



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

September 21, 2020

To: Members of the 146th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

Re: **The 146th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara**

Dear friends,

For the first time in its 146-year existence, the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara will convene virtually, via Zoom videoconference, on **Saturday, November 7.**

This pivot in our practice will help keep us all as safe as possible and limit the potential for the spread of infection while still allowing us to undertake the essential work synods are called to undertake: the building up of our Church through prayer, discernment, and decision-making.

“Seeing with the Eyes of our Hearts” has been chosen by Bishop Susan Bell as the theme for our synod. Inspired by the Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 1 verses 15-19, the theme offers a lens to reflect upon this past year, giving thanks for the many ways our parishes have led with heart through the pandemic. At the same time, the theme will also orient our synod towards the future as we continue to live into our diocesan Mission Action Plan (MAP) and explore new and emerging avenues for mission.

The synod agenda committee is diligently working to plan for a half-day synod that will focus on the critical business of the Church and highlight stories of the Spirit working in our midst. While the way we gather will be different, most of the proceedings will feel familiar to past members of synod: Bishop Susan Bell will give her customary charge at the beginning, the 2019 auditor’s report will be received, and members of synod will consider the diocesan budget for 2021. There will also be a featured presentation about our diocesan Mission Action Plan (MAP) which was affirmed by last year’s synod and approved by synod council in January.

For good measure, we will also have a few resolutions proposing changes to our diocesan canons, including the addition of new canon relating to our Cathedral.

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/2020>) about the agenda, resolutions and background documents as it becomes available.

Additional notes:

- If you, or someone from your parish delegation, is not able to attend our synod, please contact Mary Anne Grant (maryanne.grant@niagaraanglican.ca) as soon as possible so we can contact the alternate delegate.
- Clergy with lay representatives who may not have access to email are asked to please distribute all relevant information as it is received.
- 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.

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CALLED TO LIFE
COMPELLED TO LOVE

As you know, elections for [provincial synod delegates](#) and for [synod council regional representatives](#) will both be conducted in advance of synod using an electronic voting platform. I will have more to say about this process in the coming weeks, but in the meantime, please consider letting your name stand for election.

In order to do so, nomination forms must be received by Mary Anne Grant no later than October 9, 2020.

[Provincial synod nomination form](#)

[Synod council nomination form](#)

Lastly, let me conclude by thanking you for your willingness to serve as a member of synod! Whether this is your first or fifteenth synod, I hope you will find it to be a spiritually enriching experience! I am really looking forward to working with you and supporting this vital 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 to the right.

The Venerable William (Bill) Mous
Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod