



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

September 21, 2021

To: Members of the Synod
Re: The 147th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

Dear friends:

Greetings! This year, the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara will once again convene virtually, via Zoom videoconference, on Saturday, October 30.

We have made this decision in order to keep us all as safe as possible and limit the potential for the spread of COVID-19 during the fourth wave of the pandemic. As with last year, we will still be able to attend to all of the essential work synods are called to undertake: the building up of our Church through prayer, discernment, and decision-making.

“Facing Forward: Called to Life, Compelled to Love” is the synod's theme, as selected by Bishop Susan Bell, as we look forward to the future with hope-filled expectation. Inspired by the Letter to the Philippians, chapter 4, verses 4-9, the theme invites members of synod to carry on the work of ministry with patient endurance, one foot in front of the other, trusting in God and the things that God loves. At the same time, the theme also points to our diocesan Mission Action Plan (MAP) and invites us to consider new, emerging, and uncharted opportunities for missional ministry.

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. Bishop Susan Bell will give her visionary charge to synod at the outset, the 2020 auditor's report will be received, members of synod will consider the diocesan budget for 2022, along with a few canon changes too. Several ministry presentations, including a report from the Anti-Racism Working Group, are also planned to share how, through the diocesan Mission Action Plan, we are enlivening our faith, reshaping our culture and structures for mission, and fostering God's justice, especially as it relates to the climate crisis.

As you know, elections for [General Synod](#) delegates and for [Synod Council](#) regional representatives will both be conducted in advance of Synod using an electronic voting platform, similar to last year. Details will be shared in the coming weeks, but in the meantime please consider letting your name stand for election.

To do so, nomination forms must be received [by Mary Anne Grant](#) no later than September 30.

- [General Synod nomination form](#)
- [Synod Council nomination form](#)

I want to invite you to register for one of our two upcoming pre-Synod meetings. Simply click on the date and time which works best for you: [Tuesday, October 5 at 7pm](#) or [Thursday, October 7 at 3pm](#). These meetings are an opportunity to learn about the proposed budget and some of the other matters that will come before synod, and to ask any questions you may have!

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CALLED TO LIFE
COMPELLED TO LOVE

A few additional notes to share:

- The full and complete convening circular will be posted by mid-October, but we hope to share information on our synod webpage about the agenda, resolutions, and background documents as they become available.
- If you, or someone from your parish delegation, is not able to attend synod, please [contact Mary Anne Grant](#) as soon as possible so we can contact the alternate delegate.
- Clergy with lay representatives who may not have ready access to email are asked to please distribute all relevant information as it is received. An email address will also be required for voting purposes.
- All delegates will be required to register for synod using our Zoom platform. Details about this process will be shared in early October.

Lastly, let me conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude for your willingness to serve as a member of synod! Whether this is your first or final 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 ministry in the life of our diocese.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me by email at bill.mous@niagaraanglican.ca or 905-527-1316 ext. 330 if I can be of assistance as you prepare for our upcoming synod.

Sincerely,

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

The Venerable Bill Mous
Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod