



162nd Regular Session of Synod

November 17 – 18, 2023

CONVENING CIRCULAR

SECTION A

GENERAL INFORMATION 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
135 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1L8

pboisvert@toronto.anglican.ca

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- Section F** Governance Review - New Synod Council Structure
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- Cast the Net**

Note to Synod Members:

The content of this Convening Circular has been approved by Synod Council. Other information of interest to Synod members is available on the diocesan website.

[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



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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 162nd Regular Session of Synod on Nov. 17-18, 2023 at the Sheraton Parkway, Toronto North.

Fri., Nov. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

and

Sat., Nov. 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

at the

Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites

600 Hwy 7 E, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1B2

<http://www.sheratonparkway.com/>

905-881-2121



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HOTEL LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

If your GPS device does not recognize 600 Hwy 7 East, Richmond Hill, L4B 1B2, use 9005 Leslie St, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1G7. If you need assistance, call the hotel at 905-881-2121.

From east (Hwy 401):

- Hwy 401 east
- Hwy 404 north
- Hwy 7 west
- The hotel is 2 lights down on the north side of the road, just past the Esso station

From north (Hwy 404):

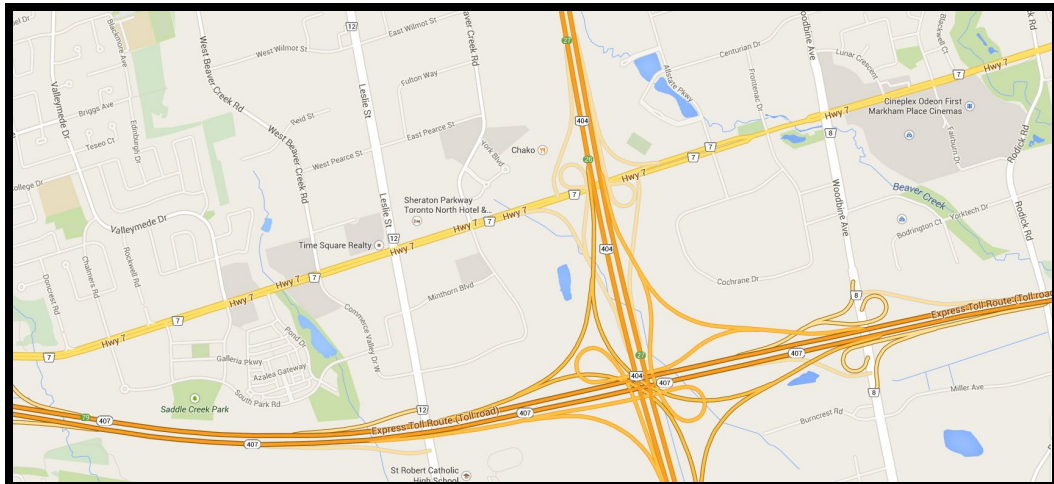
- Hwy 404
- Highway 7 west for 1 block
- The hotel is 2 lights down on the north side of the road, just past the Esso station

From north (Hwy 400):

- Highway 400 south
- Highway 7 east
- The hotel is just beyond Leslie St on the north side of the road

From south (DVP/Hwy 404):

- DVP North (which will turn into Highway 404)
- Highway 7 west for 1 block
- The hotel is 2 lights down on the north side of the road, just past the Esso station



Hotel Parking

All hotel guests and visitors receive complimentary daily and nightly parking for the duration of their stay or visit.



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Public Transportation

To customize your trip and to find directions from your house to the hotel, please visit:



<http://www.ttc.ca/>



<http://www.gotransit.com/>



<http://www.yorkregiontransit.com/>

THEME

The theme for the 162nd Regular session of Synod is “**Cast the Net**”.

Jesus said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some [fish]” (John 21:6). Jesus’ instructions come to the disciples after a long night of fishing, with not a single fish to show for it. For a group of experienced fishermen, it had to be a disappointing and frustrating outing. And the command to simply try casting their net on the other side of the boat must have seemed absurd! What difference could that possibly make? Surely it could not be as simple and obvious as that? What could this “stranger” possibly know about fishing that they don’t?

Not realizing it was the risen Lord directing them, the disciples do as he says, and in an instant their world goes from one of scarcity to abundance. From no prospects to endless possibilities. From an empty net to one so full they could barely haul it in – more than they could ever ask for or imagine.

John tells us that this was the third appearance the resurrected Lord made to his disciples. And still, they don’t recognize him. That is until they experience the miracle of the enormous catch. Then they know – first the beloved disciple, then Peter, then the rest. It takes time for their imaginations and expectations to be reshaped as they learn to see the world with resurrection eyes. Nothing less than the whole of creation being renewed along with the reversal of scarcity and the return of the promise of abundance in creation that continues beyond Jesus’ earthly life. A mission the disciples are called anew by Jesus on that seashore



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to be a part of as Jesus makes breakfast for them. Another sign of abundance echoing back to the feeding of the five thousand and the promise of the hungry being fed. And his love and care for his tired, bewildered and hungry friends.

In another act of equal generosity, Jesus extends healing, grace, forgiveness and reconciliation to Peter so he might fully take up this call. It is the first time they are alone together since Peter's denial of him, also around a charcoal fire. And three times Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" It's a painful moment for Peter as he struggles to voice his loyalty to Jesus without any reference to his failure. "Yes, Lord: you know that I love you", he says twice, but it takes a third and final asking by Jesus for Peter to begin naming the truth: "Lord, you know everything". Now true restoration can begin – between Peter and Jesus, Peter and the disciples, and Peter with himself. Having experienced the power of grace firsthand – as one who is a sinner yet deeply loved and forgiven – Peter is ready to start his new vocation. To feed and tend others in Jesus' name.

We have learned so much as individual disciples of Jesus, local communities of faith, and a diocese as we too have been invited by the risen Lord to "cast the net" in different places, especially following this time of pandemic. As we trust the voice of the resurrected Jesus, we, like the disciples, have experienced the surprise and joy of empty nets becoming full as we've opened ourselves to offering ministry in new and different ways. Following consultation with laity and clergy across the diocese, the "Cast the Net" conversations and listening sessions have revealed both deep longings and hopes of how we might continue to do this by meeting both the challenges and opportunities in ministry we face as a diocese over these next five years. Recommendations will be brought forward to Synod this year on what this might look like, including a year of spiritual renewal for people to re-connect with their faith, deepen their own discipleship and be more articulate about their life in Christ.

Jesus comes to us again and again bringing abundant life wherever he goes. And calls us to do the same. To entrust our "nets" to him. "Follow me", Jesus says, summoning us on a journey with him for the sake of this world. There's no telling where his love will take us...



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PRE-SYNOD MEETING

A Pre-Synod Meeting to prepare for the upcoming Regular Session of Synod will be held on Oct. 21, 2023. The meeting will be content-rich to ease some of the pressure from Synod's Agenda.

Pre-Synod Agenda Sat., Oct. 21, 2023

Time	Description	Motion
8:30 am	Welcome	
	Since Synod 2022	#3
	Cast the Net	
	<i>Scheduled Break</i>	
10:00 am	Overview of Synod 2023	
	Notices of Motion	#11
	Governance Review	#4
	Missional and Outreach Moment	
	<i>Scheduled Break</i>	
11:05 am	Constitution and Canon Changes	#5A-D
	Missional and Outreach Moment	
	Financial Overview	#6, #7
	Priorities and Plans 2024-2025 Including Financial Budget	#8
	Wrap-up	
12:30 pm	Closing Prayer	



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162ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE SYNOD

Synod Agenda Fri., Nov. 17, 2023

Time	Description	Motion
8:30 am	Registration in the Thornhill Room (closes at 10:30 am)	
9:30 am	Opening Synod Eucharist Bishop's Charge to Synod	
	<i>Scheduled break if Eucharist finishes early</i>	
11:00 am	Call to Order	
	Approval of Agenda <i>Robson /Newland</i>	#1
	Consent Agenda (Omnibus Motion) <i>Robson /Newland</i>	#2
	Introductions	
	Since Synod 2022 Synod Council's Report to Synod <i>Robson /Newland</i>	#3
	Notices of Motion 2022 2023	
	Missional and Outreach Moment	
	Mid-Day Prayers	
12:00 pm	Lunch served in the Ballroom foyer	
	Scheduled free time	
1:30 pm	Reconvene, welcome back	
	Cast the Net	
	Governance Review <i>Robson /Newland</i>	#4
	Constitution and Canon <i>Creal/vanGent</i>	#5A-E
	<i>Scheduled Break</i>	
3:20 pm	Missional and Outreach Moment	
	Members' Time	
	<i>Travel to Breakout Room</i>	
	Concurrent Breakout Sessions	
5:00 pm	<i>Adjournment (in Breakout Sessions)</i>	
6:30 pm	Banquet Dinner in the Grand York Ballroom <i>Reflection</i>	
	Guest Speaker <i>The Rt. Rev. Mauricio Andrade, Bishop of Brasilia</i>	
	Evening Prayer	



Synod Agenda (continued)

Sat., Nov. 18, 2023

Time	Description	Notes
8:30 am	Breakfast served in the Ballroom foyer	
9:30 am	Reconvene	
	Morning Prayer	
	Financial Overview <i>Robson/Newland</i> <i>Robson /Newland</i>	#6 #7
	Priorities and Plans 2024-2025 and Financial Budget <i>Robson/Newland</i>	#8
	Scheduled Break	
10:40 am	Missional and Outreach Moment	
	Elections at Synod Synod Council General Synod Provincial Synod	
	Members' Time	
	Notices of Motion	#11
	Election of Honorary Secretaries <i>Creal/van Gent</i>	#9
	Announcements of Election Results Synod Council General Synod Provincial Synod	
	Guest Speaker Reflection	
	Bishop's Wrap up	
	Termination of the meeting Robson	#10
1:00 pm	Closing Prayer	



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Accommodation

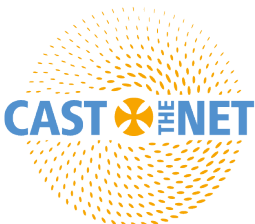
Important Note: The hotel deadline to book accommodation is Mon., Oct. 16, 2023. After which the special room rate will not be available. Please note that the hotels are very busy. The hotels may not be able to accommodate requests made after Oct. 16, 2023.

Accommodation is located in the Sheraton Parkway and Best Western.

- Eligibility for accommodation is indicated in the [Registration Report](#) document posted on the [2023 Regular Synod](#) page on the diocesan website [www.toronto.anglican.ca]. Eligibility is noted under the heading Accommodation as either 'ELIGIBLE' or 'NOT ELIGIBLE.' If you believe an error was made, please contact [Ajith Philip](#) by telephone at 647-578-9722.
- Accommodation, at no extra charge, will be provided to all Lay Members and the Main Priest from each congregation within the deaneries of Durham & Northumberland, Holland, Huronia, Nottawasaga, Oshawa, Peterborough, Tecumseth and Victoria & Haliburton. Ex-Officio members, Bishop's Appointees and Youth and Young Adult Members from the same deaneries will also receive accommodation at no extra charge.
- If you are ELIGIBLE for accommodation, your room charges, including taxes, will be billed to the "Master" account. Any incidental charges, however, must be paid prior to your departure. Accordingly, a valid credit card with an authorization of \$100 or a cash/debit card deposit in the amount of \$50 must be presented at the time of check-in.
- Any cancellations received within 24 hours of arrival or a "no show" result in additional charges that will be **invoiced back to your parish**. Please inform [Ajith Philip](#) as soon as possible by telephone at 647-578-9722 if you no longer need your room.

If you would like to reserve a room for Thursday evening at your own expense or if you are NOT ELIGIBLE and would like to reserve a room at your own expense, your options are as follows:

- To obtain our preferred rate of \$165.00 plus applicable taxes and fees for a total of \$197.75 at the [Sheraton Parkway](#) call 905-881-2121 and identify yourself as a member of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.



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- To obtain our preferred rate of \$145.00 plus applicable taxes and fees for a total of \$168.77 at the [Best Western](#), call the hotel at 1-800-668-0101 and identify yourself as a member of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

A valid credit card is required to hold each guest's reservation at the time of reservation. For cancellations received within 24 hours of arrival, one night room and tax will be charged.

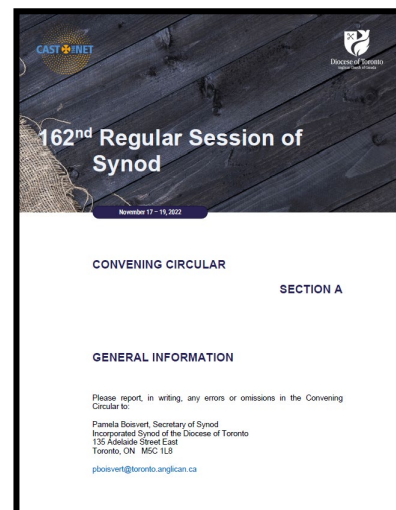
If you have any questions related to accommodation, please contact [Ajith Philip](#) by telephone at 647-578-9722.

Captioning Services

Captioning services will be provided during 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. Unfortunately, captioning services will not be available at Pre-Synod meetings or during breakout sessions at Synod.

