



## Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

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February 7, 2023

### TO ALL PARISHES, CLERGY AND MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD 2023

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Notice is given that the 151<sup>st</sup> Session of Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island will be held from Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in the McInnes Room, Student Union Building, Dalhousie University, 6136 University Avenue, Halifax.

All motions and resolutions to come before Synod should be received by the Executive Secretary of Synod no later than Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Resolutions that were submitted last fall still stand. Please send any new resolutions to the Synod Office, 1340 Cathedral Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 221, or emailed to: [execsecsynod@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:execsecsynod@nspeidiocese.ca)

No resolutions will be accepted after the above deadline or from the floor of Synod.

For guidance, refer to "Instructions for Writing Diocesan Synod Resolutions" available at: <https://bit.ly/3lfPrwf>

Information about SYNOD 2023 will be updated on our website linked here <https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/pages/151st-session-of-synod> and communicated as it becomes available.

This notice is given by the Bishop of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, The Right Reverend Sandra Fyfe.

## BEING A SYNOD DELEGATE

Synod is a meeting of Anglicans from a diversity of backgrounds and from many different communities across the Diocese. Delegates bear the responsibility of representing the whole church in the Diocese at Synod. This means that the common good of the whole church takes precedence over personal, parish, or regional considerations.

Delegates become members of Synod once Synod is in session. It is essential that members see themselves as individuals united in one body. An understanding and appreciation of this by members of Synod leads to a stronger and more effective church.

Delegates should make every effort to understand the nature and functions of Synod. While there are a number of responsibilities related to attending Synod, there are other aspects to being a delegate. Delegates should be committed to the church at the parish level and active at the regional level. In addition, delegates should be aware of and accept the commitment of time and effort required prior to, during, and after Synod. They should be prepared, if called upon, to allow their gifts and talents to be used at the Diocesan level.

The decisions of Synod are based on discussion and debate and, once made, are the decisions of the whole Diocese. Each Synod delegate is an important part of that decision-making process and, of equal importance, is a vital link in the communication chain of carrying the decisions made at Synod back to individual parishes and regions. Decisions should be shared in their entirety by delegates when they return home.

Being a Synod delegate is a challenging responsibility that provides one with enormous opportunities to exercise faith in Christ and his teachings of hope, grace, wisdom, peace, compassion and love.

### **Preparation of the Synod Delegate Report**

Synod delegates are members of the incorporated body of the Diocesan Synod of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, not only for the three days of Synod meetings, but until new Synod delegates are elected by parishes. Decisions made by Synod have far-reaching implications for parishes and those 'back home' deserve to know the business of Synod.

One of the important duties of a Synod delegate is to report back to one's parish and region on the events of Synod. This can be done at a Sunday service shortly after Synod and/or at a meeting of Regional or Parish Council. It is suggested that a written report can also be included in the parish annual report. Lay delegates of a particular parish may want to consider preparing their reports jointly. It must be noted that the Synod delegate report is often the only contact many parishioners have with the Diocese and/or Synod.

### **Lessons from the LAMBETH Conference of Bishops, 1988**

Reference: [The Truth Shall Make You Free](#), The Lambeth Conference 1988, The Reports, Resolutions & Pastoral Letters from the Bishops (1988, Anglican Consultative Council).

What do decisions of Synod mean for the Diocese? The Report on 'Dogmatic and Pastoral Concerns' of the 1988 Lambeth Conference of Bishops noted two emphases in Anglican Decision-Making: consensus and reception.

## Consensus

“On the one hand the expression of ‘consensus’ will involve the achieving of certain thought out and stipulated majorities in synods at the appropriate level....A synodical majority on its own, however, cannot be deemed to constitute the mind of a [Diocese] Province or Communion of the whole Church. Consensus must involve; all arguments must be put to the community and heard by it; it is important that people not be swept forward without understanding the implications of what is being agreed, and that there is, indeed, maximum agreement.” (pp. 117, 118)

## Reception

Decisions of Synods need to be ‘received’ by the wider church. Reception “entails embodying what is affirmed in the lived experience of the community....Reception is a gradual and dynamic process. It means the way by which the people of God as a whole actively respond to decisions made by synods and councils. This is a process which takes time and is always open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit within the community. Until such a process is complete there is necessarily a ‘provisionality’ about decisions taken by synods and councils of the Church. A matter cannot be deemed to be settled without reception. It is still possible for those decisions to be modified, or even reversed...” (p. 117)

“On the one hand it must be possible for a [Diocese] Province or a Communion to have confidence in its decisions, even though individuals or groups continue to express views contrary to those declared by synods. On the other hand, it is important to make room for dissent within the reception process.” (p. 118)

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING DIOCESAN SYNOD RESOLUTIONS

Deadline - February 26th at 5:00 pm

1. All resolutions must be submitted in advance, in writing, to the Executive Secretary of Synod, at least three months before the meeting of Synod (February 26th, 2022). No resolutions will be accepted after the deadline or from the floor of Synod.
2. Each resolution shall begin with “RESOLVED, that”, or “MOVED, that” ... and be followed by a clear and concise statement of what is proposed. The names of the mover and seconder are to be included in the notice of resolution/motion printed in the Convening Circular.
3. There shall be no preamble. There shall be no introductory statements or “WHEREAS” ... statements. Start with the resolution.
4. Commentary on the resolution should follow, but not be part of the formal resolution. Commentary can explain the reasons for the resolution, its program impact, congruity with the Diocesan Vision, etc. Resolutions with budgetary impact must include a budget estimate.
5. Submissions must contain the name, email (if available), postal address, parish and phone number of the mover and/or the sponsor. If the name of the movers is not finalized when the resolution is submitted, you must name a sponsor who can speak knowledgeably about the resolution with the Resolutions Committee.
6. The Resolutions Committee shall not decide on the merits of the proposed resolution/motion, but may return the resolution for further work if it is not within the guidelines, unclear, ambiguous, inaccurate or impossible to carry out.
7. The Resolutions Committee will advise the mover or sponsor if a resolution has been rejected or referred.

Resolutions can be delivered to the Synod Office, 1340 Cathedral Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 221, or emailed to: [execsecsynod@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:execsecsynod@nspeidiocese.ca)

## CONSTITUTION OF SYNOD, SECTION 29, RULES OF ORDER AND DEBATE

- (1) When the Bishop, or other person presiding has taken the chair, no member shall continue standing.
- (2) The business on the agenda paper shall take precedence over all other business.
- (3) When any member is about to speak he or she shall rise and address the Chair.
- (4) An address from the Bishop shall be in order at any time.
- (5) No motion or amendment shall be considered as before Synod (except such as proposed by the Bishop or by a Committee) unless seconded and reduced to writing and in the hands of the Chair.
- (6) Any notice of motion may be taken up by any member present at such meeting in the same manner as if that member had given the notice.
- (7) No member save the mover of a motion who, as mover, shall have the right of reply shall speak more than once on the same question, without asking and receiving permission from the Chair.
- (8) Except with consent of the House, the mover of a report and the mover of a motion may not speak more than ten minutes and the seconder five minutes; and each speaker thereafter five minutes. The mover may speak for five minutes in closing the debate.
- (9) When a question is under consideration, no other motion shall be received except to adjourn Synod, to move the previous question, to lay it on the table, to postpone it to a certain time, to postpone it indefinitely, to adjourn the debate, to commit it, to consider it clause by clause, to amend it or to divide it; motions for any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order here named.
- (10) Motions to suspend a rule of order or to adjourn, to lay on the table, or to divide the motion or for the previous question shall be decided without debate.
- (11) No rule of order shall be suspended except upon the vote of two-thirds of the members present.
- (12) After a motion has been read to Synod by the Chair or the Executive Secretary, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of Synod, but it may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before being put to vote or before amendment with the permission of the Synod.
- (13) Any member may require at any period of the debate that the motion under discussion be read for the member's information.
- (14) When a member is speaking, no other member shall interrupt except to raise a point of order, nor pass between the member speaking and the Chair.
- (15) A member called to order while speaking shall sit down unless permitted to explain.
- (16) All questions of order shall be decided by the Chair without debate, and the decision of the Chair shall be final.

(17) An amendment to an amendment shall be first put and if defeated, then other amendments to the original amendment may be made severally and each submitted in turn to the House until one is accepted or all defeated; then the amendment to the main motion in amended form, when, if defeated, the main motion shall be put.

(18) No more than one amendment to a proposed amendment to a motion shall be in order; yet a substitute for the whole matter may be proposed and received, provided it deals with the subject at hand.

(19) When any question is about to be put to vote, the members shall stay in their seats, and shall not hold any private discourse; and when a motion is about to be put, no member shall leave until such motion is disposed of.

(20) The Chair shall have the right to vote on all questions but no casting vote, and in the event of an equality of votes on any proposition, it shall be declared lost.

(21) A question once determined shall not again be drawn into discussion in the same session without the special sanction of the Chair.

(22) When Synod is about to rise or adjourn, every member shall stand in the member's place until the Bishop or other person presiding has left the hall.

(23) Members of the public may be present at the meetings of Synod on the understanding that they must be subject to the direction of the Chair; and must withdraw if required by the Chair, on the request of any three members of Synod.

## GUIDE FOR SPEAKING TO MOTIONS / RESOLUTIONS OR AMENDMENTS

Members may speak for *five minutes, once per motion.*

Move to the microphone and enter the line of speakers. When it is your turn to speak and you are recognized by the Chair, address the Chair and members of Synod, thus,

**“Bishop Sandra and Members of Synod”**

*Give your name, your parish and region (or situation), thus*

**“My name is \_\_\_\_\_ My parish is \_\_\_\_\_**

**My region is \_\_\_\_\_”**

*Tell Synod whether you are speaking for or against the motion/resolution, for example,*

**“I am speaking for the motion/resolution or amendment”**

*or*

**“I am speaking against the motion/resolution or amendment”**

*Then give your reasons or make your points why you are for or against the motion/resolution or amendment.*

It is usually helpful to jot down the points you wish to make:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

There will be warnings as your time is near five minutes. Watch what happens when others speak.