

Welcome to the Second Session of Diocesan Synod 2007!

START HERE!

From Rick Jones, Secretary of Synod

Welcome to the second session of the 133rd Synod of The Diocese of Niagara! We convened in June to elect Bishop Michael and now continue with our “two day” Synod. Thank you for offering your gifts to build up the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Niagara.

Two Day Synod

Two years ago Synod decided to move to a format that alternates each year between a “one day” business format and a “two day” business and programme format. This year we will be using the “two day” format. This will allow enough time to do the core business of Synod such as hearing the Bishop’s Charge, electing Synod Council, approving the financial statements, voting on the budget, and considering other motions. In addition we will have time to be informed and to reflect on the pressing issue of Eco-Justice. This issue was recommended to us by the Youth Synod 2007 and we are looking forward to the presentation by Dr. Christopher Lind.

Worship and the Bishop’s Charge

We will begin Synod on Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. with Eucharistic Worship at the Cathedral. The Bishop will deliver his Charge and it will be video taped live for reproduction and distribution to parishes after Synod. The themes of Creation and the Stewardship of Creation will inform our worship this year.

Re-registration

On Friday morning delegates will re-register for this second session of Synod. This means that **if your parish sent an Alternate Delegate to the first session in June then that delegate is still your delegate for this second session.** If any delegate who attended in June is unable to attend this session then an Alternate Delegate elected by Vestry is able to attend. Please note that this means that a regular delegate who did not attend in June **cannot** substitute for an Alternate Delegate who did attend in June. Please contact Karen Nowicki at the Synod office as soon as possible if you will be sending different delegates than attended in June.

Education and Resources

The longer format of this Synod means that there will be a number of displayers in attendance for the Friday and Saturday morning. Included in this group will be the new ABC Augsburg Fortress bookstore, Environment Hamilton, Canterbury Hills and many others. We will also have resources on display around the theme of Eco-Justice including a free “Greening of Your Church” resource CD prepared by the Region of Undermount.

Friday Night and Saturday

Friday night the formal business of Synod will suspend at 4 p.m. and there will be a reception in the foyer with live entertainment, a Jazz Quartet, and cash bar. This allows the staff at the Convention Centre to transform the room and set the tables for the dinner, which will begin at 6 p.m. The evening will be a tribute to Bishop Ralph Spence as this will be his last Synod as Diocesan Bishop.

Saturday morning will be devoted to looking at motions that will come as a response to the General Synod decisions regarding the blessing of same gender relationships. These motions are not available at this time but will be available on the diocesan web site as soon as they are received by me. They will also be printed for Synod Delegates on arrival Friday. I hope that you will be able to have time before Synod to think about these motions. We will be on a very tight schedule Saturday morning if we hope to end by noon. Leaving at noon has been necessitated by the Santa Clause Parade which will literally surround the Conference Centre and block traffic out of the Centre by about 1 p.m.

If you have any questions about Synod, the agenda or anything else please contact The Reverend Canon Mark Tiller, Chair of the Synod Planning Team, Karen Nowicki or myself.

Thank you! And see you at Synod!

The Reverend Canon Dr. Richard Jones, Secretary of Synod