Convening Circular

Convening Circulars will be available for viewing and downloading on the Diocesan website. It is not essential that Members have a printed copy of all materials; members should use their discretion in deciding what materials are needed in printed format and what materials can simply be viewed online prior to the meeting. Complimentary WiFi will be available in the plenary hall and in the hotel guestrooms. All motions and other important information will be presented on large screens.



Display Tables

Exhibitors have been invited to showcase their ministries with display tables. Display tables will be located in the marble foyer outside the main conference area and along the corridor to the Sheraton Hotel's front desk.



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Electronic Voting

Voting will be conducted using an audience response system (“ARS”). Do not be alarmed if this technology is new to you – a demonstration including several test polls will be completed. All voting Members of Synod will receive a response pad when they register.

Help Desk

Staff and volunteers will be available to answer questions at the Help Desk located in the Grand York Ballroom Foyer outside the main conference area when Synod is in session.

Identity Card

Registered members of Synod are identified by a nametag; they may enter the Synod floor area in the Grand York Ballroom and Foyer. Nametags will be issued at registration for Synod.

Meals

As part of Synod’s programme, lunch and dinner on Friday and breakfast on Saturday will be provided. Refreshments will be provided at various times during Synod.

Meeting Space

Meeting space is located in the [Sheraton Parkway](#) at 600 Highway 7 East (near Hwy 404 and Hwy 7 at Leslie Street) in Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 1B2. The temperature in the Grand York Ballroom will vary. Please be prepared for warm or cool conditions (i.e. wear layers).

Missional Moments and Outreach Moments

At Pre-Synod and Synod, you will hear about how our Diocese is living out its vision. 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.

Mobile Sanitizing and Charging Locker

A mobile sanitizing and charging locker for electronic devices will be available just outside the Ballroom doors.



Parking

There is ample free parking available both indoor, and outdoors at the Sheraton Parkway, and outdoor parking at the Best Western.

Onsite Registration for Synod

Onsite Registration will be held in the Thornhill Room between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Friday, November 17, 2023. You are urged to register and pick up your name badge as early as possible. All voting members of Synod must register onsite, in order to be eligible to vote.

Once registration closes, those who have not notified the Synod Office of late arrival will not be allowed to enter Synod until permitted by the Court on Contested Seats or the Secretary of Synod. If late registration is required, please indicate so when you register online or contact Ajith Philip by email at aphilip@toronto.anglican.ca before noon on Tues., Nov. 14, 2023.

To help defray the costs of meals, beverages and accommodation during Synod, each member of Synod will be charged a registration fee of \$250. In May, parishes were invoiced through the accounts receivable process for their lay Synod members and main priest. For all other members of Synod, e.g. clergy who are retired or not appointed to a parish, the registration fee must be paid before Synod. Cheques should be made payable to "The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto" clearly marked "SYNOD 2023" and mailed to: Accounts Receivable, Anglican Diocese of Toronto, 135 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, ON, M5C 1L8.

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 or by telephone at 416-363-6021 (1-800-668-8932) ext. 222.



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WiFi

Complimentary WiFi will be available in the plenary hall and in the hotel guestrooms.

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]. If you are a member of Synod and your name is not listed, contact Ajith Philip by email at aphilip@toronto.anglican.ca or by telephone at 647-578-9722 or Pamela Boisvert at by email at pboisvert@toronto.anglican.ca or by telephone at 647-578-9755 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)]

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



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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.

- g) 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.
- h) 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 fulfils 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.

Unless you are the mover of a motion, 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



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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 THE SYNOD

Approval of the Agenda - Motion #1 (Convening Circular- Section A)

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that Synod approve the Agenda for the 162nd Regular Session of Synod.

Omnibus Motion - Motion #2 (Convening Circular- Section A)

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that:

The Minutes of the 161st Regular Session of Synod

Synod adopt the Minutes of the 161st Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held virtually on Nov. 17 to 19, 2022, as prepared by the Honorary Secretaries.

Courtesies of the House

Synod give the following individuals 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, Member of the Order of the Holy Cross, Sisters of St. John the Divine, Sisters of the Church, Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit, Diocesan Parish Administrators, Canon Ian Alexander, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, Dr. Anita Gittens, ODT.



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York Rectory Commissioners and Committee on the Etobicoke Glebe
Synod receive the report of the First York Rectory Commission and appoint the following individuals as Commissioners for the distribution of the First York Rectory Fund and the Etobicoke Glebe in 2024 and 2025: Vice-Chancellor Marg Creal, Joy Packham, PMP, ODT, The Rev. Shelly Pollard.

Advisory Commission on the Termination of Clerical Appointments
The following be elected by Synod to the Advisory Commission on Termination of Clerical Appointments: Vice-Chancellor Mark Hemingway, The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, Kennedy Marshall, ODT.

Diocesan Council's Report to Synod – Motion #3 (Convening Circular-Section B)

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that Synod receive Synod Council's Report to the 162nd Regular Session of Synod.

Governance Review – Motion #4 (Convening Circular-Section F)

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that Synod receive the Governance Review report dated May 12, 2023.

Constitution and Canons – Motion #5A (Convening Circular- Section E)

The Constitution

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

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution, as recommended for approval by Synod Council and presented in the Convening Circular.

Constitution and Canons – Motion #5B (Convening Circular- Section E)

Canon 13 - Parishes

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

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that Synod approve the changes to Canon 13 as recommended for approval by Synod Council and presented in the Convening Circular.



Constitution and Canons – Motion #5C (Convening Circular- Section E)

Governance-related

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

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution, s.35, Canons 2, 5, 31, 36, 37, 39, and delete Canon 3 in its entirety, as they relate to implementing the new governance structure, as recommended for approval by Synod Council and presented in the Convening Circular.

Constitution and Canons – Motion #5D (Convening Circular- Section E)

Areas and Area Council-related

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

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that Synod approve the changes to The Constitution, s.3(17) and suspend Canons 43 and 44 until the next Regular Session of Synod, as they relate to areas and area council, as recommended for approval by Synod Council and presented in the Convening Circular.

Constitution and Canons – Motion #5E (Convening Circular- Section E)

Canon 14 – Vestries

The Synod Council forward the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that Synod approve the changes to Canon 14 as recommended for approval by Synod Council and presented in the Convening Circular.

Audited Financial Statements for 2022 - Motion #6 (Section C)

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

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that Synod receive the Audited Financial Statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and the Cemetery Fund for the year ended Dec. 31, 2022.



Appointment of Auditors - Motion #7 (Convening Circular-Section C)

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

It will be MOVED and SECONDED 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 Dec. 31, 2023, at a fee to be approved by the Audit Committee.

Priorities and Plans 2024 & 2025 - Motion #8 (Section D)

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

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that Synod receive the document entitled *Priorities and Plans 2024 & 2025* and approve the priorities and the financial budget contained therein and that Synod Council report back to Synod on this plan. It will be further moved that Synod approve that the Assessment Rate, as defined in Canon 4, remain at 24.7% for 2024 and 2025.

Election of Honorary Secretaries – Motion #9 (Section A)

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that the following individuals be elected for the ensuing term:

- The Rev. Lisa Newland, Honorary Clerical Secretary
- Constance Kendall, ODT, Honorary Lay Secretary
- The Rev. Jason Prisley, Assistant Honorary Clerical Secretary

Termination of Synod – Motion #10 (Convening Circular-Section A)

It will be MOVED that Synod be terminated.

Cast the Net – Motion #12 (see Cast the Net package)

The Synod Council forward the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that this Synod endorse the Vision and Calls for the Diocese developed through the Cast the Net diocesan-wide consultation process; and delegate to Synod Council, working with the Cast the Net team, the completion of a final report and detailed recommendations, for distribution throughout the Diocese in the first quarter of 2024.



Notices of Motion from Members

A Notice of Motion dated October 19, 2023 was received from John van Nostrand and the Rev. Canon John Hill. Pursuant to Canon 1, the Notice of Motion was placed on the Agenda of the October 19, 2023 meeting of Synod Council. The Synod Council forwards the following Notice of Motion to Synod with the recommendation that it not be adopted.

Affordable Housing – Motion #11A (Section A)

The Synod Council forwards the following Notice of Motion to Synod with the recommendation that it not be adopted:

MOVED by John van Nostrand and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon John Hill that:

The Synod adopts a definitive strategy for utilizing its lands and buildings to support the development of Affordable Housing; and,

1. That the strategy address matters of housing equity, including supportive housing, homelessness, sheltering, transitional/interim housing, other forms of housing inequity; and, in particular, the needs of newcomer and/or refugees who are either Anglicans, or those with similar beliefs; and,
2. That the strategy addresses the assurance of housing affordability by considering various models including sustainable affordable housing, rent-geared-to-income (RGI), rent supplement, affordable ownership, etc; and,
3. That the strategy prioritizes the development of vacant and underutilized assets for affordable housing development

Synod Council provides the following comment:

Although the Synod Council energetically supports the notion of a strategic plan for Diocesan property that includes various aspects of affordable housing, even to the extent of employing expertise to assist this, this motion is repetitive of prior adopted synod motions, and includes in its details, items that would require restarting the strategic planning process.

We want to get shovels in the ground as soon as possible, and hence ask the members to vote against this new motion.



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ELECTIONS AT SYNOD

Synod Council

Synod Council of the Synod generally exercises the executive powers of the Synod between sessions except those of a legislative character. This 25-member governance body meets monthly to carry on the work of Synod.

Elected members hold office from the conclusion of the meeting of Synod in which they were elected until the conclusion of the next Regular Session of Synod, usually a 3-year term.

Synod will be electing five clerical members and five lay members of Synod.

Slate of Nominees

Five (5) Clerical Members to be elected:

- The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields (St. James Cathedral)
- The Rev. Lucia Lloyd (St. John, Bowmanville)
- The Rev. Graham McCaffrey (St. Dunstan of Canterbury)
- The Rev. Mark Regis (St. Mary & St. Martha, Toronto)
- The Rev. Philip Stonhouse (St. Matthew, Islington)

Five (5) Lay Members to be elected:

- Lawrence Barker (St. Luke, Burnt River)
- Heather McGregor, ODT (St. Mary Magdalene)
- Sandy Richmond (St. George Anglican Church, Allendale)
- David Toycen, ODT (Trinity Church, Streetsville)
- Canon Laura Walton, ODT (Holy Trinity, Clearview)
- Eirene Wee (St. Paul, Bloor Street)

Please note: Nominees for Synod Council were asked to submit 150 words about their involvement at the diocesan, parish and community level. These biographies follow.



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Biographical Information

Five (5) Clerical Members to be elected:

- **The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields** (St. James Cathedral) - Stephen is the Sub-Dean of the Diocese and Vicar of St. James Cathedral. During the past 30 years, he has been a transformational presence at the parochial, diocesan, and national levels of our church. He is currently a member of the Diocesan Council and has served previously as a member of the Executive Board, the Postulancy Committee and Commission on the Termination of Clerical Appointments, and several other boards, working groups, and committees. He is currently a member of the Diocesan Council. At the recently held session of General Synod, he was elected to serve as a member of the Council of General Synod and the Pension Committee. He was also invited by the Primate to serve as a member of the Financial Management Committee for the session 2023-2025.
- **The Rev. Lucia Lloyd** (St. John, Bowmanville) - Lucia has served on Synod Council, Diocesan Council, Area Council, Executive Board, Virtual Counting Working Group, and the Discipleship Committee. She is co-chair of the Planning and Agenda Team for Council of General Synod. She is a trained facilitator for Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism workshops in the Diocese. She is Chair of the ecumenical Bowmanville Ministerial Association. She attended the 2019 General Synod as an observer. Lucia served as deputy at two General Conventions of The Episcopal Church when she was in the Diocese of Virginia. She 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. Lucia's 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** (St. Dunstan of Canterbury) - Graham is currently the incumbent of St. Dunstan of Canterbury. He previously served as the incumbent of Grace Church Scarborough from 2015-2022. Graham seeks to listen and build bridges between different groups of people, empowering lay people to take up their vocations as Christ's disciples. Having lived around the world, and experienced the breadth of the Anglican Communion, Graham understands the need for walking together even amid our differences. As a graduate of



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the Pioneer Track M. Div. at Wycliffe College, Graham understands the need for the church to reimagine new ways to share the gospel, worship and serve the world offering different perspectives while maintaining the eternal truth of Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Mark Regis (St. Mary & St. Martha, Toronto) - Mark gratefully serves as the incumbent of St. Mary & St. Martha, a richly diverse amalgamated community in the heart of West Toronto, with a significant redevelopment project on two properties, which includes affordable housing. Mark served as a clerical delegate for General Synod 2019 and 2022. Currently, he serves as co-coordinator of the Postulancy Committee, and is member of the diocesan Property Committee, and was part of the Nominations Committee for the most recent diocesan episcopal election. Prior to St. Mary & St. Martha he held a variety of strategic roles at St. Paul's Bloor Street as associate priest, and at St. Timothy Agincourt gave oversight to family ministries. Happily married to Ruthia, with two teenage daughters, he has an enduring curiosity and commitment to the future of Christ's Church and is humbled to be part of it.

- **The Rev. Philip Stonhouse** (St. Matthew, Islington) - Philip has a passion for creating and lifting up disciples, no matter what stage they are at. He was a part of the bishop's committee for discipleship and is constantly creating new ministries. One of his early ministries involved helping to plant a new church in Ajax. He has also worked with St. James Cathedral to connect with university students, Little Trinity to connect with PanAm attendees, and St. Monica's to connect with schools, daycares and the local community. Presently, as incumbent at St. Matthew's, he is working with many inside and outside of the parish to create new ways to connect others to Jesus Christ by discerning gifts and needs. This has led to marriage courses during Covid, children's Easter Pageants, The Chosen bible studies, Men's groups, camps and more. He is now in the midst of partnering and empowering community members to start Condo Christian Communities, Afterschool Drama Club and Senior's workouts. Through it all Rev. Philip Stonhouse has been consistent in his desire to share Jesus's love, connect with others through the Holy Spirit and build God's Heavenly Kingdom.

Five (5) Lay Members to be elected:

- **Lawrence Barker** (St. Luke, Burnt River) - Larry has been actively involved in parish work his entire life including an inner-city parish, two suburban GTA parishes, and currently a multi-point rural parish



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north of Toronto. He has been a delegate to Diocesan Synod, past member of the former Diocesan Council, past-delegate to Provincial Synod, and past-delegate to General Synod. He is a past-chair of the FaithWorks Grants Allocations Committee. Professionally, Larry has been employed in the not-for-profit sector for almost 40 years including director, corporate secretary and CEO positions with a national retirees/seniors' association, a regional industry trade association, a provincial professional (certifying) association, and a national regulatory and licensing authority. Most recently he was registrar of the Law Society Tribunal of Ontario. A professed oblate brother of Elmore Abbey (UK), he is currently the lay reader of the Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Burnt River, in addition to being chaplain to the RCLegion branch in Coboconk.

- **Heather McGregor, ODT** (St. Mary Magdalene) - As the CEO of YWCA Toronto Heather has strong skills in finance and personnel management and provides innovative leadership in areas such as supportive housing, employment, and the building of communities of support for women and girls in our society most disadvantaged by linguistic and cultural barriers, poverty, mental illness, abuse and racism. An active Anglican, Heather has participated in her parish of St. Mary Magdalene in a variety of leadership roles – Rector's Warden three times, Vestry Clerk, Advisory Board Member, and Lay Delegate to Synod. At the Deanery and Diocesan level she has contributed her energy to numerous opportunities. She was a member of the Board of Management for the parish of St. Mary and St. Martha and currently is on the Board of Management at St. Peter's in Cobourg. She was a founding member of Synod Council and serves on the Human Resources Committee of the Diocese.
- **Sandy Richmond** (St. George, Allendale) - Sandy have been a member of the P&D committee . He have been also been on synod and executive council over the past ten years. His most rewarding activity with the dioceses was for 22 years being the chair person for the Chaplaincy Committee with the diocese. The committee over saw hospital, school and chaplain training for lay people . He feel that his background with diocese will be an asset. Sandy had the opportunity to see council work in the new design and use space at St. Aidans in the beaches.
- **David Toycen, ODT** (Trinity Church, Streetsville) - Dave have been a member of Trinity Streetsville since 1988, serving as Warden, chair of fundraising, lead small groups. His passion is thriving churches.
- **Canon Laura Walton, ODT** (Holy Trinity, Clearview) - Laura is the Canon Administrator for the Diocese of Toronto as well as a



businessperson with a background in mediation, marketing, and procurement. Currently, Laura is the Rectors Warden and Treasurer for Holy Trinity, Clearview. At the diocesan level, she volunteers as a member of the Diocesan Response Team and Synod Council. Her past positions include being Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for General Synod, Executive Board member, Agenda Committee member, General Synod member, Chair of the Anglican Foundation Screening Committee, and has held the position of Honorary Lay Secretary to Synod. Laura is currently Chair of the General Synod Planning Committee and a member of the Provincial Synod where she serves as its Prolocutor. She is a member of the Provincial Synod Executive Council as well. Laura has experience in both the realm of finances and HR along with decades of parish and volunteer management skills.

- **Eirene Wee** (St. Paul, Bloor Street) - A Synod Council / Cast The Net Steering Committee member, and CBS Teaching Director, Eirene is from Singapore, studied in Scotland, and worked globally as an advisor to businesses and governments on turnarounds, strategic and leadership challenges. She served in Christian broadcasting, led in church planting and music, and conducted Bible studies for executives. After attaining an MA(TS) at Regent College, she, her husband & 2 kids relocated to Toronto and are part of St Paul's Bloor Street.

General Synod

General Synod meets every three years, and the term of office for a member is three years. The term of office will begin at the General Synod in 2025 and continue until the next General Synod. The Diocese of Huron will host the next General Synod in London, Ontario.

Nominees to the General Synod will be required to remain a member of the Diocese of Toronto's Synod for the duration of their term of office. They must be willing and able to attend all meetings of the General Synod and must be willing to serve on a sub-committee or working group should they be asked or elected to do so. Expenses incurred are covered according to the diocesan policy.

The Diocese of Toronto will be electing seven members and seven clerical members to attend the General Synod alongside our Bishops. Additionally, at Synod, our Youth and Young Adult Members of Synod will elect a Youth Member to attend.



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Slate of Nominees

Seven (7) Clerical Members to be elected:

- The Rev. Canon Philip Der (St. Christopher)
- The Rev. Yohan Dumpala (St. John the Baptist, Norway)
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields (St. James Cathedral)
- The Rev. Lucia Lloyd (St. John, Bowmanville)
- The Rev. Lorna May (St. Luke, Creemore)
- The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner (Grace Church, Markham)
- The Rev. Brian Suggs (All Saints, Kingsway)
- The Rev. Canon Claudette Taylor (Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale)

Seven (7) Lay Members to be elected:

- Ann Arnold (St. Peter, Oshawa)
- Lawrence Barker (St. Luke, Burnt River)
- Chancellor Marg Creal, KC, BA (Hon), LLB (Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street)
- Onis Hawley (Grace Church, Markham)
- Finn Keesmaat-Walsh (Redeemer, Bloor Street)
- Yvonne Murray, ODT (Holy Wisdom)
- Ryan Ramsden, ODT (Grace Church, Scarborough)
- Sandy Richmond (St. George Anglican Church, Allendale)
- Noah Skinner (Grace Church, Markham)
- David Toycen, ODT (Trinity Church, Streetsville)
- Mary Walsh, ODT (St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges)
- Canon Laura Walton, ODT (Holy Trinity, Clearview)

Please note: Nominees for General Synod were asked to submit 150 words about their involvement at the diocesan, parish and community level. These biographies follow.

Biographical Information

Seven (7) Clerical Members to be elected:

- **The Rev. Canon Philip Der** (St. Christopher) - Philip was born in Taiwan, grew up in Hong Kong and migrated to Canada in 1984. He was ordained deacon in 1994 and priested in 1996. As a General Synod delegate (2019, 2023) he served in Pension. Currently, he is in



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Forum of Intercultural Leadership and Learning (Canadian Council of Churches), and chair of Partners in Mission. He received D. Min. (Fuller, 2016) in Missional Leadership and Cert. of Conflict Resolution (Justice Institute of BC, 2002). He had served in Provincial Synod, VST Board, Communication, Area Council, PEMG, and York Region Interfaith Advisory Network. He co-chaired the Bayview Secondary School Council (2014-2021). He was awarded in 2017 Outstanding Ward 3 Volunteer Achievement, Canada 150 Community Builder Pin, and installed Canon (2018). He founded Mississauga Yee Hong Spiritual Care and GTA Chinese Anglican Joint conference. He authored “Love Your Neighbours” and “Love Our Mission Field” missional small group series.

- **The Rev. Yohan Dumpala** (St. John the Baptist, Norway) - Yohan is a graduate of Trinity College, UofT and is currently the Assistant Curate at St. John’s Norway. He was born in India, raised for a time in Saudi Arabia, and has called Canada home since 2010. He has a deep love for God’s Church and His people. Yohan served as the youth minister at Grace Church, Markham, from 2018-2021 and at St. John’s Norway from 2021-2022. Soon after graduating with a Master of Divinity in 2022, he began his Curacy at St. John’s, Norway. As an Assistant Curate and working alongside The Reverend Molly Finlay, Yohan has since been responsible for various aspects of parish ministry. He is also an avid musician, photographer, and videographer and supports new creative forms of ministry. He is currently a member of the Synod Agenda Committee, an ABAR facilitator, and, as an alumnus, serves on Trinity College Corporation.
- **The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields** (St. James Cathedral) – Stephen is the Sub-Dean of the Diocese and Vicar of St. James Cathedral. During the past 30 years, he has been a transformational presence at the parochial, diocesan, and national levels of our church. He is currently a member of the Diocesan Council and has served previously as a member of the Executive Board, the Postulancy Committee and Commission on the Termination of Clerical Appointments, and several other boards, working groups, and committees. He is currently a member of the Diocesan Council. At the recently held session of General Synod, he was elected to serve as a member of the Council of General Synod and the Pension Committee. He was also invited by the Primate to serve as a member of the Financial Management Committee for the session 2023-2025.
- **The Rev. Lucia Lloyd** (St. John, Bowmanville) - Lucia has served on Synod Council, Diocesan Council, Area Council, Executive Board, Virtual Counting Working Group, and the Discipleship Committee.



She is co-chair of the Planning and Agenda Team for Council of General Synod. She is a trained facilitator for Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism workshops in the Diocese. She is Chair of the ecumenical Bowmanville Ministerial Association. She attended the 2019 General Synod as an observer. Lucia served as deputy at two General Conventions of The Episcopal Church when she was in the Diocese of Virginia. She 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. Lucia's 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. Lorna May** (St. Luke, Creemore) - When people face poverty their lives begin to unravel. They become disconnected from community and opportunities to receive support. As a Vocational Deacon Lorna has made a commitment to support individuals and families living in rural areas facing inadequate housing, food insecurity, lack of adequate drinking water, mental health issues, and isolation due to lack of transportation. Lorna listens to people and brings together the community at large to meet the needs of individuals and families. As a result this small church has a much larger presence in the community. Lorna reaches out to a variety of community organizations, churches, social workers, mental health workers, parole officers, businesses, and contractors to link people to the resources they need. The food bank offers courses in meal planning, preparation, and budgeting and encouragement. Lorna is a member of the Southern Georgian Bay ministry team and the Diaconal Review Committee.
- **The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner** (Grace Church, Markham) - Nicola has been the Incumbent of Grace Church Markham for 8 years, and since ordination in 1998 has served parishes in the UK, Aurora and King City. She has served on many Diocese committees, was Regional Dean of Holland Deanery, co-chaired the Momentum programme and is currently a member of the Postulancy Committee. She has a passion for social justice and refugee issues. She currently co-chairs two refugee sponsorship groups with AURA, and works closely with another Afghan family she worked with journalists to get safely to Canada. Nicola is committed to the care of the church and its people. In her free time she makes luxury soaps, walks a lot, and recently took up playing an Irish Low Whistle.



- **The Rev. Brian Suggs** (All Saints, Kingsway) - Currently Brian serves as the Associate Priest at All Saints, Kingsway. Since 2021, he have served as the Chair of the Bishop's Youth Ministry Committee and have been part of this committee since 2012. He is also part of the Reach Grant panel and have previously served for six years as an Area Youth Coordinator. Some of Brian's strengths are that he is a highly relational person who values being in relationship. He thinks this is helpful when it comes to being able to work with others in the broader church. He also listen well and seek to find consensus in making decisions, where possible. Additionally, Brian can think and plan strategically. These are all important as we seek to see God's kingdom grow and expand and see the church flourish.
- **The Rev. Canon Claudette Taylor** (Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale) - Claudette's past parish leadership roles include: Envelope Secretary, Rector's Warden, Social Ministry Committee, The Advisory Board, Lay Reader, Healing Ministry. Gifts: These roles and responsibilities prepared me for my current role as a Deacon—serving the parish and the wider community and “interpreting the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world.” (BAS, p.655). Seeing God in everyone and therefore showing love and respect to everyone. Team building—recognizing and honouring the many gifts that people bring and use them to empower. (Social Ministry Committee, Reconciliation series). Allowing others to share their point of view with love and respect. Patience and humility in dealing with uncomfortable situations. Strengths and Experience: Interpersonal skills (required in church and outside to produce a win-win situation). Creativity (Reconciliation series—presenting ideas to colleagues and building a team to effectively use the gifts of all).

Seven (7) Lay Members to be elected:

- **Ann Arnold** (St. Peter, Oshawa) - A long time member of St. Peter's Oshawa Ann has volunteered for a wide variety of lay leadership ministries including Warden. She has attended Pride Durham and Pride Toronto on behalf of St. Peter's and is very involved in her community professionally.
- **Lawrence Barker** (St. Luke, Burnt River) - Larry has been actively involved in parish work his entire life including an inner-city parish, two suburban GTA parishes, and currently a multi-point rural parish north of Toronto. He has been a delegate to Diocesan Synod, past member of the former Diocesan Council, past-delegate to Provincial Synod, and past-delegate to General Synod. He is a past-chair of the



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FaithWorks Grants Allocations Committee. Professionally, Larry has been employed in the not-for-profit sector for almost 40 years including director, corporate secretary and CEO positions with a national retirees/seniors' association, a regional industry trade association, a provincial professional (certifying) association, and a national regulatory and licensing authority. Most recently he was registrar of the Law Society Tribunal of Ontario. A professed oblate brother of Elmore Abbey (UK), he is currently the lay reader of the Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Burnt River, in addition to being chaplain to the RC Legion branch in Coboconk.

- **Chancellor Marg Creal, KC, BA (Hon), LLB** (Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St.) - Marg was called to the Bar in 1985 and has practiced primarily in criminal law. She was an Assistant Crown Attorney in downtown Toronto from 1986 until she was appointed Chair of the Consent and Capacity Board in 2015. Marg is a long-standing active member of the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street, where she has held many positions. Marg serves as Chancellor of the Diocese, Chair of the York Rectory Commission, Chair of the Risk and Governance Committee and acts as Assessor to the Bishop at meetings of the Synod Council.
- **Onis Hawley** (Grace Church, Markham) - Onis is a first year Law and Society student at York University. She is a lifelong member of Grace Church, Markham and has been an active youth group member, a member of the Audio-Visual team, a camp supervisor and a helper at almost every church function. Onis is a skilled visual artist and writer and has a special interest in social justice and political science. Her hobbies include music and spending time with friends and family.
- **Finn Keesmaat-Walsh** (Redeemer, Bloor Street) - Finn Keesmaat-Walsh (they/he) has a passion for social justice in the church and making the church a place of life and hope for the most vulnerable in our communities. Finn has been a delegate to two general synods and was a member of the Council of General Synod and the Faith, Worship, Ministry Coordinating Committee of the General Synod from 2019-2023. While on Faith, Worship, Ministry, they were on a task force helping to write and edit the Pastoral Liturgies for Gender Transition and Affirmation that were approved at General Synod 2023. Finn spent many years on both Diocesan Council and Synod Council for the Diocese of Toronto. Finn currently works in youth and children ministry at St Martin-in-the-Fields and is a parishioner at the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St.



- **Yvonne Murray, ODT** (Holy Wisdom) - Over the past 30 years, Yvonne has served as Treasurer, Warden, Chancel Guild member, a member of the Steering Committee for the amalgamation of three Parishes and was a member of the Transition Team to form the new Parish where she continues to play an active role. Yvonne is on the Parish Finance Advisory Committee (PFAC) and has served on the Budget Working Group. She was a Facilitator for “Cast the Net” program. She served on the Leadership Team of the Black Anglicans of Canada and has been a volunteer in her community mentoring grade school students. Yvonne is passionate about being actively involved in the ministry of the Church and as a member of General Synod, she will bring her knowledge and experience obtained through her many years of service.
- **Ryan Ramsden, ODT** (Grace Church, Scarborough) - Over the past 14 years, Ryan has served numerous terms as a member of Diocesan Council, Area Council, Diocesan Synod and General Synod. In recent years, he 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, was a recipient of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto, and was appointed by Primate Linda Nicholls to the Communications Committee of the General Synod for the session 2023-2025. Ryan is a lay leader at Grace Church in Scarborough, currently serving as Churchwarden, member of the Board of Management, and coordinator of communications and servers/chalice bearers. Since shepherding the church through its amalgamation in 2011, he has served as a Churchwarden for 9 years, and has been instrumental in the ongoing formation and growth of the parish.
- **Sandy Richmond** (St. George, Allendale) - Sandy have been a member of the P&D committee . He have been also been on synod and executive council over the past ten years. His most rewarding activity with the dioceses was for 22 years being the chair person for the Chaplaincy Committee with the diocese. The committee over saw hospital, school and chaplain training for lay people . He feel that his background with diocese will be an asset. Sandy had the opportunity to see council work in the new design and use space at St. Aidans in the beaches.
- **Noah Skinner** (Grace Church, Markham) - Noah is a member of Grace Church, Markham and currently a first year Computer Science student at York University. At Grace, he has been a member of the Audio-Visual team, served as a Synod Rep, been an active youth group member and helped with music ministry, including drumming for



services and mixing live recordings for a summer music camp. At the Diocesan level, he has been a participant in the ReCharge youth events, and a Youth rep to Synod. Noah is excited at the possibility of serving the church at the national level. He has a passion for social justice, drums, saxophone, volleyball and Pho.

- **David Toycen, ODT** (Trinity Church, Streetsville) - Dave have been a member of Trinity Streetsville since 1988, serving as Warden, chair of fundraising, lead small groups. His passion is thriving churches.
- **Mary Walsh, ODT** (St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges) - Serving within the Diocese since 1978, Mary received her ODT in 2017, and was elected to Provincial Synod 2021 and General Synod 2023. She continues to make a profound impact in her church by her dedication in serving as Churchwarden, Screening Co-ordinator, member of the Refugee Sponsorship Team, and Chair of the PSC. Mary is passionate in following Jesus with the expectation that Jesus is leading His Church for His glory. With several items from GS 2023 being deferred to GS 2025, Mary wants the opportunity to continue as a delegate, as she feels she has much to offer. She will bring wisdom, experience, humour, discernment and grace, having a desire to see every community in our country transformed. Active in her local community, Mary is an awarded volunteer at Mackenzie Health Hospital and a member of the Girl Guides of Canada.
- **Canon Laura Walton, ODT** (Holy Trinity, Clearview) - Laura is the Canon Administrator for the Diocese of Toronto as well as a businessperson with a background in mediation, marketing, and procurement. Currently, Laura is the Rectors Warden and Treasurer for Holy Trinity, Clearview. At the diocesan level, she volunteers as a member of the Diocesan Response Team and Synod Council. Her past positions include being Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for General Synod, Executive Board member, Agenda Committee member, General Synod member, Chair of the Anglican Foundation Screening Committee, and has held the position of Honorary Lay Secretary to Synod. Laura is currently Chair of the General Synod Planning Committee and a member of the Provincial Synod where she serves as its Prolocutor. She is a member of the Provincial Synod Executive Council as well. Laura has experience in both the realm of finances and HR along with decades of parish and volunteer management skills.



Provincial Synod

The next Session of the Provincial Synod will take place in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, hosted by the Diocese of Algoma during the week of September 24, 2024 (exact dates not confirmed). The Provincial Synod meets every three years and the term of office is for three years beginning at Provincial Synod 2024.

Nominees to Provincial Synod will be required to remain a member of the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the duration of their term, they must be willing and able to attend all meetings of the Provincial Synod, and must be willing to serve on a sub-committee or working group should they be asked or elected to do so. Expenses incurred are covered according to the diocesan policy.

The Diocese of Toronto will be electing four lay members and four clerical members to attend the Provincial Synod alongside our Bishops, Chancellor and Youth Member.

Slate of Nominees

Four (4) Clerical Members to be elected:

- The Rev. Dana Dickson (Trinity Church, Bradford)
- The Rev. Lucia Lloyd (St. John, Bowmanville)
- The Rev. Brian Suggs (All Saints, Kingsway)
- The Rev. Graham McCaffrey (St. Dunstan of Canterbury)

Four (4) Lay Members to be elected:

- Lawrence Barker (St. Luke, Burnt River)
- Finn Keesmaat-Walsh (Redeemer, Bloor Street)
- Ryan Ramsden, ODT (Grace Church, Scarborough)
- Susan Schuschu, ODT (St. John, East Orangeville)
- Canon Laura Walton, ODT (Holy Trinity, Clearview)

Please note: Nominees for Provincial Synod were asked to submit 150 words about their involvement at the diocesan, parish and community level. These biographies follow.



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Biographical Information

Four (4) Clerical Members to be elected:

- **The Rev. Dana Dickson** (Trinity Church, Bradford) - Dana is the incumbent of Trinity Church, Bradford, having served two previous parishes since her ordination in 2004 and prior to ordination was involved in lay ministry since her teens. She was elected as a representative to the 2020 Provincial Synod and is a member of the Provincial Council. Over the years she has also served on various committees at the Area, Diocesan and Provincial levels.
- **The Rev. Lucia Lloyd** (St. John, Bowmanville) - Lucia has served on Synod Council, Diocesan Council, Area Council, Executive Board, Virtual Counting Working Group, and the Discipleship Committee. She is co-chair of the Planning and Agenda Team for Council of General Synod. She is a trained facilitator for Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism workshops in the Diocese. She is Chair of the ecumenical Bowmanville Ministerial Association. She attended the 2019 General Synod as an observer. Lucia served as deputy at two General Conventions of The Episcopal Church when she was in the Diocese of Virginia. She 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. Lucia's 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. Brian Suggs** (All Saints, Kingsway) - Currently Brian serves as the Associate Priest at All Saints, Kingsway. Since 2021, he have served as the Chair of the Bishop's Youth Ministry Committee and have been part of this committee since 2012. He is also part of the Reach Grant panel and have previously served for six years as an Area Youth Coordinator. Some of Brian's strengths are that he is a highly relational person who values being in relationship. He thinks this is helpful when it comes to being able to work with others in the broader church. He also listen well and seek to find consensus in making decisions, where possible. Additionally, Brian can think and plan strategically. These are all important as we seek to see God's kingdom grow and expand and see the church flourish.
- **The Rev. Graham McCaffrey** (St. Dunstan of Canterbury) - Graham is currently the incumbent of St. Dunstan of Canterbury. He previously



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served as the incumbent of Grace Church Scarborough from 2015-2022. Graham seeks to listen and build bridges between different groups of people, empowering lay people to take up their vocations as Christ's disciples. Having lived around the world, and experienced the breadth of the Anglican Communion, Graham understands the need for walking together even amid our differences. As a graduate of the Pioneer Track M. Div. at Wycliffe College, Graham understands the need for the church to reimagine new ways to share the gospel, worship and serve the world offering different perspectives while maintaining the eternal truth of Jesus Christ.

Four (4) Lay Members to be elected:

- **Lawrence Barker** (St. Luke, Burnt River) - Larry has been actively involved in parish work his entire life including an inner-city parish, two suburban GTA parishes, and currently a multi-point rural parish north of Toronto. He has been a delegate to Diocesan Synod, past member of the former Diocesan Council, past-delegate to Provincial Synod, and past-delegate to General Synod. He is a past-chair of the FaithWorks Grants Allocations Committee. Professionally, Larry has been employed in the not-for-profit sector for almost 40 years including director, corporate secretary and CEO positions with a national retirees/seniors' association, a regional industry trade association, a provincial professional (certifying) association, and a national regulatory and licensing authority. Most recently he was registrar of the Law Society Tribunal of Ontario. A professed oblate brother of Elmore Abbey (UK), he is currently the lay reader of the Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Burnt River, in addition to being chaplain to the RCLegion branch in Coboconk.
- **Finn Keesmaat-Walsh** (Redeemer, Bloor Street) - Finn Keesmaat-Walsh (they/he) has a passion for social justice in the church and making the church a place of life and hope for the most vulnerable in our communities. Finn has been a delegate to two general synods and was a member of the Council of General Synod and the Faith, Worship, Ministry Coordinating Committee of the General Synod from 2019-2023. While on Faith, Worship, Ministry, they were on a task force helping to write and edit the Pastoral Liturgies for Gender Transition and Affirmation that were approved at General Synod 2023. Finn spent many years on both Diocesan Council and Synod Council for the Diocese of Toronto. Finn currently works in youth and children ministry at St Martin-in-the-Fields and is a parishioner at the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St.



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- **Ryan Ramsden, ODT** (Grace Church, Scarborough) - Over the past 14 years, Ryan has served numerous terms as a member of Diocesan Council, Area Council, Diocesan Synod and General Synod. In recent years, he 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, was a recipient of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto, and was appointed by Primate Linda Nicholls to the Communications Committee of the General Synod for the session 2023-2025. Ryan is a lay leader at Grace Church in Scarborough, currently serving as Churchwarden, member of the Board of Management, and coordinator of communications and servers/chalice bearers. Since shepherding the church through its amalgamation in 2011, he has served as a Churchwarden for 9 years, and has been instrumental in the ongoing formation and growth of the parish.
- **Susan Schuschu, ODT** (St. John, East Orangeville) - Susan is a cradle Anglican actively involved at St. John, East Orangeville for over 26 years. In worship, Susan has been a side's person, an Intercessor, a Chalice Bearer, and is now licensed as a Lay Reader. She has held many leadership roles: Past Warden, Rector's Warden, People's Warden, Sunday School Teacher, Chair of Stewardship, Chair of Fundraising, Chair of the Cemetery Board, Parish Responsible Ministry Liaison, and Lay Member of Synod. She was elected to Provincial Synod October 2018 where she obtained a broader knowledge of the church. Susan has also been an active participant in: the Advisory Board, the Catering Team, and the Cemetery Board. For many years, Susan has served on York-Simcoe Area Council, three years on Diocesan Council, and the Diocesan Council Nominating Committee. "I have a very strong faith and am very committed to my roles in the Church. I am also very involved with my work, and with my family" she writes.
- **Canon Laura Walton, ODT** (Holy Trinity, Clearview) - Laura is the Canon Administrator for the Diocese of Toronto as well as a businessperson with a background in mediation, marketing, and procurement. Currently, Laura is the Rectors Warden and Treasurer for Holy Trinity, Clearview. At the diocesan level, she volunteers as a member of the Diocesan Response Team and Synod Council. Her past positions include being Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for General Synod, Executive Board member, Agenda Committee member, General Synod member, Chair of the Anglican Foundation Screening Committee, and has held the position of



Honorary Lay Secretary to Synod. Laura is currently Chair of the General Synod Planning Committee and a member of the Provincial Synod where she serves as its Prolocutor. She is a member of the Provincial Synod Executive Council as well. Laura has experience in both the realm of finances and HR along with decades of parish and volunteer management skills.

