



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF  
NIAGARA

September 16, 2022

To: Members of the Synod  
Re: **The 148<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Niagara**

Dear friends:

Greetings! I write to welcome you as a member of the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara! This year we are planning to gather virtually, via Zoom videoconference, on Friday, November 4, and in-person on Saturday, November 5 at the [Burlington Convention Centre](#).

“God’s Church for God’s Mission” is the theme chosen by Bishop Susan Bell for Synod, drawing inspiration from the theme of the Lambeth Conference held this summer in England. During our Synod, we will explore and pray on this theme alongside our diocesan Mission Action Plan and the Lambeth Calls. The Book of 1 Peter, the biblical foundation of the Lambeth Conference, will also be used as a lens for reflection throughout the Synod.

Archbishop Anne Germond, metropolitan of Ontario and archbishop of Algoma and Moosonee, will be our special guest during the Synod. Archbishop Anne’s extraordinary leadership has been a blessing to our province, especially during the pandemic, and we will be richly blessed by her presence among us at Synod.

The Synod Agenda Committee is actively working on crafting an agenda that attends to the important business of the Church while highlighting the many uplifting stories of the Spirit working in our midst. Bishop Susan Bell will give her charge to Synod on Saturday, the 2021 auditor’s report will be received, the 2023 diocesan budget will be considered along with a few canon changes too. Several ministry presentations and missional moments spotlighting how we’re living into our diocesan Mission Action Plan will be shared, including reports from the Anti-Racism Working Group and Climate Justice Niagara.

As you know, elections for [Synod Council](#) regional representatives will 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 by [completing this nomination form](#) and returning it to [Mary Anne Grant](#) by September 30.

I also 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 4 at 7pm](#) or [Thursday, October 6 at 3pm](#). These meetings will be about an hour and a half in length and are a great 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!

A few additional notes to share:

- The full and complete convening circular will be posted by mid-October, but already there is some information on [our Synod webpage](#) and we’ll be sharing more about the agenda, resolutions, and background documents as they become available.

Cathedral Place  
252 James St. N.  
Hamilton, ON  
L8R 2L3

Tel: 905-527-1316  
niagaraanglican.ca

**CALLED TO LIFE**  
**COMPELLED TO LOVE**

- If you, or someone from your parish delegation, is not able to attend both the online and in-person sessions of Synod, please [contact Mary Anne Grant](#) or myself 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.
- Member registration will happen virtually on Friday evening; more details will be available closer to the date of Synod. On Saturday, all you will need to do is pick up your name tag and voting card.
- Lunch is included on Saturday; please be sure to [email any dietary restrictions to Lorna Shaw](#) or you can call her 905-527-1316 x200 no later than Thursday, October 20.
- The Burlington Convention Centre is a wi-fi enabled facility, so you will be able to access synod-related documents on wireless devices. All important information at synod will also be presented on screens.
- 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.

With the pandemic persisting, there will be a number of protocols in place to keep members of synod as safe as possible when we gather in-person. First, we'll be meeting in a well-ventilated and spacious room, and our meals and breaks will take place in a separate room. Masking will be required except when eating or drinking; those with formal roles will also be able to lower their mask briefly while speaking from the lectern or head table. In addition, please plan to screen yourselves for COVID-19 symptoms before travelling to the Convention Centre and stay at home if you are feeling unwell. We will also have the benefit of widespread vaccination, and many of us will have been able to receive the updated bivalent vaccine by November.

Lastly, let me conclude by expressing my immense 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 as we join together for a time of prayer, discernment and decision-making! I am really looking forward to working with each of you and supporting this vital governance ministry in the life of our diocese.

Please don't hesitate to [be in touch by email](#) if I can be of assistance as you prepare for our upcoming Synod.

Sincerely,



The Venerable Bill Mous  
Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod