

Diocese of Ontario

LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO SYNOD

At its Annual Vestry meeting, each parish (or congregation, in the case of a multi-point parish) elects Lay Representatives to Synod to attend the Diocesan Synod which meets every other year. Synod is a meeting of Anglicans from a diversity of backgrounds and communities who bear the responsibility of representing the whole Church in our Diocese. This means in essence that the common good of the whole Church takes precedence over personal or any other consideration.

Representatives to Synod are members of Synod and must appreciate the wider Church to which we belong. Synod is not comprised of separate and competing interests and groups. It is essential that we see ourselves as individual parts that are united into one body. An understanding and appreciation of this on the part of all who are members of Synod leads to a stronger and more effective Church.

Representatives to Synod should make an effort to understand the nature and function of Synod. While there are a number of responsibilities related to attending Synod itself, there are other aspects to being a member of Synod. Representatives should be committed to the Church at the local level and be prepared to be active at the regional level. In addition, Representatives should be aware of and accept the commitment of time and effort required prior to, during, and after Synod. Representatives should be prepared, if called upon, to allow their gifts and talents to be used at the Diocesan level.

The decisions of Synod are collective and must be shared in their entirety by Representatives when they return to their parishes and regions. These decisions are based on discussion and debate at Synod and, once made, they are the decisions of the whole Church in the Diocese. Each Synod Delegate is an important part of that decision making process and, of equal importance, is a vital link in the chain of communicating the decisions to parishes and regions.

Synod is a process of sharing: sharing thoughts and ideas; sharing feelings and approaches to issues; sharing responsibility for decisions flowing from these factors; and then sharing these decisions with our Anglican friends in our home parishes and regions.

Being a Synod Representative is a challenging position which provides one with enormous opportunities to exercise one's faith in Christ and His teachings of hope, grace, wisdom, peace, humanity and love.