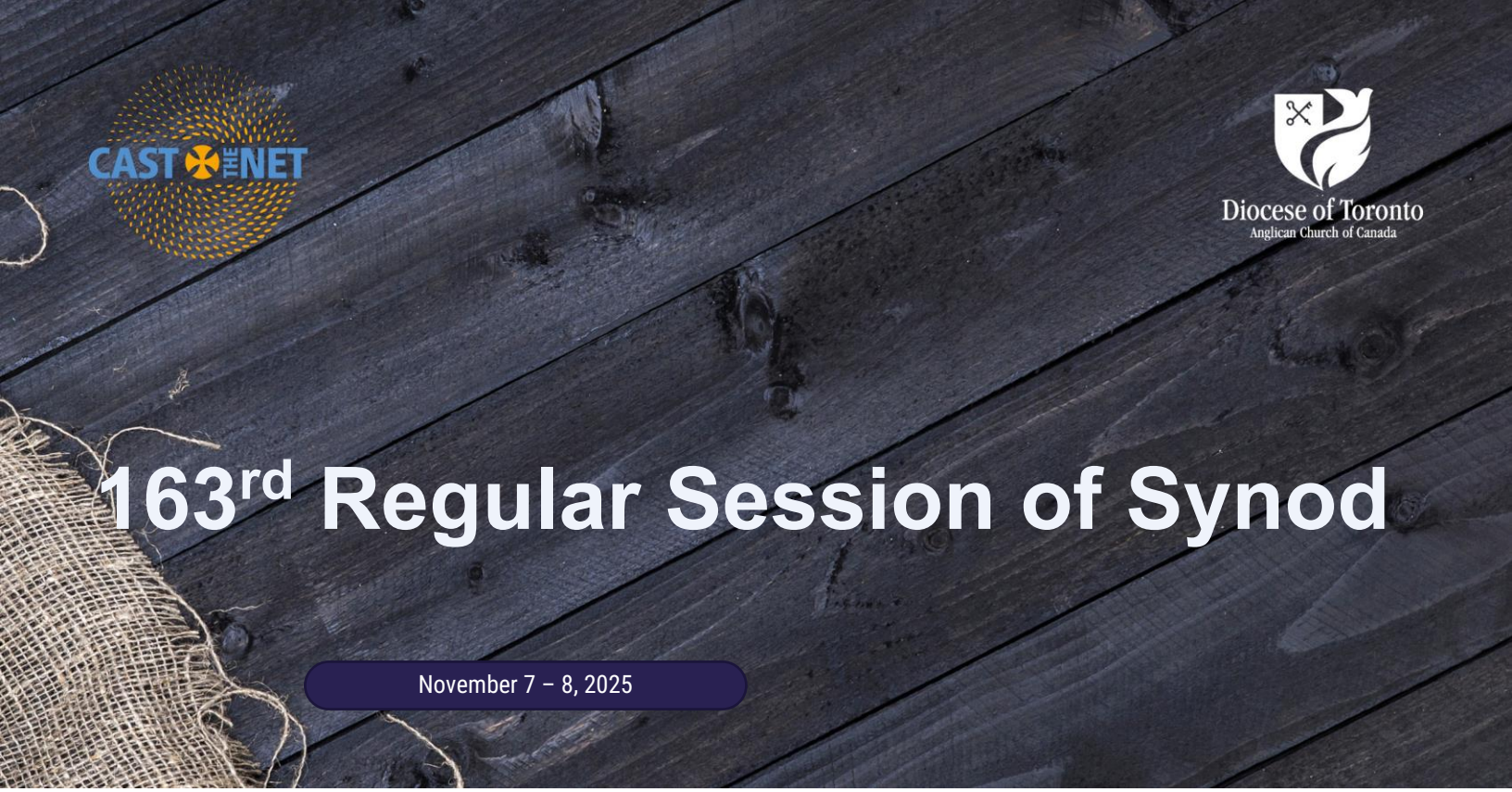


CONVENING CIRCULAR

SECTION A

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please report, in writing, any errors or omissions in the Convening Circular to:

Canon Laura Walton, ODT, Secretary of Synod
Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto
135 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1L8

lwalton@toronto.anglican.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section A Notice of Meeting and other important information

Section B Synod Council's Report to Synod (Consent Agenda)

Section C Financial Report &
Audited Financial Statements (Consent Agenda)

Section D Priorities and Plans and Budget for 2026-2027

Section E Constitution and Canons Committee

Section F Tithe Committee Report

Note to Synod Members:

The content of this Convening Circular has been approved by Synod Council. Other information of interest to Synod members is available on the diocesan website.

[www.toronto.anglican.ca]

This includes:

- List of Synod Members
- Diocesan Apportionment Calculations
- Diocesan Statistical Returns
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Other Reports to Synod

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto, has signified his intention to assemble the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the 163rd Regular Session of Synod on Nov. 7-8, 2025, at the Sheraton Parkway, Toronto North.

Fri., Nov. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
and
Sat., Nov. 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

at the

Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites
600 Hwy 7 E, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1B2

http://www.sheratonparkway.com/

905-881-2121



HOTEL LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

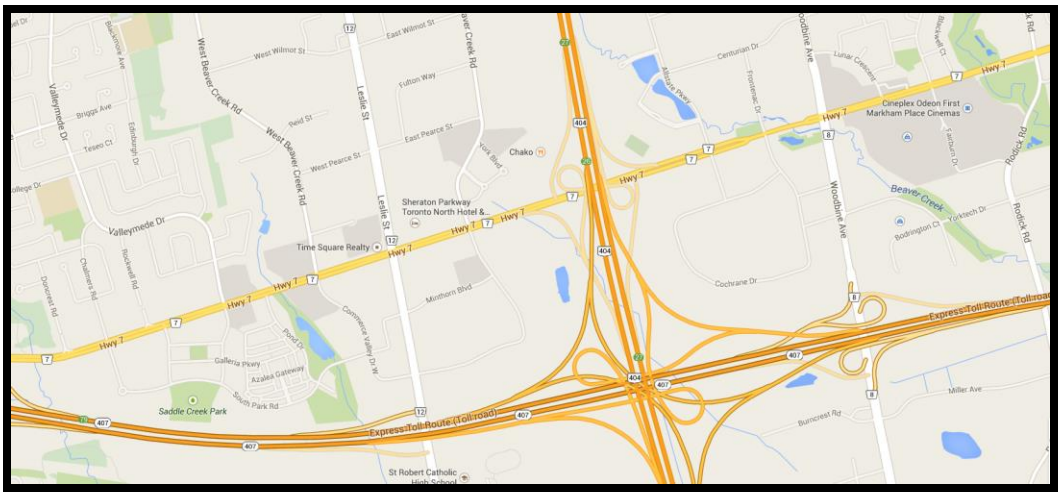
If your GPS device does not recognize 600 Hwy 7 East, Richmond Hill, L4B 1B2, use 9005 Leslie St, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1G7. If you need assistance, call the hotel at 905-881-2121.

From east (Hwy 401):
- Hwy 401 east
- Hwy 404 north
- Hwy 7 west
- The hotel is 2 lights down on the north side of the road, just past the Esso station

From north (Hwy 404):
- Hwy 404
- Highway 7 west for 1 block
- The hotel is 2 lights down on the north side of the road, just past the Esso station

From north (Hwy 400):
- Highway 400 south
- Highway 7 east
- The hotel is just beyond Leslie St on the north side of the road

From south (DVP/Hwy 404):
- DVP North (which will turn into Highway 404)
- Highway 7 west for 1 block
- The hotel is 2 lights down on the north, past the Esso



Hotel Parking
All hotel guests and visitors receive complimentary daily and nightly parking for the duration of their stay or visit.

Public Transportation
To customize your trip and to find directions from your house to the hotel, please visit:

http://www.ttc.ca/

http://www.gotransit.com/

http://www.yorkregiontransit.com/

THEME

The theme for the 163rd Regular session of Synod is "**Chosen to Tell the Good Story"**.

For the past several years, we as a diocese have been learning what it means to live into Jesus' call to cast our nets on the other side of the boat. This emerged through prayer, conversation and consultation with people and parishes across the diocese forming the foundation of the diocesan "Cast the Net" vision. Through the 20 Calls, exciting initiatives are taking place, bringing new life and possibilities as we seek to faithfully follow our Lord's call to love and follow him. At the heart of the "Cast the Net" vision is the good news of Jesus Christ we are called to be transformed by and then share with others.

In 2024, Bishop Andrew Asbil called the diocese to a two-year season of spiritual renewal as part of this vision – an intentional time of deepening our relationship with God, fostering a renewed sense of joy in the gospel, and engaging in different disciplines to help us grow and be renewed in our faith. And then to share our faith with others. This year's theme for Synod highlights the Holy Spirit's call to each of us – individually and collectively, laity and clergy, parishes and a diocese – to do exactly this: "Chosen to tell the good story" (Acts 16:10 FNV).

This verse is part of the larger mission of the Holy Spirit to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the "ends of the earth". Through Paul's vision of the man of Macedonia, God continues to break open and break down every boundary as Paul and his companions are guided by the Spirit to

minister in different places – to tell the good story – to the Gentiles. A sign of the limitlessness of God's salvation and abundant life for all. The Spirit offers true belonging, urging the church to expand its sense of boundaries and possibility. Remaining open and responsive to the Spirit, the apostles, themselves transformed, continue to bear witness to Jesus Christ, remaining obedient to this divine calling. Even when the good news clashes with imperial values and they face great challenges and threats because of this story they are chosen to tell. Salvation available to all, and a new society and new human family created because of what God has done in and through Jesus.

When we too open our hearts to God, God invites us into the greater, divine vision of life, leading us to places and people we never imagined. We hear that same invitation in John 21 as the risen Lord calls Peter anew to follow him. To feed and tend others in his name. To make God's love and life known through word and action. Always in the same pattern of humility, service, mercy, forgiveness, justice, peace and love Jesus embodied, most fully in the laying down of his life on the cross.

Filled with the same Spirit as the first apostles, let us also join in what God is doing for the sake of all creation's salvation. "Follow me", Jesus says to us once again, summoning us on a journey with him for the sake of this world. There's no telling the ways we ourselves will be transformed in the process. And where and to whom his love will lead us as we take up our part as those also chosen to tell the good story.

PRE-SYNOD MEETING

A Pre-Synod Meeting to prepare for the upcoming Regular Session of Synod will be held on Oct. 4, 2025. The meeting will be content-rich to ease some of the pressure from Synod's Agenda.

Pre-Synod Agenda
Sat., Oct. 4, 2025

Time	Description	Motion
8:30 am	Welcome	
	DoTS – New Voting App	
	What has Happened Since Synod 2023	#1
	NetMinders Update	
9:30 am	*Scheduled Break*	
9:40 am	Overview of Synod 2025	#1
	Notices of Motion	
	Area and Area Council Update	#4
	Regionalization Update	
	Call and Response Moment	
	Scheduled Break	
10:45 am	Tithe Committee	#2
	Constitution and Canon Changes	#3
	Call and Response Moment	
	Priorities and Plans 2025-2027 Including Financial Budget 2026-2027	#5
	Wrap-up	
12:00 pm	Closing Prayer	

163RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE SYNOD

SYNOD AGENDA

Fri., Nov. 7, 2025

Time	Description	Motion
8:30 am	**Registration in Thornhill Room (**Closes at 11am)	
9:30 am	**Opening Synod Eucharist** Bishop's Charge to Synod	
	Scheduled break if Eucharist finishes early	
11:00 am	**Call to Order and Welcome** Announcements	
11:10 am	**App Use and Voting instructions**	
11:25 am	**Consent Agenda** Newland/Kendall	#1
	Introductions	
11:40 am	**Since Synod 2023**	
11:50 am	**Notices of Motions**	
	Announcements	
12:00 pm	**Mid-Day Prayers/Adjournment for Lunch**	
12:15 pm	**Lunch / scheduled free time**	
1:30 pm	Reconvene, welcome back	
1:35 pm	**Call and Response Moment #1**	
1:40 pm	**Tithe Committee** Newland/Kendall	#2
2:10 pm	**Constitution and Canons** Creal/Hemingway	#3
2:35 pm	**Call and Response Moment #2**	
	Change Chair and Assessor	
2:40 pm	**Members' Time**	
3:10 pm	**Scheduled Break**	
	Change Chair and Assessor	
3:20 pm	**Brasilia Presentation**	
3:40 pm	**NetMinders**	
4:00 pm	*Travel time to get to breakout room*	
4:05 pm	**Ballroom Doors Close**	
4:10 pm	**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**	
5:00 pm	**Adjournment** [in breakout sessions]	
6:30 pm	**Banquet Dinner in Grand York Ballroom** **Guest Speaker: The Most Rev Shane Parker, Primate of Canada**	

SYNOD AGENDA (continued)
Sat., Nov. 8, 2025

Time	Description	Format
8:00 am	**Breakfast (Continental)**	
9:00 am	**Reconvene**	
9:15 am	**Morning Prayer/Remembrance Reflection**	
9:25 am	**Areas and Area Council** Parker/Mitchell	#4
9:55 am	**FaithWorks Presentation**	
10:05 am	**Priorities and Plans 2025-2027 and Financial Budget** Newland/Kendall	#5
	Call and Response # 3	
10:30 am	**Scheduled Break**	
10:40 am	**Elections at Synod** Synod Council (5 clergy and 5 lay mbrs) Provincial Synod (4 Lay, 4 Clerical mbrs)	
11:00 am	**Regionalization Presentation**	
	Change Chair and Assessor	
11:20 am	**Members' Time**	
	Change Chair and Assessor	
11:50 am	**Notices of Motion**	
12:15 pm	**Announce results for** Synod Council Provincial Synod	
12:25 pm	**Guest Speaker Reflection** TBD	
	Election of Hon Secretaries Creal/Hemingway	#6
12:45 pm	**Bishop's Wrap up**	
	Termination of the meeting Prisley	#7
1:00 pm	**Closing Prayer**	

TIMELINE

- Sept. 19 – Convening Circular posted on the Diocesan website
- Oct. 4 – Pre-Synod
- Oct. 23 – Synod Council [last scheduled meeting before Synod]
- Nov. 7-8 – 163rd Regular Session of Synod

GENERAL INFORMATION

Accommodation

Important Note: The hotel deadline to book accommodation is Mon., Oct. 3, 2025. After which the special room rate will not be available. Please note that the hotel is very busy. The hotel may not be able to accommodate requests made after Oct. 5, 2025.

Accommodation is located in the Sheraton Parkway.

- Eligibility for accommodation is indicated in the Registration Report document posted on the 2025 Regular Synod page on the diocesan website [www.toronto.anglican.ca]. Eligibility is noted under the heading Accommodation as either 'ELIGIBLE' or 'NOT ELIGIBLE.' If you believe an error was made, please contact Ajith Philip by telephone at 647-578-9722.
- Accommodation, at no extra charge, will be provided to all Lay Members and the Main Priest from each congregation within the deaneries of Durham & Northumberland, Holland, Huronia, Nottawasaga, Oshawa, Peterborough, Tecumseth and Victoria & Haliburton. Ex-Officio members, Bishop's Appointees and Youth and Young Adult Members from the same deaneries will also receive accommodation at no extra charge.
- If you are ELIGIBLE for accommodation, your room charges, including taxes, will be billed to the "Master" account. Any incidental charges, however, must be paid prior to your departure. Accordingly, a valid credit card with an authorization of $150 or a cash/debit card deposit in the amount of $100 must be presented at the time of check-in.
- Any cancellations received within 48 hours of arrival or a "no show" result in additional charges that will be **invoiced back to your parish**. Please inform Ajith Philip as soon as possible by telephone at 647-578-9722 if you no longer need your room.

If you would like to reserve a room for Thursday evening at your own expense or if you are NOT ELIGIBLE and would like to reserve a room at your own expense, your options are as follows:

- To obtain our preferred rate of $189.00 plus applicable taxes and fees at the Sheraton Parkway call 905-881-2121 and identify yourself as a member of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

A valid credit card is required to hold each guest's reservation at the time of reservation. For cancellations received within 24 hours of arrival, one night room and tax will be charged.

If you have any questions related to accommodation, please contact Ajith Philip by telephone at 647-578-9722.

Captioning Services
Captioning services will be provided during Synod for a large portion of the programme. Word-for-word transcription of speech to text will be displayed on the lower third of the screen. Unfortunately, captioning services will not be available at Pre-Synod meetings or during breakout sessions at Synod.

Convening Circular
Convening Circulars will be available for viewing and downloading on the Diocesan website and on our Data on the Spot (DoTS) app. It is not essential that Members have a printed copy of all materials; members should use their discretion in deciding what materials are needed in printed format and what materials can simply be viewed online prior to the meeting. Complimentary WiFi will be available in the plenary hall and in the hotel guestrooms. All motions and other important information will be presented on large screens and the DoTS app.

Display Tables
Exhibitors have been invited to showcase their ministries with display tables. Display tables will be located in the marble foyer outside the main conference area and along the corridor to the Sheraton Hotel's front desk.

Electronic Voting
Voting will be conducted using an app downloaded to your tablet or Smartphone. Do not be alarmed if this technology is new to you – a demonstration including test polls will be completed both at Pre-Synod and Synod. All voting Members of Synod will have access to this in September. If you do not have access to a tablet or Smartphone, we will get one for you for Synod, but you must let us know by October 20th.

Help Desk
Staff and volunteers will be available to answer questions at the Help Desk located in the Grand York Ballroom Foyer outside the main conference area when Synod is in session.

Identity Card
Registered members of Synod are identified by a nametag; they may enter the Synod floor area in the Grand York Ballroom and Foyer. Nametags will be issued at registration for Synod.

Meals
As part of Synod's program, lunch and dinner on Friday and breakfast on Saturday will be provided. Refreshments will be provided at various times during Synod.

Meeting Space
Meeting space is located in the Sheraton Parkway at 600 Highway 7 East (near Hwy 404 and Hwy 7 at Leslie Street) in Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 1B2. The temperature in the Grand York Ballroom will vary. Please be prepared for warm or cool conditions (i.e. wear layers).

Call and Response Moments
At Pre-Synod and Synod, you will hear about how our Diocese is living out its vision. In the Call and Response Moments, you will hear about how communities in our Diocese are answering the 20 Cast the Net Calls in their parishes and communities.

Smartphone Sanitizing and Charging Locker
A mobile sanitizing and charging locker for electronic devices will be available outside the ballroom doors.

Parking
There is ample free parking available both indoors and outdoors at the Sheraton Parkway, and outdoor parking at the Best Western.

Onsite Registration for Synod
Onsite Registration will be held in the Thornhill Room between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 7, 2025. You are urged to register and pick up your name badge as early as possible. All voting members of Synod must register onsite to be eligible to vote.

Once registration closes, those who have not notified the Synod Office of late arrival will not be allowed to vote at Synod until permitted by the Court on Contested Seats or the Secretary of Synod. If late registration is required, please indicate so when you register online or contact Ajith Philip by email at aphilip@toronto.anglican.ca before noon on Tues., Nov. 4, 2025.

To help defray the costs of meals, beverages and accommodation during Synod, each member of Synod will be charged a registration fee of $270. In July 2025, parishes were invoiced through the accounts receivable process for their lay Synod members and main priest. For all other members of Synod, e.g. clergy who are retired or not appointed to a parish, the registration fee must be paid before Synod. E-transfers can be sent to finance@toronto.anglican.ca with "Synod 2025" noted. Cheques should be made payable to "The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto" marked "SYNOD 2025" and mailed to: Accounts Receivable, Anglican Diocese of Toronto, 135 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, ON, M5C 1L8.

Social Media

The Diocesan social media channels will be updated on a regular basis. Synod Members and other parish leaders can connect with the Diocese of Toronto through Facebook, Instagram and YouTube accounts.

https://www.facebook.com/torontoanglican
https://www.instagram.com/anglicandioto/
http://www.youtube.com/tordio135

For more information, please contact Martha Holmen by email at mholmen@toronto.anglican.ca or by telephone at **647-578-9752**.

WiFi

Complimentary WiFi will be available in the plenary hall and in the hotel guestrooms.

MEMBERS OF SYNOD

Lists of Members of Synod

The names of Synod members, both clerical and lay, are listed on the diocesan website [www.toronto.anglican.ca]. If you are a member of Synod and your name is not listed, contact Ajith Philip by email at

aphilip@toronto.anglican.ca or by telephone at 647-578-9722 or Canon Laura Walton at by email at lwalton@toronto.anglican.ca or call at 647-373-5807 as soon as possible.

Clerical Members

Clerical members are those who qualify under Section 2 of The Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Toronto.

Retired Clergy

Retired clergy [The Constitution, Section 2, (4)] are clergy on the retired list who regularly attend Synod, until such time as they miss two consecutive meetings of Synod without showing cause, or a total of four meetings of Synod whatever the cause. Retired clergy (voting and non-voting) are listed on the diocesan website.

Lay Members

Lay Members are those who are:

a) Elected by parish vestry,
b) Ex-officio [The Constitution, Section 3 (16)],
c) Bishop's Appointees [The Constitution, Section 3 (4)],
d) Youth and Young Adult Members [The Constitution, Section 3 (17)] or
e) Substitute lay members, elected by parish vestry, who attend in lieu of an elected member who is unable to attend.

From *The Constitution*

Substitute Lay Members [The Constitution Section 3 (8)]

f) Substitute Lay Members may be elected by a Vestry or a Designated Ministry, and such Substitutes shall, in the order of their election, take the place of regular members who from any cause are unable to attend the session or sessions of the Synod during the period for which they are elected.
g) A substitute Lay Member shall serve only during the Session of Synod for which such lay Member is reported to the Synod to act and shall not be eligible for election to any Standing Committee of the Synod.

h) It shall be the duty of the Incumbent to notify the Secretary of the Synod of the appointment of the substitute to act as a member not later than the day preceding the first day of the Session of Synod for which such Lay Member is appointed, giving the name and address of the substitute and also the name and address of the member in whose place the substitute is acting. The Incumbent shall certify also that such substitute was elected at a meeting of the Vestry in the regular way and fulfils the requirements of a lay member.

MOTIONS FOR SYNOD

A motion is a formal proposal brought to a voting body for its consideration. Motions require a mover and a seconder and are decided by a vote after a period of debate, the length of which is the pleasure of the Chairperson.

A Notice of Motion is a formal notice (in writing) by a voting member that they intend to make a motion.

Procedures for Sessions of Synod according to Canon 1(2)

- Notices of Motion can be delivered to the Secretary of Synod at any time. Such notices are placed upon the Agenda of the next meeting of Synod Council.
- Notices of Motion are printed verbatim in the Convening Circular. The Synod Council can express an opinion or make a recommendation to Synod on any Notices of Motion received.
- Any Notices of Motion received by the Secretary of Synod after the last regular meeting of the Synod Council are referred to the Agenda Committee. The Agenda Committee reports its recommendations to Synod. Such Notices are placed on the agenda only with the consent of the majority of the Synod present and voting.
- Motions from the floor and all amendments must be given to the Secretary of Synod, in writing, at the time of their presentation.

All motions are subject to possible amendments, which also require a mover and a seconder. If an amendment is moved and seconded, it must be debated and voted upon before any further debate or consideration of the original motion. If an amendment is successful, then

the original motion is changed by the amendment and debated and voted upon as if it were the original motion.

Unless you are the mover of a motion, you may only speak once to each motion.

Canon 1, Section 2, concerning Motions, reads as follows:
Notices of Motion

1. Notices of motion for Synod shall be delivered to the Secretary of Synod at any time. Such notices shall be placed upon the agenda of the next meeting of the Synod Council.
2. The Synod Council shall cause notices to be printed verbatim in the Convening Circular … with or without expressing any opinion or making any recommendation.
3. Any notices of motion received by the Secretary of Synod after the last regular meeting of Synod Council … shall be referred to the Agenda Committee. The Agenda Committee shall consider such notices and report its recommendation to Synod. Such notices shall be placed on the agenda only with the consent of the majority of the Synod.
4. Each notice of motion for the enactment, amendment, or repeal of any part or provision of the Constitution or any canon, by-law or rule of order, shall be in writing, and shall set out in full the part or provisions affected and the proposed enactment or amendment.
5. A motion to enact, amend, or repeal a part or provision of the Constitution or of any canon, by-law, or rule of order, shall become effective upon:
    a. Having been recommended for adoption by the Synod Council; and
    b. Receiving the approval of not less than seventy-five percent of the members of Synod present and voting at the session at which it is considered; and
    c. Receiving the assent of the Bishop.
6. A motion to enact, amend, or repeal a part or provision of the Constitution or any canon, by-law, or rule of order, which shall not have been recommended for adoption by the Synod Council, shall nevertheless become effective upon:
    a. Receiving the approval of not less than sixty percent of the members of Synod present and voting at two successive Regular Sessions of the Synod; and

b. Receiving the assent of the Bishop following the second of such approvals.

7. A motion to enact, amend, or repeal a part or provision of the Constitution or any canon, by-law, or rule of order, which shall have been recommended by the Synod Council, but which shall not have received the requisite approval referred to in clause 5(b) hereof, shall nevertheless become effective upon:
    a. Receiving the approval of not less than fifty percent of the members of Synod present and voting at two successive regular sessions of Synod; and
    b. Receiving the assent of the Bishop following second of such approvals.
8. Any motion to suspend a part or provision of the Constitution or any canon, by-law, or rule of order, if passed, shall only be effective until the next session of Synod, and shall become effective upon:
    a. Having been recommended for adoption by the Synod Council; and
    b. Receiving the approval of not less than seventy-five percent of the members of Synod present and voting at the session at which it is considered; and
    c. Receiving the assent of the Bishop.
9. Notices of motion dealing with expenditures which will result in an increase in the Diocesan budget must be submitted to the Synod Council for its opinion prior to being dealt with by the Synod.

