

**155<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod  
MINUTES**

*International Plaza Hotel, Toronto  
November 29 and 30, 2013*

***Compassionate Service, Intelligent Faith, Godly Worship***

**Friday, November 29, 2013**

Pursuant to the notice, the opening of the 155<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto assembled at 9:45 a.m. at the International Plaza Hotel, Toronto.

**Synod Opens**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called the meeting to order.

**Constitution of the Meeting**

**Report of the Committee on Credentials**

Chancellor Canon Dr. Robert Falby noted that the Committee on Credentials reports that all Clerical and Lay Members here gathered are entitled to take seats at Synod.

**Eucharist**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson presided at the Eucharist.

**Announcements and Late Arrivals**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson made several housekeeping announcements and shared prayer requests with Synod. Archbishop Johnson acknowledged the Rt. Rev. Michael Bedford-Jones and gave thanks for the forty-sixth anniversary of his ordination to the diaconate.

**Late Arrivals**

The Honorary Secretaries made housekeeping announcements and read the names of those given permission in advance of Synod to arrive late. The list includes: Ms. Joyce Badley, The Rev. Warren Beal, Ms. Clare Burns, The Rev. David Burrows, Ms. Lydia Cordie, Ms. Beth Conway, Mr. Paul Couillard, Ms. Suzan Hall, Ms. Christine Herbert, Ms. Allyson Lemire, The Rev. Pamela Lucas, Mr. Stephen Masson, The Rev. Canon Dr. Drew MacDonald, Ms. Lynda McKerr, Ms. Debbie McLean-Schubert, The Rev. David, Mulholland, Mr. Stephen Powell, Mr. Stephen Steynor, Dr. Ian Storey, and The Rev. Martha Tatarnic.

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the following Synod Members be admitted and given permission to vote: Dr. Anne Moore, Trinity, Aurora; The Rev. Dawn Leger, Christ Church, Stouffville; The Ven. Gordon Finney, Archdeacon of Trent Durham; The Rev. Canon Dr. Alice Medcof, St. Clement, Eglinton; Mr. John Monahan, St Paul, Bloor Street; Ms. Rosemary MacAdam, Area Youth Coordinator, York-Credit Valley; Dr. Ian Storey, St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough; The Rev. John Anderson, Ascension, Port Perry; The Rev. Lucy Reid, St. Aidan, Toronto; The Rev. David Howells, Grace Church in Scarborough; The Rev. Canon Maurice Francois, Holy Trinity, Trinity Square; The Rev. Canon Dawn Davis, Trinity, Aurora; and The Rev. Wendy Moore, St. Luke, Creemore. CARRIED.

## **Archbishop's Charge**

*See Appendix A*

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson informed Synod that he would announce new canons at a later time during Synod.

## **Introduction of Honorary Secretaries**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson introduced the Honorary Secretaries for this Session of Synod and thanked them for their work in preparing the Eucharist:

Honorary Clerical Secretary	The Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham
Honorary Lay Secretary	Mr. Chris Ambidge
Assistant Clerical Secretary	The Rev. Claire Wade

## **Late Arrivals**

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the following Synod Members be admitted and given permission to vote: Mr. Peter Bennett, Redeemer, Bloor Street; Mr. Michael Degan, St. Thomas, Huron Street; and the Rev. Walter Hannam, St. Bartholomew, Toronto. CARRIED.

The Honorary Secretaries reviewed the rules and protocols for motions and voting. Mr. JP Copeland from Data on the Spot reviewed the electronic voting system.

## **Approval of Agenda**

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the Agenda be approved. CARRIED.

## **Omnibus Motion**

### Minutes of the 154th Regular Session of Synod

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the reading of the Minutes of 154th Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held on November 25 and 26, 2011 in Toronto, be dispensed with, and the Minutes of the said Regular Session as prepared by the Honorary Secretaries be adopted and confirmed as the Minutes of the said Synod. CARRIED.

### Minutes of the Corporate (Financial) Session of Synod

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the reading of the minutes of the Corporate (Financial) Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held on June 16, 2012 in Toronto be dispensed with, and the Minutes of the said Session as prepared by the Honorary Secretaries be adopted and confirmed as the Minutes of the said Synod. CARRIED.

#### Courtesies of the House

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the following be given Courtesies of the House: All clergy with “Informal Permission”; all postulants of the Diocese; any lay chairperson, deanery council members, or area council members not a member of Synod; Ecumenical partners; lay Canons of the Diocese, lay faculty of theological colleges; Members of the Threshold Ministries; Members of the Order of the Holy Cross; Sisters of St. John the Divine; Sisters of the Church; Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit; and Parish Administrators.

CARRIED.

#### York Rectory Commissioners and Committee on Etobicoke Glebe

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the report of the First York Rectory Commission be received, and that the following be appointed Commissioners for the distribution of the First York Rectory Fund and the Etobicoke Glebe for 2014 and 2015: Canon Robert L. Falby, Chancellor; Ms. Clare Burns, Vice Chancellor; and Ms. Joy Packham.

CARRIED.

#### Advisory Commission on Termination of Clerical Appointment

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the following be elected by Synod to the Advisory Commission on Termination of Clerical Appointments for 2014 and 2015: The Rev. Kevin Robertson, Ms. Delores Lawrence, Ms. Robyn Ryan Bell.

CARRIED.

#### Court on Contested Seats

Synod was informed that in accordance with Section 7 of *The Constitution*, the Bishop has appointed the following members of Synod to the Court on Contested Seats: Canon Paul Baston, Canon Dr. Robert L. Falby, Chancellor, Mr. Trevor Kimpton, The Rev. Heather McCance, Ms. Anne Oram, The Rev. Canon Stephen Peake, and Mr. Ian Physick.

#### Timekeepers

Synod was informed that the following were appointed as Timekeepers for this Session of Synod: Mr. Chris D’Angelo, Ms. Jacqueline Daley, Mr. Simon Davis, Ms. Irina Dubinski, Ms. Megan Jull, and Mr. Leonard Leader.

#### Scrutineers

Synod was informed that in accordance with *The Constitution*, section 18, at its September 26, 2013 meeting, the Diocesan Council appointed the following members of Synod as Scrutineers for this Session of Synod: The Rev. Canon Richard Miller and Ms. Laura Walton.

#### Regrets

The Honorary Secretaries reported that regrets were received from the following active and retired clergy who were unable to attend Synod: The Rev. Sheila Archer, The Rev. Dr. Andrew Barlow, The Rev. Canon Milton Barry, The Rev. Theodore Bartlett, Major The Rev. Frank Beasley, The Rev. A. V (Terry) Bennett, The Rev. David Bowring, The Rev. Sara Boyles, The Rev. Helen Bradley, The Rev. Dr. Schuyler Brown, The Rev. Canon Michael Burgess, The Rev. Christopher Caton, The Rev. Canon Prudence Chambers, The Rev. Andrea Christensen, The Rev. Canon Dr. C. Graham Cotter, The Rev. Ray Dobson, The Rev. Stephanie Douglas-Bowman, The Most Rev. Terence Finlay, The Rev. Victor Gauci, The Rev. Earl Gerber, The Rev. Edward Hales, The Rev. Beverley Harvey, The Rev. Hollis Hiscock, The Rev. Canon Millie Hope, The Rev. Canon E. A. (Betty) Jordan, The Rev.

Dr. Rachel Kessler, The Rev. Canon William Kibblewhite, The Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard, The Rev. Carol Langley, The Rev. Jennifer Matthews, The Rev. Mary Louise Meadow, The Rev. Naomi Miller, The Rev. Robert Mitchell, The Rev. Victor Reigel, The Rev. Robert Ross, The Rev. Dr. G. Grant Schwartz, The Rev. Canon Dr. Andrew Sheldon, The Rev. Liska Stefko, The Rev. Beverley Thompson, The Ven. Judith Walton, The Rev. Joan Waters-Garner, The Rev. Donna White, The Rt. Rev. Patrick White, and The Rev. Brian Youngward, OHC.

### Memorials

The Honorary Secretaries reported that no memorials were received for this session of Synod.

### **Introductions**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson made the following introductions:

### Officers of the Diocese

Suffragan Bishops: The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty; The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls; The Rt. Rev. Philip Poole; and The Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu.

Chancellor: Canon Dr. Robert Falby

Vice Chancellors: Ms. Clare Burns and Ms. Robin Ryan Bell

Registrar: Canon Paul Baston

Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary of Synod: The Ven. Elizabeth Hardy

Honorary Clerical Secretary: The Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham

Honorary Lay Secretary: Mr. Chris Ambidge

Treasurer and Director of Finance: Ms. Harpreet Wadehra

Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. James: The Very Rev. Douglas Stoute

Archdeacons: The Ven. Elizabeth Hardy, Archdeacon of York; and

The Ven. Gordon Finney, Archdeacon of Trent Durham

### Guest Speaker:

The Rt. Rev. Jane Alexander, Bishop of Edmonton

### Partner:

The Rt. Rev. Michael Hawkins, Bishop of Saskatchewan and Co-Chair of the Council of the North

### Chaplain

The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes, OHC

### **Report from General Synod 2013**

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls reported on the 2013 Joint Assembly held July 2 to 7 at the Ottawa Convention Centre. 2013 marked the first joint gathering of the General Synod and the Lutheran Assembly. The assembly provided joint witness on issues of the common good and heard special news from each Church. The individual churches met separately for governance and resolutions. Bishop Nicholls highlighted the resolutions passed by General Synod, particularly A120 on the Proposed Covenant for the Anglican Communion, and challenged members to participate in the dialogue called on by the Anglican Communion Working Group. Bishop Nicholls also reviewed Resolution C003 which proposes changes to Canon XXI on Marriage, putting particular emphasis on the amendment made to the original resolution. Bishop Nicholls encouraged Synod to review all of the reports available on the General Synod's website.

The Rev. Canon Murray Henderson, Christ Church St. James, Etobicoke, requested permission to ask a question on the report from General Synod. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson deferred the question.

### **Late Arrivals**

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the following Synod Member be admitted and given permission to vote: Mr. Patrick Gossage, All Saints, King City. CARRIED.

### **Introduction to Missional Moments**

The Rev. Susan Bell reminded Synod of the emphasis in the agenda on worship, fellowship and continued growth, and described the four “Missional Moments” scheduled during this Synod.

### **Missional Moment #1**

The Rev. Mark Kinghan, St. George-on-Yonge and Mr. Jeff Potter, Church of the Transfiguration, spoke to Synod about the Spirit of Invitation. Mr. Kinghan said that the spirit of invitation is not something new, but rather an attempt to focus the existing conversation and develop resource materials. A short video was shown. Mr. Potter expanded the idea of invitation beyond specific programs to relational moments. He encouraged members to join the conversation, share the video, and share their responses, whether negative or positive. He promised that additional resources will be available by this time next year. Mr. Potter then invited members to have a few minutes of conversation with their table about invitation.

The Rt. Rev. Philip Poole applauded the Spirit of Invitation and led Synod in a prayer for the initiative.

### **Reflections since last Synod in 2011**

The Most Rev. Colin R Johnson invited the Rev. David Giffen to speak on Diocesan Council’s Report to Synod for 2011-2013.

The Rev. David Giffen reviewed the four key priority areas outlined in the *Our Faith, Our Hope – Re-imagine Church* campaign: strengthen local parishes, building the church of tomorrow, revitalising our inheritance, and giving to others beyond ourselves. He reminded Synod of the presentations made at each Pre-Synod meeting on the progress in these four areas, as well as the materials shared through the Anglican, bulletin board, and the website.

Archbishop Johnson opened the floor for any further debate. As no one came to the microphone, a vote was called on the motion.

