



The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

Anglican Church of Canada

The Right Reverend Susan J.A. Bell, Bishop

September 20, 2019

To: Members of the 145th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara
From: The Secretary of Synod

Re: The 145th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

Dear friends,

I am looking forward to welcoming you to the 145th synod of our diocese which will be held on Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9! Our annual synod is a time to gather as a diocesan family for the building up of our Church through the discernment we will undertake, the decisions we will make, the sharing we will do, the relationships we will strengthen, and the prayers we will offer to God.

The theme for this year's synod is drawn from psalm 96, "Sing to the Lord a new song." Chosen by Bishop Susan Bell, it reflects a diocesan focus on renewal and our work towards a new mission action plan.

The Lincoln Alexander Centre (located at 160 King Street East in Hamilton) is a new venue for our synod; at this site you will enjoy excellent sight lines, professional sound and audio, and cushioned chairs with fold-out writing tables. We will also have space for displays from our partners in ministry. All this, and we expect the per delegate cost of synod should be comparable, if not less, to previous two-day synods.

The synod agenda committee has been hard at work pulling together the various pieces for our time together. In addition to a charge by our own bishop, we are delighted to welcome the Right Reverend Bill Cliff, Bishop of Brandon, as our featured speaker. There will also be some canon changes to consider, ministry stories and highlights to share, a budget to approve, and an important presentation by the Mission Action Plan leadership committee.

The full and complete convening circular will be posted towards the end of October, but we hope to share information on our synod webpage (<https://niagaraanglican.ca/synod/2019>) about the agenda, resolutions and background documents as available. We kindly ask that parish clergy distribute all relevant information to any of their lay representatives who do not have access to email.

On the first day of synod, registration will take place in the foyer of the Lincoln Alexander Center, beginning at 8:00 am. There you will be warmly welcomed and receive your nametag, voting card, and any other information required for your participation at synod. Lunch is included on both days; please be sure to email any dietary restrictions to Mary Anne Grant (maryanne.grant@niagaraanglican.ca) or 905-527-1316 extension 380) no later than Wednesday October 24. Also, don't forget to bring a reusable water bottle.

Additional notes:

- If you, or someone from your parish delegation, is not able to attend our synod, please contact Mary Anne Grant as soon as possible so we can contact the alternate delegate.
- There are a lot of local transit options available for the Lincoln Alexander Centre and we encourage you to take transit and/or carpool to reduce the travel portion of our carbon footprint. If traveling by car, visit the synod webpage for a map showing nearby parking lots.
- If you are planning on staying overnight, arrangements have been made with the Sheraton Hotel for a discount rate of \$149.00/night, using the group code Niagara Synod. You can book your room by calling 1-888-627-8161.
- The Lincoln Alexander Centre is a wi-fi enabled facility which will facilitate delegates accessing synod-related documents on wireless devices. All important information at synod will be presented on a large central screen.
- We encourage you to share the work of synod through your social media channels and engage with our own posts on our Facebook page (Anglican Diocese of Niagara) and Twitter account (@NiagaraAnglican), using #synodniagara as the hashtag for synod-related posts.

At synod, we will also meet in caucus groups to elect regional representatives to synod council, the executive committee of our diocese which makes decisions between synods. If you are interested in letting your name stand to serve on this body, please be in touch with Mary Anne Grant and she can send you a job description and put you in touch with your regional archdeacon.

Lastly, thank you for serving as a member of synod! Whether this is your first or fifteenth synod, I hope you will find it to be a spiritually invigorating and rewarding experience! I am really looking forward to working with you and supporting this important governance function in the life of our diocese. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me (bill.mous@niagaraanglican.ca or 905-527-1316 ext. 330) if I can be of assistance as you prepare for our synod.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

The Reverend Canon Bill Mous
Secretary of Synod & Director of Administration