

# 160th Regular Session of Synod

November 25-27, 2021

## CONVENING CIRCULAR

## SECTION A (REVISED)

Please report, in writing, any errors or omissions in the Convening Circular  
to: Pamela Boisvert, Secretary of Synod  
Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto  
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## **Note to Synod Members:**

The content of this Convening Circular has been approved by Diocesan Council. Other information of interest to Synod members is available on the diocesan website [[www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca)].

This includes:

- List of Synod Members
- Diocesan Apportionment Calculations
- Diocesan Statistical Returns
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Other Reports to Synod

# NOTICE OF MEETING

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto, has signified his intention to assemble the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the 160<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod on:

- Thurs., Nov. 25, 2021 from 6:45 pm to 8:30 pm
- Fri., Nov. 26, 2021 from 9:45 am to 5:00 pm  
(lunch from 12 noon to 1 pm), and
- Sat., Nov. 27, 2021 from 9:45 am to 12:00 noon

The meeting will be held virtually using an Online Event Platform. Watch your email for a link and password to access the webpage.

## THEME

The theme of this 160<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod is **‘Love Thy Neighbour.’** In reflecting on these words with the Galatians, Paul writes, “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” To the Corinthians, he writes, “Let all that you do be done in love.”

Since we last met as a Diocese in 2019, the importance of this gospel commandment has been shown to us in increasingly challenging ways. In a world beset by pandemic, loving our neighbour has meant keeping our physical distance – but not our spiritual distance. In a society marred by discriminatory and privileged systems, loving our neighbour has meant bearing prophetic witness to injustice, and testifying to God’s call to love without barriers. On a planet crying out for care, loving our neighbour has meant caring for God’s creation, so that God’s love can be known to future generations.

As followers of Christ, we are committed to loving our neighbours in word and deed, by our witness, and above all, in the very structures that guide us as a Diocese. In all places throughout this Diocese, parishes and individuals are already dedicated to loving our neighbours in a multitude of



REGULAR SESSION OF SYNOD 2021



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

compassionate and gospel-led ministries, including affordable housing initiatives, anti-bias and anti-racism training, drop-ins and creation care.

At this Synod, we'll celebrate the great diversity of this Diocese, and reflect on how we are equipped to make our love known to every neighbour, in every place. And we'll give thanks that in Jesus Christ, God gives to us the model of how we should love each other, our neighbours, and this world, just as God has loved us.

## TIMELINE

Sept. 8	Deadline for General Synod nominations
Sept. 24	Convening Circular posted on the website
Oct. 2	Pre-Synod (York-Simcoe) Pre-Synod (Trent-Durham)
Oct.23	Pre-Synod (York-Scarborough) Pre-Synod (York-Credit Valley)
Oct. 28	Diocesan Council [last scheduled meeting before Synod]
Nov. 10	Convening Circular - Section A (Revised) posted on the website
Nov. 25	Opening Worship and FaithWorks 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
Nov. 26-27	Synod



# PRE-SYNOD MEETINGS

Episcopal Areas will hold Pre-Synod Meetings to prepare for the upcoming Regular Session of Synod. The meetings will be content-rich to ease some of the pressure from Synod's Agenda.

Mark your calendar to hold one of the following dates for a virtual meeting:

## Sat., Oct. 2, 2021

- York-Simcoe from 9 am to 12 noon
- Trent-Durham from 1 pm to 4 pm

## Sat., Oct. 23, 2021

- York-Scarborough from 9 am to 12 noon
- York-Credit Valley from 1 pm to 4 pm

## Who is eligible to attend?

In addition to clerical and lay members of Synod, treasurers and one churchwarden from each parish may attend the area meeting.

## Area Elections

Prior to the area Pre-Synod meeting, the Area Bishop will constitute a Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of nominees for election to Diocesan Council at the area Pre-Synod meeting. Each Episcopal Area will elect one (1) clerical and two (2) lay members to Diocesan Council. Only voting members of Synod may be nominated and only members of Synod may vote.

Visit the [Pre-Synods](#) page to learn more.



# PRE-SYNOD AGENDA

Sat., Oct. 2, 2021 – York-Simcoe &

Sat., Oct. 23, 2021 – York-Scarborough

Time	Description	Section	Motion
8:30 a.m.	Member login/credentialing Members are encouraged to login early.		
9:00 a.m.	Welcome		
	Announcements/Housekeeping		
	Overview of Synod		
	Since Synod 2019 Diocesan Council's Report to Synod Single-Use Plastics Affordable Housing Diocesan Environmental Plan Investment Committee	A  Other Reports to Synod	#3
	Missional and Outreach Moment		
	Scheduled Break		
	Governance Working Group	G	
	Constitution and Canons	F	#9/#10
	Area Elections to Diocesan Council		
	Scheduled Break		
	Financial Overview Financial Report for 2020 Audited Financial Statements for 2020 Appointment of Auditors for 2021 Financial Update for 2021	C C C	#4 #5 #6
	Priorities and Plans 2021-2022	D	#7
	Assessment Rate for 2022	E	#8
	Notices of Motion	A	#11
	Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and Communities	A	#12
	Missional and Outreach Moment		
	Results of Area Elections		
12:00 p.m.	Wrap-up		

# PRE-SYNOD AGENDA

Sat., Oct. 2, 2021 – Trent-Durham &  
Sat., Oct. 23, 2021 – York-Credit Valley

Time	Description	Section	Motion
12:30 p.m.	Member login/credentialing Members are encouraged to login early.		
1:00 p.m.	Welcome		
	Announcements/Housekeeping		
	Overview of Synod		
	Since Synod 2019 Diocesan Council's Report to Synod Single-Use Plastics Affordable Housing Diocesan Environmental Plan Investment Committee	A  Other Reports to Synod	#3
	Missional and Outreach Moment		
	Scheduled Break		
	Governance Working Group	G	
	Constitution and Canons	F	#9/#10
	Area Elections to Diocesan Council		
	Scheduled Break		
	Financial Overview Financial Report for 2020 Audited Financial Statements for 2020 Appointment of Auditors for 2021 Financial Update for 2021	C C C	#4 #5 #6
	Priorities and Plans 2021-2022	D	#7
	Assessment Rate for 2022	E	#8
	Notices of Motion	A	#11
	Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and Communities	A	#12
	Missional and Outreach Moment		
	Results of Area Elections		
4:00 p.m.	Wrap-up		

# SYNOD AGENDA

**Thurs., Nov. 25, 2021**

Time	Description
6:45 p.m.	Opening Worship
	Service of Holy Communion Bishop's Charge to Synod
	FaithWorks 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
8:30 p.m.	Closing

**Fri., Nov. 26, 2021**

Time	Description	Section	Motion
9:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer		
10:00 a.m.	Opening of Synod		
	Announcements/Housekeeping		
	Approval of Agenda	A	#1
	Omnibus Motion	A	#2
	Scheduled Break		
	Notices of Motion	A	#11
	Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and Communities	A	#12
	Missional and Outreach Moment		
	Since Synod 2019 Diocesan Council's Report to Synod Single-Use Plastics Affordable Housing Diocesan Environmental Plan Investment Committee	A  Other Reports to Synod	#3
	Bishop's Committee on Healing		
12:00 p.m.	Missional and Outreach Moment		
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break		
1:00 p.m.	Reconvene		
	Episcopal Leadership		
	Governance Working Group	G	
	Scheduled Break		
	Constitution and Canon Changes Pilot Governance Project	F	#9/#10



	Constitution and Canonical Changes		
	Missional and Outreach Moment		
	Election of Synod Council members (if necessary)		
	Scheduled Break		
	Election of General Synod members	A	
	Members' Time		
	Evening Prayer		
5:00 p.m.	Adjournment		

### Sat., Nov. 27, 2021

Time	Description	Section	Motion
9:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer		
10:00 a.m.	Reconvene		
	Financial Overview		
	Financial Report for 2020	C	#4
	Audited Financial Statements for 2020	C	#5
	Appointment of Auditors for 2021	C	#6
	Financial Update for 2021		
	Priorities and Plans 2021-2022	D	#7
	Assessment Rate for 2022	E	#8
	Missional and Outreach Moment		
	Members' Time		
	Election of Honorary Secretaries		
	Wrap-up		
12:00 p.m.	Closing Prayer and Hymn		

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Online Event Platform

The same Online Event Platform will be used for Pre-Synods and Synod. The user experience will be similar to that of a webinar. Unlike Zoom we will not be able to see each other during the meetings or message each other in the chatbox. The platform is designed to stream-out all the presentations.

The link and password to access the Online Event Platform will be emailed to members of Synod. To complete the login process, members will need to provide their first name, last name, email address and parish/ministry.

## Captioning Services

Captioning services will be provided during Pre-Synod and Synod for a large portion of the programme. Word-for-word transcription of speech to text will be displayed on the lower third of the screen.

## Call in Centre

If you wish to ask a question or make a comment at Pre-Synod or speak to a motion at Synod, you will need access to a telephone in order to call a 1-800 number. A Call-in Centre will be managing the queue and announce when callers are on the line. More detailed instructions will be provided during the meeting.

## Electronic Voting

We will be using Simply Voting to conduct online voting. This is the same technology that we have used in the past at previous Synods when we had “clickers”.

When it's time to vote, detailed instructions will be provided. Voting members will click on the home page link in the Online Event Portal. Users will be redirected to new webpage. To vote, members will be asked to submit

their Elector ID and Password emailed to all voting members during the week of September 27, 2021, and again one hour before the meeting start time.

If your login was successful, you will be shown a menu listing all current ballots in which you are eligible to vote. If you have not yet voted, you may click on the ballot name and an electronic ballot will appear.

Once you submit a ballot, the results are encrypted and stored in a database. Your Elector ID is then flagged as "voted" and will not be eligible to vote on this ballot again.

### **Missional Moments and Outreach Moments**

At Pre-Synods and Synod, you will hear about how our Diocese is living out its vision in our Missional Moments and Outreach Moments. In the Missional Moments, you will hear about how communities in our Diocese are moving beyond their walls to find new ways of meeting people who are not being reached by traditional forms of church. In the Outreach Moments, you will hear about how our churches are reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the homeless, and all those most vulnerable members of our society.

### **Social Media**

The diocesan social media channels will be updated on a regular basis. Synod Members and other parish leaders can connect with the Diocese of Toronto through its Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube accounts.



<https://www.facebook.com/torontoanglican>

<https://twitter.com/anglicandioto>

<https://www.instagram.com/anglicandioto/>

<http://www.youtube.com/tordio135>

For more information, please contact Martha Holmen by email at [mholmen@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:mholmen@toronto.anglican.ca) or by telephone at 416-363-6021 (1-800-668-8932) ext. 222.

# MEMBERS OF SYNOD

## Lists of Members of Synod

The names of Synod members, both clerical and lay, are listed on the diocesan website [[www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca)]. If you are a member of Synod and your name is not listed, contact Pamela Boisvert at [pboisvert@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:pboisvert@toronto.anglican.ca) or 416-363-6021 (1-800-668-8932) ext. 231 as soon as possible.

## Clerical Members

Clerical members are those who qualify under Section 2 of The Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Toronto.

## Retired Clergy

Retired clergy [The Constitution, Section 2, (4)] are clergy on the retired list who regularly attend Synod, until such time as they miss two consecutive meetings of Synod without showing cause, or a total of four meetings of Synod whatever the cause. Retired clergy (voting and non-voting) are listed on the diocesan website.

## Lay Members

Lay Members are those who are:

- a) Elected by parish vestry,
- b) Ex-officio [The Constitution, Section 3 (16)],
- c) Bishop's Appointees [The Constitution, Section 3 (4)],
- d) Youth and Young Adult Members [The Constitution, Section 3 (17)] or
- e) Substitute lay members, elected by parish vestry, who attend in lieu of an elected member who is unable to attend.

## From *The Constitution*

Substitute Lay Members [*The Constitution* Section 3 (8)]

- a) Substitute Lay Members may be elected by a Vestry or a Designated Ministry, and such Substitutes shall, in the order of their election, take



the place of regular members who from any cause are unable to attend the session or sessions of the Synod during the period for which they are elected.

- b) A substitute Lay Member shall serve only during the Session of Synod for which such lay Member is reported to the Synod to act and shall not be eligible for election to any Standing Committee of the Synod.
- c) It shall be the duty of the Incumbent to notify the Secretary of the Synod of the appointment of the substitute to act as a member not later than the day preceding the first day of the Session of Synod for which such Lay Member is appointed, giving the name and address of the substitute and also the name and address of the member in whose place the substitute is acting. The Incumbent shall certify also that such substitute was elected at a meeting of the Vestry in the regular way, and fulfills the requirements of a lay member.

## MOTIONS FOR SYNOD

A motion is a formal proposal brought to a voting body for its consideration. Motions require a mover and a seconder and are decided by a vote after a period of debate, the length of which is the pleasure of the Chairperson.

A Notice of Motion is a formal notice (in writing) by a voting member that they intend to make a motion.

### **Procedures for Sessions of Synod according to Canon 1(2)**

- Notices of Motion can be delivered to the Secretary of Synod at any time. Such notices are placed upon the Agenda of the next meeting of Diocesan Council.
- Notices of Motion are printed verbatim in the Convening Circular. The Diocesan Council has the ability to express an opinion or make a recommendation to Synod on any Notices of Motion received.
- Any Notices of Motion received by the Secretary of Synod after the last regular meeting of the Diocesan Council are referred to the Agenda Committee. The Agenda Committee reports its recommendations to Synod. Such Notices are placed on the agenda only with the consent of the majority of the Synod present and voting.
- Motions from the floor and all amendments must be given to the Secretary of Synod, in writing, at the time of their presentation.

All motions are subject to possible amendments, which also require a mover and a seconder. If an amendment is moved and seconded, it must be debated and voted upon before any further debate or consideration of the original motion. If an amendment is successful, then the original motion is changed by the amendment and debated and voted upon as if it were the original motion.

### **How to Speak to a Motion at Synod**

If you wish to ask a question or make a comment at Pre-Synod or speak to a motion at Synod, you will need access to a telephone in order to call a 1-800 number. A Call-in Centre will be managing the queue and announce when callers are on the line.

To speak to a motion,

- Write down your thoughts and only offer new perspectives. If your point has already been made, you may hang up the phone.

When you are advised by the operator to speak:

- clearly state your name and parish or ministry,
- state if you are in support or against the motion,
- state your thoughts as clearly as possible,
- finish with a thank you.

Unless you are the mover or seconder, you may only speak once to each motion.

Canon 1, Section 2, concerning Motions, reads as follows:

### **Notices of Motion**

1. Notices of motion for Synod shall be delivered to the Secretary of Synod at any time. Such notices shall be placed upon the agenda of the next meeting of the Diocesan Council.

2. The Diocesan Council shall cause notices to be printed verbatim in the Convening Circular ... with or without expressing any opinion or making any recommendation.
3. Any notices of motion received by the Secretary of Synod after the last regular meeting of Diocesan Council ... shall be referred to the Agenda Committee. The Agenda Committee shall consider such notices and report its recommendation to Synod. Such notices shall be placed on the agenda only with the consent of the majority of the Synod.
4. Each notice of motion for the enactment, amendment, or repeal of any part or provision of the Constitution or any canon, by-law or rule of order, shall be in writing, and shall set out in full the part or provisions affected and the proposed enactment or amendment.
5. A motion to enact, amend, or repeal a part or provision of the Constitution or of any canon, by-law, or rule of order, shall become effective upon:
  - a. Having been recommended for adoption by the Diocesan Council; and
  - b. Receiving the approval of not less than seventy-five percent of the members of Synod present and voting at the session at which it is considered; and
  - c. Receiving the assent of the Bishop.
6. A motion to enact, amend, or repeal a part or provision of the Constitution or any canon, by-law, or rule of order, which shall not have been recommended for adoption by the Diocesan Council, shall nevertheless become effective upon:
  - a. Receiving the approval of not less than sixty percent of the members of Synod present and voting at two successive Regular Sessions of the Synod; and
  - b. Receiving the assent of the Bishop following the second of such approvals.
7. A motion to enact, amend, or repeal a part or provision of the Constitution or any canon, by-law, or rule of order, which shall have been recommended by the Diocesan Council, but which shall not have received the requisite approval referred to in clause 5(b) hereof, shall nevertheless become effective upon:
  - a. Receiving the approval of not less than fifty percent of the members of Synod present and voting at two successive regular sessions of Synod; and
  - b. Receiving the assent of the Bishop following second of such approvals.

8. Any motion to suspend a part or provision of the Constitution or any canon, by-law, or rule of order, if passed, shall only be effective until the next session of Synod, and shall become effective upon:
  - a. Having been recommended for adoption by the Diocesan Council; and
  - b. Receiving the approval of not less than seventy-five percent of the members of Synod present and voting at the session at which it is considered; and
  - c. Receiving the assent of the Bishop.
9. Notices of motion dealing with expenditures which will result in an increase in the Diocesan budget must be submitted to the Diocesan Council for its opinion prior to being dealt with by the Synod.

## MOTIONS COMING BEFORE SYNOD

### **Approval of Agenda - Motion# 1**

(Section A)

*The Diocesan Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:*

It will be MOVED by Peter Newell and SECONDED by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that the Agenda for the 160<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod be approved.

### **Omnibus Motion - Motion#2**

(Section A)

It will be MOVED by Peter Newell and SECONDED by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that:

*The Minutes of the 159<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod*

The Minutes of the 159<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held on November 8 and 9, 2019 in Richmond Hill, as prepared by the Honorary Secretaries be adopted.