MOTIONS COMING BEFORE THE SYNOD

Consent Agenda - Motion #1 (Convening Circular- Section A)
It is MOVED and SECONDED that Synod approve the Consent Agenda for the 163rd Regular Session of Synod.

This includes:

- *The Agenda* as listed in the Convening Circular pg. 8&9

- *Minutes of the 162nd Regular Session of Synod*
  Synod adopt the Minutes of the 162nd Regular Session of Synod of the Diocese of Toronto held at the Sheraton Hotel on Nov. 17 to 18, 2023, as prepared by the Honorary Secretaries.

- *Courtesies of the House*
  Synod give the following individuals Courtesies of the House:
  All clergy with "informal permission", all Postulants of the Diocese, any lay chairperson, Deanery Council member, Ecumenical partners, Lay Canons of the Diocese, Lay faculty of theological colleges, members of the Threshold Ministries, Member of the Order of the Holy Cross, Sisters of St. John the Divine, Sisters of the Church, Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit, Diocesan Parish Administrators and the Right Rev Shane Parker, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

- *York Rectory Commissioners and Committee on the Etobicoke Glebe*
  Synod receive the report of the First York Rectory Commission and appoint the following individuals as Commissioners for the distribution of the First York Rectory Fund and the Etobicoke Glebe in 2026 and 2027: Chancellor Marg Creal, Joy Packham, PMP, ODT, The Rev. Shelly Pollard.

- *Advisory Commission on the Termination of Clerical Appointments*
  The following be elected by Synod to the Advisory Commission on Termination of Clerical Appointments: Vice-Chancellor Mark Hemingway, The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, Kennedy Marshall, ODT.

- *Timekeeper appointment* – Postulants of the Diocese of Toronto

- *Synod Council's Report to Synod*
  Synod receive Synod Council's Report to the 163rd Regular Session of Synod.

- *Other Reports to Synod*
  as listed on https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/about-us/corporate-information/synod/2025-regular-synod/

- *Audited Financial Statements for the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and the Cemetery Fund*
  Synod receive the statements as presented

- *Appointment of Auditors*
  Synod approve Doane Grant Thornton, LLB as the auditors

Tithe Committee – Motion #2 (Section F)

Motion to Extend the Reconciliation Land Tithe from 2026 to 2027
It is MOVED and SECONDED that:

Whereas the Diocese of Toronto is committed to upholding our sacred obligations to reconciliation, we commit to a continuation of the Reconciliation Land Tithe through Synod 2027. With the oversight of the Reconciliation Land Tithe Committee (RLTC) and Synod Council, we will continue to commit the balance of the MAF Tithe (on a rolling basis) for the purpose of Indigenous-led initiatives. The extension of Motion 12 (2021) from 2026 forward to 2027 will support Synod Council and RLTC, that in 2027 a new motion may be presented that imbeds permanent funding for reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples into the life of our church.

Constitution and Canons – Motion #3 (Convening Circular- Section E)

Housekeeping changes:

- Canon 1 – Change Diocesan Council to Synod Council (pg. 15 #21)
- Canon 2 – Change the word Nominations to Nominating (pg. 18 4(b)
- Canon 2 – Remove "Page 8" (pg. 18 4(f))
- Canon 9 – Change his/her to they/their (pg. 30 #14)
- Canon 10 – Change his/her to they/their (pg. 31 #3a)
- Canon 14 – Vestry date (pg. 42 #11)
  Proposed amendment: Add "or by the last Sunday in October for those parishes which have a year end of June 30th" and alter language for clarity
- Canon 15 – Diocesan Council should be Synod Council (pg. 45 #1(2))

Area and Area Councils – Motion #4

Motion to Extend the Suspension of Canon 43 and 44
It will be MOVED and SECONDED that:

Synod approve the resuspension of Canons 43 and 44 until the next Regular Session of Synod, as they relate to areas and area council, as

recommended for approval by Synod Council and presented in the Convening Circular.

Priorities & Plans and Budget for 2025 - Motion #5 (Section D)
The Synod Council forwards the following motion with the recommendation that it be adopted:
It will be MOVED and SECONDED that Synod receive the document entitled *Priorities and Plans 2026 & 2027* and approve the priorities and the financial budget contained therein and that Synod Council report back to Synod on this plan.

Election of Honorary Secretaries – Motion #6 (Section A)

It will be MOVED and SECONDED that the following individuals be elected for the ensuing term:

- Constance Kendall, ODT, Honourary Lay Secretary
- The Rev. Jason Prisley, Honourary Clerical Secretary
- TBD, Assistant Honourary Lay Secretary

Termination of Synod – Motion #7 (Convening Circular-Section A)

It will be MOVED that Synod be terminated.

Notices of Motion from Members
The Secretary of Synod confirms that no Notices of Motion have been received as of September 13, 2025.

ELECTIONS AT SYNOD

Synod Council

Synod Council of the Synod generally exercises the executive powers of the Synod between sessions except those of a legislative character. This 25-member governance body meets monthly to do the work of Synod.

Elected members hold office from the conclusion of the meeting of Synod in which they were elected until the conclusion of the next Regular Session of Synod, usually a 2-year term.

