

CONVENING CIRCULAR PART 3

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Diocese of NS-PEI Synod 2013

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NOTICE OF SYNOD

January 15, 2013

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA AND
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Notice is given that the 144th Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island will be held at Dalhousie University, Student Union Building McInnes Room, 6136 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia, on May 30th (Thursday), 31st (Friday) and June 1st (Saturday), 2013.

Synod check-in and replacement delegate registration will take place on Thursday, May 30th, 2013 from **10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, second floor**, near the entrance to the McInnes Room, Student Union Building. Local delegates are asked to “Synod check-in” early in order to make it easier for those coming from a distance to check-in.

No lunch is provided on Thursday between registration, orientation and the beginning of Synod at 1:00 p.m.

Please note the following dates and deadlines:

- Feb. 28th, 2013: Deadline: 5:00 pm: Resolutions due to the Executive Secretary of Synod;
- March 15th, 2013: Deadline for requests for presentation times or display space;
- March 22nd, 2013: Certificates of Election due to Synod Office;
- March 28th, 2013: Deadline for Convening Circular material to Executive Secretary of Synod;
- April 15th, 2013: On-line registration opens;
- May 1st, 2013: Deadline for requests for paper copy of Convening Circular;
- May 13th, 2013: On-line registration closes;

Synod is scheduled to conclude on Saturday, June 1st, 2013 at approximately 3:00 p.m.
This notice is given by the Bishop of the Diocese, the Right Reverend Susan Moxley.

Pamela Barkhouse
Executive Secretary of Synod

ON BEING A SYNOD DELEGATE

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 that the common good of the whole church takes precedence over personal, parish, or regional considerations.

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

Delegates to Synod should make an effort to understand the nature and functions of Synod. While there are a number of responsibilities related to attending Synod itself, there are other aspects to being a member of Synod. Delegates should be committed to the church at the parish and local level and active at the regional level. In addition, delegates should be aware of and accept the commitment of time and effort required prior to, during, and after Synod. Delegates 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 delegates when they return to their parishes and regions. These decisions are based on discussion and debate at Synod and, once made, 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 carrying the decisions forward to parishes and regions.

Synod is a process of sharing thoughts, ideas, energy, feelings, approaches, and 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 delegate is a challenging responsibility that provides one with enormous opportunities to exercise faith in Christ and his teachings of hope, grace, wisdom, peace, compassion and love.

SYNOD DELEGATE REPORT

One of the important duties of a Synod delegate is to report to her/his parish on the events of Synod. This is best done by an oral report at a Sunday service shortly after Synod and at a meeting of Regional Council. A written report can be included in the parish annual report and given to Regional Council. Lay delegates should prepare the report jointly. This is often the only contact parishioners have with their Church beyond their parish. As an elected synod delegate, you are a member of the incorporated body of the Diocesan Synod of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, not only for the three days of synod meetings, but until new synod delegates are elected by your parish. Decisions made by synod have far-reaching implications for your church. Those who elected you deserve to know the business of their synod. It is your responsibility to ensure that the congregations of your parish receive this information.

It is a good idea to keep a journal or notebook that you fill in at the end of each session or day so you have a record of the work of Synod in order to refresh your memory.

WHAT DO DECISIONS OF SYNODS MEAN FOR THE DIOCESE? LESSONS FROM THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS, 1988

The Report on ‘Dogmatic and Pastoral Concerns’ of the 1988 Lambeth Conference of Bishops noted two emphases in Anglican Decision-Making, consensus and reception.

Consensus:

“On the one hand the expression of ‘consensus’ will involve the achieving of certain thought out and stipulated majorities in synods at the appropriate level....A synodical majority on its own, however, cannot be deemed to constitute the mind of a [Diocese] Province or Communion of the whole Church. Consensus must involve and ensure that all arguments have been put to the community and heard by it, that people are not swept forward without understanding the implications of what is being agreed, and that there is indeed secure maximum agreement.” (pp. 117, 118)

Reception:

Decisions of Synods need to be ‘received’ by the wider church. Reception “entails embodying what is affirmed in the lived experience of the community....Reception is a gradual and dynamic process. It means the way by which the people of God as a whole actively respond to decisions made by synods and councils. This is a process which takes time and is always open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit within the community. Until such a process is complete there is necessarily a ‘provisionality’ about decisions taken by synods and councils of the Church. A matter cannot be deemed to be settled without reception. It is still possible for those decisions to be modified, or even reversed...” (p. 117)

“On the one hand it must be possible for a [Diocese] Province or a Communion to have confidence in its decisions, even though individuals or groups continue to express views contrary to those declared by synods. On the other hand, it is important to make room for dissent within the reception process.” (p. 118)

From, **The Truth Shall Make You Free**, The Lambeth Conference 1988, The Reports, Resolutions & Pastoral Letters from the Bishops (1988, Anglican Consultative Council).

ENACTMENTS OF SYNOD (from the Constitution of Synod, section 20)

- “(1) Unless a vote by orders is required, a motion shall be duly passed if a majority of the members voting at one session of Synod vote in favor of it.
- (2) If a vote by orders is required, a motion shall be duly passed if a majority of the members of each order present and voting at one session of Synod vote in favor of it.
- (3) (a) There shall be a vote by orders if a motion deals with a matter of discipline or if the Bishop or any four members of Synod request it;
(b) A request for a vote by orders may be made at any time before or after a motion has been voted on, but not after the end of the session;
(c) The result of a vote by orders supersedes the result of a previous vote on the motion.
- (4) (a) A motion which has been duly passed by Synod comes into force immediately unless the Bishop dissents from or reserves the motion and where the Bishop does so before the close of the session of Synod at which the motion was moved, the motion ceases to be in force

immediately after the Bishop dissents or reserves. The Bishop may not dissent from or reserve a motion for the election of a Bishop;
(b) If the Bishop dissents from a motion, the motion is lost;
(c) If the Bishop reserves a motion, he or she shall announce his or her decision not later than the next session of Synod.”

GUIDANCE FOR WRITING DIOCESAN SYNOD RESOLUTIONS

1. All resolutions must be submitted in advance, in writing, to the Executive Secretary of Synod, at least three months before the meeting of Synod. **(Date due is February 28, 2013)**. No resolutions will be accepted after the deadline or from the floor of Synod.
2. **Each resolution** shall begin with **“RESOLVED, that”**, or **“MOVED, that”**... and be followed by a clear and concise statement of what is proposed. The names of the mover and seconder are to be included in the notice of resolution/motion printed in the Convening Circular **(Date due to Executive Secretary of Synod is March 28, 2013)**.
3. There shall be no preamble. There shall be no introductory statements or **“WHEREAS”**...statements. Start with the resolution.
4. Commentary on the resolution should follow, but not be part of the formal resolution. Commentary can explain the reasons for the resolution, its program impact, congruity with the Diocesan Vision, etc. Resolutions with budgetary impact must include a budget estimate.
5. Submissions must contain the name, email (if available), postal address, parish and phone number of the mover and/or the sponsor. If the name of the movers is not finalized when the resolution is submitted, you must name a sponsor who can speak knowledgeably about the resolution with the Resolutions Committee.
6. The Resolutions Committee shall not decide on the merits of the proposed resolution/motion, but it may return for work any resolution it considers to be not within these guidelines, unclear, ambiguous, inaccurate or impossible to carry out.
7. The Resolutions Committee will advise the mover or sponsor if a resolution has been rejected or referred.

RULES OF ORDER AND DEBATE

- (1) When the Bishop, or other person presiding has taken the chair, no member shall continue standing.
- (2) The business on the agenda paper shall take precedence over all other business.
- (3) When any member is about to speak he or she shall rise and address the Chair.
- (4) An address from the Bishop shall be in order at any time.
- (5) No motion or amendment shall be considered as before Synod (except such as proposed by the Bishop or by a Committee) unless seconded and reduced to writing and in the hands of the Chair.
- (6) Any notice of motion may be taken up by any member present at such meeting in the same manner as if that member had given the notice.
- (7) No member save the mover of a motion who, as mover, shall have the right of reply shall speak more than once on the same question, without asking and receiving permission from the Chair.
- (8) Except with consent of the House, the mover of a report and the mover of a motion may not speak more than ten minutes and the seconder five minutes; and each speaker thereafter five minutes. The mover may speak for five minutes in closing the debate.
- (9) When a question is under consideration, no other motion shall be received except to adjourn Synod, to move the previous question, to lay it on the table, to postpone it to a certain time, to postpone it indefinitely, to adjourn the debate, to commit it, to consider it clause by clause, to amend it or to divide it; and motions for any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order here named.
- (10) Motions to suspend a rule of order or to adjourn, to lay on the table, or to divide the motion or for the previous question shall be decided without debate.
- (11) No rule of order shall be suspended except upon the vote of two-thirds of the members present.
- (12) After a motion has been read to Synod by the Chair or the Executive Secretary, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of Synod, but it may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before being put or before amendment with the permission of the Synod.
- (13) Any member may require at any period of the debate that the motion under discussion be read for the member's information.
- (14) When a member is speaking, no other member shall interrupt except to raise a point of order, nor pass between the member speaking and the Chair.
- (15) A member called to order while speaking shall sit down unless permitted to explain.
- (16) All questions of order shall be decided by the Chair without debate, and the decision of the Chair shall be final.

(17) An amendment to an amendment shall be first put and if defeated, then other amendments to the original amendment may be made severally and each submitted in turn to the House until one is accepted or all defeated; then the amendment to the main motion in amended form, when, if defeated, the main motion shall be put.

(18) No more than one amendment to a proposed amendment to a motion shall be in order; yet a substitute for the whole matter may be proposed and received, provided it deals with the subject at hand.

(19) When any question is about to be put to vote, the members shall stay in their seats, and shall not hold any private discourse; and when a motion is about to be put no member shall leave until such motion is disposed of.

(20) The Chair shall have the right to vote on all questions but no casting vote, and in the event of an equality of votes on any proposition, it shall be declared lost.

(21) A question once determined shall not again be drawn into discussion in the same session without the special sanction of the Chair.

(22) When Synod is about to rise or adjourn, every member shall stand in the member's place until the Bishop or other person presiding has left the hall.

(23) Members of the public may be present at the meetings of Synod on the understanding that they must be subject to the direction of the Chair; and must withdraw if required by the Chair, on the request of any three members of Synod.

GUIDE FOR SPEAKING TO MOTIONS/ RESOLUTIONS OR AMENDMENTS

Members may speak for five minutes, once per motion.

1. Move to the microphone and enter the line of speakers.
2. When it is your turn to speak and you are recognized by the Chair,
3. Address the Chair and members of Synod, thus,

Bishop Moxley or (Bishop Cutler) and members of Synod

4. Give your name, your parish and region (or situation), thus

My name is _____

My parish is _____

My region is _____

5. Tell Synod whether you are speaking for or against the motion/resolution, for example,

I am speaking for the motion/resolution or amendment

Or

I am speaking against the motion/resolution or amendment

6. Then give your reasons or make your points why you are for or against the motion/resolution or amendment.

Jot down notes on the points you wish to make:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

And, so forth, until you finish or your five minutes are up.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The only position to be elected at Synod 2013 is the Youth Delegate.

+ IN MEMORY +

From the Constitution of Synod, Section 25, (3), 'The Committee on Deceased Members shall be composed of the Regional Deans and such other members as Synod shall appoint and shall present to Synod at its annual meeting the names of all members and former members of Synod who have died since the last annual meeting of Synod with brief and appropriate notice.' Deceased spouses of clergy are normally included. This list includes names compiled by or sent to the Synod office. The information is normally taken from published obituaries. Please bring omissions or corrections to the attention of the Executive Secretary of Synod.

Lay

Gerald Fultz, Died on June 19, 2012. Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia on September 15, 1922. At age 20 he enlisted in the RCAF and posted overseas and commissioned in August 1943. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in January 1945. He returned to Halifax and rejoined the Postal Service in 1946. He retired in 1978 where he exercised his carpentry skills and built his retirement home in Pentz. He worked in the Christmas tree industry for years; he was a lay reader, warden, and treasurer within the Anglican Parishes of Petite Riviere and New Dublin. In 1994 he was appointed Honourary Lieutenant Colonel, then subsequently Honourary Colonel of 405 Squadron at Greenwood, N.S.

Nellie Neish. Died on Dec 2nd 2012 after a brief but brave battle with Cancer. She was just 60 yrs old. Nellie was the wife of the Rev. Gordon Neish and a faithful member of St Edward's Clementsport.

+ *Clergy*

The Reverend Michael Stephen Boyd. Died Thursday, January 31st, 2013, age 61. Born in Windsor, Nova Scotia, Michael was a graduate of Acadia University and the University of Toronto, Trinity College. Ordained as a priest of the Anglican Church of Canada on January 6th., 1977, at Trinity Anglican Church, Digby, by the Rt. Rev. Leonard Hatfield. Michael served parishes in Digby, French Village and Hantsport, retiring in July 2012 after serving St. Andrew's Parish in Hantsport for 31 years.

Rev. Canon Emery Harris. Died on February 2, 2013 at age 83. Ordained in 1958, Emery served as a Chaplain in the Canadian Navy, and then began his loving devotion and service as Rector at numerous parishes in Nova Scotia. Emery was Program Director for the Diocese of Nova Scotia, Chairman of the National Program Committee of the Anglican Church, and a past Chairman of the Board of Governors Atlantic School of Theology.

The Right Rev. Dr. George "Russell" Hatton, died January 18, 2012, age 79. Born in Springhill in June, 1932, he was the son of the late George Arthur Hatton and Hannah Irene (Langille). He was a graduate of Normal College, Truro, Dalhousie University and the

University of Kings College, Halifax. He also was a graduate of General Theological Seminary, New York and Yale Divinity School, New Haven. He served in many parishes in Nova Scotia and in early 70s he was invited to join the National Staff of the Anglican Church of Canada in Toronto, Ont., as the Executive for Social Justice Ministry. In 1980 he was President of the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax and in 1986 he was elected Suffragan Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In 1990, he became Dean of Theology at Huron College, London, Ontario. In 1991-1997, he was called to be the Anglican Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Armed Forces. In 1997, he accepted a position as an Assistant to the Bishop of Montreal and settled in Sutton Quebec. In 2005 he moved back to Nova Scotia and served in many Committees, Boards and Commissions.

VISION, MISSION, AND DIOCESAN PRIORITIES

Mission: To participate in God’s mission of reconciling the world to God through Jesus Christ.

Vision: To create and sustain Christ-centered, mission-minded, ministering communities of faith.

Priorities of Synod and of the Diocesan Council (not in any order):

Youth and Family Ministry: To interpret the Diocesan Vision of a “Christ-centered, mission-minded, ministering community of faith in light of the children, youth and families who are currently within the Anglican community, as well as those of the wider community.

Healthy Leadership: To interpret the Diocesan Vision of a “Christ-centered, mission-minded, ministering community of faith” by enabling the parishes and the diocese to identify, develop and nurture lay and ordained leaders.

Healthy Parishes: To interpret the Diocesan Vision of being a “Christ-centered, mission-minded, ministering community of faith” as it applies to the life and ministries of the parishes of the diocese with the goal that all the parishes of the diocese are functioning in a healthy manner as demonstrated through the 5 marks of a healthy congregation proposed by the Alban Institute.

Mission, Outreach and Social Justice: To interpret the Diocesan Vision of being a “Christ-centered, mission-minded, ministering community of faith” in the light of the needs of the wider community. To make real God’s vision of a world which is peaceful, just, equal and in right relationship with each other and creation. To interpret to the parishes three of the Anglican Communion’s Marks of Mission: to respond to human need with loving service; to seek to transform the unjust structures of society; to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Financial Management and Development: To develop mechanisms to manage and grow financial support for the programs and services of the parishes and the Diocese, for the benefit of Regions, parishes and parishioners, and for the secular communities in which they are sited.

Human Resources: To interpret the Diocesan Vision of being a “Christ-centered, mission-minded, ministering community of faith “ in regard to healthy relationships and good working conditions for diocesan employees (clergy and lay) and the Diocese and parishes of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island which employ them.