*Courtesies of the House*

That the following be given Courtesies of the House:

- All clergy with 'Informal Permission',
- All postulants of the Diocese,



- Any lay chairperson, deanery council member, or area council member not a member of Synod,
- Ecumenical partners,
- Lay Canons of the Diocese,
- Lay faculty of theological colleges,
- Members of the Threshold Ministries,
- Members of the Order of the Holy Cross,
- Sisters of St. John the Divine,
- Sister of the Church,
- Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit,
- Diocesan Parish Administrators, and
- Mark Hemingway.

*York Rectory Commissioners and Committee on Etobicoke Glebe*

That the report of the First York Rectory Commission be received, and that the following be appointed Commissioners for the distribution of the First York Rectory Fund and the Etobicoke Glebe for 2022:

- Chancellor Clare Burns
- Joy Packham, PMP, ODT
- The Rev. Shelly Pollard

*Advisory Commission on the Termination of Clerical Appointments*

That the following be elected by Synod to the Advisory Commission on Termination of Clerical Appointments:

- Vice-Chancellor Brian Armstrong, ODT
- The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark
- Kennedy Marshall, ODT

**Diocesan Council's Report to Synod - Motion# 3**

(Section B)

*The Diocesan Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:*

It will be MOVED by Peter Newell and SECONDED by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that Synod receive the document entitled *Diocesan Council's Report to Synod*.

**Financial Report for 2020 - Motion #4**

(Section C)

*The Diocesan Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:*

It will be MOVED by Peter Newell and SECONDED by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that Synod receive the Financial Report for 2020 from the Interim Director of Finance.

**Audited Financial Statements for 2020 - Motion #5** (Section C)

*The Diocesan Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:*

It will be MOVED by Peter Newell and SECONDED by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald Synod receive the Audited Financial Statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and the Cemetery Fund for the year ended December 31, 2020.

**Appointment of Auditors - Motion #6**

*The Diocesan Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:*

It will be MOVED by Peter Newell and SECONDED by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that the firm of Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants, be appointed to conduct the audit of the Financial Statements of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and, on behalf of unitholders, as Auditors for the Cemetery Fund for the year ended December 31, 2021, at a fee to be approved by the Audit Committee.

**Priorities and Plans and Budget for 2022 - Motion#7** (Section D)

*The Diocesan Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:*

It will be MOVED by Peter Newell and SECONDED by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that Synod receive the document entitled *Priorities and Plans for 2022* and the *Financial Budget for 2022* and approve the priorities and the financial budget contained therein. It will be further moved that Diocesan Council report back to Synod on this plan.

**Assessment Rate for 2022 - Motion #8**

(Section E)

*The Diocesan Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:*

It will be MOVED by Peter Newell and SECONDED by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald that the Parish Assessment Rate, as defined in Canon 4, section 2, be set at 24.70% for 2022.

**Constitution and Canons - Motion #9**

(Section F)

*The Diocesan Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:*

It will be MOVED by Chancellor Clare Burns and SECONDED by Vice-Chancellor Brian Armstrong that Synod approve the changes to Canon 15, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in the Convening Circular.

**Pilot Governance Project – Motion #10A (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

(Section G)

It will be MOVED by Chancellor Clare Burns and SECONDED by Vice-Chancellor Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to the Pilot Governance Project at pages 5 and 6.

**Pilot Governance Project – Motion #10B**

*The Diocesan Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:*

It will be MOVED by Chancellor Clare Burs and SECONDED by Vice Chancellor Paul Baston that Synod approve the changes to The Canons, and also suspend Canons 2, 3, 5, 31, 36, 37, 39, and 44 s.3 and 44 s.5(g) until the next Regular Session of Synod, as recommended for approval by Diocesan Council and presented in Section F of the Convening Circular with respect to the Pilot Governance Project at pages 4 to 12.

## Pilot Governance Project – Motion #10C

*The Diocesan Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:*

It will be **MOVED** by Chancellor Clare Burns and **SECONDED** by the Rev. Canon John Anderson that the Pilot Governance Project approved by Synod as motion 7A(ii) at the 159th Regular Session of Synod held on November 8, 2019 as amended in the slide attached as Schedule “A” hereto be implemented on January 1, 2022 to continue for a period of two years with report backs to Synod on a semi-annual basis.

### *Schedule A*

## A Proposal for Synod Council Membership

Category of Member	Sub-Category of Member	Member of Synod	Sub-Totals	Totals
<b>Office Holders</b>	Bishop of Toronto	Yes	1	6-8
	Suffragan Bishops	Yes	2-4	
	Chancellor (Chair of Risk and Governance Committee)	Yes	1	
	Honorary Clerical Secretary of Synod	Yes	1	
	Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod	Yes	1	
<b>Bishop's Appointments</b>	3 Committee Chairs (clergy or laity)	Yes	3	8
	Up to 5 Appointees (clergy or laity)	Yes	5	
<b>Elected</b>	5 Lay Members of Synod <b>elected at Synod</b>	Yes	5	10
	5 Clerical Members of Synod <b>elected at Synod</b>	Yes	5	
<b>Non-Voting</b>	Executive Director	Yes		1 (non-voting)
<b>Total Membership of Proposed Synod Council</b>				<b>25-27</b> (including 1 non-voting)

### Notices of Motion

### **Motions from Members of Synod – Motion #11** (if applicable)

The Secretary of Synod has not received any Notices of Motion as of November 4, 2021.

## Motions from Diocesan Council

### **Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and Communities – Motion 12** (Section A)

*The Diocesan Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:*

It will be MOVED by Chancellor Clare Burns and SECONDED by the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw that:

Whereas the Diocese of Toronto is committed to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and Communities;

And Whereas the Diocese has made a series of investments in the work of such reconciliation by among other things:

- Providing through The Diocese of Toronto Foundation an annual grant through the Robert Falby Memorial Endowment for Aboriginal Ministry;
- Providing through FaithWorks ongoing annual support of the Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM);
- In 2021, approving through Diocesan Council a tithe from the Ministry Allocation Fund (MAF) in the amount of \$300,000 to the Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre to support the “Spirit Garden” project;
- In 2018, approving through Diocesan Council a tithe from the Ministry Allocation Fund (MAF) in the amount of \$250,000 to the Anishnawbe Health Foundation to support the new “Anishnawbe Health Toronto” project; and
- In 2014, granting an Our Faith-Our Hope grant of \$500,000 to the Council of the North.

And Whereas the Diocese wishes to engage in a process of formation to better understand how it can further support and engage in the work of reconciliation in an intentional and fruitful way;

Now therefore the Diocese of Toronto, commits for the period between now and December 31, 2026, to making such formation a financial priority of the Diocese by spending up to the current balance of the MAF tithe (on a rolling basis) for this purpose. For greater clarity, this motion is not intended to fetter the discretion of Diocesan Council to authorize spending internal to the Diocese from other sources for this purpose.

# ELECTIONS FOR GENERAL SYNOD

Under *The Constitution* of the Diocese of Toronto and *The Constitution of General Synod*, Synod is required to elect 7 clergy and 7 lay members to serve as members of General Synod.

The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada is the Church's chief governing and legislative body. It is made up of members from every diocese and all three orders (lay people, priests and bishops) from across the country. It meets every three years, during which members exchange information, set policy for the Church and pass resolutions and canons. In years when the General Synod does not meet, the Church is governed by the Council of General Synod (CoGS), effectively a smaller subcommittee with a similar mandate and similar powers.

The 43rd session of the General Synod will take place in Calgary, Alberta during the Assembly with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). Assembly takes place from July 13 to 17, 2022 with ELCIC departing the morning of July 16 and members of General Synod continuing with business until the end of the day on July 17. During the Assembly, the two governing bodies will meet both together and separately.

## Slate of Nominees

7 Clerical Members to be elected:

- The Rev. Canon Dr. Eric Beresford (St. Timothy, North Toronto)
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Philip Der (St. Christopher)
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields (St. James Cathedral)
- The Rev. Molly Finlay (St. John the Baptist, Norway)
- The Rev. Roshni Jayawardena (Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit)
- The Rev. Stephen Kern (St. Philip on the Hill)
- The Rev. Orvin Lao (Trinity East)
- The Rev. Lucia Lloyd (St. John, Bowmanville)
- The Rev. Graham McCaffrey (Grace Church in Scarborough)
- The Rev. Erin Martin (St. James the Apostle, Sharon)
- The Rev. Mark Regis (St. Mary and St. Martha)
- The Rev. Canon Janet Read-Hockin – (St. Cuthbert, Leaside)

- The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner (Grace Church, Markham)
- The Rev. Susan Spicer (St. George, Pickering Village)
- The Rev. Claudette Taylor (Epiphany & St. Mark, Parkdale)
- The Rev. Pam Trondson (Christ Church, Scarborough)
- The Very Rev. Stephen Vail (St. James Cathedral)

7 Lay Members to be elected:

- Chris Ambidge, ODT (Church of the Redeemer)
- Stephen Masson, ODT (St. Paul on the Hill, Pickering)
- Yvonne Murray, ODT (St. John the Divine, Scarborough)
- John O'Dell (Nativity, Malvern)
- Ryan Ramsden, ODT (Grace Church in Scarborough)
- Gail Smith (St. Andrew, Scarborough)
- Marion Thompson, ODT (St. Mark, Port Hope)
- David Toycon, ODT (Trinity Church, Streetsville)
- Mary Walsh, ODT (St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges)
- Laura Walton, ODT (Holy Trinity, Clearview)

### **Biographical Information**

Nominees for General Synod were asked to submit a maximum of 150 words highlighting past parish leadership roles and what gifts, strengths and experience they would bring to this ministry. The first 150 words verbatim of their submissions is included below.

Clerical Members:

- **The Rev. Canon Dr. Eric Beresford** (St. Timothy, North Toronto) - For the past five years I have been the incumbent of St. Timothy North Toronto. In addition to congregational ministry, I bring a breadth experience directly relevant to the important work critical to the future of General Synod. As a staff member for both General Synod and for the Anglican Communion Office I worked with communion and ecumenical partners in the area of ethics. As a priest, teacher, and a seminary president, I have worked with the challenges of preparing individuals for, and supporting them in, ministry in a church and world facing profound change. I have provided leadership in strategic planning and in evaluation of ministry to address such change, all in a

context where resources are limited and unlikely to grow anytime soon. The seminary where I was president was ecumenical and I remain deeply committed to the gifts a vibrant Anglican Church can bring to ecumenical ministry.

- **The Rev. Canon Dr. Philip Der** (St. Christopher) - Philip was born in Taiwan, grew up in Hong Kong and migrated to Canada in 1984. Ordained deacon in 1994 and priested in 1996. He specialized in youth ministry (1994-2000), then in discipleship and congregational development at St. Elizabeth's, Mississauga (2000-2013), and in missional transformation at St. Christopher's (2013 – present). He received D. Min. (Fuller, 2016) in Missional Leadership and Cert. of Conflict Resolution (Justice Institute of BC, 2002). He served as Provincial Synod delegate (1998-2000), VST Board, Church Planter accessor, Communication, Area Council, PEMG etc. Co-Chair at Bayview Secondary School Council (2014-2021), York Region Interfaith Advisory Network, General Synod (2018-2021), awarded "Outstanding Ward 3 Volunteer Achievement" Award (2017), "Canada 150 Community Builder Pin Award" (shared, 2017) and installed Canon (2018). Founder of Mississauga Yee Hong Spiritual Care and GTA Chinese Anglican Joint conference. Authored "Love Your Neighbours" and "Love Our Mission Field" missional small group series.
- **The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields** (St. James Cathedral) - The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields has served as the Associate Priest at St. Michael & All Angels, the Incumbent at St. Stephen's, Downsview and Holy Trinity, Thornhill. He is the newly appointed Sub-Dean & Vicar of St. James Cathedral. He was the Founding President of The Downsview Youth Covenant, youth outreach program. He has served as member of the Diocesan Council, the Executive Board, the Postulancy Committee and Commission on the Termination of Clerical Appointments, and several other boards, working groups and committees. He was a long-serving member of the diocesan multicultural project, No Longer Strangers, the founding coordinator



of The Black Anglicans Coordinator Committee (BIACC), and is a member of the Black Anglicans of Canada. He was a member of General Synod in 2013. He believes that the General Synod of our Church, like our Synod, should reflect the rich diverse members of our church and wider society.

- **The Rev. Molly Finlay** (St. John the Baptist, Norway) - Molly is the Incumbent of St. John the Baptist, Norway. Prior to her current appointment, Molly served as Associate Priest at Christ Church Deer Park and Assistant Curate at All Saints' Whitby. During her ministry, Molly has launched discipleship and outreach programs, as well as new forms of worship aimed at reaching newcomers. Before her call to ordination, Molly enjoyed a career in television journalism later serving as a senior advisor to both Cabinet Ministers and the Premier of Ontario. She has extensive communications experience in the private and not for profit sectors. As an active layperson Molly volunteered at the All Saints' Sherbourne drop-in for several years, was a member of the Anglican Church of Canada's Resources for Mission Committee and is an Associate of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine. She is married to Sam Robinson and has two teenage daughters, Georgia and Elle.
- **The Rev. Roshni Jayawardena** (Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit) - Roshni is the incumbent of Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit. She got her Masters of Divinity from Trinity College, was ordained in 2018 and completed her curacy at the Church of the Redeemer, where she led Children and Family Ministry. She also served at St. Margaret's New Toronto, St. George's-on-the-Hill and St. Peter's Erindale. Roshni was raised in a multi-faith home and this fostered her interest in interfaith ministry. Roshni has had a variety of leadership positions in the Diocese including being Co-Coordinator of the Interfaith Committee, member of the Diocesan Response Team, and member of the Episcopal Leadership Working Group. Prior to ordination, Roshni worked in corporate event management and now enthusiastically uses these skills for sharing the gospel through mission and outreach. As a new



priest, Roshni is eager to learn from opportunities and people as she shares her experience and grows with the Church.

- **The Rev. Stephen Kern** (St. Philip on the Hill) – In 2019, then 25 year old Australian Parliamentarian Chloe Swarbrick shut down a heckler during her speech on climate change with two words, "OK, boomer." It went viral. I admit I was born in the years defining the boomer generation (1946-1964) and have been shaped in the following decades. Yet, I am moved in support of the concerns of our younger generations, even as I cherish those generations who have led the church in years past. I would be honoured to use my acquired skills and experiences and as a husband, father, pastor, seminary lecturer, teacher, spiritual director and “gentleman farmer” in the service of General Synod. Deo volente. I stand for inclusion, respectful dialogue, reflective listening, mutual understanding, collaborative planning and effective action. I was honoured to serve as chair of the Bishop’s Committee on healing for a number of years, and currently serve as a Fresh Start facilitator.
- **The Reverend Orvin Lao** (Trinity East) - Graduated M.Div. with specialisation in pioneering and missional ministries. Was a student intern at St. Paul’s L’Amoreaux and served in their outreach ministries and their church plant initiative in their local neighbourhood. Thereafter, served as a lay pastoral associate at St. Paul’s Bloor Street for three years, was appointed lay pastor at St. George the Martyr during its transition, and led and hosted The Alpha Course for several years. Currently serving as the Community Connections Pastor at Little Trinity, to integrate newcomers and new families into the parish, overseeing the Sunday Evening service, facilitating the five missional communities within their local neighbourhood ministries throughout Toronto, and restarting The Alpha Course and several formational and discipleship courses in the parish.
- **The Rev. Lucia Lloyd** (St. John, Bowmanville) - I serve on Diocesan Council, Area Council, and Executive Board. I am a facilitator for Anti-



Bias and Anti-Racism workshops in the Diocese of Toronto. I am Co-Chair of the ecumenical Bowmanville Ministerial Association. I attended the 2019 General Synod as an observer, shortly after I arrived in Canada two years ago. I served as deputy at two General Conventions of The Episcopal Church when I was in the Diocese of Virginia. I was a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Virginia, member of the Nominating Committee for Bishop and member of the Transition Committee for Bishop, Dean of the Northern Neck Region, President of the Northumberland County Ministerial Association, and founder and leader of Interracial Conversations. My gifts and strengths include faith, curiosity, collaboration, open communication, and, that even with all its frustrations and flaws, I genuinely love this kind of thing.

- **The Rev. Graham McCaffrey** (Grace Church in Scarborough) - Graham is the Incumbent of Grace Church, Scarborough, where he has served the entirety of his ministry, beginning as Assistant Curate, then Priest-in-Charge, before becoming Incumbent in 2016. Graham seeks to listen and build bridges between different groups of people, a skill honed in the amalgamated parish of Grace Church. Having lived around the world and experienced the breadth of the Anglican Communion, Graham understands the need for walking together in unity even in the midst of difference. In the past, Graham has served on the Vital Church Planting Conference planning committee, the Back-to-Church Sunday committee of the Diocese, and is part of a new and upcoming generation of leaders who are excited about the Church's future and the opportunity to see the Gospel flourish in our time. Graham is married to Bethany, a minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and father to two young daughters.
- **The Rev. Erin Martin** (St. James the Apostle, Sharon) – For the past eight years Erin has been the incumbent of St. James the Apostle in Sharon, ON. She has also served as Regional Dean of the Holland Deanery since June of 2020. As Incumbent of St. James, Erin has been fortunate to be one of the founders of We Are A Safe Place: for



2SLGBTQ+ youth. This ministry of love and inclusion has been one of her greatest joys. Erin has participated in various Diocesan committees and ministries including Diocesan Council and the Executive Board, the Area Councils of York-Scarborough and York-Simcoe, the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee, Diocesan Reach Grant Panel, Fresh Start Facilitators, Back to Church Sunday Committee, and the Archbishop's Youth Ministry Team.

- **The Rev. Mark Regis** (St. Mary and St. Martha) – Mark served as a clerical delegate for General Synod 2019. Currently, he serves as co-chair of the Postulancy Committee, regularly engages in strategic dialogue with the College of Bishops for the future flourishing of gospel ministry in our Diocese, and was member of the Nominations Committee for the most recent diocesan episcopal election. He held a variety of strategic roles as Associate Priest at St. Paul's Bloor Street, gave oversight to family ministries as Pastoral Associate at St. Timothy, Agincourt, and before that, Director of a Ministry program, Officer of Admissions & Recruitment, and Spiritual Direction Administrator at Wycliffe College. He currently serves as Priest-in-Charge of the Church of St. Mary & St. Martha, a richly diverse amalgamated community with a large and exciting redevelopment portfolio. He has an enduring curiosity and commitment to the future of Christ's Church and is humbled to be part of it.
- **The Rev. Canon Janet Read-Hockin** (St. Cuthbert, Leaside) – Janet has served in a breadth of ministry environments and has been honoured to “share in the councils of the Church.” She seeks to love and serve Christ in all people and strives to help others grow in, and embody, the love, grace and service Christ first showed us. Currently the Priest-in-Charge of St. Cuthbert's Leaside, she has served previously at St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff (Incumbent), St. Thomas, Shanty Bay (Incumbent), St. Matthew, Islington (Associate Priest) and St. Michael and All Angels (Assistant Curate). Within our Diocese, she is co-chair of the Postulancy Committee and has previously served on the following committees: Clergy Remuneration, Reach Grant,



Episcopal Nominations and Trusts. She also served as co-chair of the Momentum Program and was a General Synod Delegate in 2019 and 2006. Janet's gifts include faithfulness, insight born out of broad ministries, collaboration and respect.

- **The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner** (Grace Church, Markham) - I am currently the Incumbent at Grace Church, Markham and have served in various roles in the Diocese since moving to Canada in 2001. I have been a Regional dean, served on numerous committees including the Executive Board, Diocesan Council, the former church planting group, I co-led the Momentum programme for many years, am a curacy supervisor and am currently on the Postulancy Committee. I am passionate about community involvement and helping the Christian faith and local church to be accessible to everyone. During the pandemic my church focussed on helping seniors get vaccinated and it has been a great way of meeting more of the community. It was an immense privilege to attend GS2019. That was my first General Synod experience and I would be honoured to be part of the Toronto delegation again.
- **The Rev. Susan Spicer** (St. George, Pickering Village) - Susan is the incumbent of the affirming church of St. George's Ajax. She co-wrote the Policy on Marriage for the Diocese in 2020, and co-chairs the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care. She is a fresh start facilitator, and currently training as an anti-racist/anti-bias parish facilitator. She is a director for the Anglican Foundation of Canada and chairs the grants committee. She was ordained a priest in 2012 and served the rural parish of Fenelon Falls. She holds a BA (McGill), an MA (UToronto) in Drama, and an MDiv (Trinity). Before ordination she was a theatre director and a columnist for Today's Parent. Susan finds hope in the church's commitment to truth, reconciliation and indigenous self-determination, and is committed to a sacramental life that includes everyone. She is honoured by this nomination and will bring hard work, prayerfulness and compassionate listening as a member of GS.

- **The Rev. Claudette Taylor** (Epiphany & St. Mark, Parkdale) – As Priest Warden during the incumbency of the Rev. Canon Michael Burgess, I was encouraged to offer time and talent to further the work of ministry in administrative and liturgical roles. As a Lay Reader, I continued in more liturgical roles as well as identifying, and encouraging members of the congregation to offer their gifts as readers, and counters in those two ministries. Team building continued with the formation of The Social Ministry team initially begun to assist in the Incumbent’s Fund-Raising drive. This Ministry has evolved over the years to include a wider range of Outreach programs and activities and the learning opportunities to all participants as we became more involved in activities both within and outside the church community. I enjoy working collaboratively with others, a skill that I further developed working in a congregation with diverse skills and life experiences.
- **The Rev. Pam Trondson** (Christ Church, Scarborough) - I am passionate about the life of the church, its relevance for pew-sitters and those outside, its integrity and how it seeks to be true to the Trinity, utilising Scripture, tradition, reason and experience. In General Synod decisions I would support equality for all, the common good in all, and sensitivity to the Spirit during all. My way is not to have all the answers but, as a big-picture, ideas person, to grapple with the questions. Currently, I am Incumbent at demographically/ethnically-diverse, Christ Church Scarborough (six years). I was previously Associate Priest and Curate at St. Paul's, Newmarket for four. My involvement in Anglican churches as a lay person has been in various capacities in the provinces of Newfoundland, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia (lay ministry training which included an internship with First Nations people). I am a harmonizer/collaborator who seeks a way forward, often with a sense of humour.
- **The Very Rev. Stephen Vail** (St. James Cathedral) – Dean Stephen Vail was born and raised in Nova Scotia and was ordained there in

1991. He came to the Diocese of Toronto in 2001, and has served in multi-point, rural, suburban, small town and urban parishes. He has been involved in a number of committees, co-chaired the Postulancy Committee and was the Archdeacon of Trent Durham before becoming Dean of Toronto. A father of two, he enjoys reading, nature and the simpler things of life.

### Lay Members

- **Chris Ambidge, ODT** (Church of the Redeemer) - Chris Ambidge has been a member of Diocesan Synod many times, off-and-on since the 1970s, and a member of General Synod several times. He has served as Honorary Secretary of Diocesan Synod, and most recently as a member of Diocesan Council and of Executive Board. He is active with Proud Anglicans, working for full membership of LGBTQ2S people within the Anglican Church in Canada. He was a member of Archbishop Finlay's dialogue group on the position of gays and lesbians in the church, and continues to work for all to find a home in the Church, despite differences of opinion. He has been on many committees and task-forces at both the National and Diocesan level. While a lay person, Chris is seminary trained, and has recently served a term as Churchwarden of his parish, Redeemer Bloor St.
- **Stephen Masson, ODT** (St. Paul on the Hill, Pickering) - I am blessed to have served in diocesan and parish ministry, and welcome the opportunity to serve as a General Synod delegate. A life-long Anglican, I have been formed through Anglican youth ministry (AYM/Core), and have served as a warden, specifically supporting stewardship and spiritual growth. As a former member of Diocesan council, I bring an understanding of the important role that the diocese plays in supporting parish work, growth and ministry. I have worked in many parishes as an NCD congregational development volunteer. It has been a rewarding way to assist parishes in seeing their strengths and their way forward, in challenging times. As an educator and vice-principal in our public schools, I daily see the church's opportunity to



bring love, equity and justice. I would bring my parish, diocesan, congregational development, and educational experience and commitment to the ministry of serving as a member of General Synod.

- **Yvonne Murray, ODT** (St. John the Divine, Scarborough) – Yvonne is a dedicated and committed member of her Parish where she has been serving in leadership roles for years. She is the Treasurer, a member of the Chancel Guild and has served as a Warden. More recently, Yvonne has been on the Steering Committee for the amalgamation of her Parish and two other parishes. Currently, she is on the Transition Team. At the Diocesan level, Yvonne serves on the Parish Finance Advisory Committee and has been a member of the Diocese Budget Working Group. She is a member of the Leadership Team of the Black Anglicans of Canada and has been a volunteer in her community mentoring grade school students. As a member of General Synod, Yvonne will bring her knowledge and experience of the Diocese and Parishes to the role and is passionate about being actively involved in assisting the church in achieving its vision, mission and values.
- **John O'Dell** (Nativity, Malvern) - John has immersed himself fully in the work and witness of his parish. On several occasions he has served as a member of the Corporation. Currently, he is the Chair of the church's Parish Search Committee, and a member of the anti-black racism committee. In his professional capacity, his expertise is in contract negotiations, grievances, arbitrations, mediation, and investigations. He is a national representative for one of Canada's largest unions, representing workers in fields varying from Telecommunications to Courier Service. He is also a member of the Human Rights and Workers of Colour committees of the Ontario Federation of Labour and was a Recipient of the African Canadian Achievement Awards for Community Service. He represents an often-missing demographic in the church, the young black man, and believes his perspective is one that could enable our General Synod to better respond to the needs of this and similar demographics.





