

SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF ONTARIO NOMINATION FORM 2018

**Deadline September 5th, 2018*

I, **PETER CORY** of the church/parish of **ST MARY MAGDALENE ANGLICAN CHURCH** agree to let my name stand for nomination to (please select one or both):

DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

GENERAL SYNOD 2019

Tell us briefly about your faith experience

I have been a person of faith all my life. My formative faith experiences and education have been entirely within an Anglican context. Like a great many people within the church, I have had times of great uncertainty and doubt. I have been challenged by logic, science, and rationalism. I know that the way we understand the world today is incalculably dissimilar from the way people understood it in Jesus' time. But I keep coming back to Christ as my experience of the divine, of God. I have explored other faith systems, heard great arguments from atheists, and also kept company with so many people who are 'spiritual but not religious'. But I keep coming back to Jesus the only path to a real and full relationship with God. A story from the great Anglican theologian John Stott really speaks to me. Stott talked of visiting the temples of other religions. Their statues portrayed God as a detached deity, indifferent to mortals. Stott found a real contrast in looking at Christ on the cross where he saw a God that suffered as humans do. I think this story speaks volumes about what Christ is to us, being fully human and fully divine. Christ bore our sins and also felt true pain. So when I have experienced pain and loss, I know that my God did also.

What gifts, talents, abilities and skills would you bring to this ministry?

I graduated from University with a degree in Dramatic Arts. While I have never really formally applied this degree, it did nonetheless develop my powers in all areas of communication, which I think is important to one who is part of the Diocesan Synod Council or a delegate at General Synod.

Most of my working life has been in Ontario's youth correctional system. More recently I was the Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Kingston Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, a post which I held for 3.5 years. I have been a director on several boards for non-profit

agencies, and I currently sit on the Youth Justice Committee with Youth Diversion in Kingston, providing extra-judicial measures for young people who are in trouble with the law.

I believe that my executive experience and my experience in social services provide many transferrable skills that can be applied to the roles of being a member of General Synod and being on the Diocesan Synod Council. Knowledge of organizational governance, community building, diplomacy, consensus building, and communication are just some of the skills that I have accrued through my working life, and which I think would be very useful in these roles.

Please list your involvement in the life of the church (parish, diocese, province or national), and well as any other relative experience.

Early years

I grew up attending St. George's Cathedral, which is a place that I still often regard as a spiritual home. I enjoyed Sunday school there as a child, and was later involved in a youth group. I was confirmed at St. George's and a few years later I actually had the pleasure and privilege of being employed by the parish as the Verger's Assistant, a position that I held for about 5 years. To this day I have very fond memories of that job, which had me doing all sorts of things and meeting and helping an endless variety of people. In my late teens I did have a small amount of experience with Synod while at St. George's as I was asked to be an alternate delegate to Synod and did end up attending part of a synod due to the absence of a delegate.

St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church, Napanee.

In 2003, my wife and I relocated to Napanee, just 30 minutes up the road from my home town of Kingston. Here, I began attending St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church. I have been involved in the life of the parish in many ways. As a Deputy Churchwarden I learned a great deal about the governance of the parish. This prepared me well for being a Churchwarden and I have been in this role on and off for most of the last decade. I am currently the People's Warden of the Parish. I have also been a Synod Delegate for the past 10 years.

Ministry work with children and youth

One of the most enjoyable and gratifying things I have done in my parish is to be part of ministry for children and youth. I have worked with our Youth Group whose members are age's 10 through high- School. I think we have a very solid and faith filled programs for children and youth St. Mary Magdalene's. The youth group meets weekly enjoying recreational activities as well as focused time learning about Christ.

Other areas of engagement within the parish

I have taken an active role in other areas of Parish life as well. I was responsible for writing our Child Safety Policy which was later ratified by the parish council and the Churchwardens. I have also been involved in hospitality, mostly in the area of spearheading our post service coffee hour. I continue to believe that hospitality is an extremely important ministry in the church. It is not always treated with great importance, but it goes a long way in building community, and in helping new people to feel welcomed into the church.

Lay Reading

I am a licensed Lay-Reader and I was recently licensed to Communion visits to people who can't attend services at our church.

Member of Anglican Order of Preachers, a Dominican Order within the worldwide Anglican Communion.

One area of my faith life which has been very important to me is my membership within the Anglican Order of Preachers, which is a Religious Order within the Anglican Communion. I have belonged to this Order for several years, and made my Life Profession vows in 2017. Many Anglicans are unfamiliar with Religious Orders within our church, but many such Orders do exist. There are Benedictine Anglican Orders, there are groups that reside in community together such as the Sisterhood of Saint John the Divine in Toronto, and there are dispersed communities such as the one I belong to. The Anglican Order of Preachers is composed of men and women, Lay and Ordained, married and single.

Brothers and Sisters within the Order take vows of obedience, fidelity within their state of marriage, and simplicity. We commit ourselves to study, preaching, and to service to the church. We are a Dominican Order expressed within Anglicanism. In outward appearance we might very closely resemble the Dominican Order within the Roman Catholic Church, but we are very much an Anglican Religious Order, expressing Anglican theological views both traditional and progressive. I have sought to live out my call as a Dominican Friar through the work I do with my church. While Brothers and Sisters are part of this larger structure which is the Order, each of us are first loyal to the leadership of our Diocese.

Worship

I am a regular attender of Sunday services at my home parish of St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church in Napanee.

I also attend a weekly service (each Wednesday at 12:15p,m) at St. George's Cathedral in Kingston and do the Prayers Of The People and sometimes help with Communion as a lay reader for Bishop George Bruce. I had attended this service in my youth, and returned to about 7 years ago as it fit perfectly into

my work schedule. There is a real sense of community within this small group, and I do the best I can to continue to be involved with it. And while this service has that 'community feel' it is always welcoming to anyone. I do believe that a real danger in our churches is that some services can quietly and unintentionally evolve into closed communities, which may feel good, but carry consequences in terms of outreach and evangelism.

Synod

In addition to the brief experience with Synod at the age of 19, I have been a member of Diocesan Synod for the past decade, having attended the last three or four of them. I was also chosen as an alternate delegate to Provincial Synod. I always relish the chance to attend Synod as it is a very meaningful time to engage with other members of the Diocese and to represent the parish I belong to. I was privileged to be part of the election of our current Bishop in 2011.

Signature: Peter Cory

Date: _____

