

MINUTES OF THE 150TH SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA

Saturday November 2, 2024 at the Burlington Convention Centre

"Faith in the Future" – Jeremiah 29:11

Call to Order & Territorial Acknowledgement

The Right Reverend Dr. Susan Bell called the Synod to order at 9:16 am.

A territorial acknowledgment was given by the Venerable Jeff Ward, Archdeacon of Trafalgar.

Gathering Prayers with Bishop's Charge to Synod

The Synod's opening worship included readings from Jeremiah 29:1-10, Hebrews 12:1-2 and Matthew 7:7-14. The Reverend Deacon Sheila Plant, Mr. John Wilkinson, Dr. Thomas Littlewood, Mrs. Beth Kerley, Mr. Adam MacNeil, and the Most Reverend Colin Johnson assisted with the worship, led by the Right Reverend Dr. Susan Bell.

The bishop began her charge by acknowledging the current turbulent times, with issues like political unpredictability, the climate crisis, and the rising cost-of-living dominating the headlines. These challenges can lead to anxiety about the future. However, the bishop encouraged the members of Synod to lift their eyes beyond immediate concerns and look to the promises of God. Referencing the scripture from Jeremiah 29:11, Bishop Bell reminded Synod that God's plans are for prosperity, not harm, and that God is always there to listen and respond when people seek God wholeheartedly.

Exploring the Synod's theme of 'Faith in the Future,' the bishop explained that trust in the character of God – who is loving, giving, and always working for good – is vital. In times of hardship, God's love and plans for the future remain unchanged; this understanding of God's faithfulness becomes a foundation for the Church, which is called to reflect God's love in the world.

The bishop then shifted focus to the Church's role in an era marked by uncertainty and change. Christian communities, she explained, offer an alternative to the dehumanizing forces of modern culture. The Church is meant to be a place where God's love is embodied in relationships and actions. As members of the Church are formed to be more like Christ, they are equipped to face challenges with faith, hope, and love, offering the world a glimpse of the love of God.

Bishop Bell reflected on the past few years, particularly the recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. Acknowledging the hardships faced by parishes, she also pointed to signs of renewal in Niagara. Attendance at principal feasts like Christmas and Easter has increased significantly, indicating that the Church is recovering. While some might attribute this to people returning after the pandemic, the bishop emphasizes that there is more to this trend, pointing to a growing number of new attendees and a warm welcome extended by parishes, especially to newcomers and immigrants.

The bishop celebrated the progress made across the diocese, particularly in the context of the Mission Action Plan (MAP), which has now entered its fifth year. This initiative has guided parishes in discerning God's will for their mission and ministry, leading to revitalized energy and engagement. While acknowledging that challenges remain, Bishop Bell highlighted the positive results of the MAP process. Another area of progress noted is the growing number of stewardship campaigns and capital projects taking place in parishes.

While reflecting on leadership within the Church, the bishop emphasized that strong, creative, and skilled clergy are vital to the health of parish communities. This type of leadership, capable of balancing

traditional and innovative ministries, comes through intentional formation and development. She highlighted the Niagara School for Missional Leadership as an incubator for both lay and ordained leaders and spoke about its partnership with Huron University College. Regarding the shortage of clergy in Canada, she emphasized the responsibility of the Church to encourage vocations from within its own ranks, calling upon members of Synod to take part in cultivating future leaders and announcing the establishment of the 150th Anniversary Diocesan Curacy Fund. This fund is designed to support the training of new clergy by providing funding for curates, particularly in smaller parishes that may not be able to afford the full stipend, to ensure a healthy and sustainable future for the diocese. The bishop shared with members of Synod that a planned giving gift of \$250,000 toward the fund has already been made, and further donations are encouraged.

Bishop Bell then gave special recognition to five clergy, who in their ministry, have distinguished themselves through extraordinary service to the diocese. For their service to Niagara, The Reverend Garfield Adams, The Reverend Dr. Eleanor Clitheroe, The Reverend Malcolm French, The Reverend Naomi Kabugi, and The Reverend Tom Vaughan were appointed as honorary canons of Christ's Church Cathedral.

In concluding her charge, the bishop shared a reflection on her recent sabbatical leave. While intended to be a time of spiritual renewal, health issues forced her to scale back many of her planned sabbatical activities. Despite this, the time away led to deep reflection and a renewed sense of gratitude for the people around her, particularly the diocesan staff. The bishop expresses profound thanks for the leadership of Archbishop Colin Johnson, Archdeacon Bill Mous, Ms. Jane Wyse and others who stepped in during her absence, ensuring that the work of the diocese continued smoothly. In closing, she offered a final charge to the members of Synod: keep your eyes firmly on Christ, stay the course, love God, and love the world that God loves.

Following the Bishop's Charge, the Eucharist was concelebrated by the bishop and The Most Reverend Linda Nicholls, 14th primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

— BREAK —

Organizing Synod

Bishop Susan Bell welcomed all returning and first-time members to Synod. She gave a warm welcome and thanks to Archbishop Linda Nicholls, recently retired primate and special guest.

Additional privileges of the house were extended to The Reverend Canon Dr. Drew McDonald, diocesan stewardship and campaign advisor; Dr. Scott Brubacher, executive director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada; Ms. Michelle Hauser, development and communications officer for the Anglican Foundation of Canada; The Reverend Andrew Hyde, ecumenical campus minister at the University of Guelph; Ms. Marlice Simon, interim ecumenical chaplain at McMaster University; Ms. Renée Wetselaar, executive director of St. Matthew's House; Mr. Leonard Chaytor, an observer from All Saints, Erin; Ms. Patti Eix, an observer from Burlington Anglican Lutheran Church; and Ms. Helena You, a youth observer from St. Cuthbert's, Oakville.

Credentials Committee Report

Chancellor Greg Tweney advised Synod that – as of 10:30am – 76 members of the order of clergy were present, representing 87% of those eligible and 124 members of the order of laity present, representing 85% of those eligible. Out of the 79 total parishes, 65 were represented by at least one lay representative, for a total of 82% of parishes present. The quorum required for the transaction of Synod business was achieved.

Motion 1: Credential Committee Report

Canon Greg Tweney / The Venerable Bill Mous

THAT the report of the credentials committee be accepted.

CARRIED

Notices of Motions

The chancellor advised members that, since the convening circular had been published, no additional motions have been received. He indicated that any motions for consideration at this Synod would need to be communicated in writing to the secretary of synod no later than 12:30 p.m.

Appointments to Diocesan Court

The bishop informed members of synod that she was appointing the following people to the diocesan court: The Venerable Peter Scott, The Venerable Sheila Van Zandwyk, The Reverend Canon Stuart Pike, Mr. Neil Bell, Mr. Robert Clarence, and Mr. Neil Culp.

Consent Agenda

The following items were listed on the consent agenda for the Synod:

A. Election of Synod Secretaries

that Mrs. Susan Little be elected as the honorary lay secretary of synod and The Reverend Canon Pamela Guyatt be elected as the honorary clerical secretary of synod for the 150th Synod of the diocese.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Synod

that the minutes of the 149th Synod of the diocese, as found in the convening circular, be approved.

C. Adoption of the Agenda

that the agenda as presented by the Synod Agenda Committee be adopted.

D. Reception of All Reports

that all reports found in the convening circular, including the audited financial statements and auditor's report, be received.

E. Trinity College Corporation

that the representatives from the Diocese of Niagara to the Corporation of Trinity College be: The Reverend Canon Sue-Ann Ward (clergy), The Reverend Monica Romig Green (clergy) and Dr. Thomas Littlewood (lay); for a term of two years.

F. Synod Council Report

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 its last report, be hereby ratified and confirmed.

Motion 2: Approval of the Consent Agenda

The Reverend Andrew Rampton / Ms. Amy Collard

THAT the items listed on the consent agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Renewal of the Diocesan Mission Action Plan

Dr. Emily Hill, in her role as parish development missionary, gave a presentation on the renewal process of the diocesan Mission Action Plan (MAP). She began by giving an overview of her work with the diocese and the MAP, which was adopted by Synod in 2019. She highlighted the success of the MAP process at both the diocesan and parish level, and how it has adapted and grown over its five years of implementation. She shared with Synod that, at the start of 2024, the need to renew diocesan and parish MAP goals was recognized. This led to the creation of the parish MAP 2.0 resource guide and a series of conversations around what should be included in a renewed diocesan MAP.

After highlighting some of the initiatives parishes have undertaken during their MAP process, Dr. Hill went over the discernment process for MAP 2.0. She shared the different ways that input was gathered – including focus groups, surveys, prayer and intentional listening – and that feedback on the original Mission Action Plan was overwhelmingly positive. From all the feedback that was received, three renewed priorities emerged: to be Christ-centered, hope-filled, and missionally-focused. These priorities helped to develop MAP 2.0's renewed objectives: create and implement opportunities to ignite and strengthen faith; strengthen the missional culture of the diocese and support contextual mission; and prioritize social and environmental justice. Dr. Hill noted that the objectives set out in the first MAP remain largely unchanged, and that the modifications made to the second objective reflects success in implementing structural adjustments at the diocesan office while actively acknowledging the missional shift that began in 2019.

Following the presentation, Dr. Thomas Littlewood, from St. John the Divine, Elora commended the hard work that Dr. Hill has done to inspire parishes and support the diocese in living into its vision of being called to life and compelled to love.

Motion 3: Affirmation of the Renewed Diocesan Mission Action Plan

Dr. Emily Hill / The Very Reverend Dr. Tim Dobbin

THAT this Synod:

- *receive with gratitude the diligent work that has been undertaken with respect to implementing the strategies articulated in the original diocesan Mission Action Plan;*
- *commend the faithful efforts of parishes and missions who have, guided by the Holy Spirit, discerned their own Mission Action Plans;*
- *re-affirm the diocese's vision, Called to Life - Compelled to Love, and affirm its revised mission statement and objectives; and*
- *commend to Synod Council the monitoring and ongoing adaptation of the strategies developed to implement the renewed diocesan Mission Action Plan.*

CARRIED

Canon Changes

Canon Greg Tweney informed the members of Synod that two Canons have been put forward to Synod for amendment this year and outlined the process for making changes to the canons.

Repeal of Canon 2.8(5)

Section 5 of Canon 2.8 mandates the establishment of a Diocesan Assessment Committee. Archdeacon Bill Mous explained that the committee's functions have been largely assumed by the Financial Advisory

Committee (FAC) and that any appeals are made to the diocesan treasurer; if there are disagreements about interpretation, these are brought to the FAC for consideration. Repealing this section regularizes the present practice. Archdeacon Mous indicated that if passed by Synod, the FAC mandate would be updated to reflect its responsibility to review the diocesan mission and ministry assessment formula.

Motion 4: Amendment to Canon 2.8 – Diocesan Budget

The Venerable Bill Mous / Canon Greg Tweney

THAT the following section of Canon 2.8 be repealed:

5. There shall be established a Diocesan Assessment Committee which:

- (a) shall consider concerns and appeals raised and filed by parishes regarding assessments;*
- (b) shall ensure consistent and accurate financial reporting from all parishes of the diocese; and*
- (c) shall, from time to time, review the guidelines and prescribed forms as established pursuant to Section 4 of this Canon.*

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

Amendment to Canon 3.2

Canon 3.2 outlines and governs the licensing of lay people within the Diocese of Niagara. Sections 3 and 4 of the Canon refer to a Hiring Committee, which is not defined elsewhere in the canon. In amending Canon 3.2, Archdeacon Mous said the canon is both clearer and nimbler while still maintaining its purpose of permitting the bishop to licensed qualified lay workers and ensuring they are fairly compensated. The amendment also shifts the domain for the establishment of fair employment practices to the Synod, rather than the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Motion 5: Amendment to Canon 3.2 – Licensed Lay Workers

Canon Greg Tweney / The Venerable Bill Mous

THAT sections 3 and 4 of Canon 3.2 be amended to read as follows:

- 3) A qualified lay worker, with the approval of the Bishop, shall be duly licensed and commissioned at an appropriate liturgical event. The lay worker shall take oaths of subscription, and shall express willingness to be accountable in life and ministry to duly constituted diocesan and parish authority.*
- 4) Employment contracts for licensed lay workers shall conform to the current guidelines for fair employment practices as may be adopted by the Synod.*

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

Audit Matters

Auditor's Report & Audited Financial Statements

Ms. Christine Morrow, diocesan treasurer and director of finance, spoke briefly about the 2023 auditor's report and audited consolidated financial statements, which were received at the outset of the Synod as part of the convening circular.

Mr. Michael Smith, from Church of the Incarnation, Oakville asked why parish donations flow through the diocesan books as revenues. The treasurer said this is a requirement of the Canada Revenue Agency.

Appointment of Auditors for 2024

Motion 6: Appointment of Auditors

The Reverend Canon Dr. Eleanor Clitheroe / Mr. Tony Denning

THAT KPMG be appointed as auditors for the fiscal year 2024.

CARRIED

Anglican Foundation of Canada Presentation

Dr. Scott Brubacher, executive director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada, began his presentation by congratulating the diocese on its 150th Synod. He then provided those gathered with an overview of the foundation's history and work.

Established in 1957, the Anglican Foundation of Canada works to help parishes build and resource programs and initiatives across the country. Since its founding, the foundation has provided over \$41 million in grants to parishes for a variety of projects and initiatives. In Niagara, \$410,000 in funding has been received since 2010: \$157,000 for community ministry projects, \$107,000 for diverse infrastructure projects, \$78,000 for leadership and education projects, \$52,000 for sacred music and liturgical arts projects, and \$15,000 for Indigenous ministry projects. In Niagara, Dr. Brubacher highlighted that 25% of diocesan grants received were allocated towards youth-centered initiatives.

Dr. Brubacher also shared innovations to the foundation's grant giving program, including a focus on increased community involvement, the *Say Yes! to Kids* (SYTK) fundraising appeal, and a 2024 Request for Proposals initiative focusing on ecumenical relationship building with Christians from the Oriental Orthodox Churches.

Concluding his presentation, Dr. Brubacher encouraged support of the foundation's work from members of Synod, citing that God's abundance invites those to share with others.

— LUNCH —

Mid-Day Prayers

During the Synod's midday prayers, an excerpt from Matthew 7:7-14 was read again. The Reverend Claire Wade, Ms. Darrah Smith, Mr. Bob Mahler, Mr. Adam MacNeil, and the Reverend Canon Mike Deed assisted with the worship.

This Anglican Communion of Ours

The Most Reverend Linda Nicholls spoke to members of Synod about Canada's role in the Anglican Communion. Founded in 1867, the retired primate shared that today, the Communion now encompasses forty-two autonomous provinces and five extra-provincial churches, representing over 85 million Anglicans worldwide. She went over the colonial history of the Anglican Communion, and its origins in the Church of England. She also described the structure of the Communion, and the relationship between the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference, the Anglican Consultative Council, and the Primate's Meeting.

While speaking about the Anglican Church of Canada's role in the Communion, Archbishop Nicholls described how Canada brings many gifts and experiences, including the ability to live with diversity,

engage with reconciliation, and build ecumenical relationships. Canada has also actively engaged with the Communion through theological commissions, dialogues and networks.

Archbishop Nicholls concluded her presentation by remarking on the unique gift and challenge that the Anglican Communion presents. Despite concerns over divergent theological stances, she noted that the Communion has not imploded due to conflict. She also advised that the bonds of Anglicanism demand mature faith, humility, and a willingness to engage beyond one's own expectations.

2025 Diocesan Budget Presentation

The Venerable Peter Scott, chair of the Missional Budget Planning Committee (MBPC), and Ms. Christine Morrow, treasurer and director of finance, presented the proposed diocesan budget for 2025. They shared that the 2025 budget – influenced by the Synod's theme – will reflect the changing reality of the times, Niagara's faith in the future, and faith in God.

Archdeacon Scott began by sharing the positive news of a decrease in the operating deficit of over \$155,000. With usual draws, the expected cash deficit, before capital items, is expected to be approximately \$198,000 in 2025. He attributed this to a rebound of Diocesan Mission and Ministry (DMM) contributions for 2025 that is trending along the most positive trendlines predicted in 2023.

For 2025, Archdeacon Scott highlighted that support for the renewed Mission Action Plan – through the hiring of a half-time resource development position – and the Niagara School for Missional Leadership as key budget priorities. Additionally, provisions will be made for the professional development of clergy, a redesign of the diocesan website, the Youth Leadership Training Program (YLTP), and maintenance and restoration work for Cathedral Place in 2025.

The treasurer then reviewed the details of the proposed \$3.82 million budget. For projected revenue in 2025, \$2.65 million will be contributed directly by parishes via DMM, which is calculated with a formula that tracks with the highs and lows of the parish experience. Ms. Morrow emphasized that the increase in revenue is a sign of post-pandemic recovery. Regarding expenditures, she explained that significant efforts have been made to maintain costs while still maintaining capacity for ministry. The most significant increase anticipated in 2025 will be related to a Cost-of-Living Adjustment to the compensation of diocesan staff and clergy of 4.3%. Ministry expenses will see a modest increase due to additional funding available for Walking on Water, chaplaincy & other grants. An additional \$40,000 has been budgeted for the redevelopment of the diocesan website, and the major repairs budget for Cathedral Place will receive an increase of \$50,000.

After an overview of the budgeted Statement of Operations, Treasurer Christine Morrow and Archdeacon Scott concluded by emphasizing that the 2025 diocesan budget reflects a renewed sense of optimism for the future of Niagara.

The Most Reverend Colin Johnson commented on diocesan expenditure, noting that Niagara has decreased spending by 16% in recent years, especially when examining the 2015 budget after adjusting for inflation. He commended the MBPC for their prudent work.

Motion 7: 2025 Budget

Ms. Christine Morrow / The Venerable Peter Scott

THAT this Synod approve the 2025 diocesan budget.

CARRIED

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund Presentation

A video featuring Mr. Will Postma, executive director of the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund (PWRDF), was shown to members of Synod.

In the video, Mr. Postma shared that 2024 marks PWRDF's 65th anniversary. He provided some updates on recent development in the fund's programs. This included reconciliation work with Burgeo First Nation in Newfoundland through the Indigenous Responsive Grant Fund, disaster relief for Canadian communities affected by Hurricane Fiona through the In-Canada Emergency Response Fund, support for Al-Ahli Hospital and other health ministries within the Diocese of Jerusalem through the Gaza and West Bank Emergency Response Fund, and aid to people with disabilities in Ukraine through partnering with Fight For Right to provide adequate clothing and other supplies needed to survive the winter.

Mr. Postma also shared with Synod the new name for PWRDF: Alongside Hope. He explained PWRDF's global partnerships in their work as influential to deciding on the new name, and the new tagline, "Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world." Additional rationale included it being easy to pronounce and de-emphasizing the colonial, top-down approach of giving while emphasizes a more collaborative approach. The rollout of changes to the website and social media will take place in 2025.

Communion Forest Initiative Update - Climate Justice Niagara

Mr. Bruce Mackenzie, chair of Climate Justice Niagara, and Ms. Deirdre Pike, program consultant for justice and outreach, gave a presentation on the work of the global Anglican Communion Forest Initiative. The Communion Forest was launched at the fifteenth Lambeth Conference in 2022, as a sign of the Anglican Communion's commitment to the Fifth Mark of Mission: *strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*. Returning from the conference, Bishop Susan Bell tasked Climate Justice Niagara to become involved in the Communion Forest.

They shared the process of partnering with Green Venture and Neighbourwoods, as well as the funding that was received through a matching grant between the diocese and the Anglican Foundation of Canada. They also spoke about the process of surveying parishes to determine which ones would be equipped to participate in the tree inventory and potential planting. In total, seven parishes have completed tree inventories. In July, Dr. Danijela Puric-Mladenovic and a team from Green Venture met with representatives from participating parishes to discuss how to assess a tree inventory.

After inventories were complete, the presenters shared the different ways that parishes could participate in the initiative by either protecting, restoring, creating or growing. Parishes that are planning to take part in tree planting were also shared.

The presentation concluded with members of Synod reciting the Climate Justice Niagara Prayer.

— BREAK —

Provincial Synod Report

Mrs. Susan Little, from St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton, and Ms. Amy Collard, from St. Christopher's, Burlington, spoke about the 38th Session of the Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, which took place from September 24-26 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

They shared that the theme for this Provincial Synod was "Conversations at the Crossroads," inspired by the scripture of Jeremiah 6:16. Highlights for the session included the re-election of The Most Reverend Anne Germond as metropolitan, the metropolitan's charge, the Archbishop of York as the keynote speaker, and Bishop Susan Bell's presentation on the Provincial Vocations Report.

Members of provincial synod also participated in a tour of the former Shingwauk Indian Residential School, alongside a focus on truth and reconciliation. The appointment of Canon Greg Tweney as the province's first vice-chancellor was also shared. Additional business included an amendment of the budget to include \$10,000 for youth programming, restoration of Moosonee to its status as an independent diocese, and the election of Ms. Amy and The Reverend Rob Towler as Niagara's representatives on Provincial Council, in addition to the bishop.

The Primate's Commission on Reimagining the Church: Proclaiming the Gospel in the 21st Century

The Very Reverend Peter Elliott, retired dean of New Westminster, joined members of Synod via Zoom videoconferencing, to speak about the ongoing work of *Reimagining the Church: A Primate's Commission on Proclaiming the Gospel in the 21st Century*.

Dean Elliott shared the origins of the Commission and how it was tasked with looking into potential structural changes to the Anglican Church of Canada that would allow the gospel to continue to be at the centre of the Church. This process produced seven hypotheses for structural change, and the Diocese of Niagara has been invited to respond to them to help determine where there is energy for change. He invited members of Synod to also fill out an online survey, where they can share their thoughts and input on each of the hypotheses. Dean Elliott then went over each hypothesis with Synod, explaining that they are meant to be intentionally provocative to stimulate discussion.

After his presentation, Dean Elliot directed members of Synod to discuss the hypothesis in small groups, centering their discussion on three questions: Which of these hypotheses do you think is most important to develop further? Which, if any, do you think could be eliminated? What is missing? Table groups were given 30 minutes to discuss the questions.

After the discussion period concluded, Archdeacon Bill Mous invited groups to share highlights.

- The Venerable Terry DeForest, from St. Paul's, Westdale, asked how long participants have to report to the commission, as this is a worthy discussion and requires time. Archdeacon Bill Mous explained that reports would be needed by March of 2025, to report to General Synod in June.
- Mrs. Carol Summers, from St. John's, Cayuga, wondered about eliminating General Synod, and she felt that Church House is not needed and that the physical newspaper will soon be extinct.
- The Reverend Canon Dr. Susan Wilson, from St. Matthew-on-the-Plains, Burlington, shared her dissatisfaction with the lack of Indigenous representation on the Commission. Bishop Susan Bell shared that one Indigenous member had been appointed recently, while an additional member is being sought out.
- The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin, from the Church of the Nativity, Hamilton, shared his concern that the elimination of the Anglican Journal could take away a platform for alternative voices and perspectives within the Church. Regarding Church House, Canon Griffin wondered how alternative spaces for General Synod staff would be found and suggested a model where General Synod staff are spread out amongst various diocesan offices.
- Ms. Deidre Pike, diocesan program consultant for justice and outreach, shared that her group felt that the hypotheses were ordered by importance.
- The Reverend Deacon Rod McDowell, from St. Paul's, Fort Erie, theorized that there may be too many dioceses in Canada, suggesting a potential reorganizing of ecclesiastical boundaries.
- The Reverend Steven Vail, from St. Andrew's, Grimsby, critiqued the Commission's negative lens for its hypotheses, noting that all seven are related to eliminating or ending something, and not creating or building something new.

Other Business

Election of Regional Representatives to Synod Council

The bishop invited the secretary of synod to display the slate of nominees selected or acclaimed by their respective regions for election by Synod as representatives to Synod Council.

The following candidates were acclaimed for their region: Canon Patricia Davis (Brock) and the Reverend Canon Malcom French (Trafalgar). Alternate delegates for the regions of Brock and Trafalgar will be appointed by the bishop.

In the region of Greater Wellington, an election was held to determine a lay representative. Mr. John Laidlaw received the most votes and will serve as the delegate, with Mrs. Anne Gould serving as the alternate. In the region of Hamilton-Haldimand, Mrs. Bev Groombridge received the most votes and will serve as the delegate, with The Reverend Janice Brooks serving as the alternate. In the region of Lincoln, Mr. Byron Nicholson received the most votes and will serve as the delegate, with Mr. Mark Young serving as the alternate.

Motion 8: Synod Council Election

The Venerable Bill Mous / Mr. Robert Clarence

THAT this Synod elect the regional members of Synod Council and alternate regional members, as reported by the Secretary of Synod.

CARRIED

Results of the Election of Delegates to General Synod

The election results conducted electronically in advance of Synod, for Niagara's representatives to the General Synod happening in the Diocese of Huron in 2025 were shared, by order of election.

In the order of clergy: The Very Reverend Dr. Tim Dobbin, The Venerable Bill Mous, and The Venerable Terry Holub were elected. The Reverend Canon Sue-Ann Ward, The Reverend Canon Katherine Morgan, The Reverend Canon Dr. Eleanor Clitheroe, The Venerable Jeff Ward, The Reverend Canon Dr. Susan Wilson, The Reverend Deacon Sheila Plant, and The Reverend Rob Towler will serve as alternates.

In the order of laity: Mrs. Susan Little, Ms. Amy Collard, and Mr. Adam MacNeil were elected. Dr. Thomas Littlewood and Ms. Paige Keller will serve as alternates.

Concluding Synod

The bishop gave her assent to all acts and resolutions during Synod.

After some final words of gratitude and a closing prayer, the bishop offered a final blessing.

The Right Reverend Dr. Susan Bell adjourned the 150th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara at 4:23 pm.