- **Ryan Ramsden, ODT** (Grace Church in Scarborough) - Ryan is a lay leader at Grace Church in Scarborough, where he has been instrumental in the ongoing formation and growth of the parish. Since the amalgamation in 2011, he has written numerous successful grant proposals, has served as a churchwarden for 7 terms, and serves as the Coordinator of Events & Communications, and Coordinator of Servers & Chalice Bearers. Over the past 12 years, Ryan has served numerous terms as a member of Diocesan Council, Area Council, Diocesan Synod and General Synod. This year alone, Ryan has taken part in the consultation for Diocesan anti-bias and anti-racism training, the consultation for the apology to the LGBTQ2S+ community, was elected as a board member of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation, and was a recipient of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto. Ryan is a graduate of Ryerson University in Business Management, and works in purchasing for Seneca College.
- **Gail Smith** (St. Andrew, Scarborough) – Gail D. Smith is a member of the Church of St. Andrew, Scarborough, Ontario where she started worshipping at the age of two. Her ministries have included eucharistic minister, lay reader, intercessor, Parish Council chairperson, member of the Selection Committee, Synod representative and chorister. For 15 years, she sang with the Juno Award-winning interdenominational gospel group, Toronto Mass Choir. Gail views sitting on the Diocesan Trust Committee and Governance Committee as extensions of her ministry, the opportunities for which she is grateful. Professionally, Gail worked for TD Canada Trust for 20 years before deciding to return to school at Osgoode Hall Law School. She now manages her own successful law practice focussing on criminal defence work, wills and estates and real estate transactions. Ministry both within the formal church and as part of her profession situate Gail well to share members' concerns and to contribute ideas at General Synod.
- **Marion Thompson, ODT** (St. Mark, Port Hope) - Active in this Diocese since 1990 and many times a Churchwarden, I have been a lay

delegate to Diocesan Synod and represented Trent-Durham on Diocesan Council. I was a member of General Synod 2013, 2016, and 2019. Formerly a member of the Diocesan Chaplaincy Committee, the Board of Directors of The Bridge Ministry, and the Board of Directors of St. Simon's Shelter, Inc., a volunteer at Barrett House (an AIDS shelter), and other chaplaincy ministries, I continue in St. Peter's Food Bank, Oshawa. I have served as a licensed lay reader, and hold an MDiv (Trinity '08). I am a founding member of The Marion Singers. I offer broad knowledge of the Diocese and the Anglican Church of Canada, thanks to my experience and contacts at many levels, and I believe I would be a valuable member of General Synod 2022.

- **David Toycen, ODT** (Trinity Church, Streetsville) – I've been a member of Trinity Streetsville since 1988 serving in various capacities. Over the years I have taught Sunday School, led small groups, served as a Warden, and chaired numerous Stewardship Campaigns. Currently, I'm Rector's Warden and serving on the Diocesan Executive and the Diocesan Council. I served on the Diocesan Bishop's Budget Committee 2022. My passion is thriving churches – meeting the spiritual, social needs, witnessing to life in Jesus Christ and addressing injustice, racism, and care for creation. Also, I led an initiative for churches in North Peel to identify new ways of bringing renewal and growth to parishes. As CEO of World Vision Canada, I was able to learn from churches around the world. We have major challenges in Canada, but we can work together and seek God's guidance and move forward. We must make decisions, but we can do so with generosity and grace.
- **Mary Walsh, ODT** (St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges) - Serving within the Diocese since 1978, Mary was awarded the Order of the Diocese of Toronto in 2017 and elected as delegate to General Synod 2019 and Provincial Synod 2021. She continues to make a profound impact in her church with the many roles she holds: Churchwarden, Screening Co-ordinator, Prayer Team Member and Lay Member of Synod. Mary is passionate in her commitment to follow Jesus with the expectation



that Jesus is leading His Church for His glory. A vote for Mary as delegate for General Synod 2022 is a vote for our best future of our Diocese and the Anglican Church. She will bring wisdom, experience, humour, discernment and grace, with a desire to see every community in our country transformed. Active in her local community, Mary is president of her condominium corporation; an awarded volunteer at Mackenzie Health Hospital; and a member of the Girl Guides of Canada.

- **Laura Walton, ODT** (Holy Trinity, Clearview) - Laura is a business person and writer with a background in marketing, procurement and sales. Currently, Laura is warden and treasurer for Holy Trinity, Clearview as well as a youth worker and musician. At the diocesan level, she volunteers on the Review Committee for the Anglican Foundation, is a member of the Diocesan Response Team and Diocesan Council. Her past positions include being Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for General Synod, Executive Board member, Agenda Committee member, General Synod member and held the position of Honorary Lay Secretary to Synod. Laura is currently a member of Provincial Synod and serves as its Prolocutor, is a member of the Provincial Synod Executive Council and continues in her role as the Children's Ministry Network Coordinator for the Diocese consulting with parishes in the area of children's and young family ministry.

## ELECTIONS FOR THE PROPOSED SYNOD COUNCIL

The Nominating Committee issued a call for expressions of interest from people across the Diocese who were interested in serving on the proposed Synod Council or one of its Committees. This would only be needed if Synod approves the Governance Pilot Project.

See [Call for expressions of interest to serve on Synod Council or one of its Committees](#) for more information.



The deadline to receive names was Wednesday, October 20, 2021 and later extended. Nominees were asked to submit a maximum of 150 words highlighting past parish leadership roles and what gifts, strengths and experience they would bring to this ministry. The first 150 words verbatim of their submissions is included below.

### **Synod Council**

The Synod Council would be an amalgamation of the Diocesan Council and the Executive Board. The Synod Council would generally exercise the executive powers of the Synod between sessions except those of a legislative character.

At its upcoming meeting, Synod will elect 5 Clerical Members and 5 Lay Members to serve on the Synod Council.

### **Slate of Nominees**

5 Clerical Members to be elected:

- The Rev. Simon Bell (St. Margaret, Barrie)
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Eric Beresford (St. Timothy, North Toronto)
- The Rev. Don Beyers (St. Anne, Toronto)
- The Rev. Susan Climo (Holy Spirit of Peace)
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields (St. James Cathedral)
- The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD (St. John's Convent and St. George on Yonge)
- The Rev. Maria Ling (St. Elizabeth, Mississauga)
- The Rev. Lucia Lloyd (St. John, Bowmanville)
- The Rev. Graham McCaffrey (Grace Church in Scarborough)
- The Rev. Matthew McMillan (St. Mary, Richmond Hill)
- The Rev. Jesse Parker (St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope)
- Major the Rev. Canon Brad Smith (St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough and Parish of Belmont)

5 Lay Members to be elected:

- Chris Ambidge, ODT (Redeemer, Bloor St.)
- Mario Bartolozzi (St. Matthias, Bellwoods)
- Robert Hart (St. James Cathedral)
- Issa Horani (St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough)
- Carolyn Kearns, ODT (Christ Church, Deer Park)

- Finn Keesmaat-Walsh (Redeemer, Bloor St)
- Heather McGregor, ODT (St. Mary Magdalene)
- Cynthia Majewski (St. Clement, Eglinton)
- Dr. Peter Oulton (Trinity East)
- Sandy Richmond, ODT (St. George, Allandale)
- David Toycen, ODT (Trinity, Streetsville)
- John van Nostrand (Messiah)
- Laura Walton, ODT (Holy Trinity, Clearview)

## Biographical Information

### Clerical Members:

- **The Rev. Simon Bell** (St. Margaret, Barrie) - The Revd. Simon is the Incumbent of St Margaret of Scotland in Barrie. He has served in a broad range of parish roles: as Lay Pastoral Assistant at St Thomas and Youth Pastor of St John's in the Diocese of Cape Town; as Youth Pastor at St Gregory's Dawlish, England; Director of Education at St Clements Eglinton, Curate at Ascension Port Perry and Incumbent of St George the Martyr Parkdale. He has an academic background in Social Anthropology, theological education and youth ministry. He is the author of Happy in my Skin - youth ministry in a multi-cultural context. He served as the Advisor on multiculturalism to the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England and as a Congregational Development Consultant to the Diocese of Toronto. He has a passion for church planting and parish renewal in rural and urban ministry. He co-runs a family sheep farm in Tiny.
- **The Rev. Canon Dr. Eric Beresford** (St. Timothy, North Toronto) - Eric has served parishes in Canada and the UK. Currently incumbent of St, Timothy's North Toronto he was previously President of Atlantic School of Theology, a seminary serving Anglican, Roman Catholic and United Churches. He has wide experience of the church at every level. He worked as Consultant for Ethics and Interfaith Relations for the Anglican Church of Canada, was seconded from there to the work of the Anglican Communion Office and worked with the Anglican Consultative Council, and the Primates of the Anglican Communion. He established the Anglican Communion Environmental Network. In Canada he was co-chair of the Ecological Justice Committee of Kairos and has chaired task groups appointed by General Synod. Within the Diocese Eric has served on the budget committee, and the Bishop's Writing Group on Marriage Policy

(Equal Marriage). He currently serves on PEMG, The Bishop's Creation Care Committee, and Diocesan Council.

- **The Rev. Don Beyers** (St. Anne, Toronto) - After 15 years of lay ministry in parish and university settings and several years in senior leadership roles with a publishing house, I was ordained for Toronto. Since ordination, I've served as curate at Christ Church, Stouffville, incumbent at Christ Church, Bolton, and now as pastor at St. Anne's. Ministry highlights include the renewal of a university chaplaincy program, which increased student and faculty participation and heightened the ministry's role in university life as well as leading a parish through the successful resolution of long-standing legal and property issues, all-the-while increasing membership and enriching parish faith formation and spiritual life. I'm committed to working towards a renewal of our Church's mission and enriching the spiritual and faith life of our churches and the communities in which we find ourselves. Moreover, I advocate sustainable models of administration and governance that ensures the future of life-giving ministry.
- **The Rev. Susan Climo** (Holy Spirit of Peace) - I have always been engaged in and committed to the work of the wider church. I served on the Worship Team for the 2016 General Synod and the Planning Teams for the 2018 and 2021 Diocesan Clergy Conferences; I have been Regional Dean of Mississauga and Chair of York-Credit Valley Area Council since 2018. As an ordained Lutheran pastor and incumbent of a merged Anglican-Lutheran congregation, I also participate in leadership in the ELCIC. I am on the Eastern Synod's Return to In-Person Worship Task Force. I serve on the GSI (Pension and Benefits) Board, and chair the Professional Leadership Committee. I also sit on the national Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission. I believe I would bring to Synod Council a deep love for the church, a demonstrated ability to work collaboratively, and a unique perspective borne of my work and experience in both the Anglican and Lutheran traditions.
- **The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields** (St. James Cathedral) - I have served as The Associate Priest at St. Michael & All Angels, the Incumbent at St. Stephens, Downsview and Holy Trinity, Thornhill. Recently, I was appointed Sub-Dean & Vicar of St. James Cathedral. I am the Founding President of The Downsview Youth Covenant, youth outreach program, which after 10 years became a registered charitable organization. I have served as member of the Diocesan Council, the Executive Board, the



Postulancy Committee, Commission on the Termination of Clerical Appointments, more recently the Episcopal Leadership Working Group, and many other working groups, boards, and committees. I have also served the wider church as a member of General Synod and coordinator of several international conferences and consultations.

- **The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD** (St. John's Convent and St. George on Yonge) - Since ordination in 2007, I have served three parishes, but I have been in leadership at St. John's Convent since 1994 when I was first elected Rev. Mother. Both as lay person and since ordination, I taught on the adjunct faculty of Wycliffe College, served on the Diocese's Postulancy Committee, and served as consultant and retreat leader for many parishes. I began and continue to provide leadership to the Sisterhood's program for Companions (a residential formation program for women), and I have had experience nationally as a Toronto delegate to General Synod and member of several General Synod committees. I would bring a passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ, a fearless openness to the new ways the Spirit of Jesus Christ is calling us to share the gospel of love in a fiercely divided and hurting world, and the importance of engaging young people in that holy task.
- **The Rev. Maria Ling** (St. Elizabeth, Mississauga) - In full-time Christian ministry for over 35 years in various capacities & countries. Have organizational skills and works efficiently. Exercises the gift of spiritual discernment. Brings a hybrid sensibility towards diversity and tradition. Possess cultural awareness and sensitivity. Committed to being a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- **The Rev. Lucia Lloyd** (St. John, Bowmanville) - I serve on Diocesan Council, Area Council, Executive Board, and the Constitution & Canons Committee. I am a facilitator for Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism workshops in the Diocese of Toronto. I am Chair of the ecumenical Bowmanville Ministerial Association. I attended the 2019 General Synod as an observer, shortly after I arrived in Canada two years ago. I served as deputy at two General Conventions of The Episcopal Church when I was in the Diocese of Virginia. I was a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Virginia, member of the Nominating Committee for Bishop and member of the Transition Committee for Bishop, Dean of the Northern Neck Region, President of the Northumberland County Ministerial Association, and founder and leader of Interracial Conversations. My gifts and strengths include faith, curiosity,





collaboration, open communication, and, that even with all its frustrations and flaws, I genuinely love this kind of thing.

- **The Rev. Graham McCaffrey** (Grace Church in Scarborough) - Graham is the Incumbent of Grace Church, Scarborough, where he has served the entirety of his ministry, beginning as Assistant Curate, then Priest-in-Charge, before becoming Incumbent in 2016. Graham seeks to listen and build bridges between different groups of people, a skill honed in the amalgamated parish of Grace Church. Having lived around the world and experienced the breadth of the Anglican Communion, Graham understands the need for walking together in unity even in the midst of difference. In the past, Graham has served on the Vital Church Planting Conference planning committee, the Back-to-Church Sunday committee of the Diocese, and is part of a new and upcoming generation of leaders who are excited about the Church's future and the opportunity to see the Gospel flourish in our time. Graham is married to Bethany, a minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and father to two daughters and a son.
- **The Rev. Matthew McMillan** (St. Mary, Richmond Hill) – The Rev. Matthew McMillan currently sits on; Diocesan Council, York-Simcoe Area Council and The Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries. He has been a cleric of the Diocese for over 14 years and is Incumbent of St. Mary's, Richmond Hill (2017-Present). Matthew is a Director of the Richmond Hill Ecumenical Housing Corporation, which operates 500 units of affordable housing and is working to break ground on a \$35 million build of another 100 units in 2022. Matthew served as a Lay Member of Diocesan Council (2003-06) and chaired the Diocesan Youth Ministry Board (2003-08). He served on the Board of Trustees at Trinity College (2004-06) and as Chair of the 'Innisfil Refugee Committee' (2016-17). He has served in the parishes of; St. Peter's On-the-Rock, Stony Lake (Summers of 2018-21), Churchill and Cookstown (2009-17) and St. Timothy's, Agincourt (2007-09). Matthew resides in Richmond Hill with his wife Pam and their four children.
- **The Rev. Jesse Parker** (St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope) – Jesse Parker is Incumbent of St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope and Regional Dean of Durham-Northumberland. Jesse is currently a member of Diocesan Council and Executive Board and serves on the governance and property working groups. Jesse is a member of the Trinity College Board of Trustees, Trent-Durham Area Council, the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee (housing subcommittee) and past board member of the





Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation, St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Centre, and Royal St. George's College. He is the past representative of the Diocese of Toronto to the PWRDF. Before his ordination in 2011, Jesse was a schoolteacher, fundraiser, and lead singer of a rock band.

- **Major the Rev. Canon Brad Smith** (St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough and Parish of Belmont) - Before coming to Toronto, Brad served in the Diocese of Ontario in the Parish of Tyendinaga, as Regional Dean of Quinte and Archdeacon of Ontario, on the Justice and Peace Commission, Synod Agenda Committee, and Diocesan 150th Anniversary Planning Committee, and was the Diocesan MC. He was appointed to St John's, Peterborough, in 2015. Since then he has served on the Trent-Durham Area Day Planning Committee, as priest-in-charge of the Parish of Belmont, as a member of Diocesan Council and Trent-Durham Area Council, and as a member of the Regional Ministry and Episcopal Leadership Working Groups. Brad has a passion for justice, mission, Indigenous reconciliation, and Christian discipleship and formation. He has extensive experience in committee work, parish and diocesan administration, and has overseen a number of successful amalgamations and regional ministry formations. Brad also serves as Deputy 4th Canadian Division Chaplain (Canadian Army) and Canon Liturgist, Anglican Military Ordinariate.
- **The Rev. Claudette Taylor** (Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale) - *Envelope Secretary*-Applied financial literacy skills and understanding of accounting systems to the position. Priest Warden-Further developed management skills, collaboration, team building, creativity, and active listening in this role. Continuous learning opportunities were available through Diocesan workshops. *Social Ministry Committee*-Formed to initially oversee hospitality-based activities and eventually expanded to provide support outside the church community. e.g. financial support to bring water to African villages, financial support to local Parkdale communities, Flemingdon Park Ministry, Council Fire. Other activities included provision of new warm clothing, and knitted items with distribution by another Committee every Christmas. *Ambassador for Truth and Reconciliation*-Commitment to educating parish on Aboriginal history through stories, activities, and liturgical practices for many years. Fellowship, education--trips to First Nations communities and Black History sites. The history and contribution of Blacks in Canada. through stories, activities, and liturgical practices. *Also*-Lay Reader, Healing Minister, responsibility for Readers and Counters.

