than that: it allows us to form the “bones” of who we are as the 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 Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, with registration in Myler Hall beginning on each day at 8:00 am. **The Bishop's Charge** will be delivered in our Opening Worship on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

This year our fundamental business will be to hear and reflect upon the Bishop's charge, to elect Synod Council, receive financial statements, discuss and approve the 2014 budget and receive reports. We'll also have an opportunity to hear updates from the Governance Working Group, Hands Across Niagara and others! But the key theme of Partnership will be integrated through our Synod this year. We look forward to Bishop Griselda Delgado Del Carpio being with us, and the signing of a renewed companion diocese covenant; an address by Jennifer Henry of KAIROS our ecumenical partner in justice ministries, presentations from Partners In Mission and Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and a special keynote presentation by veteran broadcaster Judy Maddren.

#### **A Change in Venue**

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 partnership and care for creation, by driving together – perhaps even sharing driving with a neighbouring parish! It is an experiment to meet in a parish church, and you will have plenty of opportunity to evaluate the experience. Being in a parish church will significantly help us to save costs. We'll literally save thousands of dollars.

#### **Important Details:**

In this mailing you are receiving an agenda and your registration card. The Convening Circular will be posted at this web address: [www.niagara.anglican.ca/synod2013](http://www.niagara.anglican.ca/synod2013). 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 copies of the line item budget available at Synod.

If you wish to print portions of the information provided online and do not have a computer or a printer, please contact your parish, and I am sure they will be able to assist you. **In order to register at Synod, you will need your registration card. It is much like your “entrance ticket”. Please bring it with you to Synod to exchange for your voting card. You will also require your lunch ticket in order to eat which you will receive at registration.**

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.niagara.anglican.ca) on Friday. 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. While some Synod members choose to contribute to this fee (and that generosity is great to see!), I want to emphasize that this is not a charge to you individually. Your parish should be paying for your delegate fees. It is simply a way to share the costs among the parishes of the Diocese.

#### **A Few Last Words:**

The emergency phone number in case you need to be contacted is: **905-815-3489**.

Part of our celebration of Partnership will include, on the Friday, a festive Latin American lunch. Should you have dietary restrictions, you will be free to bring your own bag lunch of course.

On the Saturday of Synod, our keynote speech and luncheon will be taking place at Liuna Station, after which we will return for the final session of this Synod.

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

Alas, the Santa Claus parade will coincide with Synod this year, so parking below Cannon Street (see map) is recommended. If you do that, you should be able to safely exit the city by Burlington Street to the East, and Barton Street to the West.

#### **Preparation and Evaluation**

I hope you will have an opportunity to gather with others in your parish to discuss the issues coming before this Synod. Please help us get better at serving you by filling in an evaluation form at the end of the meeting, which is especially important as this Synod is “different”.

**Questions:** Please contact Nancy Clause at 905-527-1316 Ex 380.

#### **See you at Synod!**

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Secretary of Synod