

From the Bishop's Desk...

They Will Soar Like Wings on an Eagle - Highlights from General Synod

In this edition of the bulletin, you will find reflections from some of the General Synod delegates who faithfully represented the Territory and who participated fully in all that General Synod had to offer. I am personally grateful to Solomon Norman, DJ Clarke, Kay Honour, The Rev. Linda LaGroix, and Dean Kyle Norman. The days and the topics on the agenda were long and robust.

They say it is a bit of a marathon; we went from early morning until about 9 pm every day. This was my fourth General Synod, and I would say that this synod was a positive experience. We had some challenging topics to discuss. I was grateful for the thoughtful and respectful tone that was evident throughout. Interim Primate Anne Germond provided a calm and steady presence, leading us through each day's agenda, allowing for good conversations and decision-making.

The youth/young people presented a few key motions to ensure that their voice and presence was front and centre. We approved a recommendation for a National Youth Council to serve as an advisory to the Council of General Synod (CoGS). The motion directs CoGS to investigate what changes are needed in our canons and structures to create a youth advisory council. They also brought a motion forward to consider adding an additional young person to sit on CoGS from each of the four Ecclesiastical Provinces, recognizing the challenges for students in university or at work that make it hard for them to attend meetings consistently. This allows both increased companionship with other youth members of CoGS and ensures that at least one of the 2 youth representatives from each province can attend CoGS over the three-year term.

Another important decision was a motion to direct CoGS to review the ways that Council of the North is funded and to look for ways to ensure sustainable funding long-term. As members of Council of the North, we are grateful for the raised awareness and concerns about how funding has been cut or reduced in the past few years when we are already working with very limited funds. It was encouraging to hear the overwhelming support of our missional work in less-populated and remote areas of Canada.

One of the key topics of this gathering was the report on the Primate's Commission with a focus on the role of General Synod and its relationship to the whole church. A report was presented called "Creating Pathways for the Transformational Change of the General Synod". General Synod supported the need to commit time and resources to further this work to implement the transformative changes that are needed. This will be a key focus for the next triennium.

We also celebrated the election of our next Primate, Archbishop Shane Parker who was the Bishop of the Diocese of Ottawa. Primate Shane will bring many solid skills to this work and anticipate that there will be significant time and energy placed on the transforming changes that need to happen. Pray for our Primate and pray for the new Council of General Synod (of which I was elected as one of the members) as we begin this important work.

There were many other significant discussions, resolutions and conversations, not only during sessions, but at mealtimes and at breaks that are impossible to capture here. If you are interested in reading the reports and resolutions, or to watch some of the recorded proceedings, go to www.gs2025.anglican.ca

Perhaps one of the most joyous things that happened at General Synod was our very own DJ Clarke becoming a grandma for the first time. We were all waiting and praying with her as she waited for news of the delivery. When the baby was born, DJ stood up and shouted for joy and ran to tell various folks in the plenary. The room erupted with praise and congratulations! It was one of those moments where we saw the joy and gift of community.

It was good to be together, to meet folks from across the church. We prayed, we sang, we worshipped and we listened to each other. We ended our time with the installation of the new Primate at the closing Eucharist, followed by a celebratory banquet hosted by the Diocese of Huron who were amazing hosts! We learned that the next General Synod will be held in St. John's Newfoundland in 2028.

In Christ's Service,

+Clara



DJ celebrating the birth of her Granddaughter

Bishop's Schedule August/September

August

Aug 4 – 10 – Sacred Circle – Calgary Alberta

Aug 14 – PHOB Meeting (Zoom) 9 am

Aug 14 – Clergy Conference Planning Mtg (Zoom) 11 am

Aug 23 – 26 – Prince George Visit – Grace Anglican Church/St. Michaels

September

Sept 9 – Clericus Mtg (Zoom) 3 pm

Sept 11 – Clergy Conference Planning Mtg (Zoom) 11 am

Sept 14 – 17 – Provincial School for Congregational Development – Whitehorse

Sept 17 – 21 – Diocese of Yukon Visit (Bishop preaching/presiding at Cathedral in Whitehorse)

Sept 18 – Administration Committee (Zoom) 7 pm

Sept 22 – 26 – Continuing Education Week

Sept 27-28 – St. Timothy 100 Mile House Visit

Prayer Corner



- * We pray for our neighbours, families and friends that they may experience the love of Christ in and through us.
- * We pray for our Pastoral Elders: Ursula Drynock, Amy Charlie, Pauline and Ernie Michell
- * We pray for the Church National and the new Council of General Synod team who will serve the church until the next General Synod in 2028
- * We pray for leaders around the globe, that their hearts will be softened and willing to work for the common good.
- * We pray for wisdom and courage as people of faith that we will seek hope and practice hope wherever we are.
- * We pray for all who are confined by illness, praying they may find peace and strength in the love and care they receive from others.
- * We pray for those who are discerning a call to a vocation in the church.
- * We pray for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East (Gaza, Israel, Iran), Ukraine, Russia.
- * We pray for those who are nearing death or have died, and for those who mourn.

Territory News

Reflections from General Synod



General Synod,
June 23-29, 2025
RBC Place London in
the Diocese of Huron



General Synod 2025

Wow, what an adventure from being lost in a big city to the blessing of organ music in the newly renovated Cathedral just for us; from meeting people from all across Canada and developing new friendships with young and old, I say, WOW!

The journey began with learning to use WhatsApp to stay in contact with the Territory contingent. The flights were smooth and the bus trip to London was a bit nerve wracking but already, we were getting to know each other. I think for me, it was that sense of renewal of relationships and building of new ones that spoke to me over the very long and exhausting days.

The days started early and finished late and in spite of the heaviness of the discussions, the sense of camaraderie grew. Sharing our meals together, more than 300 attendees, was filled with chats, introductions and some deep discussions about the day's agenda. The buffet style meals gave us much to enjoy and the scheduled breaks encouraged us to gather over some refreshments to talk some more. Seems a bit like heaven – the laughter, quiet sharing and melding of so many voices was wonderful.

I had a lot of fun visiting all of the booths set up for us to learn more about this Anglican Church across Canada. There were booths about further education, opening our eyes to environmental stewardships, books, music, recipes for Bannock, and introductions to various communities within our community.



Linda asking a question about a motion at the microphone

The hard work was evaluating and voting on the resolutions that were thoughtfully presented, discussed and voted upon. Although we spent every allotted minute on these important pieces of business, we left with 4 to be addressed by our newly elected COGS, The Council of General Synod - those elected from every Diocese and Territory - who meet between the 3-year General Synod meetings to conduct the day-to-day business of the Anglican Church in Canada. Bishop Clara was elected to the Bishop's representative, so we are proud of her.

The services that we shared in St. Paul's Cathedral were awesome. The new organist and music director made the most glorious music for us to worship God and all of creation.

Of course, the most important services at the Cathedral, surrounded the election of our new Primate. The process was very interesting as many have witnessed. With a call from the floor for further nominations after the second ballot, a new name was added to the 4 that were initially considered. Amazingly, Shane Parker, the newly nominated Bishop, won the election!

The day after Archbishop Shane's election, we found out that his unique skills and abilities will be crucial over the next three years as we work through some difficulties surrounding our offices, buildings and shared spaces of our offices called Church House, the seat of the governing body of the Anglican Church. Much more will come forward as the CoGS pick the work of that governance.

All in all I had a great learning experience and deeper understanding of the complexity of the Anglican Church in Canada while meeting and learning much about the height, the depth, the width and length of our beautiful denomination while expanding my understanding of our partners as representatives of the United Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Moravian Church in Canada, even sharing a delightful dinner with our Companion Diocese of Montreal delegates.

Submitted, out of breath,

Rev. Linda LaGroix, first time delegate (St. Alban's/St. Hildas, Ashcroft/Spences Bridge)



A Delegate's Reflections of General Synod.

What an opportunity and honour to be an elected member of the 44th General Synod, "They will Soar on Wings Like Eagles", where the 15th Primate, The Most Rev Shane Parker, was elected.

I anticipated that it would be full days of business decisions, discussions and direction regarding the future of the church, but it was overwhelming for some of us. As our days started at 7:00 and returned to our hotel rooms at 9:30 pm. There were 225 attendees, including Primates, Archbishops, Bishops, Wardens, Laity and Youth. It was a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and learn about other Dioceses and Parishes. We discussed and approved the Treasurer's report, and voted on 44 Resolutions (motions).

I volunteered as a non-indigenous person to be on a panel for a Lunch and Learn session called “Draw the Circle Wide”. The panel members were Murray Still, Jeffrey Mackie-Dernsted, Diana Hoffman and Rosie Jane Tailfeathers. It was well attended. The session was very informative with good discussion and questions.

I returned home with a renewed hope for the church. Feed by the many Worship, Prayer, and singing starting the day, throughout the day and end of day. Passing the resolution for the Creating Pathways transformation change is necessary to empower and support change. Pathways identified changes needed to streamline church structures so that the church can adopt 21st-century trends, including falling attendance and harsh financial realities. These changes will affect us all. Get ready to be part of a hopeful and new direction

The worship service and installation of Archbishop Shane Parker included beautiful singing. Especially the opening song “Days of Elijah”. Hearing the voices of the Nigerian community, adding their musical style to the singing, was soul-touching

Thank you for voting me to represent the TOTP in this important part of our church.

