

2026 DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

Regional Representatives

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| • Canon Patricia Davis | Brock |
| • The Reverend Robert Towler | Brock (<i>through September 22, 2026</i>) |
| • Mrs. Leslie Kennedy | Brock (<i>effective October 20, 2026</i>) |
| • Mr. John Laidlaw | Greater Wellington |
| • The Reverend Victor Kischak | Greater Wellington |
| • Mr. Bryan Elliston (<i>alternate</i>) | Greater Wellington |
| • Ms. Bev Groombridge | Hamilton-Haldimand |
| • Mrs. Susan Little | Hamilton-Haldimand |
| • The Reverend Andrew Rampton (<i>alternate</i>) | Hamilton-Haldimand |
| • Mr. Byron Nicolson | Lincoln |
| • Mr. Mark Young | Lincoln |
| • The Reverend Danny Pegg (<i>alternate</i>) | Lincoln (<i>effective March 10, 2026</i>) |
| • Ms. Amy Collard | Trafalgar |
| • The Reverend Canon Malcolm French | Trafalgar |
| • The Reverend Stewart Carolan-Evans (<i>alternate</i>) | Trafalgar |

Regional Archdeacons

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| • The Venerable Terry Holub | Brock |
| • The Venerable Paul Walker | Greater Wellington |
| • The Venerable Terry DeForest | Hamilton-Haldimand |
| • The Venerable Sheila Van Zandwyk | Lincoln |
| • The Venerable Jeff Ward | Trafalgar |

Financial Advisory Committee

- The Reverend Canon Dr. Eleanor Clitheroe
- Mr. Jim Higginson (*alternate*)

Episcopal Appointees

- Ms. Nancy Coombs
- Ms. Gillian Hendry
- Ms. Paige Keller
- The Reverend Robert Miller

Officers

- The Right Reverend Dr. Susan Bell, Diocesan Bishop
- Canon Greg Tweney, Chancellor
- Ms. Christine Morrow, Treasurer & Director of Finance
- The Venerable William (Bill) Mous, Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod
- The Very Reverend Dr. Tim Dobbin, Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral & Dean of Niagara

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

This report summarizes the actions of Synod Council from November of 2025 through October of 2026. The requirement for at least six meetings to be held—as set out in Canon 1.9(9)—was met with eight (8) meetings duly convened during this period.

Election and Appointments

- Appointed the diocesan signing officers: the Right Reverend Dr. Susan Bell, diocesan bishop; the Venerable Bill Mous, executive officer and secretary of synod; Ms. Christine Morrow, treasurer and director of finance; and Ms. Jane Wyse, executive assistant to the bishop.
- Approved the election of the following directors to serve on the board of 2498317 Ontario Inc, the corporation established to oversee diocesan development projects, for the year 2026 or until their successors are duly elected: the Right Reverend Dr. Susan Bell, Ms. Christine Morrow, the Venerable Bill Mous, and Canon Terry Charters.
- Appointed Ms. Sue Carr, Mr. Philip Hobson and the Reverend Canon Dr. Ian Mobsby to serve on the St. Luke's Mission Advisory Board.
 - Appointed the diocesan signing officers to serve as signing officers for matters related to the St. Luke's Mission
- Elected Mrs. Susan Little, Mrs. Bev Groombridge, and the Reverend Canon Malcolm French to the coordinating team for Synod Council.
- Elected Mr. Donald Jarrett, Ms. Kelly Twerdy, and Ms. Ann Harvey Hope to the Audit Committee for a two-year term.
- Elected Mr. John Laidlaw and the Reverend David Montgomery to the Financial Advisory Committee for a two-year term.
- Elected Dr. Janina Vanderpost, Ms. Barbara Shard, and the Reverend Rob Duncan to the Investment Advisory Committee for a two-year term.
- Elected the Reverend Canon Malcolm French, Mrs. Susan Little, and Mr. John Laidlaw to the Nominations Committee for a one-year term.
- Appointed the Reverend Canon Dr. Eleanor Clitheroe, Ms. Cheryl Hudson, Mr. Michael Scott, and the Reverend Nicola (Li Fen) Zhang to the Missional Budget Planning Committee, for a one-year term.
- Acting as the General Membership of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara:
 - Elected Mrs. Jodey Porter, Mr. Mark Hemingway, and the Very Reverend Dr. Tim Dobbin to the foundation's board of directors, for a three-year term.
 - Elected Mr. Tony Denning to the office of president and Mrs. Jodey Porter to the office of vice president of the foundation, to serve until the next annual general meeting.

Policy & Governance Matters

- Approved the Rector's Discretionary Fund Policy, effective April 14, 2026.
- Approved the procedures and regulations proposed by the Nominations Committee for the election of Synod Council Regional Representatives, effective May 19, 2026.

- Approved the amended procedures and regulations proposed by the Nominations Committee for the election of delegates to Provincial Synod 2027.
- Approved the procedures and regulations proposed by the Nominations Committee for the election of delegates to General Synod 2028.
- Duly considered proposed canon changes to Canon 4.1 – Vestries, Churchwardens and Lay Representatives - related to sections 1, 3, 14 and 17.

