

**Minutes of the 145<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Niagara  
"Sing to the Lord a New Song" Psalm 96:1**

**Friday November 8 and Saturday November 9, 2019  
The Lincoln Alexander Centre, Hamilton**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019**

Gathering Worship

The synod began at 9:00am with a service of Eucharist which included the Bishop's charge. Bishop Susan Bell charged the people of the diocese "to commit to renewing and refreshing" their faith, as well as finding where their gifts could be used for ministry. "We have all been called to minister in and with our communities, transformed by an encounter with Jesus, in a new and missional way."

Retired Bishop Ralph Spence, Albion Herald Extraordinary, presented the grant of arms to Bishop Bell. The arms were designed by Bishop Spence and Bruce Patterson, Deputy Chief Herald of Canada, painted by Robert Grey with calligraphy by Yolande Lessard.

*BREAK*

Organizing Synod

Synod was called to order at 11:00 am with an acknowledgement that the land on which synod was gathering was the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas.

Credentials Committee Report

The chancellor advised synod that as of 9:55 am 80/92 members of the clergy, representing 87% of the order, and 140/176 members of the laity, representing 79% of the order, were present and that 80 parishes were represented, or 97%. Quorum was achieved.

**MOTION:** Mr. Greg Tweney / The Reverend Canon Bill Mous  
'**THAT the report of the credentials committee be accepted.**'

**CARRIED**

Election of Honorary Secretaries

**MOTION:** Mr. Greg Tweney / The Reverend John Course  
'**THAT Ms. Carol Summers be elected as the honorary lay secretary of synod and the Reverend Pam Guyatt be elected as the honorary clerical secretary of synod for the 145<sup>th</sup> synod of the diocese.**'

**CARRIED**

Welcome of Guests and Privileges of the House

Bishop Bell welcomed new members of synod and guests, inviting them to stand and be recognized.

The Bishop then extended privileges of the house to the Right Reverend William Cliff, Bishop of Brandon; The Right Reverend Ralph Spence, Albion Herald Extraordinary; The Reverend Deacon Lorenzo Cromwell, Worship Committee; Rob Duncan, Lay Pastoral Associate of Holy Trinity Chippawa; Marlie Whittle and Martha Asselin, Consultants with M&M International; Renée Wetselaar, St. Matthew's House Executive Director; Tim Webb, Canterbury Hills Board Chair; Carloyn Vanderlip, Director of the Canadian Anglican Partnership Program of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund; Andrew Hyde, Ecumenical Chaplain at the University of Guelph; Rob Jones, warden, Christ's Church Cathedral, and Rob Miller, church planter.

### Approval of the Minutes

**MOTION:** Ms. Carol Summers / The Reverend Michael Deed  
**'THAT the minutes of the 2nd session of the 144th synod of the diocese, as found on pages 12-19 of this convening circular, be now approved.'**

**CARRIED**

### Notices of Motion

Chancellor Greg Tweney spoke about the rules of order and advised members that since the agenda had been published no additional motions had been received. He indicated that any motions for consideration at this synod would need to be presented to the secretary of synod no later than 2:45pm on Friday.

### Adoption of Agenda

**MOTION:** The Reverend Leslie Gerlofs / Ms. Sarah Bird  
**'THAT the agenda as presented by the synod agenda committee be adopted.'**

**CARRIED**

### Reception of Reports

**MOTION:** The Reverend Canon Bill Mous / Ms. Siobhan Bennett  
**'THAT all reports found in the convening circular and obtained at registration be received.'**

**CARRIED**

### Announcements

#### Mission Action Plan Presentation

With the Mission Action Plan (MAP) leadership team assembled on the stage, Bishop Susan Bell described a Missional Action Plan as a practical document in which we are actively seeking God and identifying God's vision for our diocese. The Bishop noted it's the making of a plan in order to work out mission priorities, and where we discern:

- a) what steps to take to achieve that vision
- b) who will be responsible at each step
- c) what resources will need to be directed to support that work.

Bishop Bell noted that a missional church is a church that is always becoming, intentionally turning itself outward toward the non-churched and the de-churched, always offering the gift of faith in Jesus Christ.

Ms. Martha Asselin outlined the process to date to develop a Mission Action Plan. Various stakeholders were engaged with interviews, town hall meetings, and online surveys. An environmental scan was also conducted and information from the broader community was gathered.

From this information, the draft vision statement, "Called to Life – Compelled to Love" was crafted and revealed to members of synod for feedback, along with its corresponding draft mission statement, "Ignited by the irresistible love of Jesus, we create opportunities to deepen faith, share stories and care for God's world."

Three primary objectives for the Mission Action Plan were also identified:

- Create and implement opportunities to ignite and strengthen faith
- Reimagine and adapt the structures and culture of our shared life
- Prioritize social justice action with an emphasis on environmental justice.

**MOTION:** Canon Christyn Perkons / The Reverend Jeff Ward

'WHEREAS Synod Council began 2019 affirming the emerging sense of mission and renewal across the diocese over the first eight months of Bishop Bell's episcopacy;

AND WHEREAS Synod Council in April 2019 affirmed the Bishop's proposal to consult with the people of the Diocese of Niagara and articulate our shared discernment of God's mission for us over the next three to five years using the services of M&M International;

AND WHEREAS with support from M&M, we have completed a review of the diocese' history and direction; done an environmental scan, gathered stakeholder data from parishioners, clergy, dechurched and unchurched people; identified key areas of focus; and drafted vision and mission statements;

AND WHEREAS utilizing all of this information, the Mission Action Planning Leadership Committee has presented the early outline of the diocesan mission action plan to diocesan synod 2019.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT this synod:**

- **commends the clergy and parishioners of the diocese for their contributions to the Mission Action Plan (MAP) consultation**
- **receives with gratitude the work to date of the Mission Action Plan leadership committee**
- **affirms the missional direction, Called to Life, Compelled to Love, outlined in their presentation;**
- **encourages the MAP committee to continue their work on the Mission Action Plan; and**
- **directs the MAP committee to engage synod council on the approval of the completed mission action plan and new diocesan mission statement.'**

There was discussion on this motion. Some members suggested that the final plan should be approved by synod, rather than synod council and proposed the following:

**AMENDMENT:** The Reverend Canon Susan Wilson / The Reverend Canon Susan Wells  
**'that the revised, final Mission Action Plan and Mission Statement come before a special session of synod by mid 2020.'**

**AMENDMENT DEFEATED**

Debate resumed on the original Mission Action Plan motion and a vote was held.

**CARRIED**

The Reverend Canon Bill Mous explained that there would be two sittings for lunch; when not having lunch, members would be attending their regional caucus to nominate regional representatives for synod council.

The Reverend Judy Steers, newly ordained deacon, offered grace before our meal.

*LUNCH*

### Canonical Changes

Chancellor Greg Tweney outlined the process for making changes to the canons and explained that there must be 2/3 majority in each order for such a motion to be carried.

### Repeal of Canon 1.10, Regional Councils

**MOTION:** The Reverend Canon Bill Mous / The Venerable Michael Patterson  
**'THAT canon 1.10, relating to regional councils, be repealed.'**

When debate commenced, there was one request for clarification that this change will not affect regional deans, the Secretary of Synod confirmed it would not.