MOVED by the Rev. David Giffen and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon Stephen Fields that Synod receive the document entitled *The Anglican Diocese of Toronto: Priorities and Plans 2011-2013 – Report Card*. CARRIED.

### **Announcements**

The Honorary Secretaries made some housekeeping announcements.

### **Midday Prayer and Memorials**

The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty presided at Mid-Day Prayers, remembering the following deceased members of Synod: The Rev. David Adams, The Rev. Canon Alfred Gordon Baker, The Rev. Murray Belway, Sister Angela Blackburn, WSHS, Sister Joyce Bodley, SSJD, Ms. Katleen Violet Carter, Mrs Evelyn Cotter, The Rev. William Craig, The Rev. Canon Frederick Cross, The Rev. Canon Jack Sydney Crouch, The Rev. Canon A. Robert Cuyler, The Ven. Robert Dann, Ms. A. Virginia Finlay, The Rev. Canon John Fralick, The Rev. Canon Timothy Grew, The Rev. Canon Stanley Hanes, Mr John Herron, The Rev. Peter Hill, Mrs Elizabeth Jennings, The Rev. Arthur Thomas Little, The Rev. Dr Michael Lloyd, The Rev. William George Manley, Sister Jean Marston, SSJD, Ms Donalda McTaggart, Ms. Wilma Mills, Sister Canon Constance Murphy, SSJD, The Rev. Bruce Mutch, The Rev. Owen (Pat) Orr, Mrs Sue Physick, The Rev. George Arnold Ruskell, Mrs Hope Sibbald Thompson, The Rev Canon John Speers, Mrs Marilyn Tibbles, The Rev. Dr. Verschoyle (Versey) Wigmore, Ms. Shirley Wigmore, and The Rev. Dr. Bruce Williams.

### **Adjournment**

The morning session adjourned.

### **Synod Reconvenes**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called the meeting to order.

### **Late Arrivals**

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the following Synod Members be admitted and given permission to vote: Ms. Darlene Knowlton, St. John the Baptist, Norway; Steven Wright, St. John-the-Evangelist, Port Hope; The Rev. Canon Leonard Abbah, OHC; and The Rev. Jim Seagram, Prince of Peace, Wasaga Beach. CARRIED.

### **Guest Speaker**

The Rt. Rev. Philip Poole introduced the Rt. Rev. Jane Alexander. Bishop Alexander addressed Synod on the topic of mission, reminding members that mission is about Jesus and about relationships. She challenged members to renew their vocabulary and focus on people's faith stories. Sharing a video testimonial from Michael Harvey, she emphasized the importance of listening and telling one's own story. She stated that a missional church accepts the challenges it faces and grabs every opportunity it sees. She challenged members to consider what they uniquely bring to a conversation about Christ, and left them with three questions to consider:

- What do we think God is doing in our community outside the church?
- What might we have to set aside to help people beyond our churches feel welcome?
- How is the Spirit making us feel restless to want to carry to Gospel on to new places?

### **Announcements**

The Honorary Secretaries made announcements about the upcoming workshops.

### **Adjourned**

Synod adjourned for afternoon workshops.

### **Synod Reconvenes**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called the meeting to order.

### **Member Question from the Morning Session**

The Honorary Secretaries invited the Rev. Canon Murray Henderson, Christ Church St. James, Etobicoke to ask the question he wished to raise earlier on the report from General Synod. Canon Henderson expressed concern that there has been no discussion prior to the resolution on the marriage canon on the distinction between same sex blessings vs. same sex marriage. He said that the motion should require a biblical and theological rationale. He also stated that providing such a rationale does not address the question of whether or not such a rationale exists. He requested that this process be open to discernment and not be a foregone conclusion.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson responded that there will be a push to ensure the commission has a wide range of perspectives represented. He reminded Synod that the process for any major canon change at the national church on a doctrinal issue is not taken lightly. It requires a two-thirds majority of each house voting by order (clergy, bishop and laity) in two successive General Synods, with a reference back to Diocesan Synods in between.

### **Missional Moment #2**

The Rev. Ted McCollum, St. Paul, Beaverton, spoke to Synod regarding Plentiful Harvest, an initiative begun in Beaverton in 2009. He described his initial interaction with a group of Spanish-speaking migrant workers, which, at the request of the migrant workers, developed into a weekly Spanish-language service. The following summer, the parish's emphasis switched from welcoming to integration into the community. He stated that the relationship has flourished; it all started because the migrants were simply asked what they needed.

### **Election of Provincial Synod Members**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson asked the nominees for Provincial Synod to come to the front of the room to be introduced.

### **Constitution and Canon Changes**

Chancellor Canon Dr. Robert Falby stated that information on proposed changes to the *Constitution and Canons* of the Diocese of Toronto was included in the Convening Circular, section F. He provided an overview of the three proposed changes; he particularly noted the change to Canon 29 as it related to Designated Ministries.

#### The Constitution

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson reminded Synod that the highlights of the discussions and debates at the Area Pre-Synod meetings had been published on the website. He opened the floor for further debate. No one came to the microphone so the Archbishop called for votes on the motions. The Archbishop reminded members that a constitutional change requires a two-thirds majority of all present to pass at a single Synod, or a fifty percent majority at two consecutive Synods.

As a point of order, Ms. Nancy Whitla, Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, requested clarification on the changes being moved. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson explained that these changes would allow for Designated Ministries to have Lay Members of Synod and referred members to the Convening Circular for the exact wording of the changes.

MOVED by Canon Dr. Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Robyn Ryan Bell that Synod approve the changes to *The Constitution* as approved by Diocesan Council and presented in the Convening Circular. CARRIED.

### Canon 29 – Designated Ministries

Canon Dr. Robert Falby reminded Synod that this change permits a diocesan ministry to elect lay delegates to council with permission of Diocesan Council.

MOVED by Canon Dr. Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Robyn Ryan Bell that Synod approve the changes to Canon 29-Designated Ministries as approved by Diocesan Council and presented in the Convening Circular. CARRIED.

### Canon 36 – Audit Committee

Canon Dr. Robert Falby clarified that this motion removes the reference to the no longer existing Treasury Board and replaces it with the Executive Board.

MOVED by Canon Dr. Robert Falby and SECONDED by Ms. Robyn Ryan Bell that Synod approve the changes to Canon 36 – Audit Committee as approved by Diocesan Council and presented in the Convening Circular. CARRIED.

### **Election of Provincial Synod Members**

Under *The Constitution* of the Diocese of Toronto and *The Constitution* of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, Synod is eligible to elect four clergy and four lay members to serve as Members of Provincial Synod. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called for further nominations. No additional nominations were received.

MOVED by Mr. Chris Ambidge and SECONDED by the Rev. Gary van der Meer that the nominations be closed. CARRIED.

J.P. Copeland of Data on the Spot reviewed the electronic voting system for selecting multiple options.

On a point of order, the Rev. Heather McCance, requested that only the names of those elected be shown, not the rankings. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson confirmed that although the voting would happen immediately, the results would only be shared after the numerical results had been removed.

Members of Synod cast their votes for the clerical and lay members to Provincial Synod.

### **Council of the North**

The Rt. Rev. Michael Hawkins thanked Synod for the opportunity to speak and gave greetings from the Council of the North. Bishop Hawkins described the ministry of the Council of the North, and expressed gratitude for the funds it receives from General Synod, the Anglican Foundation, ACW, individual congregations, and Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-Imagine Campaign. He emphasized that support is not just financial, but also came in the forms of fellowship, encouragement, prayer and the sharing of resources and staff. Bishop Hawkins shared that the Council has moved from a defensive posture, focused on survival, to an open posture, focused on mission; from delivering service to members, to equipping members to serve. A video highlighting the ministry of the Council of the North was shown.



## **Provincial Synod Election Results**

As Synod was running behind schedule, the Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson requested a straw vote whether to have members time as scheduled or postpone and adjourn for dinner. Synod voted to adjourn for dinner, following the results of the previous ballot for Provincial Synod.

The following people were elected to represent the Diocese of Toronto at Provincial Synod:

### Clergy (in alphabetical order):

The Rev. Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, Parish of Minden-Kinmount

The Rev. David Giffen, Transfiguration

The Rev. David Harrison, St. Mary Magdalene

The Rev. Mark Kinghan, St. George on Yonge

### Substitutes (in order of call to service)

The Rev. Jeanette Lewis, St. Peter, Carlton Street

The Rev. Dawn Leger, Christ Church, Stouffville

The Rev. Donald Shields, Markham Stouffville Hospital and Grace Church, Markham

The Rev. William Stonehill, St. John, Whitby

### Laity (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Brian Armstrong, St. Andrew, Alliston

Ms. Suzanne Lawson, St. Peter, Cobourg

Mr. Jonathan S. Lofft, St. James Cathedral

Ms. Laura Walton, Christ Church, Batteau

### Substitutes (in order of call to service)

Mr. Bob Boeckner, St. Clement, Eglinton

Ms. Patricia Gooch, St. Peter, Erindale

Ms. Susan Schuschu, St. John, East Orangeville

Ms. Marilyn Csihas, St. George, Pickering Village

Ms. Val Whalley, St. Saviour, Orono

## **Announcements**

The Honorary Secretaries made several housekeeping announcements.

## **Adjournment**

The afternoon session adjourned.

## **Synod Reconvenes**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called the meeting to order.

## **Late Arrivals**

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the following Synod Member be admitted and given permission to vote: Mr. Avery Morris, St. Hilda, Fairbank, Youth Member. Do we list parishes for youth members? CARRIED.

### **Missional Presentation**

The Rev. Susan Bell addressed Synod on being a Mission Shaped Diocese, defining mission as “being sent by God in the divine mission to the world” and “being outwardly focused as a church.” She described mission as the story of the Anglican past and the foundation of the Anglican Communion and the local parish. Ms. Bell suggested that the language of mission have been forgotten and challenged Synod to have patience and open their hearts to mission even if they are not met with success, and to remember that it is God’s mission not theirs. She closed with the following prayer from the Diocese of South Western Brazil.

*Lord, we confess that we have been so busy with the mending of nets that we have forgotten to go to fish. Embolden us today to be fisherman so that even if we come back home without fish, we will be happy because we have fed a lot of them.*

### **Announcements**

The Honorary Secretaries made several announcements about the upcoming workshops.

### **Adjourned**

Synod adjourned for evening workshops.

### **Synod Reconvenes**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called the meeting to order.

### **Missional Moment #3**

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls provided regrets for the Rev. Ryan Sim and spoke on his behalf regarding his initiative *Redeem the Commute* and described the intention behind the church plant in Ajax. The church plant focuses on the fact that the average person in Ajax commutes one to four hours per day. She stated that developing mature church and worship starts by serving needs, which builds community, which then leads to making disciples; it is about running after the disciples, like Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch. Bishop Nicholls invited members to pray for *Redeem the Commute* and the team, to share this information with others, to support those who chase chariots and to chase some chariots of their own.

### **Announcement of new Canons of the Cathedral**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson named the following people as new Canons of the Cathedral Church of St. James:

#### Clerical

The Rev. Canon Susan Bell, Canon Missioner

The Rev. Canon Dennis Dolloff, Church of Our Saviour

The Rev. Canon David Harrison, St. Mary Magdalene

The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan, St. George on Yonge

The Rev. Canon Steven Mackison, St. John the Baptist, Dixie

The Rev. Canon Heather McCance, St. Andrew, Scarborough

The Rev. Canon Ted McCollum, St. Paul, Beaverton

The Rev. Canon Kevin Robertson, Christ Church, Deer Park

Major The Rev. Canon David Warren, CD, St. George, Allendale

### Lay

Canon Clare Burns, Vice Chancellor

Canon Stuart Mann, Director of Communications

Canon Mary-Anne Nicholls, Archivist of the Diocese

Canon Dave Robinson, Director of Congregational Development

### **Night Prayer**

The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes, OHC, presided at Night Prayer.

### **Adjournment**

The evening session adjourned.

### **Saturday, November 30, 2013**

### **Synod Reconvenes**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson called the meeting to order.

### **Morning Prayer**

Sister Elizabeth Ann Eckert, SSJD, presided at Morning Prayers.

### **Announcements**

The Honorary Secretaries made several housekeeping announcements.

### **Late Arrivals**

MOVED by the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham and SECONDED by Mr. Chris Ambidge that the following Synod Members be admitted and given permission to vote: Mr. Winston Isaac, St. Simon-the-Apostle; The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford, Epiphany-St. Mark, Parkdale; Joel Pereira, Epiphany & St. Mark, Parkdale; Shelley McAlister, St. Thomas, Brooklin; Morgan Baskin, Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, Youth Member. Youth member question again CARRIED.

### **Audited Financial Statements**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson asked members to consult section C of the Convening Circular for copies of the Financial Statements. He then called on Mr. Stuart Hutcheson, who served as Interim Treasurer and Director of Finance during the Fall of 2013 to present the Financial Statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto; the Consolidated Trust Fund of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto; and the Cemetery Fund of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and give background as to the process by which these statements were finalized and audited.

The Archbishop also referred members to the discussion and debate points which had been posted on the website following each Pre-Synod meeting. The floor was opened for any further debate. Since no issues were raised, a vote on the motions was called.

MOVED by Mr. Kennedy Marshall and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon Richard Miller that Synod receive the audited Financial Statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the year ended December 31, 2012. CARRIED.

The Rev. Michael Marshall, St Andrew-by-the Lake, raised a question regarding the investments. At the Pre-Synod meetings it was pointed out that some of the investments are made into pooled funds; Mr. Marshall asked if it is possible to discover what comprises those pools. Mr. Stuart Hutcheson explained that it is not possible for fund managers to segregate the amount of money in some of these cases because the amount is so small. The Diocese does require that managers to put a screen on funds according to ethical standards stated in the Diocesan Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures. Each quarter the Investment Committee meets to review the returns as well as the companies where these funds are being invested and their ethical policies.

MOVED by Mr. Kennedy Marshall and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon Richard Miller that Synod receive the audited Financial Statements for the Consolidated Trust Fund of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the year ended December 31, 2012. CARRIED.

MOVED by Mr. Kennedy Marshall and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon Richard Miller that Synod receive the audited Financial Statements for the Cemetery Fund of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the year ended December 31, 2012. CARRIED.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson thanked members of the Investment and Audit Committees for their assistance to the Diocese.

The Archbishop also thanked Mr. Stuart Hutcheson for serving as Interim Director of Finance. Synod applauded his efforts in the interim role and his work, including his preparation and presentation of materials for Pre-Synod meetings.

### **Auditors**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor for debate. Since no issues were raised, a vote on the motion was called.

MOVED by Mr. Kennedy Marshall and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon Richard Miller that the firm of Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants, be appointed to conduct the audit of the Financial Statements of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, the Consolidated Trust Fund and the Cemetery Fund for the year ending December 31, 2013 at a fee to be approved by the Audit Committee. CARRIED.

### **Financial Update and Priorities and Plans 2013-2015**

Mr. Stuart Hutcheson reviewed the revised 2013 budget. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson informed Synod that the document Priorities and Plans for 2013 through 2015 could be found in Section D of the Convening Circular; he called on the Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu to speak to the motion.

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu reviewed the new process for the creation of the budget, which began with a priorities and planning document prepared by the Archbishop, which then went to the Fiscal Framework Working Group, and finally to the Budget Working Group. Bishop Yu reminded Synod of the video shared at each Pre-Synod meetings and the accompanying written report found in Section D of the Convening Circular. Bishop Yu also reminded Synod that they are being asked to approve a two-year budget since there is no longer a separate Financial Synod.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson opened the floor for debate.

The Rev. Canon Kimberley Beard, St. Paul on the Hill, Pickering drew attention to the \$65,000 for the Ontario Provincial Commission on Theological Education (OPCOTE), in support of theological education. He asked that future budgets increase that number significantly to better support of the development of our clergy and training future clergy. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson reminded members that this is not the only fund that supports theological education. Some money goes to theological institutions through bursaries given to postulants in the Diocese, a major grant was given to Wycliffe College through the Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-Imagine Church Campaign, plus an additional \$4 million in Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-Imagine Church for Leadership Development included development for clerical leadership. The Archbishop then acknowledged that we need to take seriously our responsibility in funding theological education appropriately.

No further comments were made; a vote was called on the motion.

MOVED by the Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon Ted McCollum that Synod receive and approve the priorities and the financial plans contained in the document *Priorities and Plans 2013-2015* and the *Financial Budget 2014-2015*. It was further moved that Diocesan Council implement and report back to Synod on the plans and take corrective measures from time to time as best serves the needs of the Diocese. CARRIED.

#### **Assessment Rate**

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu explained that the Diocesan Allotment is the portion of the Diocesan Budget to be raised from parishes and represents the amount needed to balance the Diocesan Budget and that Canon 4 sets out how each congregation's allotment is determined.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson reminded Synod that the Assessment Rate is not based on the total parish budget, but only on the portion remaining after the deductions outlined in Canon 4 had been made. The Archbishop opened the floor for debate.

Mr. John Monahan, St. Paul, Bloor Street, asked for the reasoning behind the very specific reduction in the rate for 2015 to exactly 24.85 %. The Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu responded that the rate is based on the amount needed for the budget; he reminded members that 2015 includes expenses for Synod, which only occurs every other year. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson added that the policy intention was to have a reduction from 25%, but the exact amount was determined by the budget.

MOVED by the Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon Ted McCollum that the Parish Assessment Rate, as defined in Canon 4, section 2, be set at 25.00% for 2014, and 24.85% for 2015. CARRIED.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson thanked members of the Fiscal Framework and Budget Working Group for their efforts in this process and all those involved in maintaining the budget.

#### **Missional Moment #4**

The Archbishop's Youth Ministry Team, led by the Rev. Dawn Leger includes the area coordinators from each Episcopal area: Ms. Rosemary MacAdam, York-Credit Valley; Mr. Brian Suggs, York-Simcoe; Mr. Jeff Potter, York-Scarborough; and Mr. Christian Harvey, Trent Durham.

- The Rev. Dawn Leger asked youth members to stand. She noted that Youth Ministry is not just ministry to youth, but also youth ministering to the church. She thanked the youth for their ministry to the Church.
- Mr. Christian Harvey challenged members to consider what the church has to say to the youth of today. The Archbishop's Youth Ministry Team sees their mission as supporting churches, raising up leaders, and providing opportunities for youth to connect with each other.
- Ms. MacAdam reviewed some of the team's initiatives: Youth Ministry Training Days; Spark, the annual youth ministers retreat; a Diocesan wide youth retreat; other opportunities for youth to realize that they are part of a larger Anglican youth community; and the youth ministry apprentice program. Ms. MacAdam encouraged members to talk to the team if they were interested in the apprenticeship.
- The Rev. Dawn Leger reminded members of the 13 recommendations from the 2008 Synod Needs Assessment regarding youth ministry, and shared that 12 of those recommendations have been met. They are now looking at what resources are available and how they can continue to grow support for parishes. She invited members to discuss with their table and submit written feedback to the team as to what they can provide to support parish youth ministry.

### **Members' Time**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson vacated the Chair and excused himself from this portion of the meeting. The Rt. Rev. Philip Poole assumed the Chair.

The Rt. Rev. Philip Poole reminded members of the rules for Members' Time as outlined in *The Constitution*, Section 38(20). Members were invited to approach the microphones.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson assumed the Chair.

### **Guest Speaker**

The Rt. Rev. Jane Alexander began by reminding Synod not to underemphasize the importance of gathering together to be encouraged and refueled. She thanked Synod for sharing with her what the Diocese of Toronto is doing; she will take this information back to the Diocese of Edmonton. She senses that the Diocese of Toronto is not in survival mode, but is focused on movement, change and growth, and a sense of holy urgency. Her prayer is that this is happening at a parish and personal level as well as at the Diocesan level.

Bishop Alexander cautioned members to beware of the tension in the conversations between a focus on sustainable ministry and missional ministry. She sees the present moment as a time of change in which we need a vision to navigate hazards. She advised that a flexibility of approach is needed, a permission to try new things. She challenged members to consider how to be a permission giver, to give people time to come on board, to be adaptable, flexible and resilient. She encouraged members not to take the resources that are available for granted. She noted that the *Missio Dei* is the same in this Diocese as it is in Edmonton – God is calling people to discipleship, evangelism, and missional living personally, in parishes, and in Diocese. She highlighted some of initiatives from the Diocesan level.

She reminded members of the theme: *Compassionate Service, Intelligent Faith, Godly Worship* and encouraged members to focus on these themes as they return home and continue the conversation. Before leaving Synod, she asked members to consider what the key messages they will share from their experience at Synod.

The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty thanked Bishop Alexander for her time, for her encouragement, for her vision, and for reminding us of our blessings and empowerment.

### **Closing Remarks to Synod**

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson shared with members the history of the sesquicentennial cross displayed on the dais, which remind us of who we are. He reminded members that the church does not have a mission; the God of mission has a church. He thanked everyone for accomplishing a lot of work despite the limited timeframe, and gave particular thanks to his wife, the retired Bishops, the College of Bishops, the Diocesan Leadership Team, the staff, and Members of Synod.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson spoke about the following areas of ministry to members:

- He reminded Synod of the newly established Order of the Diocese of Toronto to honour the service of lay members of the Diocese, which will be awarded on January 1, 2014 following the Bishop's Levee.
- He shared with members the continuing conversations of the Bishops in Dialogue, which started four years ago and involves bishops from around the Anglican Communion, the ongoing dialogue which began with issues of disagreement, but moved to areas of agreement and reconciliation. He emphasized the importance of this work because the public message only talks about how the communion is breaking apart, but that the truth is that the communion may be fraying in parts but people have a strong desire to remain in communion.
- He described to members the composition of the Diocese of Moosonee, and shared that he will become the Bishop of Moosonee on January 1, 2014 as part of his role as Metropolitan Archbishop of the Province of Ontario. He applauded the creative thinking of the Diocese of Moosonee in finding a way to reconfigure so that they could continue providing ministry to the area.
- He highlighted the importance of advocacy work, and encouraged members to watch a video resource that will be available with a request for vestry motions regarding minimum wage.

He closed with a challenge to members of various questions to consider as they leave this place. I have no idea what this sentence means.

At the conclusion of the Session of Synod, the Rev. Canon Judith Herron-Graham was retiring from the position of Honorary Clerical Secretary of Synod. The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson thanked the Rev. Canon Herron-Graham for her faithful service and presented her with a gift of appreciation.

### **Election of Honorary Secretaries**

MOVED by Canon Dr. Robert Falby and SECONDED by Canon Paul Baston that the following be elected for the ensuing two year term:

Mr. Chris Ambidge, Honorary Lay Secretary

The Rev. Claire Wade, Honorary Clerical Secretary

Ms. Sarah McDonald, Assistant Honorary Lay Secretary

CARRIED.

### **Appreciation**

The Honorary Secretaries thanked the scrutineers, timekeepers, staff and volunteers for their efforts and extended their appreciation to Conference Manager Ms. Heidi Wilker , and the International Plaza Hotel for their work in making this Synod such a success.

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson thanked the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the Diocese for their participation as the legal team which provides general guidance for the Diocese.

The Rev. Canon Stephen Fields thanked the Archbishop for his leadership.

### **Adjournment**

MOVED by the Rt. Rev. Philip Poole that Synod adjourn.

CARRIED.



**The Archbishop's Charge to the 155<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod**

November 30, 2013

The opening prayer for the feast of St. Andrew: “Almighty God, you gave your apostle Andrew grace to believe in his heart and to confess with his lips that Jesus is Lord. Touch our lips and hearts, so that faith may burn within us and that we may share in the witness of your church to the whole human family, in Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.”

Are you saved? When were you saved? Is Jesus Christ your personal saviour? I find those questions somewhat off-putting. They put me on my guard. Not because I don't believe the questions themselves. Not because I don't believe that they are true or that the questions are wrong. It's often the tone and the assumptions behind the questions—the emotional and spiritual baggage, the degree of aggression, a certainty, an un-nuanced correct response that is required to these loaded words.

Is Jesus Christ your personal saviour? I rather like an old monk's response to that: No, I prefer to share him with others.

There was a brilliant artist, now dead, who in a series of drawings illustrated Jesus' life in the book, *He Was One of Us*. (A drawing from the book was shown on the screen at Synod.) Look at the drawing of Jesus' disciples. Notice how each approached Jesus in a different way. There is the direct, inquisitive, perhaps even skeptical look. There is a glance away, perhaps distracted or not particularly paying attention to things. There's a warm, genuine, open, friendly, ready-to-engage look. There's one with eyes cast down, perhaps shy or humbled or a bit embarrassed or with devout piety. You see, there's no one way to respond to Jesus. But the important thing is that there is a connection. All of these people have deliberately followed Jesus. They're present and they're trying to figure out this person—who he is and their part in his mission.

Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” He has already asked the question, “What do other people think?” But the real question is, “Who do you say that I am?” It's important to remember that when Jesus asks this question, they have been together quite a while. The direction of the mission is beginning to becoming clearer, at least in one sense—they're now heading towards Jerusalem. The specter of the cross is looming. Death is on the horizon. And yet they have no conception of resurrection. They're frightened and even aghast. They haven't signed up for this. This is not what they expected. This is not what they were prepared for. And they respond typically: they deny it. It can't be. It can't happen. But it's in the very midst of their anxiety, as they look to this uncertain and seemingly dreadful mission where all seems to be lost, that Jesus asks this key question, “Who do you say that I am?” And the response is proffered—whether tentatively or boldly, whether it's a leap of faith or a sudden insight or a growing articulation of a gradual understanding, who knows—but a statement nonetheless is uttered by Peter: “You are the Christ, the son of the Living God.”

But the question is asked not just of Peter but of all of them—“Who do you say that I am?”—and the collect for today is the feast of St. Andrew, that God gave him grace to believe in his heart and to profess with his lips that Jesus is Lord. *Jesus* is Lord. Not Caesar. Not the principalities and powers of this world. Not family, not money, not status, not the church, not self—but Jesus. In the midst of their confusion about what the mission is, there is a point of clarity. Having made that point of clarity, they can continue on because it was and is God's mission—God's eternal mission—and they've joined it.

As we set out in Synod today, we continue to develop a theme that we have been developing for the past decade—building communities of hope and compassion through investment in healthy parishes, strong leadership, appropriate infrastructure and responsive engagement with our neighbours. Why is this particular question from Jesus important? Well, you can't be shaped for mission without knowing whose mission you're on. The Diocese's mission statement—now over 20 years old in its current form—is still valid: worship, proclaim, embody. Those are the key words. Or to flesh it out with a few more adjectives: godly worship, intelligent faith, compassionate service. I long for every parish in this Diocese to be missionally shaped. Every part of this Diocese shaped for mission. But you can't be shaped for mission without knowing whose mission you're working for.

Every parish missional—turned inside out because you're sent out, moving from lectern and altar and kneeling desk, out into everyday life, into the world, for the sake of the world, for the sake of Christ.

You've heard before "every parish missional" and you'll hear it a lot more over the next couple of days—in the keynote address by Bishop Jane Alexander, the bishop of Edmonton, in the address of Bishop Michael Hawkins in his report of the Council of the North, in the Missional Moments that will highlight particular pieces of work across our Diocese, and yes, even in the budget itself, which is organized to undergird our investment in healthy, missional communities across this Diocese, in rural, suburban and urban areas, rich and poor neighbourhoods, in traditional places and fresh expression places. But you can't be shaped for mission without knowing whose mission you're working for.

Being missional is not the flavour of the day, it's not a program, it's not a quick fix, it's not about getting more people into our pews. It's an attitude. It's a way of being. It's a response in faith to the God who is revealed in Jesus Christ, who is alive and present with us today through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Mission is rooted in the very nature of God—the God who reaches out and creates; the God who enters into relationships of love with God's creatures; in the God who reveals the divine life and purposes to us in Jesus' birth, way of life, his friendships and actions and teaching, his sacrificial death and resurrection, his ascension and the sending of the Spirit. God in Christ draws us as church and the whole creation to Himself in compassion, reconciliation and redemption. Mission is an orientation of our lives, to turn and face outward into the world, to find where God is already active and to join in.

For each of us, our mission as a church is to embrace and participate in God's mission for the sake of the world. Each of us, as baptized members of Christ, shares in that mission, and it is a multi-faceted mission. Look at the Marks of Mission and you will see how multi-faceted mission is. But the key to all Christian mission is to know who Jesus is and to be able to make your faith explicit to others as well as to yourself, because we have not just a personal saviour but we need to be open to share.

The Natural Church Development process reveals that almost every parish surveyed—almost two-thirds of the Diocese—has a deficit not in money, not in people, not in programs, but in passionate spirituality, specifically Christology—how we understand who Jesus Christ is. We have difficulty answering the question, "Who do you say that I am?" and even more difficulty telling other people how we answer that. We're reluctant to speak about our faith and hesitant to mention Jesus. Why? Because we don't know Jesus? No, I don't believe that for a moment. We—all of us here—are here because we've had a faith experience. We know something of the risen and glorified Jesus. We know something of the suffering Christ and the compassionate Christ—not just as old stories but as personal stories about Jesus and the Spirit in our lives, about the experience of God's faithfulness in difficult times, of unexpected joys, of transformation and growth, of healing and reconciliation, of hope even in the presence of suffering, of willing self sacrifice and of the gracious receiving of love and compassion.

But if you and I are not speaking about the Jesus that you know, where will people hear about him, and from whom? And is that the message that you want them to hear about Jesus? Is that the message that's true to the Jesus that you know as a faithful Anglican, an Anglican who has been formed by an encounter with Christ speaking through the scriptures as we wrestle with them and try to intelligently understand them, as we are shaped by the encounter with the life-giving Christ in the sacraments and in our worship, as we engage in loving service where Christ is encountered in the face of the neighbour? So we need to learn how to talk about our faith, to articulate the hope that lies within us. That's the starting point of all missional activity.

Don't be afraid. God has given us all the gifts we need. We have extraordinarily gifted clergy. We have extraordinarily gifted lay people. We have extraordinary resources. We have well trained teachers of the faith, both clergy and lay. We can engage in re-framing and re-imaging our church, both in what we've traditionally been very good at and also in trying out some new things. You have permission to try out new things. Drive the car. For God's sake, drive the car for God's sake.

We are not alone in this. You are not alone in this. Your parish likely has resources within it that are as yet untapped. You're partners with neighbouring parishes and can offer opportunities to each other to enrich one another. The deanery of Victoria-Haliburton has a jointly sponsored resident Biblical scholar in its midst. Several Oshawa parishes are working towards a coordinated youth ministry that will reach out in new ways to youth. Some parishes are partnering with para-church organizations like Sanctuary that bring that organization's expertise to bear on special ministries and provide the spiritual care and nurture that those people need. You can tell the stories of faith to each other and the world.

The outreach conferences that we've sponsored help people articulate their faith so that they can advocate with our members of provincial and federal parliament on behalf of the poor and the needy and the environment, and to speak as Anglican Christians. Do not let what you cannot do limit what you can do. In this Diocese, we have been consistently and consciously investing with a missional framework for over a decade. We have supported the infrastructure, the education and the experimental moments that have supported that. The Ministry Allocation Fund has provided over \$20 million in the past decade to do this. We've had a bench-marking process that identifies best practices that work in our context. We've developed Canon 29 and other revisions of canons that allow what the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams calls the principled loosening of structures. We have a Diocesan Missioner who has brought continuity and advocacy and focus to the missional process. We've invested in missional education. The Vital Church Planting Conference has introduced missional vision and support. Our Synods, our outreach conferences, our social justice and advocacy and environmental activity, the Re-imagining Church programs and courses have engaged clergy and laity and have been led by the bishops, to say how important this is. The more intense Missional Transformational Process has engaged key clergy and laity to go deeper. We've had ongoing support for leaders and we're recruiting new clergy and new lay leaders with a missional understanding. We've invested in missional experiments as well as invested in the tried and true ministries that are also missional. One of the keys things has been Reach Grants—small grants of money that have allowed people to use their imagination to reach out into their communities in new ways. That has happened all over the Diocese—in small rural parishes as well as large urban ones. We've invested in major projects like St. George the Martyr in Parkdale and Redeem the Commute in Ajax and Grace Church in Scarborough. We're building greater capacities and strong parishes throughout the Diocese, from Port Hope to Cookstown to Parkdale. We've looked at cluster ministries, such as what is happening in Peterborough.

The Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-Imagine Church campaign has given us extraordinary financial resources to do this. I'm so grateful for your commitment to allow that program to happen. Let me give you an example. The area of Trent-Durham and the Diocese's Communications department made an application to Our Faith-Our Hope for a communication project. One of the things they're doing is using modern technology for Christian education, allowing small parishes to participate in quality Christian education through videos posted on the website. Trent-Durham is experimenting with Skype meetings by the regional deans. It's providing a training day for parish teams in the use of social media to spread the Gospel. If the experiments work in Trent-Durham, they will be replicated in other parts of the Diocese. How much did that cost? The grant was \$3,500. And we have \$40 million available.

We have more to do. I'm about to appoint a small implementation group to put into effect immediately some of the recommendations of the Multicultural and Intercultural Task Force report, and to also recommend the priorities for the next steps. Within the next week, I'll be appointing a Missional Strategy Group to identify "what's next" for the missional priorities of the Diocese. We will continue to meet the basic needs of people living in desperate circumstances across our Diocese, to engage in advocacy on behalf of the poor, including the working poor and those on disability, the homeless and environmental issues. We're doing that because we're called as part of our baptismal covenant, as part of the Marks of Mission, to be stewards of God's creation and to be faithful to our incarnational theology.

Mission is about transformation. We are called, in imitation of Jesus and in obedience to Christ, to be agents of hope and reconciliation—hope, not optimism. Hope not that people will avoid change. Hope not that we will avoid pain and loss or death. But enduring hope, courageous hope, imaginative hope, hope borne out of the lived experience of faithful Christians over millennia: that pain, loss or death are not the last words in God's reign. Hope that is rooted in deep trust in God whose mission we join, God who is revealed in the person of Jesus, and that's why it's important to name our faith. Our mission is grounded in hope that Jesus' birth and time, his life and witness and friendship, his witness to God's mission, his death and resurrection, make a decisive difference in the world, that God's mission in Christ transforms individual lives, communities and the world, and we bear witness to that in word and deed by what we do in his name as individuals, as a church, as this Synod today and every day.

Let's hear again the prayer for St. Andrew's Day: "Almighty God, you gave your apostle Andrew grace to believe in his heart and to confess with his lips that Jesus is Lord. Touch our lips and hearts, that faith may burn within us and that we may share in the witness of your church to the whole human family, in Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen."