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GENERAL SYNOD 2010

Feeling the Winds of God – Charting a New Course

June 3-11, 2010, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Hello GS2010 Volunteers

Here are the latest updates as well as answers to some frequently asked questions about volunteering at General Synod. If you have other questions, please contact me at synodvolunteers@nspeidiocese.ca or call 883-2898 or 478-4361. Excitement is growing as we head into the last month of preparations! Come out and share your Maritime Spirit and Hospitality!

Cheers,
Kathy

Updates:

1. **Registration packages** are scheduled to be assembled on May 21 in the Kingston Room at the Diocesan Centre. Please note the start time is changed from 10:00am to 1:00pm. The end time is still set for 4:00pm or earlier if the bags are finished. This work requires standing and repetitive movement but no heavy lifting. Light refreshments will be provided. A few more people are required for this task.
2. A couple of new positions have been identified. If you have already registered and are interested in either of these positions, please send an email Kathy at synodvolunteers@nspeidiocese.ca or call 883-2898 or 478-4361.
 - a. **Social Coordinator(s):** An important part of hospitality during General Synod is the social events planned for five evenings starting about 9:00pm. This individual or individuals will be required to be at the event, liaise with the entertainers, and trouble shoot if there are any unforeseen issues. Dates for events are June 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10. Entertainment and other details have been arranged.
 - b. **Event Planner:** A person is needed to help with the planning of the Volunteer events on May 30 and June 12. The main area of responsibility will be to coordinate the food. This position is required to start as soon as possible. This person will work with the volunteer sub-committee.

3. We are still looking for a **photographer(s)** to help capture the volunteer experience for a slide show at the closing event on June 12.
4. When you register online, you will receive an automatic response confirming your registration. If you have not received this email, please send a message to synodvolunteers@nspei.diocese.ca so we can manually confirm your information.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Are there any accommodations arranged for volunteers?

While there is no formal arrangement for volunteer accommodation, Dalhousie University has some rooms available at a reasonable cost. For more information contact Dalhousie Conference Services at 888-271-9222 or 902-494-8840. Once delegate accommodations are finalised, there may be rooms available at Saint Mary's. More information will be shared when available. The Hotel Atlantica (previously Holiday Inn Willow Tree) has rooms for General Synod available at a special rate of \$125 plus tax per night. Reservations may be made via telephone (902) 423-1161 or toll free at 1-888-810-7288.

2. How many shifts do I have to volunteer for?

Individuals can volunteer for one shift or more. Generally shifts will be four hours broken down by morning, afternoon and evening. Once jobs are assigned, you will receive a confirmation of your assignment and hours. While there is no maximum number of shifts, shifts will be scheduled to ensure no one is overextended and to allow as many people as possible to volunteer.

3. Is there a deadline for volunteering?

Ideally, we would like all applications in by May 9. This will allow us to assign and confirm most schedules by May 23 and identify any gaps.

4. When will we know our assignments and schedules?

Most positions and schedules will be identified by May 23. There may be some lead volunteers assigned prior to that date who will help with training and oversight of other volunteers. Anyone who is identified as a lead, will need to attend the training on May 30 as well as another session on the morning of June 1 at Saint Mary's (SMU).

5. How do I make changes to the information I have submitted when I registered?

There is no automated way to update your registration information. If you need to update any of the information you submitted such as availability, email synodvolunteers@nspeidiocese.ca or call Kathy Petite, Volunteer Coordinator at 883-2898 or 478-4361.

6. Do I need to attend the orientation and rally on May 30?

It is desirable that all volunteers attend the orientation rally that will be held at the Diocesan Centre on May 30. Hours are tentatively scheduled for 1:00pm to 4:00pm or 5:00pm. We recognise this will not work for everyone and we will work with individuals who are not available that day to ensure they have the information they need to carry out their assignment.

7. Will there be an event for volunteers after Synod is over?

We are planning a gathering on June 12 to recognise the hard work that everyone did to make General Synod a success. Tentatively this event is scheduled to start at 4:00pm or 5:00pm at the Diocesan Centre. More details to follow.

8. Is there parking available at Saint Mary's for volunteers?

All vehicles parked in SMU parking lots require a SMU Parking Pass. We have been assigned a limited number of parking passes for the general parking lot near the SMU Arena during General Synod. Although we may have ample passes for the volunteers assigned after June 3, we will not have enough for all those assigned on June 1 and 2. Persons volunteering on those days may wish to car pool, use transit, or find alternative parking.

9. Is there parking available at the airport for volunteers?

We are working on a plan for parking and/or transportation for volunteers at the airport. If you are scheduled to work a shift at the airport, you will be given information about these arrangements.