



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

September 18, 2023

To: Members of the Synod
Re: **The 149th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara**

Dear friends:

Greetings! I write to welcome you as a member of the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara! This year we are planning to convene Synod virtually, via Zoom videoconference, on **Saturday, November 4**, with a call to order at 9am.

“Stewarding God’s Gifts for Mission” is the theme for the 149th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, as chosen by Bishop Susan Bell. Our theme, and its underlying scriptural passage from 1 Peter 4:8-12, will serve as a lens through which we can pray about and contemplate the matters coming before our Synod.

The Synod Agenda Committee has set about its work to prioritize the essential business of the Church that will come before us while highlighting some of the many Spirit-filled stories arising from our ministries. Bishop Susan Bell will open the Synod with a charge, the 2022 auditor’s report will be received, and the 2023 diocesan budget will be considered. Several ministry presentations and missional moments highlighting how we’re living into our diocesan Mission Action Plan will also be shared.

As you know, elections for [Synod Council](#) regional representatives and [Provincial Synod delegates](#) will be conducted in advance of Synod using an electronic voting platform as we have done in recent years. Voting details will be shared in the coming weeks, but in the meantime please consider letting your name stand for election. We’ve shifted the nomination process online this year; for [Synod Council nominations, click here](#); for [Provincial Synod nominations, click here](#). The deadline for nominations is **September 30**.

I also want to invite you to register for one of our two upcoming pre-Synod meetings. Simply click on the date and time which works best for you: [Tuesday, October 3 at 7pm](#) and [Thursday, October 5 at 1pm](#). These meetings will be about an hour and a half in length and are a great opportunity to learn about the proposed budget as well as some of the other matters that will come before Synod, and to ask any questions you may have!

A few additional notes to share:

- The full and complete convening circular will be posted by mid-October, but already there is some information on [our Synod webpage](#) and we’ll be sharing more about the agenda, resolutions, and background documents as they become available.
- If you, or someone from your parish delegation, is not able to attend Synod, please [contact Hannah Keller](#) as soon as possible so we can contact the alternate delegate.

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- Each member of synod will need to login to Zoom individually in order to vote on resolutions. If you're unfamiliar with Zoom, [here's a brief tutorial](#) to get you acquainted with the platform. Login information will be shared in the week leading up to Synod.

Lastly, let me conclude by giving thanks for your willingness to serve as a member of synod! Whether this is your first or final synod, I hope you will find it to be a spiritually enriching experience as we join together for a time of prayer, discernment and decision-making!

Please don't hesitate to [be in touch by email](#) if I can be of assistance as you prepare for our upcoming Synod.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

The Venerable Bill Mous
Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod