



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

September 16, 2024

To: Members of the Synod
Re: **The 150th 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 our special anniversary Synod in-person on **Saturday, November 2** at the [Burlington Convention Centre](#).

'Faith in the Future' is the theme for the [150th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara](#), as chosen by Bishop Susan Bell. Our theme is based on a scriptural passage from Jeremiah 29:11, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." This will serve as a lens through which we can pray about and contemplate the matters coming before our sesquicentennial Synod.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, 14th primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, will be our special guest during the Synod. Archbishop Linda's trailblazing leadership has been such a wonderful blessing to our local, national, and universal Church, and we will be deeply blessed by her presence among us at Synod.

The Synod Agenda Committee is actively working on crafting an agenda that attends to the important business of the Church while highlighting the many uplifting stories of the Spirit working in our midst. Bishop Susan Bell will open the Synod with a charge, the 2023 auditor's report will be received, and the 2025 diocesan budget will be considered. We'll also give consideration to a renewed diocesan Mission Action Plan! In addition, we'll welcome presentations from the [Anglican Foundation of Canada](#) and [The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund](#) alongside other engaging reports and presentations.

In addition to the regular proceedings of our Synod, we are also planning a special anniversary dinner in the evening of our Synod to mark the occasion. As Synod delegates, we hope you will stay for what will be an incredible evening with Bishop Susan Bell, Archbishop Linda Nicholls and many special guests to kick-off the diocese's 150th anniversary year. All proceeds from the dinner will go to a special anniversary fund created by our diocesan foundation in support of curacies. Equipping right skilled and well-formed spiritual leaders is crucial for the flourishing of our collective ministry for the next 150 years!

The anniversary dinner will follow on the heels of the Synod, with a reception beginning at 4:30pm bridging the two events. [Tickets are \\$150/person and can be purchased here](#). We want to give you the first opportunity before opening the event to our wider diocesan family. We hope this event, generously sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance, will gather people from every parish and mission in our diocese; all are welcome!

As you know, elections for [Synod Council](#) regional representatives and [General 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

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please consider letting your name stand for election. For [Synod Council nominations, click here](#); for [General 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 1 at 1pm](#) or [Thursday, October 3 at 7pm](#). These meetings will be about an hour and a half in length and are an excellent opportunity to be oriented to the work of Synod, to learn about the proposed budget as well as 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, or to update your contact information (an email is required for electronic voting purposes) please [contact Hannah Keller](#) as soon as possible so we can update the information and/or contact an alternate delegate.
- We are working to arrange a group discount rate for delegates interested in staying at the adjacent Courtyard Burlington on Saturday evening at their own cost; please contact Hannah Keller if you are interested in receiving more information.
- The Burlington Convention Centre is a wi-fi enabled facility, so you will be able to access synod-related documents on wireless devices.
- Lunch is included on Saturday; please be sure to [email any dietary restrictions to Hannah Keller](#) no later than Thursday, October 17.
- We'll be using a consent agenda for some of the Synod's business; this allows for non-controversial resolutions to be considered collectively, by consent of the members, thus freeing up valuable time for consideration of matters which might require more rigorous discernment by Synod. Any member can write to me, as the Secretary of Synod, no later than Thursday, October 31 at 5pm, to request the removal of an item listed on the consent agenda. If this happens, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately by members of synod.

Lastly, let me conclude by expressing my immense gratitude 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 in-person for a time of prayer, discernment, and decision-making while celebrating this milestone anniversary in the life of our diocese.

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

Sincerely,



The Venerable Bill Mous
Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod