

SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF ONTARIO NOMINATION FORM 2018

**Deadline September 5th, 2018*

I, **The REV. TRISH MILLER of LEEDS ANGLICAN MINISTRIES (comprised of the Parish of Kitley, Parish of the Rideau, Parish of Lansdowne Rear, and Parish of Leeds Rear)** 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 was not raised in a church-attending family, but I treasured my mother's red-letter King James Bible that she received on her wedding day from my father – so much so that I added my own illustrations. I attended Sunday school at the local Baptist Church for a time and vividly remember accepting Christ at an altar call there as an adolescent. Due to changing family circumstances and added responsibilities at home, I drifted away church attendance and practice of my Christian faith.

As an adult, I felt a pull back to a worshipping community but did not act on it until my grandmother died. I tried to explain to my 3-year-old son that his GG had died and was with God in heaven and realized I needed a community of faith surrounding me to help me share my faith in Christ with my son. I started attending the Base Chapel at CFB North Bay and quickly became involved in many aspects of the church: lay reader, parish council member, representative at national CF stewardship conference, and children's ministry (various summer camp positions). It was in the Canadian Forces, that I first felt a calling to ordained ministry and applied to the Military Chaplain Training Plan as a candidate for ordination in the Diocese of Montreal. Unfortunately, I was not selected that year as the CF already had an abundance of Anglican priests – God had other plans for me.

I moved to Kingston in August 2000 and began worshipping at St. George's Cathedral. I felt called into many lay ministries during my time there including teaching Sunday school, serving on the capital restoration task force, and serving as a member of Parish Council, and eventually as People's Warden. However, it was my ministry as an altar server that had the most impact on my faith journey. It gave me an opportunity to be more deeply immersed in worship and appreciate more fully the liturgies of the Word and Sacrament. It led me to develop a personal discipline of daily prayer in part because I was part of a small group ministry that shared our faith journeys and practices.

As my son was leaving for university, I felt God once again calling me towards ordained ministry. I thought perhaps I might be called to the vocational diaconate within the ministries at the Cathedral, but prayerful discernment led me to a call to priestly ministry.

I began studies at Wycliffe College in January 2013 and was ordained to the Diaconate in June 2016 and the Priesthood in November 2016. I am so grateful for the faithful, courageous people I've met throughout the Diocese who helped me during my formation for ministry. They have challenged me to articulate my faith in our Trinitarian God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They have encouraged me as I have found my rootedness in Christ through the sacraments of baptism and the eucharist. They have revealed the hope of the resurrected Christ through their shared journeys of faith. Their self-sacrificing love is a witness to Christ's love and sacrifice for us all.

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

Before being ordained and appointed as the Assistant Curate of Leeds Anglican Ministries, I served as a RCME officer in the Canadian Army for 31 years. I was blessed to receive exemplary professional training throughout my career. The following is the most relevant training to these ministries for which I'm seeking nomination:

- Staff Officer training in public speaking & presentations, project management, budgeting/financial analysis, leading & managing personnel, informal mediation
- Trained Work Place Relations Advisors and Investigators
- Army Operations Course: planning and implementing operational orders
- Analysis, Design and Evaluation (ADE) of Training Courses

Through my professional and personal experiences, I've nurtured a gift of intentional listening. Too often, we listen to another's point of view, only so we can craft our response – this creates conflict instead of collaboration. I feel I have been given the gift of listening attentively, asking respectful questions, and responding in love even in the more difficult conversations. I have also developed an ability to consider second and third order effects (what if, what else, what next) in decision making processes. It enables us to move beyond “we tried that, it didn't work” to looking at the potential for new and reinvigorated ministries with creativity and imagination. It also provides a framework for confidence that regardless of the outcome, we can learn from the experience.

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

Christ the King Chapel, CFB North Bay (1997-2000): lay reader, stewardship rep on national committee, Summer Children's Camp leader, parish council member

St. George's Cathedral, Kingston (2000-2013): Sunday School Teacher, Intercessor/Reader, member Parish Council, People's Warden (2007-2008), Lay Delegate to Synod, Warden of Servers

St. Peter's Collins Bay (2014/15): Student Placement – leading worship, pastoral care, Christian education, Screening in Faith training

St. James, Kingston (2015/16): Student Placement – leading worship, prison ministry

Diocese of Ontario, Provincial, and National:

- Current Chair Stewardship & Congregational Development Committee including attendance at National Stewardship Conference (Oct 2017) and NextGen Stewardship Network (ongoing)
- Member of Diocesan Worship Committee (attended National Worship Conference “Responding to Disaster” (July 2018)
- Chair Diocesan Property Committee (inspection of Diocesan churches, rectories and halls as required)
- Delegate to Provincial Synod (October 2018)

Signature:  Date: 24 August 2018