

SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF ONTARIO NOMINATION FORM 2018

**Deadline September 5th, 2018*

I, **VALERIE KELLY**, of the parish of **KINGSTON NORTH ANGLICAN MINISTRIES** agree to let my name stand for nomination to:

DIOCESAN SYNOD COUNCIL

GENERAL SYNOD 2019

Tell us briefly about your faith experience:

Raised in the Roman Catholic tradition, I was received into the Anglican Communion as an adult and continued to follow a faithful discipline of worship and prayer. Prior to ordination I was in the helping profession, primarily as a counsellor and hospital chaplain. As an ordained priest I continue to discover God's loving, caring, supportive and forgiving presence within and around me. This deepening relationship with God forms and transforms me and my relationships with others. God's love and grace gives me the fortitude for ministry.

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

Serving in God's name is an honour. In training as a chaplain, I developed and refined pastoral listening skills, empathic engagement, personal and professional boundaries. Becoming more aware of the needs of others, I have developed greater acceptance, understanding and patience. This automatically leads to more significant relationships with a broader group of people. I am firmly committed to bringing God's love into situations through relationship. As a result, my faith in a loving and omnipresent God has been deepened.

Organizational skills have facilitated my ministry, especially through transitions, changes and numerous events. They have helped with bringing people together, sharing ministry opportunities and developing programs and outreach opportunities. One such example is when I was Lay Pastoral Associate at St. John's (Portsmouth), I established a Women's Group (2007) for study, exploration, fellowship, support; this group continues to meet monthly. While assistant curate at The Cathedral of St. George's I was invited to start a Women's Fellowship group (2009). This monthly gathering of women for potluck and guest speaker continues to this date.

Planning and facilitating retreats for committees is a means by which I have expressed creativity in a sacred way. In many ways, it is through attending retreats myself that I have gleaned the tools to prepare retreats.

My ability to focus assists exploration and understanding. This in turn facilitates sermon preparation and projects the church is engaged in.

Hospitality has long lasting impacts on people. Believing fully in this, I attempt to be welcoming and hospitable in engagements with others, particularly the marginalized. Br. James Koester, ssje, says that, "believing shapes living: we can show people what we believe, by how we live." I believe this to be true.

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

I have been in both rural and urban parishes. My passion for pastoral and spiritual care has been expressed in supporting individuals through health, spiritual and emotional difficulties. In conjunction with parishioners and a recently retired chaplain, we developed an 8-week educational and information session to address senior's needs and offered it at St. Luke's (Kingston).

I have been on a number of diocesan committees in the past ten years.

- I was a member and/or co-chair of the Diocesan Training and Development Committee for four years.
- In September, I will chair the Justice and Peace Commission [joint Anglican & Roman Catholic], having been a member and/or co-chair for six years (2008-2014)
- Presently, I am the clerical secretary for Synod Council and Synod. This year will be my fourth Synod as clerical secretary.
- I am on the Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee (Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul).
- I have been involved with the partnership between the Diocese of Ontario and Habitat for Humanity since its conceptual beginnings in 2014.
- Currently, I am facilitating a Steering Committee to establish the Good Shepherd Legacy Centre. Partnering with other service and social agencies is integral to ministry and I am establishing a Roundtable to facilitate communication and help meet the needs of those we serve in the particular area of the Centre.
- The Anglican Church's history in Kingston continues to be revealed. Most recently, I learned of the person who oversaw the entire creation and development of the nave kneelers at The Cathedral of St. George. These 16 kneelers and bishop's cushion depict the history of The Cathedral up to 1986 and genesis of the Diocese of Ontario. I am awed by the contributions of this parishioner of St. Luke's and her gifts and talents. I hope to document this history in article, story or book form.

- I believe in the ideals of our diocese, moving from maintenance to mission. To that end, I regularly submit articles to our diocesan newspaper *Dialogue* in an attempt to keep mission as the foreground of our thinking and ways of being

Having substantially contributed at the diocesan level I'd like to extend my ministry to a broader level in hopes of expanding my knowledge of the national church, its purposes, offerings, gains and goals.

Signature: Rev. Valerie Kelly

Date: 8 June 2018