Synod will be electing five clerical members and five lay members of Synod.

Slate of Nominees

Please note: Nominees for Synod Council were asked to submit 150 words about their involvement at the diocesan, parish and community level. These biographies follow.

Five (5) Clerical Members to be elected:

The Rev. Canon Susan Climo

Susan was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in 2009, after having spent 20 years in the travel industry in various roles including training and sales. She now serves God and neighbour alongside the people of Holy Spirit of Peace, a merged Anglican/Lutheran parish in Mississauga. Susan serves in the wider church in several roles: she is the Regional Dean of Mississauga (2018-present); a member of the planning committee for the Diocesan Clergy Conference since 2019, and currently sits on Synod Council. She is also the Lutheran tri-chair of the national Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Commission and is on the Board of GSI (the national pension/benefits program for Lutheran rostered ministers and other church staff). Susan is committed to engaging in the work of dreaming about the future of our Diocese and helping to discern how best to ensure its continued vitality and sustainability.

The Rev. Molly Finlay

The Reverend Molly Finlay has served alongside the people of St. John's Norway as their Incumbent since 2020. She is a member of the Season of Spiritual Renewal Committee and has served on the Finance Committee and the Anglican Diocese of Toronto of Foundation. Ordained in 2017, Molly served as Associate Priest at Christ Church Deer Park and Assistant Curate at All Saints' Whitby. In all of her appointments, Molly has launched discipleship and outreach programs, as well as new forms of worship aimed at reaching newcomers. Prior to ordination, Molly enjoyed a career in television journalism later serving as a senior advisor to both Cabinet Ministers and the Premier of Ontario. She has extensive communications experience in the private and not for profit sectors. As an active layperson Molly volunteered at the All Saints' Sherbourne drop-in, was a member of the Anglican Church of Canada's Resources for Mission Committee, served as a lay reader, small group leader and is an Associate of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine. She has a Masters Degree in English Literature from King's College, London and a Divinity Degree from Wycliffe College, University of Toronto.

The Rev. Graham McCaffrey

Graham is currently the incumbent of St. Dunstan of Canterbury, serving there since 2022. He previously served as the incumbent of Grace Church Scarborough from 2015-2022. Graham is currently finishing up his first term on Synod Council, and is serving on the Executive Council of Provincial Synod. Graham seeks to listen and build bridges between different groups of people, empowering lay people to take up their vocations as Christ's disciples. Having lived around the world, and experienced the breadth of the Anglican Communion, Graham understands the need for walking together even amid our differences. Graham understands the need for the Church to reimagine new ways to share the gospel, worship and serve the world offering different perspectives while maintaining the eternal truth of God made known to us in Jesus Christ.

Five (5) Lay Members to be elected:

Lawrence Barker

Larry has been actively involved in parish work his entire life including an inner-city parish, two suburban GTA parishes, and currently a multi-point rural parish north of Toronto. A current member of Synod Council, he is a past-delegate to Provincial Synod, and past-delegate to General Synod. He is a past-chair of the FaithWorks Grants Allocations Committee.
Professionally, Larry has recently retired following a 40-year career in the not-for-profit sector, serving in various director, corporate secretary, and CEO positions with a national retirees/seniors' association, a regional industry trade association, a provincial professional (certifying) association, and a national regulatory and licensing authority. Most recently he was registrar of the Law Society Tribunal of Ontario.
A professed oblate brother of Elmore Abbey (UK), he is currently a lay reader in the Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford, and Burnt River. He is also a long-serving chaplain to the Royal Canadian Legion.

Sister Elizabeth Ann Eckert

Sister Elizabeth Ann Eckert credits her childhood years in Sudbury, Ontario with instilling a deep appreciation for God's creation leading to university studies in forestry. As a university student, she participated in SSJD's "Summer Program" (a discernment program now known as "Women at a Crossroads") and was deeply impressed by the experience of immersive prayer and silence. Entering SSJD in 1987, she participated in many formative ministries: Spiritual Care at St John's Rehab Hospital, outreach and preaching while at SSJD's Montreal House; neighbourhood ministry while at SSJD's Priory in Edmonton. Sr Elizabeth Ann served two terms as Reverend Mother from 2005 to 2015.

During her tenure, she served on the Board at St. John's Rehab Hospital, including oversight of the amalgamation with Sunnybrook Hospital; and Diocesan Council and Executive Council. Now in her current term of office as Reverend Mother, she looks forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead for the Church and the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine.

Matthew Neugebauer

Matthew is a lay leader at St. John's, Norway, serving on the warden's team, Advisory Board and discipleship team. His parish experience runs the gamut: he was the lay associate at St. Stephen's, Maple through their leadership transition during the pandemic and an acolyte and member of Advisory Board at St. Thomas's, Huron St. He also served in lay ministry positions at St. George's by the UofA and the rural parishes of Wainwright and Edgerton in the Diocese of Edmonton. He currently shares his skills for pastoral, theological and technical communication as a digital marketing coordinator for Salt + Light Media, which he sees as an "ecumenical gift exchange." He brings a keen sense of the intersection of pastoral, administrative and structural needs, and a concern for lay empowerment, wise resource allocation, clergy wellness and proactive communication.

