

### Why a Special Synod?

The canons of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island require that the full body of Synod gather to elect and confirm delegates to General Synod. While there is an option to simply put forward the delegates elected at the most recent past Synod, Diocesan leadership felt strongly that — recognizing the extent of change of transition we have experienced over the past few years in our Diocese — it was important that we gather, elect, and confirm from a current list of interested delegates.

### How will this work?

While more information will be sent out in the new year, our plan is that we will gather — much as we did for the Episcopal Electoral Synod — in regional pods and conduct the Synod by Zoom. The morning will be framed by worship and will include very focused motions regarding the election of delegates to General Synod. At your regional gathering, you will vote by house — Clergy or Lay — and local scrutineers will tally the results and communicate them to our chief scrutineer. In turn this information will be shared with the Bishop and the necessary resolutions will be offered to confirm the election. The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island is to elect 3 delegates from each house, alternates for each house, as well as a youth delegate and alternate. Note: youth delegates must be 16 years of age at the start of General Synod (July 12, 2022) and under the age of 26 years upon prorogation of General Synod (July 17, 2022) and must be a communicant member of The Anglican Church of Canada.

### Who attends this Special Synod?

This is a Special Synod, dealing with one issue only. The delegates for this Synod are the ones elected by the parishes at their last AGM, which should have been held in February/March of 2021. If Parishes did not elect any at that time, their delegates would be whomever had been elected previously.

### Who is eligible to be a delegate to General Synod?

Any delegate to our Diocesan Synod is eligible to be a delegate to General Synod. According to Canon 7: The General Synod, the following points govern the election:

1. (4) If more delegates of each order are nominated than are required by the Constitution of General Synod, then the clergy shall ballot for the Clerical delegates and the laity who are not youth for the non-youth lay delegates and the youth for the youth delegates.
- (5) The names of the candidates having the highest number of votes shall then be put by each electing group, to the rest of the Synod to accept or reject the election of the candidates as a whole.
- (6) The candidates of each electing group whose names shall be next on the list shall be substitute delegates and shall be elected in the same manner after the declaration of the names of the delegates-elect.

### What about Prince Edward Island?

Honouring the document, "Relationship Between the Church in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island (129<sup>th</sup> Session of Synod, 1996), Canon 7 (entitled "The General Synod") was amended by the addition of the following as section 3:

3. (1) One of the clerical or lay delegates to General Synod shall be a resident of Prince Edward Island elected by the Assembly of the Diocesan Church Society of Prince Edward Island and confirmed as a delegate by resolution of the Synod;
- (2) Prior to each Synod session for the election of General Synod delegates, the Secretary of the Diocesan Church society of Prince Edward Island shall notify the Bishop in writing of the name of the person elected as a delegate and the name of the person elected as a substitute delegate and confirm the persons elected have agreed to serve;
- (3) If a delegate has not been elected by the Assembly, all delegates to General Synod will be elected by the Synod in the manner provided in sections 2 and 3;
- (4) This section does not limit the right of the Synod to elect other persons resident in Prince Edward Island as delegates to General Synod in the manner provided in section 2 and 3.

The Assembly of the Diocesan Church Society of Prince Edward Island (DCS) will gather on January 15, 2022, to elect one representative and one alternate to General Synod. It will depend on the house from which that delegate is elected to have a final tally for those to be elected at the January 29<sup>th</sup> Special Synod. This year, the DCS is scheduled to elect a representative from the house of Clergy (this is flexible according to availability). At the Special Synod, we will confirm the delegate and alternate put forth from the DCS Assembly by resolution. This does not mean no one else from Prince Edward Island can be nominated (or elected) but assures fair representation. Delegates from Prince Edward Island are encouraged to nominate/self-nominate for the remaining positions, according to house.

### **What is the deadline for nominations?**

The deadline for nominations is Monday, January 10, 2022. That said, nominations may also be offered at the beginning of the synod session. It is entirely appropriate to nominate yourself if you have discerned a call to this work. If you are nominating someone else, please confirm their willingness to serve in this capacity.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Rev'd Ann Turner, Executive Director, at [executivedirector@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:executivedirector@nspeidiocese.ca) (902-420-0717, ext. 1167), or Rev'd Will Ferry, Executive Secretary of Synod at [execsecsynod@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:execsecsynod@nspeidiocese.ca).