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# CONVENING CIRCULAR

## *Part One*

152<sup>nd</sup> Session of Synod - May 23 to 25, 2025

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*But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never  
come to an end; they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in him."*

Book of Lamentations (3:21-24)





## **Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island**

**The Right Reverend Sandra Fyfe, Diocesan Bishop -**  
**bishopsoffice@nspeidiocese.ca**

1340 Cathedral Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2Z1

Phone 902-420-0717 Fax 902-425-0717 Office Email - [office@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:office@nspeidiocese.ca)

### **Notice of Synod - May 31st, 2024**

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#### **TO: ALL PARISHES, CLERGY AND MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD 2025**

Notice is given that the 152nd Session of Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island will be held from Friday, May 23rd to Sunday May 25th, 2025, in the Main Arena at St. Francis Xavier University, Varsity Drive in Antigonish NS (please see below Synod Write up with regards to the change of venue). All motions and resolutions to come before Synod should be received by the Executive Secretary of Synod no later than Thursday January 23rd, 2025. Please send resolutions to the Synod Office, 1340 Cathedral Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 2Z1, or via email 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, "[Instructions for Writing Diocesan Synod Resolutions](#)" will be sent out in September. Information about SYNOD 2025 will be updated on our website starting in September of this year. We look forward to continuing our planning for Synod 2025 and to welcoming you to the St. F.X. campus next May.

This notice is given by the Bishop of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island,

The Right Reverend Sandra Fyfe.  
Diocesan Bishop  
The Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

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## BEING A SYNOD DELEGATE



**Nature of the Position:** to participate in the Bi-annual Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Issues that come before Synod may include: governance reform, justice issues, partnerships, ecumenical and interfaith relationships, and finances. According to The Constitution of the Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island (Constitution), each lay representative shall be a communicant of a congregation that forms part of a Parish who attends worship services regularly and is of the full age of 16 years before their election or appointment and who is also qualified to vote at meetings of the Parish they represent (Constitution, 5. Lay Representatives). Each clergy representative shall attend subject to Constitution, 4. Clergy Members.

### Outline of Responsibilities

- To represent the electing parish, along with other clergy and lay people, at Diocesan Synod.
- Some delegates with specific areas of expertise serve on the Diocesan Council, the Vision, Strategy, and Support Teams (VSSTs), and various committees between synods.
- Attending advance meetings organized by the Region or Diocese.

### Skills and Experience

- Delegates will be able to bring their knowledge of issues currently before the church, to reflect prayerfully, and to participate actively in issues before the Synod.
- An understanding of the range of diocesan culture and values.
- An ability to absorb written and oral material and make decisions based on that material.

### Support, Supervision and Training

- Most support is peer based. There is some preparation and orientation offered by the Region and Secretary of Synod prior to the Synod.
- Being a regular recipient of Diocesan correspondence assures current knowledge and understanding of ongoing concerns (NetNews, Diocesan Times).

### Participation Group

- A small number of clergy and lay people who are also delegates to Diocesan Synod from the Region and Parish. Other Regions and Parishes send a similar group of elected representatives.

### Volunteer Screening Requirements

- Member in good standing of the Parish according to Constitution, 5. Lay Representatives or subject to Constitution, 4. Clergy Members.

### Length of Term

- Nominations are sought for each Diocesan Synod. A delegate remains in office until their successor is elected or appointed. There is a limitation of term for Lay Representatives based on participation in two successive Diocesan Synods, wherever possible (Constitution, 5(7)).

### Benefits to the Volunteer

- This is an opportunity to learn about and participate actively in issues before the wider church, beyond the Parish and Region, and to influence the future direction of the Diocese.

## SYNOD THEME AND GUEST SPEAKER



*(The following is extracted from Bishop Sandra's May submission to the Diocesan Times)*

In April of 2020, when COVID cases were surging in Newfoundland and Labrador, the province's Minister of Health, John Haggie, spoke about hope, saying memorably: "Hope is a girl's name, not a strategy."

Not long after this a colleague and I began a Bible study on the first letter of Peter called: "Hope is not just a girl's name." While I doubt Minister Haggie ever watched any of our videos that introduced each week's theme as we journeyed through first Peter chapter by chapter, he might have found it informative. We spent a lot of time looking at our faith in context, comparing our current situation to the time when Peter's first letter was written. It resonated deeply. We came to understand that Christians of every time and every age have faced hardship and adversity and, at times, persecution.

The Church has been under threat before.  
Christians have felt uncertainty before.  
Christians have been worried about the future before.  
Christians have wondered before whether the faith will survive beyond them.

That's not to minimize the circumstances we find ourselves in now, but simply to help us place ourselves within the greater span of time. There was reason for people in those first decades and centuries of the Church's existence to be hopeful, and there is reason for us to be hopeful today.

### **Our Synod theme: Therefore, we have Hope.**

In the Book of Lamentations (3:21-24) we read:

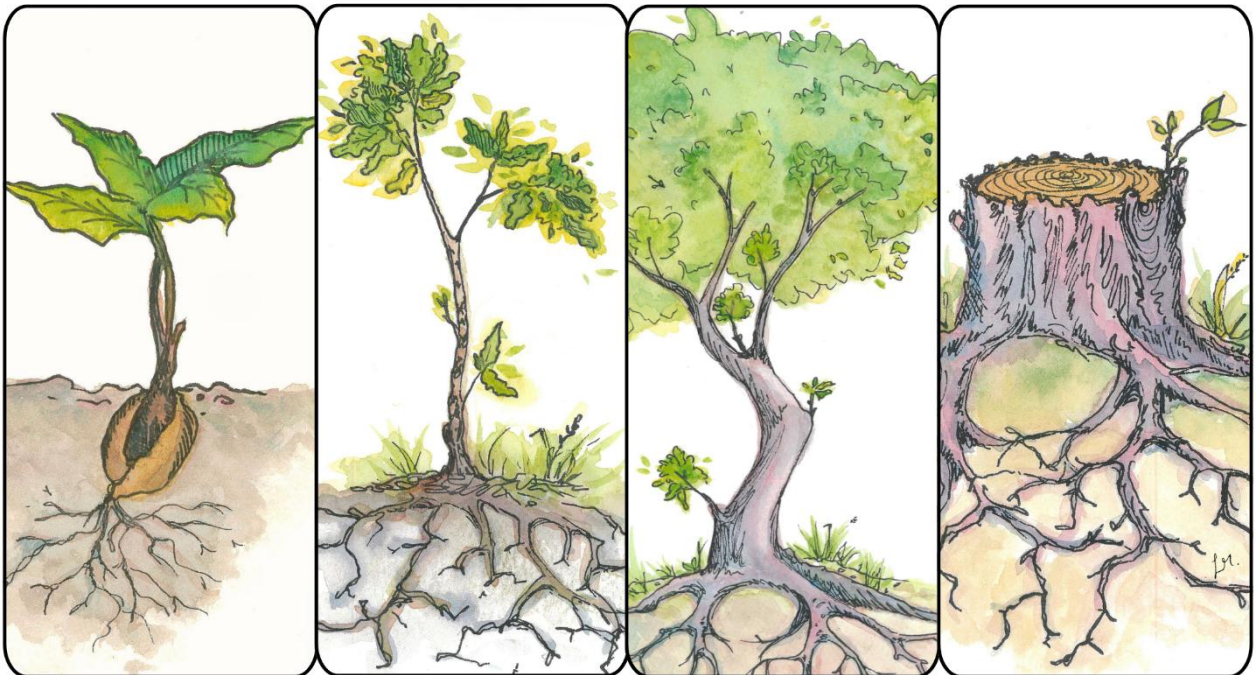
*But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.  
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

It is from this passage that our theme for the 152<sup>nd</sup> Session of Synod has been drawn. However, recognizing the need for us to reclaim the collective voice of the people of God in a time of rampant individualism, we changed the word "I" in verse 21 to "we" so that our theme becomes: *Therefore we have hope.*



As we gather in community for Synod from May 23rd to 25th at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, we will explore the theme of hope and how adopting a posture of hope might equip us well for these times. Our theme will be incorporated into our worship, plenary sessions, keynote presentations, Bible Study, and the Bishop's Charge to Synod. The logo, designed by Leah Marshall, presents images of a seed breaking forth to produce what will eventually become a tree and, finally, a stump. We see how the tree that emerged from a tiny seed becomes the source of new life, even after it has been cut down. We are reminded that even as we embrace change and the death of some of what we have known in the life of the Church, life still bursts forth. We are a people who believe in the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting.

## THEREFORE WE HAVE HOPE



*Designed by Leah Marshall*



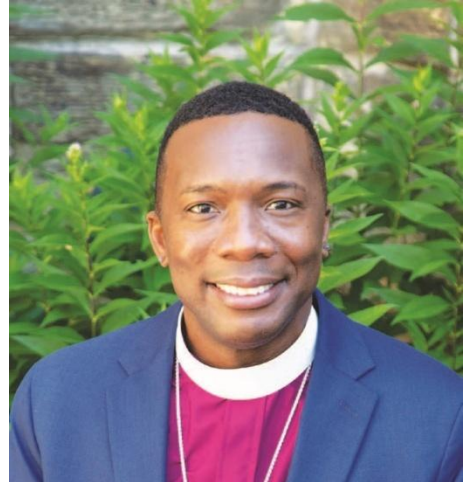
## Our Keynote Speaker – The Right Reverend Deon K. Johnson



To assist us in exploring our theme, I have invited The Right Reverend Deon Kevin Johnson to join us as our keynote speaker. Bishop Deon was consecrated as the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri on June 13, 2020, at Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis. I met him during the *Living our Vows* program for new bishops offered by the College for Bishops in the Episcopal Church. I have found him to be an inspiring person of unrelenting hope.

Born and raised in a small village on the Caribbean Island of Barbados, his faith was formed under the watchful eye of his maternal grandmother who taught him how to pray, how to listen with his heart and introduced him to the beauty of worship in the hymns and spirituals she sang throughout Deon's childhood. His grandmother's presence and prayers continued to influence him as he immigrated from Barbados to New York at the age of 14.

After receiving Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and History and an Associate degree in Biology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio (2000), he went on to earn a Master of Divinity degree from The General Theological Seminary in New York, New York (2003), where he also received an Honorary Doctorate degree (2021).



Bishop Deon served as Associate Rector at Christ Episcopal Church in Shaker Heights, Ohio (2003-2006), and as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brighton, Missouri (2006-2020). His service to the wider church community includes the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, the Taskforce for Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision, and the Office of African Descent Ministries. Bishop Deon also serves on the advisory boards and councils of Sewanee: The University of the South and General Theological Seminary.

The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri elected Bishop Deon as its 11th diocesan bishop on November 23rd, 2019, just before the COVID pandemic hit. He became the first black, first gay, first immigrant to lead the Diocese of Missouri. His ordination was postponed and downsized for safety reasons due to the pandemic, which shaped much of his early years as bishop. Throughout the health emergency, Bishop Deon led with compassion and hope.



"I see my role primarily as pastoral in this time in the church and the world," Bishop Deon said. His passion for social justice and racial reconciliation has formed his ministry. He authored an anti-racism covenant, established diocesan missionaries to lead advocacy ministries, and established a racial reconciliation fund to help heal the divisions throughout his diocese.

In the first of a series of devotions for *Forward Day by Day: Devotions for Disciples* in December, 2024, Bishop Deon wrote this:

*"Hope is a radical act of defiance in the face of the impossible.  
God breaks into our world not with strength or might or power, but with hope."*

— Bishop Deon Johnson, as shared in *Forward Day by Day: Daily Devotions for Disciples*, December 1, 2024

If you would like to hear Bishop Deon leading his devotions for the month of December from *Forward Day by Day*, go to: <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/fdd/2024-12-01> and find the audio version at the bottom of the page.

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Deon as the keynote speaker at our upcoming Diocesan Synod as we explore the theme of hope in these uncertain and tumultuous times.

*(Biographical information adapted from The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, Bishop's Biography)*



## GENERAL INFORMATION



### **LOCATION**

We have carefully considered the feedback received regarding the venue and accommodations at recent Synods. In response, we have invested significant time and effort in addressing your suggestions and concerns. Since last year's Synod, we have explored various locations across Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Given the vast geography of our Diocese, we recognize that no single location can meet every need perfectly. Nevertheless, we remain committed to exploring all areas of our Diocese when planning these important gatherings. We reached out to venues in Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, and mainland Nova Scotia. While some locations exceeded our budget, others could not accommodate our group size or lacked overnight lodging options.