In Christ's love, Kay Honour (St. John the Divine, Quesnel)



Reflections on General Synod

General Synod may not an occasion that comes to mind when you think of a “good time.” However, in my view, it is. I am someone who highly values our synodal process. Gathering as representatives from across the country helps us realize an important truth governing our lives as a church. Simply put, we are more together than we are by ourselves. General Synod always holds the blessed opportunity to connect with old friends and make new ones. One of the highlights for me this year was meeting the delegation from Montreal, our sister diocese. As it turned out, I was placed with Bishop Mary at a table during our bible studies, and the Territory Table was directly beside the Montreal table. This meant there I got to know (in many humorous ways) the people for whom we pray each Sunday. When we remember that the church is alive and active beyond the individual walls of our community, or the boundaries of our territory, we get inspired to join in what God is doing amongst us, and through us.

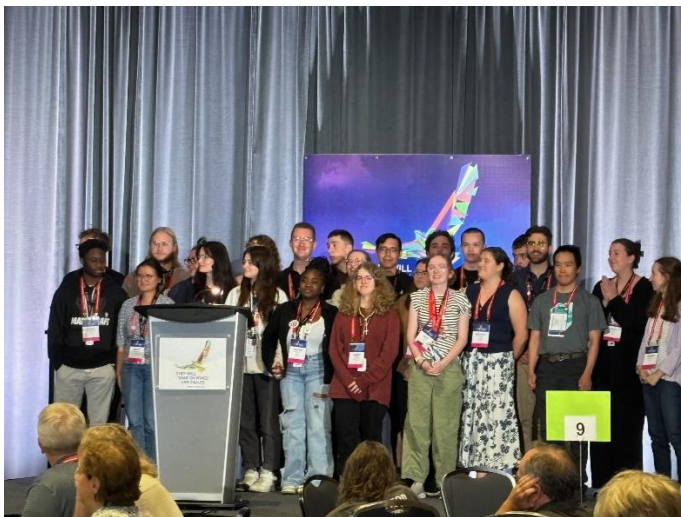
As members of General Synod, we spent a lot of time listening. We listened for direction regarding the election of our Primate. Yes, it was process. Yes, it involved asking for additional names to be added to the ballot. But the canons that govern our life together make allowance for this, they intentionally allow for the ability to respond to what the Spirit may be doing in our midst. And we did. Together, we elected a new Primate, and I believe everyone feels that his election was Spirit led.

In fact, I would suggest that in all the Synods I have been a part of, this past General Synod was, perhaps, one of the most Spirit-led synods I have had the privilege of attending. Not to say that it was easy. We engaged in some hard conversations surrounding topics such as lease agreements, primate’s commission, disability rights, and the use of Non-disclosure Agreements; but through it all, the acting Primate (The Most Reverend Ann Germond), the Chancellor (Ms. Clare Burns) and the Prolocutor (Mr. Ian Alexander) led us in a patient, caring, and transparent manner. They set the stage for a gathering that, even amid disagreement, spoke lovingly and respectfully to each other.

These simple reflections are part of why I left General Synod greatly encouraged, as a priest, as a Canadian Anglican, as a member of the Territory of the People.

Submitted by

The Very Reverend Kyle Norman



Left: Youth Delegates



Right: Our Territory General Synod Representatives

Alongside Hope Wild ride Fundraiser Solar Suitcase Project is on!



Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change
in Canada and around the world

Help Light the Way for Women and Babies in Mozambique and Madagascar. Imagine giving birth in the dark, with only a flashlight or cell phone for light. That's the reality for many women in rural clinics across Mozambique and Madagascar. But it doesn't have to be. Alongside Hope's Solar Suitcase project equips these clinics with solar-powered kits, bringing bright light, vital medical tools, and peace of mind. Every gift is being matched up to \$150,000, so your impact can go even further. Please give today. To learn more about the Solar Suitcase project visit alongsidehope.org/solar-suitcase.

So far there are three teams/individuals raising funds in the Territory including **Bishop Clara's prayer flags** project, **St. Paul's Cathedral Kamloops WaySeekers** and **100 Mile Walkers**! Donations may be made to any team. You will find their names listed on the donation page under teams or individuals. To donate go to: <https://alongsidehope.org/wild-ride/> Help us make a difference by offering hope and light!

IN OTHER NEWS – Photos from around the Territory



For more news check our website out at <https://www.territoryofthepeople.ca/>