



The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Woodcroft
Bishop of Rupert's Land

Memorandum

To the Annual General Meetings of Parishes

Of the Diocese of Rupert's Land

Disciples of Jesus Christ, greetings to you.

What does the Church require in order to fulfil the mission of God we are called to serve? This is perhaps the most important question any Synod at any time might ask. Its importance lies in the context of God speaking to the Church, and the Church actively listening.

Jesus calls disciples to commend the faith that is within each, exercising our baptismal covenant to the end that the world may have abundant life. Our call leads us to make disciples, encourage life-long learning among all disciples, bring healing and sustenance to the community around us, cast out demons, and always proclaim that the kingdom of heaven has come near and deep within. What do we require to fulfil the mission of God for which we bear responsibility?

May the Annual General Meetings of the Diocese of Rupert's Land reflect the our commitment to God's mission, our courage in making wise plans as faithful stewards of God's economy and resource, and be renewed in faith as we collectively yearn and strive to challenge the trajectory of a dying Church today. May we do all in our power to support disciples in their life in Christ, learning and growing together in the Apostles teaching and fellowship, and seeking council as Christians to steward God's resources in new and exciting ways.

Synod shall complete its affairs on the second weekend of October. On the 4th weekend of the same month, I have invited the Archbishop of York, the Most Rev'd Stephen Cottrell to lead us in a day of discipleship renewal. It is my sincere hope that the business of Synod 2024 prepares the church to fully engage new and hopeful trajectories in God's mission.

It is our obligation to prayerfully consider whom we shall elect as lay delegates to synod. Lay delegates to Synod are gifted disciples, who are courageous to challenge the status quo of scarcity, they who accept and embrace the hard work of doing theology while leading, and they who have our trust to chart courses in Jesus' name. In short, the lay delegate to synod is a profoundly important disciple, one whom we will do all in our power to support.

May you be blessed with the gifts for mission, and gratitude for the joyful life we have been given.

The Rt. Rev. Geoffrey Woodcroft
Bishop of Rupert's Land

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