We are pleased to share that we have secured a venue that meets many of the needs expressed by Synod Delegates.

St. Francis Xavier (St. FX) University in Antigonish will host our upcoming Synod in May 2025. Our sessions will be held at the Charles V. Keating Centre/Arena (1140 Convocation Blvd., Antigonish, NS, B2G 2W5). The meeting spaces are all located on a single level, and both the Chapel for the opening service and the accommodations at Governors Hall are just across the parking lot. Free parking is available on-site.

A campus map of St. FX is available [[HERE](#)]. Key locations include:

- Charles V. Keating Centre (arena) (#19) – Main meeting venue
- Governors Hall (#20) – Accommodation
- University Chapel (#27) – Opening service
- Morrison Hall (#32) – Meals

### **ACCOMMODATIONS – Feb 1st**

To book your accommodation please follow this link <https://hotel.stfx.ca/diocese.bnb>.

If you are a Youth Delegate, please email Jana at [bishopsoffice@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:bishopsoffice@nspeidiocese.ca) to register and secure your accommodations.

### **ONLINE REGISTRATION - April 24 to May 8**

Synod registration will open on April 24 and close promptly on May 8 to meet St. FX's catering deadline.

The registration link will be posted on April 24 under the Synod 2025 tab on the website – Synod2025/Registration

Youth Delegates please reach out to Jana at [bishopsoffice@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:bishopsoffice@nspeidiocese.ca) to register.



**CHECK-IN – Friday, May 23rd (10:00 am to 12:45 pm)**

The Check-In team will be located just inside the main entrance of the arena and will be available from 10:00 AM to 12:45 PM. To ensure your attendance is recorded for quorum purposes, please be sure to check in before 12:45 PM. At check-in, you'll receive your name tag, which is required for both voting and meals.

**REGARDING ALTERNATE DELEGATES** - If you are attending as an alternate for a registered Delegate who is unable to attend, please see Jana, who will be with the Check-In team until 12:45 PM.

**LATE CHECK IN** – will be located at the help desk, inside the arena in the far back corner.

**MEALS**

Friday evening's meal will be a catered barbecue served in the arena. Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch will be held in Morrison Hall (Building #32 on the campus map). All three meals are included in the \$30 fee, which helps offset the associated costs. This fee is payable at the time of registration—either by credit card online or by cheque at check-in.

Please note that meals will only be available to participants who selected and paid for them—by credit card or cheque—during Synod registration.

If you have mobility concerns and feel unable to walk to the hall, please contact Leah Marshall at [lmarsshall@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:lmarsshall@nspeidiocese.ca) to arrange for meal delivery.

**COFFEE/TEA/WATER**

Coffee and tea will be available in the arena on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning (with a refresh mid-afternoon), and Sunday morning. During mealtimes, coffee and tea will be served in Morrison Hall. Large water jugs will be provided for refilling your bottles—please remember to bring your own, as bottled water will not be available.

There is a Starbucks on campus, located between buildings #31 and #32. Tim Hortons is located at 7 James Street, just a 2 min drive or 8 min walk away.

**WIFI**

Wi-Fi access will be available, and login details will be included in your welcome bags.

**NEW DELEGATE Orientation**

Dawn Purcell and Leah Marshall will be hosting the on-site New Delegate Orientation on **Friday, May 23rd at 11:00 AM** in Room **1018**. Located to the left of the check-in desk. Please be sure to check in and pick up your name tag at the check-in desk before attending the session.



## YOUTH DELEGATE GATHERING

After check-in and orientation, all Youth Delegates will gather on **Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 in Room 1018A**. Lunch will be provided.

## ELECTIONS

The youth members of this Synod will elect a Youth Representative to Diocesan Council. Nominations may be submitted by any member of this Session of Synod, or by any parish, congregation, or regional council within the Diocese.

Nominees must be members of this Session of Synod and must consent to both the nomination and the responsibility of serving if elected. Nominations should be submitted using the designated form.

Our Synod volunteers greatly appreciate receiving nominations in advance. However, nomination forms will also be accepted on-site up until **1:00 PM on Saturday**, just before nominations close.

Please listen for further instructions during Synod.

## DISPLAYS

A variety of displays will be set up near the main entrance on the main floor. We encourage you to take some time during meals and breaks to visit the display tables and explore what's being shared.

## SYNOD SERVICE

The Synod Service will take place on Friday evening at 7:15 pm at the Chapel (building #27). All delegates and observers of Synod are invited to attend. Bishop Deon is our guest preacher for the opening Eucharist.

## CEILIDH

The Ceilidh Men will be performing in the arena following the Synod Service.

## GOOD MANNERS

Let us be attentive to the prayer and business of Synod and show respect to those around us.

- a) **Cellphones and Texting:** Synod is about bringing people together in God's presence. Please make sure that cellphones are turned off or made silent while you are in the Chapel or meeting space. Instead of texting or emailing while someone is speaking, wait until breaks. If you must use your device, leave the room quietly and before answering a call. Please give your attention to the work at hand and enjoy the people around you.
- b) **Scent Aware:** Please help us in keeping the air we share healthy and perfume-free.



### **HELP DESK**

The help desk will be located at the back far corner of the arena. If you need any assistance, please see Jana there.

### **SYNOD SUPPORT TEAM**

Our Synod support team includes Stephen MacHardy (*Parish of St. Andrew, Cole Harbour*), Nathan Boudreau (*Parish of Three Harbours*), and Leah Marshall (*Parish of St. James, Armdale*). If you need any assistance during Synod, please reach out to any of them—they'll be happy to help!

### **SYNOD GREETER**

Victor Hendrickson (*Parish of St. Andrew, Cole Harbour*) is serving as our Synod Greeter this year. He will be assisting our Ecumenical Visitors and observers throughout Synod.

### **SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT TO BRING:**

- Water bottle
- Coffee/Tea cup, if you wish
- Chairs are plastic you may wish to bring a cushion
- All of our rooms in Governors Hall have bedding, towels and are air conditioned. Don't forget your toiletries.
- Dress in layers
- Notebook

### **OBSERVERS / NON-DELEGATES**

Members of parishes and other people who are not Delegates to Synod, Synod Session Staff, or Official Guests are welcome to attend and observe Synod proceedings. There will be specific seating off the voting floor for observers. Meals can be purchased at the cafeteria.

### **MISSIONAL MOMENTS**

In line with our theme, we invite parishes and parishioners to submit photos that depict moments of hope that we can showcase throughout Synod. As Bishop Sandra reflects on our theme, she likens it to the image of a seed breaking forth to eventually become a tree, and then a stump. We see how the tree, which emerged from a tiny seed, continues to bring forth new life, even after it has been cut down. This reminds us that, even as we face change and the loss of familiar aspects of Church life, new life still emerges. We are a people who believe in the resurrection of the dead. You can submit your photos of moments of hope to Rev. Carl Fraser, part of our tech team, at [vocations@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:vocations@nspeidiocese.ca) by Monday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## SYNOD ARRANGMENTS COMMITTEE 2025



### **Co-Chairs**

Reverend Dorothy Miller (The Parishes of Aylesford and Berwick) and Paul Fevens (The Parish of Eastern Passage and Cow Bay)

### **Executive Secretary:**

Dawn Purcell (The Parish of Hatchet Lake & Terence Bay)

### **Assistant Executive Secretary**

Archdeacon Tom Henderson (The Parish of Avon Valley)

### **Registration**

Jana Gauthier (Executive Administrator) and Tonia Wright (Administrative Assistant)

### **Check-In**

Edith Marshall (The Parish of Tangier) and team

### **Tech**

The Reverend Carl Fraser (Vocations Coordinator) and Tanya Moxley

### **Chief Scrutineer**

The Reverend Will Ferrey (The Parish of Amherst)

### **Worship**

The Reverend Dawna Wall (The Parish of St. John's, Lunenburg), Archdeacon Brianna Andrews (The Parish of French Village) and team.

### **Youth**

Allie Colp (Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator)

### **New Delegate Orientation**

Dawn Purcell (The Parish of Hatchet Lake & Terence Bay) & Leah Marshall (The Parish of St. James, Armdale)

### **Synod Greeter**

Victor Hendrickson (The Parish of St. Andrew, Cole Harbour)

## DRAFT AGENDA (ORDER MAY CHANGE AS SYNOD EVOLVES)

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### Friday, May 23



- **10:00 am – 12:45 pm** | Delegate Check-In
  - **11:00 am** | New Delegate Orientation
  - **12:00 noon** | Youth Gathering
  - **1:00 pm** | Call to Order
    - Housekeeping
    - Resolutions of the House
    - Bishop's Charge (Part 1)
    - Theme Address – Bishop Deon Johnson
    - Table Discussion
    - Resolutions 5 & 6
  - **5:15 pm** | Supper – Barbecue & Music
  - **7:15 pm** | Synod Service
  - **8:30 pm** | Ceilidh
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### Saturday, May 24

- **9:00 am** | Opening Worship
  - **12:15 – 1:30 pm** | Lunch – Morris Hall (reconvene at 1:30 pm)
  - **5:00 – 7:00 pm** | Supper (on your own, reconvene at 7:00 pm)
  - **9:00 pm** | Compline
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### Highlights

- Bishop's Charge (Part 2)
  - Presentation – Raissa Marks
  - Resolutions #7 to #15
  - Address – Bishop Deon Johnson
  - Table Discussion
  - Parish Leaders Handbook & Treasurers Toolkit
  - Reflections from Ecumenical Partners
  - Election Results
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### Sunday, May 25

- **9:00 am** | Eucharist (includes Bishop's Charge Part 3 – Homily)
- **Following Eucharist**
  - Brunch
  - Address – Bishop Deon Johnson
  - Table Discussion
  - Unresolved Business
  - What Do We Take Away?
- **3:00 pm** | Convene



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS



### **A VOTE BY ORDERS**

There shall be a vote by orders if a motion deals with: a matter of discipline; or if the Bishop or if any ten (10) members of Synod request it. The vote will be recorded by order of priests and order of laity. For a motion to be passed, it must have a majority in each order (or house).

### **CALL FOR THE QUESTION**

This usually will bring to an end any further discussion (after all recognized speakers have had opportunity to address Synod) and direct Synod to Vote.

### **CHAIR OF SYNOD**

The Bishop shall preside at all meetings of Synod

### **CHANCELLOR**

A judge or barrister who is appointed to advise the diocesan bishop. Our Chancellor, James Travers, is located in PEI. A large part of his work is interpreting the Canons to address today's issues and concerns. The Chancellor does not do individual parish work (parishes are required to secure their own legal counsel) but does facilitate all Diocesan work, including lawsuits.

### **CONSTITUTION AND CANONS COMMITTEE**

A Constitution and Canons Committee shall be appointed by the Bishop, with such terms of reference, roles and responsibilities as may be established by the Bishop from time to time.

### **CONVENING CIRCULAR**

An information booklet produced prior to each Synod (Diocesan bi-annual general meeting) and distributed to each Synod Delegate, outlining the upcoming Synod Motions, reports, budget, and other information.

### **DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

The "Synod between Synods." The Council is the main governing body of the Diocese when Synod is not in session. Council members are made up of members elected by Synod, Bishop's appointees, and representatives of the Regions.

### **FRIENDLY AMENDMENT**

Friendly Amendment is an amendment to a motion under debate that is perceived by all parties as an enhancement to the original motion, often only as clarification of intent. Friendly amendments are to be treated like other amendments.

**GENERAL SYNOD** The General Synod consists of the bishops of The Anglican Church of Canada and of the members chosen from the clergy and laity from each Diocese, nationally. We elect delegates to General Synod at our Synod. General Synod typically meets every 3 years.

**MOTIONS IN FORCE:** A motion passed by Synod comes into force immediately unless the Bishop dissents from or reserves the motion. If the Bishop dissents, the motion is lost.



### **MOTION OF CONSENT**

Needed to introduce a motion not previously submitted. It is put forward without discussion of the substance of the new motion. Motions to change the Constitution or Canons are not permitted from the floor.

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Committee on Nominations shall consist of seven lay members of Synod, the Regional Deans and the Executive Secretary. They shall meet at a convenient time and place that may be fixed by the Executive Secretary, who shall convene the Committee. This committee will review any nominations received for eligibility and accuracy. The report of the Committee, together with the names of the Committee and the list of nominations shall be made available to members of Synod at the time of registration for Synod.

### **OFFICERS OF SYNOD**

The officers of Synod shall consist of an Executive Secretary, an Assistant Secretary and a Registrar.

### **POINT OF ORDER**

Objection by a member concerning a violation of rules. This takes precedence over the current discussion until the point raised is resolved.

### **POINT OF PRIVILEGE**

A ‘courtesy’ granted by the Chair (the Bishop) to allow a person to speak to Synod. It must be asked for specifically and also be granted by the Chair (not always done). Privilege can be requested to speak generally or to speak twice to a motion, for example.

### **POINT OF CLARIFICATION**

A delegate stands, raises their hand, says “Point of Clarification” and asks a question to clarify a point being made by a speaker.

### **QUORUM**

To constitute a quorum of Synod for the transaction of business at least one-third of the clerical members and one-third of the lay representatives whose election is certified by the Executive Secretary shall be present, but any lesser number shall have power to adjourn, from time to time, until a quorum can be obtained.

### **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Receives, reviews and prepares proposed resolutions for consideration by a synod or council, ensuring clarity, conciseness, and consistency.

### **SECRETARIES OF SYNOD**

There are two Secretaries of Synod. The Executive Secretary of Synod, Dawn Purcell, who is appointed by the Bishop and the Assistant Secretary, Archdeacon Tom Henderson.

The Executive Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall be the Credentials Committee whose duty it shall be to examine the certificates of election and qualification of all representatives and report thereon to the Chair before the opening of Synod.

## **SYNOD**



In the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, Synod meetings are held at least every two years at the call of the Bishop. Every parish is represented at the Synod by two clergy (usually the rector/priest in charge and an associate parish priest or deacon), two elected lay representatives and one elected youth representative. The Synod is a legislative body as well as an education body where members learn of programs within the church emphasizing ministry and outreach. The Diocesan Synod encompasses the tradition of collegiality and cooperation.

## **SYNOD MEMBER (Delegate)**

Synod members consists of the Bishop of the Diocese; any coadjutor, suffragan or assistant bishop of the Diocese; the Chancellor of the Diocese and the Diocesan Solicitor; the Executive Secretary of Synod; the Dean of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island; Clerical delegate(s); 2 lay delegates; youth delegate; the President of the Diocesan Licensed Lay Ministers Association; the President of the Nova Scotia Diocesan Board of the Anglicans Powering Potential; Co-opted members appointed by Diocesan Council; Postulants; the Chair of the Synod Arrangements Committee; Church Army Officers; and Diocesan Council Regional Representatives.

## **TO AMEND**

To add or insert words/paragraphs; to strike out certain words/sections and/or substitute others. Amendments must not change the intent of the motion. Each amendment must be dealt with before any others can be put forward.

## **TO DIVIDE**

A form of amendment; if the motion has parts on which you might want to vote differently, you can move an amendment to divide the motion.

## **TO DEFER**

This motion takes precedent over 'to amend' but yields 'to table' or 'call for the question'. The intent is to limit discussion and move to another time (can be on a different day).

## **TO TABLE**

This effectively sets aside an issue or motion until later in the same meeting, though a tabled motion may not make it back to the agenda before Synod ends. When a call to table is put forward, it is voted upon without any further discussion. If it is passed, business moves on. If it is defeated, then debate on the motion continues.

## **TO POSTPONE**

Moves discussion and voting on a motion to a specific time; requires 2/3 majority to pass.

## **VOTE BY ORDERS**

Clergy and Laity are the two orders of Synod delegates for our Diocese. Vote by Orders is called for when we want to confirm that a motion is favoured by a majority of both Clergy and Lay delegates. A call for Vote by Orders can currently be done before or after voting happens on a motion. The Bishop, or any 4 members of Synod may request the Vote by Orders. It is not subject to approval by Synod and must be conducted immediately. The result of a Vote by Orders supersedes any prior vote. If a motion does not pass by a majority of both orders, then the motion is defeated.