## Lay Members:

- **Chris Ambidge, ODT** (Redeemer, Bloor St.) - Chris Ambidge has been a member of Diocesan Synod many times, off-and-on since the 1970s, and a member of General Synod several times. He has served as Honorary Secretary of Diocesan Synod, and most recently as a member of Diocesan Council and of Executive Board. He is active with Proud Anglicans, working for full membership of LGBTQ2S people within the Anglican Church in Canada. He was a member of Archbishop Finlay's dialogue group on the position of gays and lesbians in the church, and continues to work for all to find a home in the Church, despite differences of opinion. He has been on many committees and task-forces at both the National and Diocesan level. While he is a lay person, Chris is seminary trained, and has recently served a term as Churchwarden of his parish, Redeemer Bloor St.
- **Mario Bartolozzi** (St. Matthias, Bellwoods) – Mario has served as YCV lay representatives to Diocesan Council. He has been a member of Executive board this past year as well as volunteering as MAP facilitator and technology volunteer. Attending St. Matthias Bellwoods for about 12 years, serving as a reader, cantor, occasionally writing music for the service, synod delegate advisory board member and chairing the parish Mission Action Planning Committee. As a retired IT professional, last working as the retail CIO and currently as a consultant to small agencies & not-for-profits in developing their technology presence, he brings a strong of understanding organizations, technology and finance to the table. Mario has been an active community volunteer with AIDS Committee of Toronto, Make a Wish Canada and Princess Margaret Hospital. Mario looks forward to using his experience to improve, change and move things forward in the Diocese in service to God and his faith.
- **Robert Hart** (St. James Cathedral) - Robert Hart has attended St. James for 40 years. He has volunteered and held leadership roles at the Cathedral on numerous committees and served as both rector's and people's warden. Since retirement as a secondary school principal, Robert has also volunteered as a coach for the diocese working with parish selection committees as well as supporting a congregation looking to raise up deacons for their parish.



- **Issa Horani** (St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough) – In 1991, I joined St. Paul, Lindsay and joined the volunteer group to complete the church renovation from 1994 to 1995. I joined the crosia movement in 1995 and continued with altria group since that time where they are not active at this time. In 1996, I moved to Peterborough and joined St. George, Peterborough for a few months due to my connection with my crucia group the joint All Saints, Peterborough where it is closer to my dwelling by that time. I kept my contact and period service visits until recently. In 1999, I joined St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough and I am still going there. I served in the property management committee, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, Renewing the Spirit Renovation Committee and Member of Synod and Advisory Board. I served as sidesperson shortly after I joined in 1999 until the last few years I joined most of the.
- **Carolyn Kearns, ODT** (Christ Church, Deer Park) – I was christened at Christ Church Deer Park (CCDP), confirmed and married at Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill, and attended Trinity College at the university of Toronto. As a member of CCDP, I served as Deputy, People’s and Rector’s wardens, and currently a member of the Parish Stewardship Committee. I chaired the Parish Selection Committee that led to the appointment of The Rev. Canon Cheryl Palmer, and the strategic planning process that was completed in 2019. I have been involved with the Diocese as a member of the Diocesan Council and the Executive Board (2018). On January 1, 2019, I was honoured to be made a member of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto. In 2019/2020, I facilitated a sub-committee of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation (ADTF) in the development of a renewed mission statement and governance structure which is being implemented.
- **Finn Keesmaat-Walsh** (Redeemer, Bloor St) - Finn Keesmaat-Walsh has served on Diocesan Council off and on since they were sixteen years old. They are currently a member of the Faith, Worship, Ministry coordinating committee for the national church, and they are the Ontario Youth Delegate to the Council of General Synod. They have served on many task forces and advisory groups both on the diocesan and national levels. Finn has trained in youth ministry as part of the Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program and currently volunteers with the Church of the Redeemer youth group. Finn is passionate about youth involvement in the church, and as Synod Council doesn't have an official youth representative, they hope to bring the youth's voice into the council.

- **Heather McGregor, ODT** (St. Mary Magdalene) - I have been a member of my parish for over 50 years and in that time have occupied a variety of roles: Rector's Warden, People's Warden, Vestry Clerk, and chair of two successful capital campaigns among other duties and responsibilities. I am currently the CEO of YWCA Toronto and have many years of human resources experience working with a staff of over 400 people. In that time I have been an active participant in highlighting progressive issues of diversity, equity, compensation, and support for our employees. I am familiar with employment best practices and employment legal issues. I would be honoured to contribute my experience and knowledge to the Diocese through membership in a Human Resources Committee or by participation on Synod Council.
- **Cynthia Majewski** (St. Clement, Eglinton) - Cynthia retired from a 30-year career as leader of a non-profit health care improvement network. Focused on collaboration, innovation, and shared learning, she brings this experience into many volunteer roles, secular and non-secular. Familiar with parish governance she has held roles as warden, sides-team captain at St Clement's Church; as Seniors' Ministry Animator she co-produced a Seniors' Ministry Plan in 2019 through an appreciative inquiry process. As diocesan volunteer, she oversaw all volunteers for 2016 National Synod in Toronto. Since 2018 she participates on Project Enabling and Monitoring Group, Reach Grant Panel and was appointed to Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries. In 2021 in a contract with The Innovative Ministry Centre, she co-created with an Advisory Group an assessment tool and accompanying guide for evaluation of innovative ministry. To this nomination she brings a passion for growth & change, listening for God's guidance as the church emerges from this pandemic.
- **Dr. Peter Oulton** (Trinity East) - With Little Trinity since fall 2012 and serving in various ways, my service in leadership has been that of Lay Synod delegate for the previous two sessions. Identification with the parish was not uninformed but intentional. To it I bring a broad theological education with an interest in Contemporary ecclesiology and its challenges. Out of this came a respect for the liturgies with their intentional welcome and recognition of divine presence in worship. Upon graduation I sought out an Anglican body behind the ritual practice. First introduced by a body outside the Anglican Communion, but in a manner contiguous with its forms. Of a free-church structure, I served that body's senior (board) leadership for the better part of two decades. This

involved significant physical development decisions, on its executive, hiring committee, and as board staff liaison during pastoral transition. I believe this experience might serve Synod Council or a committee.

- **Sandy Richmond, ODT** (St. George, Allandale) – Sandy is a very active member of St. George, Allandale and is currently the Synod Member and the chair of its Membership Committee. Sandy has been active not only at the parish level but also at the diocesan level and he was named to the Order of the Diocese of Toronto in 2015 for his dedication. Sandy was the chairperson of the diocesan Chaplaincy Committee, a position he held for 22 years, and he has sat on both Diocesan and Area Councils. In spare time, he is a volunteer in the Palliative Care Ward at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie. Sandy feels he still has a great deal to offer the wider Church and would be pleased to serve as a member of Provincial Synod.
- **David Toycen, ODT** (Trinity, Streetsville) – I’m interested to serve on the Synod Council for another term because my experience has been very positive. Currently I’m serving as Rector’s Warden at Trinity Streetsville. My family has been part of Trinity for 33 years. My passion is thriving churches who are receiving the support and encouragement they need to grow, even in this so challenging times. It’s not simply about numbers but also the spiritual growth of parishes and the engagement with the critical social issues we face in our communities. I believe there are ways that we can work together as parishes to increase our effectiveness and learn from each other. Also, we must be diligent with our financial and property resources. The Synod Council is responsible to provide supervision of these resources of the Diocese on your behalf, working with a talented Diocesan staff, Area Bishops and Bishop Absil to make wise decisions.
- **John van Nostrand** (Messiah) - I am a registered Architect + Planner and am the Founding Partner in SvN Architects + Planners in 1978, I have led a broad range of Projects with organizations such as Fred Victor, the YWCA, Toronto Community Housing, the Salvation Army, Wigwamen Homes, Anduhyaun etc. including my original home Church of The Ascension (Hamilton). We have built over 45 new Places of Worship, and 25-30% of our affordable housing projects have been developed in close collaboration with Churches including the Anglican Church, United Church, Unitarian Churches and many other churches located in developing countries in Africa, Latin America and across Northern Canada. I served as a Member of the Derwyn Shea Committee at Wycliffe

and am really interested in helping refine the Diocesan focus on maximizing church properties for worship, residential and other needed social and local economic uses.

- **Laura Walton, ODT** (Holy Trinity, Clearview) - Laura is a business person and writer with a background in marketing, procurement and sales. Currently, Laura is churchwarden and treasurer for Holy Trinity, Clearview as well as a youth worker and musician. At the diocesan level, she volunteers on the Review Committee for the Anglican Foundation, is a member of the Diocesan Response Team and Diocesan Council. Her past positions include being Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for General Synod, Executive Board member, Agenda Committee member, General Synod member and held the position of Honorary Lay Secretary to Synod. Laura is currently a member of Provincial Synod and serves as its Prolocutor, is a member of the Provincial Synod Executive Council. She brings experience in both the realm of finances and HR along with decades of parish and volunteer management skills.