Ms. Susan Schuschu

Susan is a cradle Anglican actively involved at St. John, East Orangeville for over 28 years. In worship, Susan has been a side's person, an Intercessor, A Chalice Bearer, and is licensed as a Lay Reader. She has held many leadership roles: Past Warden, Rector's Warden, People's Warden, Sunday School Teacher, Chair of Stewardship, Chair of Fundraising, and Chair of the Cemetery Board, Parish Responsible Ministry Liaison, and Lay Member of Synod. She was elected to Provincial Synod October 2018 and 2023 where she obtained a broader knowledge of the church. Susan was elected by her peers at Provencal Synod to represent Toronto on the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario Executive Council. Susan has also been an active participant in: the Advisory Board, the Catering Team, and the Cemetery Board. For many years, Susan has served on York-Simcoe Area Council, three years on Diocesan Council, and the Diocesan Council Nominating Committee. "I have a very strong faith and am very committed to my roles in the Church. I am also very involved with my work, and with my family" she writes.

Eirene Wee

Born in Singapore, Eirene Wee studied in Scotland (UK) and worked for 3 decades with global corporations as an advisor to business and government leaders on turnarounds, joint ventures, market challenges, and on issues related to leadership and succession. Eirene was also Asia Pacific Director with

Trans World Radio, ministered in church planting, and mentored Christian executives. Having lived in Asia, UK, and USA, Eirene and her husband Beng completed their MA (Theological Studies) at Regent College. A St Paul's Bloor Street parishioner, Eirene serves on the board of St. George by the Grange church (a new church plant/renewal that celebrated its first year anniversary with a congregation that has grown to over 100 parishioners mainly from its downtown neighbourhood, and rejoiced in its first adult baptism at Easter 2025). She is a TWR Canada board member and was for 10 years a missionary of OMF International. A devoted mother to Caleb (with Kelly) and Sarah, Eirene enjoys equipping Christians to live holistically on the basis of their faith.

Provincial Synod

The next Session of the Provincial Synod will take place in Kingston, Ontario, hosted by the Diocese of Ontario during the week of September 20th, 2027 (exact dates not confirmed). The Provincial Synod meets every three years, and the term of office is for three years beginning at Provincial Synod 2027.

Nominees to Provincial Synod will be required to remain a member of the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the duration of their term, they must be willing and able to attend all meetings of the Provincial Synod and must be willing to serve on a sub-committee or working group should they be asked or elected to do so. Expenses incurred are covered according to the diocesan policy.

The Diocese of Toronto will be electing four lay members and four clerical members to attend the Provincial Synod alongside our Bishops, Chancellor and Youth Member.

Slate of Nominees

Please note: Nominees for Provincial Synod were asked to submit 150 words about their involvement at the diocesan, parish and community level. These biographies follow.

Biographical Information

Four (4) Clerical Members to be elected:

The Rev. Graham McCaffrey

Graham is currently the incumbent of St. Dunstan of Canterbury, serving there since 2022. He previously served as the incumbent of Grace Church Scarborough from 2015-2022. Graham is currently finishing up his first term on Synod Council and is serving on the Executive Council of Provincial Synod. Graham seeks to listen and build bridges between different groups of people, empowering lay people to take up their vocations as Christ's disciples. Having lived around the world, and experienced the breadth of the Anglican Communion, Graham understands the need for walking together even amid our differences. Graham understands the need for the Church to reimagine new ways to share the gospel, worship and serve the world offering different perspectives while maintaining the eternal truth of God made known to us in Jesus Christ.

Four (4) Lay Members to be elected:

Lawrence Barker

Larry has been actively involved in parish work his entire life including an inner-city parish, two suburban GTA parishes, and currently a multi-point rural parish north of Toronto. A current member of Synod Council, he is a past-delegate to Provincial Synod, and past-delegate to General Synod. He is a past-chair of the FaithWorks Grants Allocations Committee.
Professionally, Larry has recently retired following a 40-year career in the not-for-profit sector, serving in various director, corporate secretary, and CEO positions with a national retirees/seniors' association, a regional industry trade association, a provincial professional (certifying) association, and a national regulatory and licensing authority. Most recently he was registrar of the Law Society Tribunal of Ontario.
A professed oblate brother of Elmore Abbey (UK), he is currently a lay reader in the Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford, and Burnt River. He is also a long-serving chaplain to the Royal Canadian Legion.

Ms. Susan Schuschu

Susan is a cradle Anglican actively involved at St. John, East Orangeville for over 28 years. In worship, Susan has been a side's person, an Intercessor, A Chalice Bearer, and is licensed as a Lay Reader. She has held many leadership roles: Past Warden, Rector's Warden, People's Warden, Sunday School Teacher, Chair of Stewardship, Chair of Fundraising, and Chair of the Cemetery Board, Parish Responsible Ministry Liaison, and Lay Member of Synod. She was elected to Provincial Synod October 2018 and 2023 where she obtained a broader knowledge of the church. Susan was elected by her peers at Provencal Synod to represent Toronto on the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario Executive Council. Susan has also been an active participant in: the Advisory

Board, the Catering Team, and the Cemetery Board. For many years, Susan has served on York-Simcoe Area Council, three years on Diocesan Council, and the Diocesan Council Nominating Committee. “I have a very strong faith and am very committed to my roles in the Church. I am also very involved with my work, and with my family” she writes.