

**2018 CONVENING CIRCULAR**

**SECTION – 1**

**Information Package**



25 April 2018

**To the Clerical and Lay Members of Synod**

Dear Friends,

Greetings and blessings as we begin our plans and preparations for Synod 2018 which will be held from November 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Four Point Sheraton Hotel, 285 King St. in Kingston. I want to begin by extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to the parish lay delegates for your willingness to stand for election as parish representatives and to the clergy of the diocese for your leadership both in the parish and the diocese as together we continue to serve within the Mission of Jesus Christ.

The theme for Synod 2018 is ***Rooted in Faith, Growing in Spirit*** and we are in the process of developing our program around this beautiful image of our faith filled lives.

There will be three major items of business for Synod to consider, including a major revision to our Diocesan Canons, the approval of the Diocesan Budget and the presentation of a memorial resolution to forward written submissions received from our consideration of amendments to General Synod Canon 21 on marriage. The marriage canon amendment, allowing for the provision of same sex marriages, will be put for second reading at General Synod 2019. Provincial and Diocesan Synods are required under the "Declaration of Principles" of General Synod to "consider" the proposed change during the time leading up to General Synod. In addition to the diocesan consultations, individual and group submissions received, we will be taking time at Synod to discuss the proposed amendment and have opportunity to provide feedback which will also be included in the Memorial Resolution.

We will also be electing our delegates to attend General Synod which will be held from July 10-16, 2019 in Vancouver. I would encourage you to give prayerful consideration to letting your name stand for election. We are entitled to send two clerical and two lay delegates to General Synod. Archdeacon Bill Clarke of St. Thomas ' Church, Kingston is chair of the nominating committee and will be happy to receive nominations.

The Synod Planning Committee under the leadership of The Rev. Canon Michael Read and Mrs. Audrey Doliszny continue the format developed for previous synods which will include opportunities for learning and growth, times of fellowship and worship as well as conducting the necessary business of the Diocese.

Enclosed with this letter is important information regarding aspects of Synod and I would encourage you to look this over carefully. Please do not hesitate to be in touch should you have any questions concerning Synod and your preparations leading to Synod. I look forward to seeing you at the pre-synod meetings in September. The dates and times are located on the FAQ sheet included with this letter.

Blessings to you as you prepare for your role as a Synod delegate. You will be in my prayers along with the members of Synod Council and the Synod planning team as we move toward our meeting in November. Please share this news with members of your parish and encourage others to consider taking the opportunity to join with us at Synod for the opening Eucharist and social evening which I trust will be time of celebration and growth for us all.

Yours in the Service of Christ,

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Bishop Michael Oulton



31 July 2018

**TO ALL CLERICAL AND LAY MEMBERS OF SYNOD**

Greetings!

Let me begin by thanking each of you being an important part of the work which will be done at the Synod of the Diocese of Ontario!

The 142<sup>nd</sup> Session of our Diocesan Synod will be held 1 - 3 November 2018.

The Anglican Church is Episcopally led and Synodically governed. The Diocesan Synod is the governing body of the Diocese of Ontario. The Synod is charged with the responsibility for the dealings of the Anglican Church within its diocesan boundaries. At Synod we seek God's intention for us as we pray, discern, discuss, debate, listen and work at being the Church in the community that is the Diocese of Ontario

Our Synod brings together the diversity of backgrounds, perspectives and 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 needs to take precedence over individual personal, parish, or regional considerations. Delegates are members of Synod and must appreciate the wider Church to which they belong. Each participant at Synod should 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.

For Synod to function as effectively as possible, 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 that relate to being a delegate. 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. Finally, each Delegate is a vital link in the communication chain of carrying the decisions made at Synod back to their parishes and regions. Decisions should be shared in their entirety by delegates when they return home.

Being a Synod delegate is an important and challenging responsibility that provides one with enormous opportunities to exercise faith in Christ and his teachings of hope, grace, wisdom, peace, compassion and love. We pray that you will be enriched by this experience of the wider church.

The 142<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Diocese of Ontario Synod will convene on Thursday 1 November 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in **The Cathedral Church of St. George, Kingston** for a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Please note that the Bishop will deliver the **Bishop's Charge to Synod** at this service. Members will need to make their own arrangements for dinner prior to the service of worship. There will be a reception and time of fellowship following the service.

**Registration** will begin at 6 p.m. at the back of the Cathedral. Lay Delegates should look for regional registration tables when you arrive at the back of St. George's. There will be a separate registration table for the clergy and guests in the Stuart Room.

