

March 2010

## **Welcome to the Special 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 135<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Niagara**

Synod is being held at Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton, on Saturday, March 13, 2010.

The first thing that you will notice is that this will be a lean and green Synod. We are making every effort to spend only what is needed to facilitate this meeting. Enclosed in this mailing you will receive only the important registration card that **must be presented** and exchanged for a voting card on Saturday. The Convening Circular will be posted online at [www.niagara.anglican.ca](http://www.niagara.anglican.ca) for download. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact your parish and have them download and print the information for you. We are also asking that you bring your own name tag, this will be a wonderful opportunity to show off what your parish does with name tags! There will be coffee provided upon arrival and at the morning break, we hope to finish before lunch.

This Synod will be of critical importance for you and the life of the Diocese. **There will be a new Bishop's Charge, expect the Bishop to give us an overview of the state of the Diocese regarding next steps for the Vision and the need for the position that is requested in the Budget**, there will be a Job Description for this position in your online convening circular. At Synod there will be important reports from the **Vision Petal Team Leaders, The Governance Task Force and the Bishop's Financial Task Force** (please refer to your agenda). These will be critical updates for the whole Synod on the important work that is going on now in the life of the Diocese. **Finally we will have the motion regarding all parishes paying their payroll responsibilities by Pre-authorized Payment to the Synod.** This motion was first on the Agenda of Synod in November 2008, it was deferred at each subsequent Synod, but given the financial issues facing the Synod, will now be before this Synod for debate.

### **Expenses of Synod**

Fees for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of Synod are \$15 per Member of Synod, clerical or lay, to cover costs incurred. Parishes will be invoiced for the number of Synod delegates to which they are entitled.

Observers are welcome and the \$15 per delegate fee to defray costs of Synod will also be charged to the parish for any observer attending. Please inform Karen Nowicki at 905-527-1316 ext. 380 or by email to [karen.nowicki@niagara.anglican.ca](mailto:karen.nowicki@niagara.anglican.ca) of the names of any observers planning to attend **by Tuesday, March 9, 2010 – Observers must register.**

**\*\*Please note\*\***

**This is the second session of the 135<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, the first session was held on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. If you attended the session in November 2009, you are the voting Member of Synod on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**Alternate Delegates**

If a parish's alternate lay delegate is replacing a regular lay delegate at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of Synod, please notify Karen Nowicki, **no later than Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**. She can be reached at 905-527-1316 ext. 380 or via email to karen.nowicki@niagara.anglican.ca. Only those delegates so listed as being elected alternates at the 2009 annual vestry and whose name is on record at the Synod Office will be eligible to take the place of a regular voting delegate.

**Parking** in the Cathedral lot is quite limited and we **encourage you to car pool**. Synod delegates may park in the St. Mary/Jamesville Community Centre parking lot, located one block west of the Cathedral. When travelling northbound on James Street, turn left (west) onto Colbourne Street (Shoppers Drug Mart on corner), go past the stop sign, and turn into the lot on your left hand side. Cars may also park in an orderly manner on the tarmacked playground area on the other side of the fence from the parking lot (preferably near the building and away from the children's climbing equipment).

If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Nowicki, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of Synod at 905-527-1316 ext. 380 or via email to karen.nowicki@niagara.anglican.ca

Looking forward to seeing you at this critical Synod and thank you for your leadership in the work of God's Church in our Diocese of Niagara.

Faithfully,  
The Venerable Dr. Rick Jones  
Secretary of Synod