

## **Youth Synod: The Basics**

### **What is a Synod?**

- A meeting
- A group of people called together under the authority of the diocese to discuss and decide issues related to the church, the world and our faith

### **When was the first Youth Synod?**

- 1989 at St. Jude's Anglican Church in Oakville with 69 delegates
- This is the 24<sup>th</sup> Youth Synod in Niagara!
- There are approximately six other Youth Synods in Canada

### **What is Youth Synod?**

- Youth Synod takes place every Spring and is a weekend event that gathers young people ages 13 to 21 years from across the diocese to discuss issues that they feel are relevant to their church
- Models itself on Diocesan Synod including a head table where youth and young adults participate in leadership roles
- Purpose of the event is to gather, explore issues, form opinions, make decisions and reflect on the opportunity for those decisions to bring about change in our churches, communities, diocese, and world

### **What is a delegate?**

- The definition of an eligible youth is someone 13 to 21 years of age (by January 1) who has been voted or appointed by vestry or parish council as the parish delegate to Youth Synod. Each parish may send up to three delegates.
- Also included as delegates are these diocesan appointments:
  - Young Adult Mentors
  - MCs
  - Members of Youth Synod Council

### **What are the other roles at Youth Synod?**

- Chair – runs the meeting
- Chancellor – offers advice regarding the rules of order and helps run the meeting
- MCs – host and keep the weekend moving smoothly
- Bishop – gives an opening charge to delegates and lends an episcopal presence
- Observers – here to observe the debate (and participate if given privileges of the house) but cannot vote
- Site Coordinator – responsible for the parish's generous contributions of time and space
- Local volunteers – prepare our food, welcome us into their space
- Small Group Leaders – meet with a group of delegates at different points in the weekend to learn and share together, have privileges of the house but cannot vote
- Young Adult Mentors – experienced delegates offering support in the small group process and in understanding the Youth Synod process

### **What is in my information package?**

- Letter with pertinent information
- Directions to St. Luke's, Burlington
- Reminder re the 2006 advocacy against child labour motion – bring your \$5 contribution
- Reminder re the 2007 food drive motion – bring your food bank donations

**All other information including motions are posted online at [www.zipsqueal.com](http://www.zipsqueal.com) in response to a motion at Youth Synod 2008 requiring us to use as little paper as possible.**

## **Synod Proper: So Many Rules!**

### **What is a motion?**

- To make a proposal; to petition or suggest; to make a plan
- Two sections to a motion
  - 1) Whereas: the facts of the motion
  - 2) Be it resolved: the intended action of the motion

### **How is a motion presented?**

- A motion needs two delegates: a Mover to present the motion, and a Secunder
- The Mover has a maximum of five minutes to speak
- If further education is needed, an extra 10 minutes can be allowed
- The Secunder has the option to speak after the Mover (maximum of three minutes)
- Once the debate is opened to the floor, each speaker has a maximum of three minutes

### **How do I speak to a motion?**

- To speak to a motion, go to the microphone
- You must be acknowledged by the Chair
- Once acknowledged, give your name and parish
- State whether you are FOR or AGAINST the motion
- Then proceed with what you would like to say regarding the motion
- Only the Mover & Secunder can speak more than once to that motion for clarification only

### **What happens before the vote?**

- The Mover and Secunder have the option to speak again at the end of the debate, right before the vote (Mover – two minutes, Secunder – one minute)

### **What is an amendment?**

- A change to a motion during Synod Proper
- May delete part of a motion or add to the motion
- May NOT change the original principle of the motion
- Only one amendment per motion
- An amendment can be amended once
- Delegates may speak to an amendment in addition to speaking once to the motion

### **How is an amendment made?**

- An amendment needs to be proposed by someone on the floor
- If the Mover and Secunder accept it, it is a "friendly amendment"
- If they do NOT accept it, the amendment must be seconded, discussed and voted on
- If the amendment is defeated, the debate resumes regarding the original motion
- If the amendment is carried, the debate continues regarding the amended motion

### **What else should I know?**

- A delegate can make a motion to table or shelve a motion. If carried, discussion of the motion is postponed to a future Youth Synod. This motion must be seconded and is not amendable. Debate for the motion is strictly about whether to shelve it
- The chair can decide when debate should end and the vote taken. S/he will call for the "question". The motion will be read before the vote is taken
- Observers may be given "privileges of the house" by a vote of Youth Synod. This allows them to move, second and speak to motions.
- When Youth Synod decides by vote to vote on a motion clause-by-clause (rather than all together), debate will continue on the entire motion without separating each clause into new and separate motions