Parish & Mission Matters

- Approved the designation of the St. Luke's Mission as a diocesan mission, effective January 1, 2026, in accordance with Canon 4.9 and subject to the bishop's formal assent.
- Approved the submission of a grant application to the Anglican Foundation of Canada in the amount of \$15,000, by the Church of the Incarnation, Oakville, for their digital sign replacement project; and commended the parish for its missional aspirations to better connect its ministries and events with the Oakville neighbourhood that it serves.
- Received the inaugural Mission Action Plan of the Migrant Farmworkers Mission.
- Following the notification of the parish's decision to voluntarily disestablish, affirmed the inspiring witness to the Gospel expressed by the people of All Saints, Dain City for more than 80 years through care for their neighbours, their commitment to care for God's creation with the land surrounding their church, and their nurture of several generations of disciples.
 - Lauded the sacrificial giving and the spirit of fellowship that marks the ministry of All Saints, commending these Christian disciples to the parishes they intend to join.
 - Offered Synod Council's gratitude to the parish's leaders as they faithfully walked this difficult but faithful path of discernment over the past months and years.
- Approved the submission of a grant application to the Anglican Foundation of Canada in the amount of \$15,000, by St. Luke's Anglican Church, Burlington, for their Church Avenue project; and commended the parish for their creative vision and faithful stewardship for land entrusted to their care by creating an inviting and accessible spiritual space for reflection, contemplation, and celebration for their community, as an expression of their love of neighbour and Jesus' teaching about abundant life.
- Received the inaugural Mission Action Plan of St. Luke's Mission (Hamilton).
- Following the notification of the parish's decision to voluntarily disestablish, affirmed the steadfast witness to the Gospel expressed by the people of St. John's, Stewarttown for more than 190 years through their care for their neighbour, their formation of many generations of disciples, and their nurture of the spiritual wellbeing of their rural community.
 - Lauded the sacrificial giving and the spirit of fellowship that marks the ministry of St. John's and commended its parishioners to the parishes they intend to join.
 - Offered Synod Council's gratitude to the parish's lay and ordained leaders as they faithfully walked this difficult but faithful path of discernment in recent months.
- Approved the submission of a grant application to the Anglican Foundation of Canada in the amount of \$7,373, by the Burlington Anglican Lutheran Church, for their Barrier Free Main Entrance project; and commended the parish for the ways it is seeking to improve the accessibility of its church building to serve its neighbours and offer a more welcoming space.

Property Matters

- Approved the proposed five-year lease agreement (with an option to extend by 3 successive 5-year terms) between Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton and Bell Mobility Incorporated, to operate a wireless telecommunications tower.
- Approved the renewal of a licence agreement between the parish of St. James and St. Brendan's Anglican Church in Port Colborne, the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, and the City of Port Colborne, for a further four-year term.
- Authorized the churchwardens of St. John's Anglican Church in Stewarttown and the officers of Synod to enact the transfer of the cemetery property located at 11091 Trafalgar Road, Halton Hills, to the Town of Halton Hills, in accordance with the regulations of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, and on terms that are satisfactory to the bishop, executive officer, and diocesan solicitor.
- Authorized the executive officer to confirm the diocese's five-year commitment for Cathedral Place to be used for a City of Hamilton funded drop-in program operated in partnership by St. Matthew's House and Christ's Church Cathedral, and renew any necessary license agreements to that effect, conditional on the approval of the Cathedral rector and churchwardens.
- Approved the St. Luke's, Burlington Church Avenue project, in accordance with Canon 4.6, to create an accessible walkway to the lake, in partnership with the City of Burlington, to serve as a place of reflection, contemplation, celebration, and comfort for all in their community

Financial Matters

- Approved the transfer of \$38,000 from the 2025 severance and transition budget allocation and \$38,000 from the website support budget allocation to the internally restricted reserve funds for these specific purposes.
- Approved the transfer of \$90,000 from the St. Saviour's, Queenston Rectory Fund to the said parish's General Investment Fund, on an extraordinary and exceptional basis to partially restore the latter fund's protected principal, in accordance with Canon 4.7(9).
- Directed that \$4,050,000 in proceeds from the sale of the property located at 5324 Bromley Road in Burlington be allocated as follows:
 - \$2,500,000 invested in the 150th Anniversary Curacy Fund;
 - \$1,000,000 invested in the Diocesan Capital Reserve Fund;
 - \$300,000 invested in the Church Planting Reserve Fund;
 - \$200,000 invested in the Property Renewal Reserve Fund; and
 - \$50,000 invested in the Legal Reserve Fund.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Financial Advisory Committee, the request of the Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton for a loan from the rectory fund, in the amount of \$12,000.
- Approved the audited consolidated financial statements of The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, for the year ended December 31, 2025.
- Authorized the executive officer and treasurer to enter into an agreement with Norton McMullen LLP for the provision of audit services for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2026, conditional upon the firm's appointment as diocesan auditor by Synod on November 7, 2026.
- Acting as the General Membership of the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Niagara:
 - Received and accepted the foundation's 2025 audited financial statements.

- Appointed Norton McMullen LLP as the foundation's auditors for the 2026 fiscal year.
- Approved a mandatory 2.9% cost of living adjustment in 2027 to the current clergy minimum stipend grid and to licensed lay workers' stipends, in addition to the year of service increase (averaging at 0.6% in later years) factored into the grid.
 - Recommended a 2.9% cost of living adjustment plus a recommended 0.6% year of service increase in 2027 to clergy stipends for those clergy and licensed lay workers currently being paid at rates that exceed the minimum stipend grid.
 - Recommended an increase of 3.5% to the annual compensation of non-licensed lay employees, effective January 1, 2027.
 - Approved a mandatory 2.9% cost of living adjustment to all housing allowances for assistant curates and other term-limited ministers who fall outside of our standard approach to housing allowances, effective January 1, 2027.
- Commended the 2027 diocesan budget for approval by the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

Respectfully submitted,

The Venerable Bill Mous, Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod
Ms. Hannah Keller, Governance Administrator