

Anglican Speak: Diocese of Niagara Edition

Bishop

The Right Reverend Susan Bell is the diocesan bishop of Niagara. This is an elected position by the members of diocesan synod. The Bishop acts as the chair of diocesan synod. The Bishop is the spiritual leader of Anglicans in the diocese as well as the head of the organization that is the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara.

Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings (BACCB)

This committee advises the bishop on matters related to our buildings, their maintenance, upkeep and renovation. The regulations pertaining to Canon 4.6 stipulate that a BACCB representative is involved in any building project before approval is granted by synod council.

Bishop's Advisory Committee on Property Renewal (BACPR)

This new committee will advise the bishop on matters related to the development of our properties, particularly when parishes have been disestablished and our property is left vacant.

Canon

1. A law of the church. The canons of the diocese define its organization, structure, and operational methods.
2. An honorary title conferred on some members of the clergy or laity by the bishop.

Chancellor

This person acts as legal advisor to the bishop and secretary of synod to interpret matters of civil and canon law, synod policies and procedures, and discipline. At synod, the chancellor sits at the head table to provide advice, particularly related to the rules of order of the synod.

Diocesan Mission & Ministry (DM&M)

Funds received on the offering plate of local churches are shared with the diocesan, national and international parts of our church through our Diocesan Mission and Ministry (DM&M) contributions.

Diocese

We are the Diocese of Niagara. A diocese is the basic building block of the Anglican church in an area under the jurisdiction and pastoral care of a diocesan bishop. The Diocese of Niagara comprises the cities of Hamilton and Guelph, the regions of Niagara and Halton, as well as Wellington, Haldimand and Dufferin counties. There are approximately 90 parishes, over 110 active clergy, and approximately 25,000 lay persons.

Financial Advisory Committee (FAC)

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) deals with all financial aspects of the diocese and is a standing committee of synod council, and consults on parish building projects, as per the regulations of Canon 4.6. It is responsible to the synod council and its membership consists of the diocesan treasurer and seven members elected by synod council.

General Synod

This is the governing body of the Anglican Church of Canada which meets every three years under the presidency of the Primate. Its purpose is to conduct the business of the national church and it elects a Primate. Members include clergy and laity elected by diocesan synods as well as all active bishops and a diocesan youth delegate.

Incumbent

A member of the clergy appointed by the bishop to a parish or other office of the Church. The title rector may be the commonly used term in your parish.

Licensed Lay Worker

Lay persons professing a vocation to professional ministry and who upon qualification, licensing and commissioning, obtain an employment contract with a parish to a particular ministry. Such ministry may be exercisable in fields including education, social and community work, pastoral care, and administration.

Metropolitan Bishop, Archbishop

The Archbishop is a diocesan bishop who has been elected to be in charge of one of the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Anglican Church. There are four provinces in the Anglican Church of Canada, ours being the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. The current Metropolitan of Ontario is the Most Reverend Anne Germond.

Parish

Parishes are creations of the diocese, whereby local ministries are authorized, overseen and supported. In this way, the Anglican Church of Canada is not a congregational denomination.

Parish Council

An advisory body established at the annual vestry meeting of a parish to assist and make recommendations to the incumbent and churchwardens (the parish corporation) on matters related to fund development, property maintenance, parish visits, vestry preparation and information sharing, and generally to promote the wellbeing of the parish.

Provincial Synod

The governing body of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. Members are elected from both clergy and laity from the dioceses of Algoma, Huron, Moosonee, Niagara, Ontario, Ottawa and Toronto. The metropolitan bishop (presently The Most Reverend Anne Germond) presides. Provincial Synod meets every three years and also meets to elect a Metropolitan. The next session of Provincial Synod will take place the fall of 2021.

Region

A geographical area of the diocese contains a group of parishes. Each region has a regional dean who is nominated through by the clergy of the region by an election and a regional archdeacon who is appointed by the bishop. There are five regions in the Diocese of Niagara: Brock, Greater Wellington, Hamilton-Haldimand, Lincoln and Trafalgar.

Synod (Diocesan Synod)

A meeting, normally in the fall, where parish representatives make decisions on matters of policy, finance, and governance. Synod is also responsible for the election of bishops. In between synods, the work of synod is carried out by the synod council, standing committees, and other working groups that may be appointed from time to time.

Synod Council

Synod Council exercises the decision-making powers of synod between sessions with the exception of those of a legislative nature. Members include the bishop; the chancellor; the secretary of synod, the treasurer, regional archdeacons and regional representatives, and a few others just for good measure.

Treasurer

A person elected by a vestry or appointed by the churchwardens, who is responsible for the receipt, care and disbursement of parish funds, assisting the churchwardens in their canonical responsibilities.

Vestry

The members of each parish who are members of the Anglican Church, 16 years of age and older gather to elect the People's Warden, Lay Member(s) of Synod, and any other parish officers as well as to make decisions about the parish.

Warden

A churchwarden, by and large, looks after the temporal affairs of the parish, including financial oversight and property matters as well as the hiring of parish employees. One is elected by the vestry and the other is appointed by the rector.