Synod will reconvene on Friday 2 November at the **Four Points by Sheraton**, 285 King Street, Kingston. Registration desks will be open at 8:00 a.m. and Synod business will commence at 8:30 a.m. Registration will again be by Regions for Lay Representatives. Please look for your regional registration table when you arrive at the second floor of the Four Points, if you did not register at the Cathedral at the Opening Eucharist. There will be an orientation session for new members at 8:00 a.m. on Friday morning.

The current Draft Agenda calls for Synod to conclude at 3 pm on Saturday 3 November. (Subject to Agenda change or the business of Synod)

The **Registration Fee** for Synod 2018 will be \$115.00 per person for all eligible members and includes

- breakfast between 7 am and 8:15 am on Friday and Saturday mornings
- morning and afternoon breaks on Friday and Saturday
- the noon meal on Friday and Saturday.
- dinner on Friday (as part of the evening event)

A registration and payment form will be sent to parish clergy with their letter. **If you are a Lay Representative to Synod and you know at this time that you will not be able to attend, please let your Incumbent know as soon as possible.** This will enable the appropriate notice to be sent to this office advising who will be the alternate representative. Alternates (as elected by the parish) only attend if an elected delegate is not able to attend.

For those that need Overnight Accommodations, arrangements have been made to reserve a block of rooms at the Four Points by Sheraton. Reserving and paying for rooms must be done by the Delegates (it is not part of the Synod Registration or Fee). To make a reservation, please call 1-888-478-4333 as soon as you are able to do so. Please note that the hotel will only hold this block of rooms at this group rate until 30 days before the event (1 October).

The room rate is

- \$145.00 per room per night (1 - 2 people per room)
- \$160 (3 people)
- \$175 (4 people).

To receive the group rate, you must identify yourself as a member of the Anglican Diocese of Ontario Synod 2018.

One of the key functions at Synod is electing those that will represent our diocese as delegates to General or Provincial Synod and ratifying the Deanery elections of member of Diocesan Synod Council. In preparation for this, we are coordinating nominations for:

Our own (Diocese of Ontario) Synod Council General  
Synod 2019.

We will not be electing Delegates to Provincial Synod at this Synod. The Delegates for Provincial Synod 2018 were elected at our last Synod (2016). Delegates for Provincial Synod 2021 will be elected at our 2020 Diocesan Synod.

I am requesting that you prayerfully consider letting your name stand for nomination to one or both of these positions.

- 1) Representatives to our Diocesan Synod Council will be elected by each Deanery at the Pre-Synod meetings in September. The election of Synod Council will be ratified by Synod after which the Council will be installed. The dates for the Pre-Synod meetings, as well as the representation needed for each deanery, are listed below. Members are encouraged to make every effort to attend the appropriate meeting for your deanery as they provide the opportunity to vote and also gain valuable context and preparation for the discussions that will take place at Synod.

If you are interested in serving on Synod Council or representing the Diocese of Ontario at General Synod 2019, please fill out the nomination form and return it to the Synod Office by **Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**. The form is included in this package and can also be found at: <http://ontario.anglican.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/NOMINATION- FORM.pdf>

Members of Synod Council serve for two years (between Synods) and can stay as members for two consecutive terms. After serving two terms, an individual must be off of Synod Council for a term (2 years) in order to be eligible to stand again.

The following are the numbers of Representatives required by Deanery. Elections will be held at the Pre-Synod Meetings and be ratified at Synod. The new Synod Council will be installed at Synod by the Bishop.

Deanery	Pre-Synod Meeting	Location	Representative Required
Leeds-Grenville	Tues., September 18 7:00 pm	Holy Trinity, Oak Leaf	1 Clergy AND 1 Lay <b>or</b> Clergy Member
Frontenac	Wed., September 19 7:00 pm	St. Peter's, Kingston	1 Clergy AND 1 Lay <b>or</b> Clergy Member
Hastings	Thurs., September 20 7:00 pm	Christ Church, Glen Miller	1 Lay AND 1 Lay <b>or</b> Clergy Member
Quinte	Thurs., September 20 7:00 pm	Christ Church, Glen Miller	1 Lay AND 1 Lay <b>or</b> Clergy Member

- 2) Lay and Clerical Delegates to General Synod. The Diocese of Ontario will be sending four delegates alongside Bishop Michael Oulton to the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Synod in 2019. Nominations are being sought for two clergy and two lay delegates. Alternates will also be determined by this election. All must
- a. Be members of the 2018 Diocesan Synod
  - b. Be willing and available to attend and represent the Diocese of Ontario at the General Synod to be held from July 10th through 16th, 2019 in Vancouver, BC.
- We also have the opportunity to identify a Youth delegate. Currently on the agenda of this General Synod is the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the resolution on Canon XXI on marriage as well as a Primatial election to replace our current Primate Fred Hiltz. Other matters may include the affirmation of the national church's Vision 2019, and work of the wider church such as the PWRDF, national church budget and reconciliation ministries with First Peoples.

**The following information may be of assistance to you as you prepare for Synod.**

**As a Lay Delegate to Synod:**

You have been elected as a Synod Delegate by your Vestry.

Your Certificate of Election has been signed by your Incumbent or Priest-in-Charge and sent to the Synod Office.

First-time Delegate? Please be sure to attend Orientation on Friday at 8am.

***The Diocesan Synod 2018 Planning Committee:***

This committee of the Synod Council of the Diocese works with the Bishop to develop the theme and program of Synod, makes arrangements for the holding of Synod, and, throughout the session of Synod, monitors the proceedings, anticipating and adjusting the times when specific business and presentations might come before the Synod.

The Chairs of the Diocesan Synod 2018 Planning Committee are ***The Rev. Canon Michael Read and Mrs. Audrey Doliszny*** who will be available throughout Synod to answer any questions you may have.

After Synod, you will be asked to complete a short Survey regarding your experience and thoughts of Synod 2018. These surveys form a key part of the planning process for the next Synod. Please take the time to thoughtfully **fill** out the survey.

***Worship:***

Throughout Synod, prayers, readings and singing will take place at appropriate times.

## ***General Etiquette:***

We ask that you be considerate of those in attendance who may have allergies to cologne and perfume and please refrain from using scented products for the duration of Synod. You will be reminded that mobile devices should be put into silent mode during sessions of Synod.

## ***Food:***

Meals and snacks are provided during Friday and Saturday's proceedings.

- breakfast between 7 am and 8:15 am on Friday and Saturday mornings
- morning and afternoon breaks on Friday and Saturday
- the noon meal on Friday and Saturday .
- dinner on Friday (as part of the evening event)

Members are asked to make their own arrangements for supper on Thursday evening.

Vegetarian and Gluten Free options will be provided with each meal. If you have any other dietary requirements, please advise via email ([Synod2018@ontario.anglican.ca](mailto:Synod2018@ontario.anglican.ca)) or by calling the Diocesan Center (613-544-4774) by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ***Parking:***

Parking in the surrounding area of St. George's Cathedral is on-street or public parking lots. The church itself has no parking lot. There is parking at the Four Points for a fee and also in parking garages in the vicinity. The Empire Life Parking lot located at the corner of Johnson and Ontario Street is free of charge on Saturday 3 November.

## ***A Nearly Paperless Synod:***

As part of our stewardship to God's Creation and to be as flexible as possible while managing costs, we will strive to keep the paper documentation to a minimum at this Synod.

- A Convening Circular will be printed for archival purposes and we will provide one printed copy on each Table in the Hall.
- Each delegate will receive a paper copy of the DRAFT Constitution and Canons at registration. They are also available on the Diocesan Website for your review.
- All reports, parochial listings of the Officers of Synod and financial documents will be available on the website [www.ontario.anglican.ca](http://www.ontario.anglican.ca) with a link to the Synod material posted.
- If you do not have access to these documents by computer, please let your parish priest know now so that copies may be made for you of subsequent material.

We will have two large screens projecting any material that is relevant to discussion, or you may bring your laptop or tablet to which you have downloaded the material for your reference during Synod. The hall and common areas have WiFi. Please note that despite our best intentions Synod is not responsible for any lost, damaged or stolen electronic equipment

### ***The Chair of Synod, Guests and Observers:***

Synod is chaired by the Bishop, although, at times, he may turn this role over to another member of Synod. The Rules of Order used by the Synod are set out in Canon A3 and you may wish to refer to this canon, a copy of which should be available from the Diocesan website, in your church office or from your parish priest.

There will be a number of invited guests present at the Synod who will be given permission to participate in discussion, if they so wish, by virtue of being granted "the courtesies of the house", which you will be asked to approve early in the Synod. We will have one official Synod Observer, who towards the end of the Synod, will be asked to present a report to the members.

For those that are not delegates, there are two ways to follow the proceedings at Synod.

1. Due to the seating capacity in the Hall, we do not have room for Observers on the floor of Synod. There will be a limited number of seats in an Observers Room which will be connected via a Live Video stream from the Synod Hall. If anyone wishes to observe from the Observers Room, they need to register in advance either through their Incumbent/Priest in Charge or by email [Synod2018@ontario.anglican.ca](mailto:Synod2018@ontario.anglican.ca) Meals are available at a cost.
2. A new option for this Synod. There will be a Live Stream from the floor of Synod which will be available for anyone with a PC, Tablet or Smart Device. This can be for individuals (eg from home) or churches/groups can host a gathering of people who may be interested in watching and listening in to Synod. More information will follow in the fall.