**CARRIED IN THE ORDER OF LAITY  
CARRIED IN THE ORDER OF CLERGY**

### Amendments to the Canon 2.5, Concerning a Solicitor for the Synod

**MOTION:** Mr. Greg Tweney / The Reverend Canon Bill Mous  
**'THAT canon 2.5, concerning a solicitor for the Synod, be amended to read:**

- 1. There shall be a Solicitor for The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, who shall be appointed by the Synod Council and hold office during its pleasure, to provide legal advice and services in support of the corporate activities and ministries of the Diocese.**
- 2. The Bishop, the Synod Council, or the Secretary of Synod may, in their discretion, retain other legal counsel licensed to practice law in Ontario for particular matters.**

**CARRIED IN THE ORDER OF LAITY  
CARRIED IN THE ORDER OF CLERGY**

### Repeal of Canon 2.8, Diocesan Loan Funds

**MOTION:** Canon Jody Beck / Mr. Andrew Clinkard  
**'THAT canon 2.8, relating to diocesan loan funds, be repealed.'**

**CARRIED IN THE ORDER OF LAITY  
CARRIED IN THE ORDER OF CLERGY**

### Ministry Moment: Chinese Anglican Ministry

The Reverend Jeff Ward, The Reverend Garfield Wu, and the Reverend Canon Dr. Alan Hayes highlighted aspects of this ministry in the Oakville community.

### Address by Bishop William Cliff

The Right Reverend William Cliff, Bishop of Brandon, addressed the synod on the theme of "Tempest Tossed, ... or not?" The talk reflected on the contemporary mission of the church and included stories drawn from his episcopal ministry in Brandon. Bishop Cliff received a standing ovation after which he took questions from members of synod.

### Bishop's Lenten Book for 2020

The Secretary of Synod announced that the Bishop's Lenten study book was "Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again" by Rachel Held Evans and that copies to purchase were available at the registration desk.

### Ministry Moment: Migrant Farmworkers Ministry

The Reverend Antonio Illas spoke about the diocese's ministry with migrant farm workers in the fruit belt area of the Niagara Peninsula. Synod members were asked to consider making donations towards the ministry, with a goal of raising at least \$1500.

**BREAK**

### Ministry Moment: the Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Ms. Sarah Bird spoke about her ministry, how she seeks to support children, youth and family leaders, and highlighted some of the diocesan programs and initiatives that have taken place over the past year.

### Cathedral Place Sustainability Update

Canon Terry Charters reported that the proposed Cathedral Place Revitalization Project will not be proceeding as there were too many difficulties placed in its path, including the price of purchasing the adjacent municipal parking lot and complications arising from the Cathedral's parking lot at one time being an active cemetery. Canon Charters noted that the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Property Renewal will be doing a comprehensive examination of current and future needs, and how the existing space at Cathedral Place can be reimagined with a focus on sustainability.

### The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

A video featuring volunteers speaking about what the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) means to them was shown to members of synod

Then, Ms. Carolyn Vanderlip spoke about the five-year strategic plan for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), which was shaped by consultation with partners, both development partners overseas and Anglicans in Canada, who steadfastly support and share in the work of PWRDF as well as by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2015 to 2030.

Ms. Vanderlip also highlighted our diocesan involvement within the broader context of PWRDF, noting that donations from individuals and parishes in the diocese of Niagara totaled \$273,000 in 2018. The presentation concluded with a thank-you to members of synod for their continued support and partnership with PWRDF.

Members of synod then watched a video about the PWRDF's World of Gifts program.

Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Reduction of Single-Use Plastics  
Program Consultant Deirdre Pike along with Greening Niagara Committee Members, Ms. Sue Carson and the Reverend Leslie Gerlofs, made a presentation to synod about the climate emergency and concerns about the use of single-use plastics and their accumulation in the Earth's oceans.

**MOTION:** The Reverend Leslie Gerlofs / Mrs. Sue Carson  
'WHEREAS Bishop Susan Bell, along with the Anglican Church of Canada, has identified the climate crisis and environmental degradation to all that God has created as the most pressing moral issue of our time;  
AND WHEREAS Christians have a sacred duty to steward the Earth's resources responsibly, identified clearly in our Baptismal covenant and the 5th Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion;

AND WHEREAS all parishes and members of the Diocese of Niagara have been urged to advocate for strong and resolute political action to address the climate crisis as laid out in the Bishop's recent statement coinciding with the worldwide climate strike, <https://niagaraanglican.ca/news/bishop-bells-responds-to-climate-action-week>;

**BE IT RESOLVED that this Synod recognize there is a global climate emergency;**

**AND THAT this Synod declare a Climate Emergency, in solidarity with climate scientists and the global environmental movement calling for urgent action to significantly reduce our carbon emissions;**

**AND THAT this Synod urge the Bishop and diocesan leaders to advocate for sustainable environmentally-sound government policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and consumption levels;**

**AND THAT this Synod encourage parishes to commit to an intentional observance of the global and ecumenical Season of Creation, September 1st to October 4th;**

**AND THAT this Synod direct diocesan staff to phase-out the purchase and use of single-use plastics, including rigid foam, within the synod office and for diocesan services, meetings, and events by 2022.'**

There was a debate over the timeline of this motion. Many felt this should take place in a shorter time, given the urgency of the situation.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION:** The Reverend Canon Margaret Murry / Andrew Clinkard  
**"To table the motion so that it could return, in a stronger form on Saturday."**

**PROCEDURAL MOTION DEFEATED**

Debate resumed on the original motion and a vote was held.

**CARRIED**

Ministry Moment: Called by Name

The Reverend Dr. Dan Tatarnic introduced Mr. Rob Jones who spoke about the diocesan formation initiative, Called by Name, and of how supportive he had found it to be during his own journey of vocational discernment.

The Bishop dismissed members of synod for the day at 4:47 pm.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019

### Call to Order

Bishop Susan Bell called the meeting to order at 9:00 am for Gathering Worship.

### Appointments to Diocesan Court

The following appointments to the diocesan court were announced: The Reverend Canon Stuart Pike, The Venerable Peter Scott, The Reverend Sheila Van Zandwyk, Mr. Neil Bell, Ms. Ann Cunningham, and Ms. Mary Donkin.

### Election to Trinity College Corporation

**MOTION:** The Venerable Dr. David Anderson/ Ms. Kathleen Randle  
**'THAT the representatives from the Diocese of Niagara to the Corporation of Trinity College be The Reverend Garfield Wu (clergy), Ms. Mary Churchill (lay) and Ms. Gillian Doucet Campbell (lay); for a term of two years.'**

CARRIED

### Affirm the Actions of Synod Council

**MOTION:** The Reverend Canon Bill Mous / Mr. Greg Tweney  
**'THAT the synod council report, having been fully considered, be now finally approved, and that all the decisions, agreements and documents entered into and signed on synod's behalf since the last session of synod, be hereby ratified and confirmed.'**

CARRIED

### Synod Council Election

**MOTION:** The Reverend Canon Bill Mous / Mr. Greg Tweney  
**'THAT this synod elect the regional members of synod council for the 2020/2021 term and alternate regional members for the 2020 term, as nominated at the regional caucuses held during this synod.'**

CARRIED

<b>2020-2021 Term</b>	<b>Region</b>
The Reverend Deacon Rod McDowell	Brock
Mr. Thomas Littlewood	Greater Wellington
The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin	Hamilton-Haldimand
The Reverend Will Alakas	Lincoln
The Reverend Canon Rob Park	Trafalgar
Ms. Janice Whiteley	Trafalgar
<b>Alternates for 2020</b>	
The Reverend Terry Holub	Brock
The Reverend Ann Turner	Greater Wellington
Ms. Mary Donkin	Hamilton-Haldimand
Mr. Byron Nicholson	Lincoln
Ms. Claire Christoff	Trafalgar

### Ministry Moment: Refugee Sponsorship

The Reverend Scott McLeod spoke about the important ministry of welcoming newcomers which our parishes and diocese does through our partnership with the Government of Canada through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. He noted that such ministry does not just change the lives of refugees, it changes ours too.

The Reverend Deacon Rod McDowell then spoke from the floor of synod about the work the refugee reception centre in Fort Erie does to support refugee claimants.

### Canonical Changes: Canon 4.9, Diocesan Missions

Canon Christyn Perkons and Canon Bill Mous made a presentation about the proposed new canon on diocesan missions, noting that it creates a new tool in our governance toolbox for missional initiatives that are not yet ready to become established parishes.

**MOTION:** The Reverend Canon Bill Mous / Canon Christyn Perkons  
**^THAT this synod approve the addition of a new canon, to read as follows:**

#### **Canon 4.9 - Diocesan Missions**

- 1. Where it appears that a particular geographical area or an area of special mission work or interest should be designated as a Diocesan Mission, as a result of:**
  - a) a request by a parish, an organization, or an unincorporated area of work or interest, either in the form of a resolution or a request in writing, or**
  - b) a recommendation by a Bishop's Commission, or**
  - c) a situation determined by the Synod or the Synod Council to require it,****the Bishop, with the approval of the Synod Council, may so designate.**
- 2. Upon the designation of a Diocesan Mission, the Bishop shall appoint:**
  - a) a cleric or lay person to serve as missionary, who shall be licensed by the Bishop to oversee the Diocesan Mission; and**
  - b) a chair of the Board appointed under s. 3 of this Canon, who shall serve at the Bishop's pleasure.**
- 3. Every Diocesan Mission shall be supported by an Advisory Board established to advise the missionary. The composition of the Board shall be determined by the Synod Council, which shall appoint a maximum of eight members, clergy and laity. In addition, the Bishop shall appoint an archdeacon to serve as a member of the Advisory Board. The Synod Council shall appoint signing officers for the Diocesan Mission which shall include the missionary. The Advisory Board shall provide a written report to the Synod Council on the activities of the Diocesan Mission at least once every two years.**
- 4. The Advisory Board of any newly designated Diocesan Mission shall work with the Bishop and the missionary to develop an inaugural mission action plan, establishing a missional mandate, ministry goals and benchmarks, and a budget. This plan shall be presented to the Synod Council for review within six months of the designation as a Diocesan Mission. Upon approval of the Bishop, the plan shall be implemented by the missionary.**

5. Every missionary, duly licensed, shall be a member of Synod, by virtue of Canon 1.1(1)(3). Diocesan Missions shall not be entitled to elect lay representatives to Synod.
6. Diocesan Missions are encouraged to make a voluntary financial contribution towards the Diocese but shall not be subject to diocesan assessments.
7. Where a Parish is disestablished, the Bishop may, with the approval of the Synod Council, designate the former parish's particular geographical area or area of special mission work or interest as a Diocesan Mission in accordance with the provisions of this Canon.
8. Where a Diocesan Mission desires to be established as a parish, the missionary, with the support of the Advisory Board, shall make a request to the Bishop to that effect, in accordance with the provisions of Canon 4.5(3), and propose a mission action plan and budget.
9. The designation of a Diocesan Mission may be revoked at any time by the Bishop. Upon revocation, the capital assets of the mission, of every nature or kind, shall be conveyed forthwith to and be in the control of the Synod as trustee.
10. In the event of any conflict between this and any other Canon, the provisions of this Canon shall apply.'

Debate was opened and various questions were addressed by the Secretary of Synod.

**AMENDMENT**

The Reverend Canon Susan Wells / Mr. Mitch Banks

**"THAT the Advisory Board shall provide a written report to the Synod on the activities of the Diocesan Mission annually."**

**AMENDMENT DEFEATED**

Debate on the original motion resumed, and a vote was held by orders.

**CARRIED IN THE ORDER OF LAITY  
CARRIED IN THE ORDER OF CLERGY**

2018 Audited Statements

**MOTION:** Canon Joanna Beck / Mr. Andrew Clinkard

**'THAT the audited financial statements for 2018 as found on pages 37-58, be received.'**

**CARRIED**

Auditor's Report

**MOTION:** Mr. Andrew Clinkard / Ms. Brenda Lane

**'THAT the Auditor's Report, as found on pages 38-41 be received.'**

**CARRIED**

Appointment of Auditors for 2019

**MOTION:** Mr. Andrew Clinkard / Ms. Brenda Lane

**'THAT KPMG be appointed as auditors for the fiscal year 2019.'**

**CARRIED**

### Presentation by the Director of Stewardship and Development

Ms. Gillian Doucet Campbell introduced herself, walked members of synod through current trends in charitable giving and spoke about the importance of stewardship in this time of the church, including the gifts of volunteering as well as financial contributions. Ms. Doucet Campbell noted that the average gift per identifiable giver in 2018 in our diocese was \$1,137, a significant amount of the \$2023 average amount claimed per tax filer in Ontario. The presentation concluded with an encouragement to members of synod to share widely the awesome things that we are doing in response to our call as disciples. In doing so, Ms. Doucet Campbell said that people will be more willing to commit their time, their talents and their treasure in support of God's mission.

### One Thing Celebration

Ms. Wendy Newman and the Reverend Scott McLeod spoke to members of synod about the special One Thing initiative that invited Anglicans in Niagara to do one thing to renew their spirituality and grow their relationship with Jesus. A pennant made of all the intention/activity cards collected from across the diocese was spread across the entire theatre space in which synod was gathering. Members of synod were advised that cupcakes celebrating the impact of this initiative would be served at the break.

### Announcements

Secretary of Synod Bill Mous thanked the synod sponsors: Russell Investments, The Dunham Group, Prestige Electrical Services, and Ecclesiastical Insurance.

*BREAK*

### 2020 Budget Presentation & Consideration

Canon Pat Davis presented the proposed diocesan budget for 2020. The proposed budget continues to support the priorities of recent years, investing \$3.4 million to equip the diocese to respond to God's mission of love and plant the seeds of the Gospel. Canon Davis noted that there may be more significant shifts in the budget for 2021 as the Mission Action Plan shapes our priorities and leads our diocese in new directions, responding to the Spirit's leading.

After allocating our anticipated expenses against revenue contributions, the 2020 budget anticipates an initial deficit of \$50,000 which will be reduced by drawing \$25,000 from our disestablished parish rectory funds to offset some of our housing costs, and \$15,000 from the funds of closed parishes to offset some operation costs. The net result is a \$10,000 deficit.

**MOTION:** Canon Pat Davis / Mr. Andrew Clinkard  
**'THAT this synod approve the 2020 diocesan budget.'**

The floor was opened for debate and several questions were asked of and answered by the Treasurer, who also thanked Canon Pat Davis and the budget sub-committee.

**CARRIED**

### Indigenous Self-Determination & The Primate's Apology for Spiritual Harm

The Venerable Valerie Kerr, Archdeacon for Truth, Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministry, updated synod on the progress towards Indigenous self-determination.

A video of the Primate's Apology for Spiritual Harm, delivered at General Synod 2019, was then shown to members of synod.

The Venerable Valerie Kerr reflected on being a First Nations woman and being present at General Synod when Archbishop Fred Hiltz gave the apology for spiritual harm. She talked about this being an ongoing journey before members of synod were invited to share their reflections.

### Announcements

Secretary of Synod Bill Mous indicated that during lunch, members were invited to participate in engagement opportunity related to the Mission Action Plan.

The Reverend Fran Wallace, newly ordained deacon, offered grace before our meal.

### *LUNCH*

### Ministry Moment: Revive

The Reverend Canon Dr. Dawn Davis, the Venerable Peter Scott, and Ms. Sandra Thomson spoke about their experience with Revive, a faith formation program.

Bishop Susan Bell thanked Canon Dawn Davis for her leadership with Revive and mentioned an upcoming conference 'Rechurch Revisited: Why Church? What's Next' to be held at St. James, Dundas on November 23 from 9:30-4:00 pm.

### Report of the 42nd General Synod

Ms. Claire Christoff, Mr. Andrew Clinkard, and the Venerable Dr. David Anderson gave an account of the significant items and motions considered at General Synod in July, including the election of a new primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls. The presenters also shared their personal thoughts on what they brought back to their ministries in Niagara.

The Bishop thanked Ms. Claire Christoff, Mr. Greg Tweney, Ms. Siobhan Bennett, Mr. Andrew Clinkard, Canon Pat Davis, the Venerable Valerie Kerr, the Reverend Canon Bill Mous, the Venerable Dr. David Anderson, and the Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic for representing the diocese admirably at General Synod. Bishop Bell also noted that the diocese was also well served by the contributions of Canon Donna Bomberry, Ms. Susan Little, and our former Dean, the Very Reverend Peter Wall who served as both the deputy prolocutor and chair of the planning committee.

### Comfy Couch Chat, with Bishop Bell & Bishop Cliff

The Reverend Michael Coren moderated a conversation about mission and future directions of the Church between the bishops. Members of synod were also invited to ask questions of the bishops from the floor.

### Inclusive Marriage in Niagara

A video was shown to members of synod that was produced as the diocese's response to the consideration of changes to the marriage canon, highlighting the stories of couples and priests who had participated in such marriages.

Bishop Susan Bell then addressed members of synod with her reflections related to the defeated General Synod amendment to the marriage canon. The Bishop acknowledged the pain and hurt caused by the vote.

The Bishop noted that our practice of equal marriage will continue in Niagara and reported that a statement issued by the House of Bishops after the vote affirms the local options of dioceses to do so, and more than half of dioceses in the Canadian church have exercised this option.

The Venerable Dr. David Anderson and Canon Christyn Perkons spoke to the proposed motion on inclusive marriage, recalling the discernment journey of the diocese and explaining the five affirmations referenced in the motion.

**MOTION:** The Venerable Dr. David Anderson / Canon Christyn Perkons  
**'THAT this synod:**

- a) laud the faithful witness of LGBTQ2S+ Anglicans and allies from this diocese to the Anglican Communion and express steadfast solidarity with the local and global LGBTQ2S+ community;**
- b) affirm the prophetic witness of Bishops Michael Bird and Susan Bell who have authorized in this diocese the solemnization of the marriage of all persons who are duly qualified by civil law to be married; and**
- c) receive the five affirmations contained in the Council of General Synod document entitled A Word to the Church, namely:**
  - 1. Indigenous Spiritual Self-determination**
  - 2. Diverse Understandings of the Existing Canon**
  - 3. Diverse Understandings and Teachings**
  - 4. Our Commitment to Presume Good Faith**
  - 5. Our Commitment to Stand Together.'**

The floor of synod was opened for discussion and questions.

**CARRIED**

### Other Business

The Reverend Canon Bill Mous offered thanks to all involved in organizing synod, including members of the worship team, synod chaplains, and members of the agenda committee. Canon Mous also thanked Canon Rob Park for this technical support with the synod presentations and Sue Nicholls for her design of the altar and worship space.

### The Bishop's Assent & Closing Remarks

The Bishop gave her assent to all the acts and resolutions of the 145th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara. Bishop Bell thanked the staff and the organizing committee for synod as well as Canon Bill Mous and Chancellor Greg Tweney. She also expressed her thanks to Bishop William Cliff, the synod's featured speaker, who was presented with a donation to Brandon's Indigenous youth ministry.

Closing worship included a homily by Bishop William Cliff.  
Bishop Susan Bell gave her blessing and adjourned synod at 4:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Pamela Guyatt, Honourary Clerical Secretary of Synod  
Ms. Carol Summers, Honourary Lay Secretary of Synod  
The Reverend Canon Bill Mous, Secretary of Synod  
Ms. Mary Anne Grant, Administrative Assistant