

2021 CONVENING CIRCULAR

SECTION – 1

INFORMATION

PACKAGE



SYNOD  2021
BEING LIGHT BUILDING HOPE

WALKING TOGETHER
TEWATHAHITA YOHABI:YO

October 28-30 2021

October 20, 2021

Greetings!

First of all a warm welcome to all Members of the 144th Synod of the Diocese of Ontario!

Secondly, thank you for agreeing to be a member of Synod and for playing an important role in the governance and life of our great diocese.

As you can imagine, this 144th Synod of the Diocese of Ontario will be happening a little differently. It is truly a “hybrid” Synod – a blend of in-person and on-line. Yet, despite the challenges of COVID, we will still share the key parts of the Synod Experience

- Worship
- Governance
- Sharing
- Growth, learning and exploring our faith
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The Synod Circular is now available on the Synod 2021 Hub <https://www.ontario.anglican.ca/synod/synod-2021>

Each Parish Member should have been Registered by their Incumbent or Priest In Charge, via the Web Form. Other members (Synod Council, Bishop’s Appointees, Official Observers, etc) have been registered directly. This registration is essential to have access to all elements of Synod.

Each of the 3 days of Synod offer choices to members, depending on their personal situation, preferences and comfort. As well, non-members of Synod from the diocese can watch and at times participate in Synod. These choices are summarized below:



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DAY	Members of Synod	Non-Members of Synod	Notes
Thursday (evening)	At Hub OR Livestream OR In person in St George's Cathedral	Livestream OR In person in St George's Cathedral	Bishop's Hour Synod Service
Friday (morning & afternoon)	At Hub OR Online (via participant link)	Livestream OR Online (via participant link through Registration)	Sessions & Breakouts with Bishop Cliff Bishop Oulton's Charge and discussion Ministry Showcase <i>Non-Members of Synod welcome to join. Recommend Registering in advance for best experience</i>
Saturday (morning)	At Hub OR Online (via participant link)	Livestream	Synod Members registered to participate online will be provided with a link. No phone in will be available

Note: Livestream allows for watching and listening, but not participating through Audio, Video or Chat

Delegates who elect to attend in a Hub must do so in the one assigned to their church. The COVID protocols require us to manage attendance. If you are attending in a Hub you must provide Proof of Vaccination. The easiest option is to provide it to your Incumbent or Priest In Charge in advance so they can certify to the Registrar that they have seen it. You would then need to provide only Photo ID each day you check in at a Hub. If this is not done in advance, you will need to provide Proof at the Hub to enter. No Proof of Vaccination is required for those attending only online.

Again, due to the challenges of COVID, there will be no food, tea or coffee provided at the Hubs. You may bring your own snacks or Lunch. The Hub hosts will provide sealed drinks, which must be consumed when seated.

Pre-Assessment of Symptoms, Masks, Distancing, Hand Sanitizing, etc will apply in the Hubs.

What if you can't attend at the last minute? Lay Delegates to Synod can only be elected by a meeting of the Vestry. If an elected delegate cannot attend, then only an elected alternate can take their place (becoming the delegate). There is no other option, such as appointment by Wardens or Parish Advisory Council. If there are no elected alternatives, then the vestry will be short a representative.

The normal Rules of Order laid out in the Constitution will apply. Delegates will have the same opportunity as previous Synods to go to a microphone, be recognized by the chair and then ask a question, make a motion, etc.

All Motions duly received per the process in the Constitution and Canons are included in the Synod Circular and will be brought to the floor for discussion and voting. Any motion not received by the submission deadline was not reviewed and recommended for adoption by Synod Council, so it would

need to be reviewed by the Planning Committee and then require a majority vote in Synod reach the floor. Changes to the Constitution, Canons, Policy or Rule of Order which has not been previously recommended for adoption by Synod Council requires the approval of not less than 66% of the members of synod and voting at two successive Regular Sessions of Synod.

Those voting in the Hubs will do so by the normal means. Those attending on line will do so by a voting application built into the meeting software. The Chair will allow time for members to consider and vote. Votes will be tallied by a Scrutineer in each Hub and totalled by a Central Scrutineer. The Chair may also, at their sole discretion, call for a vote by voice and invite all participants to unmute and indicate their vote when asked in they are “In favour” or “Opposed”.

Those attending online will receive the access information for the day they have registered to attend online in the days before Synod. They must provide both their first and last name in the software to be admitted to the meeting from the “Lobby”. It is recommended to log in early in case you experience any issues.

A Common Consent Motion allows for non-controversial resolutions to be considered collectively, by consent of the members, freeing up valuable time for consideration of matters which may take more rigorous discernment by Synod. All items in the Common Consent Motion will be considered in one resolution. Members may speak to it and ask questions for clarification on any item in that resolution. Any member can request that the Chair removes an item from the Common Consent resolution, and it would be voted on separately. Once approved, all the items in the resolution are considered approved.

Based on the Nominations received by the submission deadline, the two Lay Delegates and two Clerical Delegates to General Synod have been elected by acclamation, so there will be no ballot.

Members of Synod wishing to speak to a resolution will be able to indicate their desire to do so by going to a microphone in the Hub (lines must maintain distance) after advising the Host of the Hub. Those participating on-line will indicate by “raising their hand” in the software. If speaking to a motion, the member must have their video on, state their name and parish before speaking to the resolution.

If you were unable to attend the Pre-Synod Meeting online or in a Hub, the charts and recording are available on the diocesan website.

Any questions can be sent to Synod2021@ontario.anglican.ca

We look forward to a great Synod!

In His Service

Alex Pierson
Secretary of Synod

Rev Canon Michael Read
Clerical Co-Chair of Synod Planning

Audrey Doliszny
Lay Co-Chair of Synod
Planning