### ***Motions, Debate and Discussion:***

Decisions at Synod are usually made by means of motions.

- As much as possible, notice will be given of any motions which are coming before Synod.
- Motions are considered in accordance with the Rules of Order.
- In order to bring a motion to Synod, it needs to be in writing, with a stated mover and seconder who will be in attendance at Synod.
- In most cases, motions will ask Synod Council or some other group to review an existing policy or procedure or perhaps establish a new one. Rather than having one specific block of time on Synod Agenda it is anticipated that the various motions will be slotted into the Agenda over the period of the Synod.
- Member's Concerns allow people to share any particular concern that they have in

relation to the Church's life and work. These concerns should be in the form of motions for Synod to consider. There will not be time at Synod to enter into any major debate on a motion relating to a Member's Concern but it will serve to give Synod Council some direction in terms of situations to be looked at over the following two years.

- In order that motions may be circulated by means of the website to all representatives and as part of the Convening Circular, they must be sent to the Registrar, Wendy Pierson by e-mail at [Synod2018@ontario.anglican.ca](mailto:Synod2018@ontario.anglican.ca) or by mail at the Diocesan Center no later than **Friday 21 September 2018**. In drafting your motion please include the name of the mover and seconder, the wording of your motion and a brief explanation of the purpose of the motion or what you hope it will accomplish and any implications or impacts that need to be considered. A template for motions can be found in Attachment I. These motions will then be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee for review.
- For motions not received by the September 21<sup>st</sup> cut-off, it will still be possible for you to present a motion while Synod is in session. In such situations your motion will need to be in writing and should be delivered to the Resolutions Committee Chair, our Vice-Chancellor, Garth Allan. Any proposed motion that is brought forward in this way will require a vote of 2/3 majority of Synod in order to be placed on the floor for consideration. Further explanation on this procedure will be provided during the early stages of the Synod.
- Speaking at Synod is by means of microphones located at various places on the floor of Synod. Please see Attachment II for Guidelines and Best Practices for speaking at Synod.

## **Canon 21 Process**

Following General Synod 2016, the Bishop commissioned a Steering Committee on the proposed changes to the General Synod Canon on Marriage (Canon 21) to allow for Equal Marriage (Same Sex Marriage). This group (made up of our 2016 General Synod Delegates and invited others) has done significant work on developing a healthy and constructive dialogue within the Diocese of Ontario around this topic. It has considered the Scriptural, Pastoral, Legal and Administration dimensions. There have been discussions within our diocese at the individual, church/parish, deanery and diocesan levels with the laity and clergy. Many have made submissions which have been posted on the Diocesan Website.

A list of resources and the submissions made can be found at

<http://ontario.anglican.ca/wp/canon-21-steering-committee/>

General Synod will meet again in 2019 to consider the Second Reading of the proposed changes to Canon 21. The Primate has asked each diocese to consider and provide General Synod with a Memorial on the subject of the Canon Change.

At Synod, there will be presentations, discussion and dialogue regarding the proposed changes. This will be a key part of our diocese thoughtfully, prayerfully and faithfully engaging in this proposed change to the General Synod Canon. The process and intention for this Synod is that this work will conclude with a motion to memorialize the diverse perspectives and input from this diocese to General Synod for consideration as part of General Synod 2019.

Should you require any additional information or seek clarification on any matter relating to Synod, please do not hesitate to contact any of us:

[Synod201 B@ontario.anglican.ca](mailto:Synod201B@ontario.anglican.ca)

*Chairs, Synod Planning Committee*, Rev. Canon. Michael Read [frmike25@gmail.com](mailto:frmike25@gmail.com) or Audrey Doliszny [adoliszny@cogeco.ca](mailto:adoliszny@cogeco.ca)

Myself, Alex Pierson [apierson@ontario.anglican.ca](mailto:apierson@ontario.anglican.ca) or by phone 613-544-4718

Yours in Faith,



Alex Pierson  
Diocesan Executive Officer  
[apierson@ontario.anglican.ca](mailto:apierson@ontario.anglican.ca)

# ATTACHMENT I - MOTIONS

## Format of a Motion

WHEREAS - reason for the motion

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AND WHEREAS - another reason (if appropriate)

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It is therefore moved by

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and seconded by

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that

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## ATTACHMENT II

# Quick Guide to Rules of Order

### *Speaking to A Motion*

#### ***Before you go to the microphone:***

- Please consider putting your thoughts on paper
- Please try to say something that hasn't already been said before.
- Continue listening to the debate. If your point has already been made by someone before you, you can bow out of the line and return to your seat.
- Consult with others at your table about ideas and thoughts (but not too loudly, be considerate of the speaker).

#### ***When you go to the microphone:***

- Wait to be acknowledged by the chair.
- Say your name and parish as well as any other relevant Diocesan involvement (eg Synod Council member, Committee member, etc).
- State if you are in support or against this motion.
- State your thoughts as clearly as possible, supporting your argument with fact or thought.
- Finish with a thank you and return to your seat.
- All remarks must be directed to the Chair. Remarks must be courteous in language and deportment - avoid all personalities, never allude to others by name or to motives
- You make speak only once to each motion (other than the Mover and Seconder)

### **Rules of Order**

- Before the motion is stated by the Chair (the question) members may suggest modification of the motion; the mover can modify as he pleases, or even withdraw the motion without consent of the seconder; if mover modifies, the seconder can withdraw the second
- Debate cannot begin until the Chair has stated the motion or resolution and asked "are you ready for the question?" If no one rises, the chair calls for the vote
- **Point of Privilege:** Pertains to noise, personal comfort, etc. - may interrupt only if necessary!
- **Point of Inquiry:** Inquire as to the correct motion
- **Point of Information:** Generally, applies to information desired from the speaker: "I should like to ask the (speaker) a question."

- **Point of Order:** Infraction of the rules, or improper decorum in speaking. Must be raised immediately after the error is made
- **Main Motion:** Brings new business (the next item on the agenda) before the assembly
- **Divide the Question:** Divides a motion into two or more separate motions (must be able to stand on their own)
- **Amend:** Inserting or striking out words or paragraphs, or substituting whole paragraphs or resolutions
- **Withdraw/Modify Motion:** Applies only after question is stated; mover can accept an amendment without obtaining the floor
- **Refer to Committee:** State the committee to receive the question or resolution; if no committee exists include size of committee desired and method of selecting the members (election or appointment).
- **Lay on the Table/Table a Motion:** suspends further consideration/action on pending question till a future meeting
- **Take from the Table:** Resumes consideration of item previously "laid on the table" - state the motion to take from the table
- **Close Debate:** Closes debate if successful

## ATTACHMENT III - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- *Who attends Synod?*

Synod consists of the Diocesan Bishop, Clergy of the Diocese who are in fulltime or part time parish or designated ministries, elected Lay Delegates from each Vestry, the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, the Officers of Synod and invited Observers.

Other Observers will be able to watch and listen in the Observers Room (at Synod) or via a Live Stream on the Internet (new for this Synod)

- *What goes on at Synod?*

The Church (Diocese), like every institution (religious or social) needs to take stock of itself at moments in its life and history. This requires reflection on its present situation, with the purpose of helping to chart a course for the future of the Church, as it seeks to respond to the needs of the Christian community in accordance to the Church's teaching. The Synod is a key gathering through which Diocesan Bishop, in collaboration with the Clergy and the faithful, can achieve that end.

- *How are Synod Agendas drawn up?*

The Agenda is the responsibility of Synod Council to approve, although the drafting and preparation is delegated to the Synod Agenda Committee (who are appointed by the Bishop).

- *How do I prepare for Synod?*

Delegates should be engaged and prepared to by full participants at Synod. There are Pre-Synod meetings in each Deanery which will do preparatory work for Synod. The Circular will contain information on agenda items. Delegates should also have conversations with other members of their congregation on matters to be discussed at Synod, so they can bring the best perspective on behalf of their church and the overall diocese.

And of course, through thoughtful consideration and prayer.

- *Who chairs Synod?*

Synod is chaired by the Bishop of the diocese (Rt Rev Michael Oulton)

- *Should I attend all of Synod?*

It is important to attend all of Synod - the worship, the discussions, the votes and the fellowship. By fully participating and engaging, it helps ensure that there is full communication and good governance.

- *Why will we be considering a new Draft Constitution and Canons?*

The Canons of the Diocese are regularly reviewed by the Canons and Governance Committee. Most Synods have some Canon change as part of the Agenda. Historically, every 10 to 15 years, a major update or restructuring of the Canons has been undertaken.

The Province of Ontario has passed new legislation to address Not For Profit corporations. The new Constitution and Canons are designed to be in compliance with this legislation, while allowing the Diocese and its churches to continue to govern and operate. They have been through an extensive review and consultation process across the diocese.

- *There is a new Draft Constitution and Canons. What Canons will govern how this Synod is conducted?*

The existing Canons of the Diocese of Ontario continue to be in effect and will govern the proceedings. If the proposed Draft Constitution and Canons are approved, they will come into effect at the close of this Synod.

- *Will we be voting on anything related to the Marriage Canon (Canon 21)?*

The Bishop and the Steering Committee on the Marriage Canon Change have laid out the path and process for the Diocese of Ontario to consider the proposed change. At this Synod, the intention is to pass a motion to send General Synod a Memorial (a statement of facts and perspectives) which represents the range and diversity of the views and perspectives from the Diocese of Ontario. This will draw together the output of conversations at the parish level, from Consultation Sessions, from individuals and the discussions Synod itself will have.

The Bishop laid out the process at the Consultation meetings held several months ago. After sending a Memorial, this diocese will await the outcome of General Synod 2019.

- *What will be discussed regarding Common Mission and Ministry (CMM)?*

In response to discussion at Synod 2016, a working group was commissioned with reviewing the Structure we use for calculating CMM. It is currently done via a set percentage (20%) of each church's Assessable Income (the Green Sheet). The group has reviewed input from Consultation Sessions, methods used by other Dioceses and worked to define the objectives of the CMM structure. The work and recommendation of the group will be discussed at Synod.

- *What are "Members Concerns"?*

During Synod, members of Synod may raise concerns from the floor during debate if they relate to a matter under discussion or by providing them to the Executive Officer during a break. It is preferred that are provided in writing.

- *What is the procedure for voting at Synod meetings?*

Depending on the issue, voting will usually be by a show of hands. We will make use of coloured cards for voting for or against a motion as well as advising the Chair when the floor wishes to move to the vote.

However, if voting is required by Houses, ballots will be distributed

- *What is the quorum for Synod?*

At least one quarter of the House of Clergy and at least one lay delegate from one quarter of parishes must be present. However, the quorum is only really relevant when there is a need to take a vote.

- *What happens after Synod?*

Synod Council plays a number of roles, including ensuring that all directions of Synod are carried out, exercising the functions of Synod when it is not in session and approving policies. Synod Council takes on the work that is decided at Synod and along with the Officers of Synod, Diocesan staff and Committees drive the work of implementation.

Each church and congregation need to be connected to the work and discussions that have gone on at Synod. Each delegate has the responsibility to bring the discussions and decisions from Synod back to their congregation. We ask that through formal and informal means, you engage with the people of your church to bring them into the work you have been part of at Synod. A summary of Synod is produced to assist you in this important work.



## Diocese of Ontario

### Synod 2018 DRAFT Agenda

#### Thursday November 1

6:00 pm Registration at St. George's Cathedral  
7:30 Synod Opening Eucharist & Bishop's Charge  
9:00 Reception in Great Hall

#### Friday, November 2

7:00 – 8:15 am Breakfast/Registration  
8:00 Orientation of new members  
8:30 Morning Worship  
8:45 Synod Usual Business  
Ratify Synod Council Members  
9:00 am Ballot Boxes Open  
9:15 – 10:15 Canon 21 Presentation #1  
10:15 Break  
10:30 – 11:15 Canon 21 Presentation #2  
11:15-11:40 Q & A from written submissions  
12:00 noon Litany of Reconciliation  
12:10 – 1:00 pm Lunch  
1:00 – 1:45 Canon 21 Presentation #3  
2:00 – 3:00 Break Out Groups  
3:00-3:15 Break  
3:15-4:15 Q & A from written submissions/Motion  
4:15 pm Ballot Boxes Close until Sat. AM  
4:30 Evensong @ Cathedral/Install new Synod Council  
6:00 pm Dinner/Social Event

#### Saturday, November 3

7:00 – 8:15 am Breakfast  
8:00 Ballot Boxes Open  
8:30 Morning Worship  
8:45 Canons  
10:30 Break  
10:45 CMM  
12:00 noon Ballot Boxes Close  
12:10 – 1:00 pm Lunch  
1:00 Budget  
2:30 Bishop's Charge Response  
2:45 Synod Observer  
Election Results  
3:00 pm Closing Worship

## **CANON 21 – The Marriage Canon**

Friday of Synod is being devoted to Canon 21 – The Marriage Canon. It will be a time of listening, learning, participating in small group discussions, and a question and answer platform.

Bishop Michael established a Steering Committee who have been meeting monthly to seek clarity, understanding and opportunity of engagement to this work mandated by General Synod for all dioceses across Canada. The committee members are: Dean Don Davidson, Rev. Dr. William Morrow, Rev. Dr. Barbara Robinson, Rev. Lisa Chisholm-Smith, Rev. John VanStone, Andrew Innes, Haroldine Neil-Burchert, Anne Patterson, Archdeacon Wayne Varley as Staff Support.

The Steering Committee developed a process which is currently unfolding in the year leading up to our Synod. A clergy day was held in February with Bishop Linda Nicholls as our plenary speaker and in April we completed three regional consultation meetings. They were well attended. The Bishop provided an overview of This Holy Estate as well as the process leading up to and following General Synod 2016. Reverend Dr. Bill Morrow, who is Professor of Old Testament at Queen's School of Religion and a member of the Steering Committee unpacked some of the Biblical and theological material of the report for those in attendance. We established a link on our diocesan website to provide information to parishes for the purpose of their conversations and to allow submissions from individuals.

Material submitted can be found at <http://ontario.anglican.ca/wp/canon-21-steering-committee/>

The Bishop will open this session of Synod, followed by presentations from Dr. Sylvia C. Keesmaat, Rev. Dr. Glen Taylor, and Rev. Dr. Christopher Brittain. [Their bios are found below] Dr. Keesmaat will engage biblical considerations that undergird the view in support of the Canon change, Dr. Taylor will present on the biblical rationale opposing changing the Marriage Canon, while Dr. Brittain will touch on his research on the tensions in the Anglican Communion more broadly.

During the afternoon, we will break out into small groups and respond to two questions:

1. What do you have personally invested in the outcome of the vote?
2. Regardless of the outcome, what concrete actions can we take so that the Diocese of Ontario models walking together with different perspectives on this issue after GS2019?

Questions and comments from delegates will be received in written form all day by placing them in a designated box to be responded to at the end of the first two presentations and again after the small group discussions.

The afternoon will conclude with a resolution to be sent with material which has been collated over the year from consultations with clergy, parishes, groups and individuals, and from this Synod in the form of a Memorial from our Diocesan Synod to the General Synod. This fulfills the request that every level of the Church consider the matter. All material from all Dioceses will be available to General Synod delegates before GS2019.

### **Timeline for Submissions**

5 Oct (Friday) - deadline of all posted (mailed) submissions, personal or parish or group, to be Memorialized to General Synod must be received by the Diocesan Office.

8 Oct (Monday) – 5 pm deadline for electronic submissions, personal or parish or group, to be Memorialized to General Synod must be received by the Diocesan Office.

## ***PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES***

**Reverend Dr. Christopher Brittain** is Dean of Divinity and Margaret E. Fleck Chair in Anglican Studies at Trinity College, University of Toronto. He is an ordained Anglican priest with parish ministry experience, having served in three dioceses of the Anglican Church of Canada, in the Episcopal Church of Scotland, and the Diocese of Europe. His recent publications include: “The Anglican Communion at a Crossroads: The Crisis of a Global Church” (with Andrew McKinnon, Penn State University Press, 2018); “A Plague on Both Your Houses: Liberal V.S. Conservative Christians and the Divorce of the Episcopal Church USA” (T&T Clark, 2005); and “Religion at Ground Zero: Theological responses to times of crisis” (Continuum).

Dr. Brittain will present on the Anglican Communion focus on the issue.

**Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat** is Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies at both Wycliffe and Trinity Colleges, University of Toronto. She is also the Biblical Scholar in Residence at St. James Anglican Church, Fenelon Falls. Dr. Keesmaat first began speaking on issues pertaining to same-sex marriage while taking part in the Diocesan Conversations on Same-Sex Blessings in the Diocese of Toronto in 2004. She has since spoken on this topic in many parishes in the Diocese of Toronto, as well as in the Diocese of Calgary, Ontario, Fredericton and Ottawa. Dr. Keesmaat is the co-author (with Brian Walsh) of “Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire”, and of “Romans Disarmed” (forthcoming). She lives with her husband, Brian Walsh, on an organic, solar-powered farm in Cameron, Ontario with a fluctuating number of people and animals.

Dr. Keesmaat will present on the biblical rationale in favour of changing the Marriage Canon to accommodate same-sex relationships.

**Reverend Dr. Glen Taylor** is Associate Professor of Scripture and Global Christianity at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, and cross-appointed to the School of Graduate Studies for the Department of Religion. He is an ordained Anglican priest. Some years ago he published an article on Homosexuality in biblical perspective, which was later published in a book featuring best articles. In 2004, he was one of four presenters for a series of discussions and presentations on same-sex unions across the Diocese of Algoma. Research in preparation for this, in addition to work done previously, resulted in three privately published booklets on the same-sex debate as it was unfolding in the Anglican Church as of then. Glen is married to Marion Taylor, another Biblical (and specifically Old Testament) scholar who teaches at Wycliffe College. They have two sons and a daughter.

Dr. Taylor will present on the biblical rationale opposing changing the Marriage Canon to accommodate same-sex relationships.



## Diocese of Ontario

### Synod 2018 Plenary Speakers



**Reverend Dr. Christopher Brittain** is Dean of Divinity and Margaret E. Fleck Chair in Anglican Studies at Trinity College, University of Toronto. He is an ordained Anglican priest with parish ministry experience, having served in three dioceses of the Anglican Church of Canada, in the Episcopal Church of Scotland, and the Diocese of Europe. His recent publications include: “The Anglican Communion at a Crossroads: The Crisis of a Global Church” (with Andrew McKinnon, Penn State University Press, 2018); “A Plague on Both Your Houses: Liberal V.S. Conservative Christians and the Divorce of the Episcopal Church USA” (T&T Clark, 2005); and “Religion at Ground Zero: Theological responses to times of crisis” (Continuum).

<https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/divinity/about/dean-divinity.html>

***Dr. Brittain will present on the Anglican Communion focus on the issue.***



**Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat** is Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies at both Wycliffe and Trinity Colleges, University of Toronto. She is also the Biblical Scholar in Residence at St. James Anglican Church, Fenelon Falls. Dr. Keesmaat first began speaking on issues pertaining to same-sex marriage while taking part in the Diocesan Conversations on Same-Sex Blessings in the Diocese of Toronto in 2004. She has since spoken on this topic in many parishes in the Diocese of Toronto, as well as in the Diocese of Calgary, Ontario, Fredericton and Ottawa. Dr. Keesmaat is the co-author (with Brian Walsh) of “Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire”, and of “Romans Disarmed” (forthcoming). She lives with her husband, Brian Walsh, on an organic, solar-powered farm in Cameron, Ontario with a fluctuating number of people and animals.

<https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/users/sylvia-keesmaat>

***Dr. Keesmaat will present on the biblical rationale in favour of changing the Marriage Canon to accommodate same-sex relationships.***



**Reverend Dr. Glen Taylor** is Associate Professor of Scripture and Global Christianity at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, and cross-appointed to the School of Graduate Studies for the Department of Religion. He is an ordained Anglican priest. Some years ago he published an article on Homosexuality in biblical perspective, which was later published in a book featuring best articles. In 2004, he was one of four presenters for a series of discussions and presentations on same-sex unions across the Diocese of Algoma. Research in preparation for this, in addition to work done previously, resulted in three privately published booklets on the same-sex debate as it was unfolding in the Anglican Church as of then. Glen is married to Marion Taylor, another Biblical (and specifically Old Testament) scholar who teaches at Wycliffe College. They have two sons and a daughter.

<https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/users/glen-taylor>

***Dr. Taylor will present on the biblical rationale opposing changing the Marriage Canon to accommodate same-sex relationships.***

## **Nominations are Being Sought For:**

### **General Synod Delegates**

The Diocese of Ontario will be sending four delegates alongside Bishop Michael Oulton to the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Synod in 2019. Nominations are being sought for two clergy and two lay delegates. Alternates will also be determined by this election. **All must be members of the 2018 Diocesan Synod and be available for the General Synod to be held from July 10 to the 16 of 2019 in Vancouver, BC.**

Currently on the agenda of this General Synod is the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the resolution on Canon XXI on marriage and a Primatial election to replace our current Primate Fred Hiltz. Other matters may include the affirmation of the national church's Vision 2019, and work of the wider church such as the PWRDF, national church budget, reconciliation ministries with First Peoples.

Persons interested in letting their names stand for election can fill out the Nomination Form and return it to the Nominations Committee care of [wclarke@ontario.anglican.ca](mailto:wclarke@ontario.anglican.ca) .

### **Synod Council**

Members to our Synod Council are elected to a four-year term. Of the three representatives from each deanery, one must be Lay and one must be Clergy, the third can be from either. (Canon 2)

There is a need for eight members to be elected for Synod Council:

Hastings	Lay	and	Clergy or Lay
Quinte	Lay	and	Clergy or Lay
Frontenac	Clergy	and	Lay or Clergy
Leeds & Grenville	Clergy	and	Lay or Clergy

Persons interested in letting their names stand for election can fill out the Nomination Form and return it to the Nominations Committee care of [wclarke@ontario.anglican.ca](mailto:wclarke@ontario.anglican.ca) .

**SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF ONTARIO  
NOMINATION FORM 2018**

*\*Deadline September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

I, \_\_\_\_\_

of the church/parish of \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



6 July 2018

**TO: CLERICAL AND LAY MEMBERS OF SYNOD**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that

the **One Hundred and Forty-Second Session** of the  
**Synod of the Diocese of Ontario**

will convene at

**The Cathedral Church of St. George**

King and Johnson Streets

Kingston, ON

on

**Thursday 1 November 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**

and at

The Four Points by Sheraton

285 King Street

Kingston, ON

**Friday 2 November 2018 at 8:30 a.m.**

**through**

**Saturday 3 November 2018 to 3:30 p.m.**

Wendy Pierson  
Diocesan Registrar