



'Pentecost-hearted people' installed, ordained for ministry

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

On the miracle of Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025, members of the Anglican church family in the Edmonton diocese participated in a new ordination rite to recognize those among us called by God to the ministries of Canon, Deacon and Presbyter.

Bishop Stephen London, 11th Bishop of Edmonton, installed Fiona Brownlee as a Lay Canon for her ministry of truth and reconciliation. A founding member of the Reconciliation Team at Immanuel Anglican Church in Wetaskiwin, Brownlee served as the diocese's Aboriginal and rural churches liaison for more than a decade. By encouraging neighbourly love, she coordinated community events to honour the memory of children who died at residential schools and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ folk. She was seated in the stall of Saint Julian of Norwich by the Very Rev. Alex Meek, Dean of Edmonton.

"My ministry has been about serving the people of our diocese by working to provide them with education about the true history of Residential Schools and the motivation to work towards reconciliation with First Nation neighbours," says Brownlee. "The recognition of my ministry by appointing me a canon of the diocese is an honour that I didn't anticipate. I will cherish this while continuing my journey with the people of our diocese."

This month, Brownlee, along with lay evangelist Jenny Stuart, is helping lead the online course "Decolonizing Self and Community," for The Flourishing Foundation: Global Women Seeking Change, with instructor Andrea Montgomery DiMarco, foundation CEO.

Before the presentation of the ordinands, homilist, the Rev.



Pentecost Homilist Scott Sharman.

Canon Scott Sharman, explained that, for the first time in 40 years, the Edmonton diocese was using a new rite for the ordination of deacons Gordon Hills, Fred Matthews, Suzanne Oswald, Betty Tyszkiewicz, and presbyters Capt. the Rev. Helen Chan Bennett and the Rev. Jordan Giggey.

"Tonight, in this corner of God's Kin-dom, we are marking Pentecost with an ordering of people into new patterns of ministry," said Sharman, noting that the service began with thanksgiving for baptism, which is intended to begin "every ordination service in our church from now on," and is "the primary ordination from God to become agents of God's love and healing to one another and the world; it is the source from which all ministries flow, and any other naming or ordering beyond that does not add anything more but simply makes the common call of all more specific for some."

Another distinguishing characteristic of the new ordination rite, he said, is the regular use of the word presbyter (meaning elder), the original biblical Greek word for pastors and ministers of word and sacrament.

"This change helps emphasize that each disciple shares in Christ's



Pictured from left: Deacons Fred Matthews, Suzanne Oswald, Betty Tyszkiewicz, Gordon Hills at their ordination on Pentecost Sunday.

royal priesthood of making our lives a living sacrifice for others; it's not just the work of those we commonly call priests with a capital P. Presbyters, Elders, do have a very important role to play, helping to equip and encourage others for their own spiritual life and servant leadership roles..."

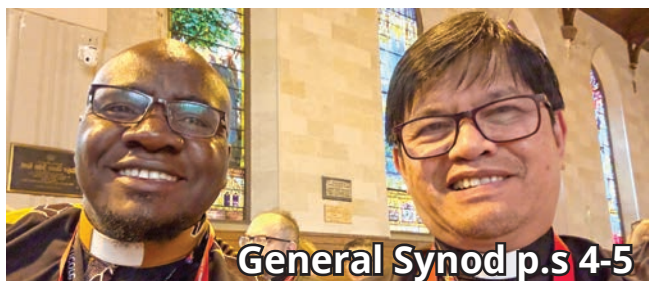
During the Pentecost service, Bishop Stephen London called four people to be ordained as deacons, modelling service, especially among anyone afflicted by poverty, illness or isolation. Gordon Hills is a licensed lay reader and member of St. Saviour's, Vermilion. He was presented by the Rev. Elizabeth Metcalfe and Cicely Hills. Fred Matthews serves the parish of the Church of the Nativity, Frog Lake First Nation. He was presented by the Ven. Travis Enright and Indigenous Elder Russell Auger. Suzanne Oswald is a member of Holy Trinity, Edmonton, and serves on the Executive Council. She was presented by the Rev. Danielle Key and Andrea Hamilton. Betty Tyszkiewicz is a licensed lay reader and member of St. Michael and

All Angels, Edmonton. She was presented by the Rev. Colleen Sanderson and Janet Egan.

Fred Matthews says his ministry "has always been focused on reconciliation and the healing that needs to occur for that to happen. There is a sentence in the Eucharistic prayer in the Standing Stones liturgy that states 'He (Jesus) came to fulfill our old ways.' While re-establishing a community of disciples is important, it pales in comparison to building relationships by affirming the validity of prayers and ceremonies that have been part of the Nehiyaw (Cree) way of life for centuries."

Matthew says, "it is important for anyone involved in ministry in Indigenous communities to learn and participate in ceremonies, build relationships in the broader community, and provide pastoral care that is trauma informed. As I continue to work toward ordination as a presbyter, I hope to continue this work and develop outreach ministries that focus on healing."

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Spiritual Formation Ideas Bubble up at Conference

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE
Edmonton Diocese

At a one-day conference designed to equip Purposeful Discipleship and Vital Congregations, both primary principles of *A Way Through the Wilderness* (the Diocesan Workplan launched in May), participants from the Edmonton diocese's family explored ways to ferment cultures of spiritual formation (a lifelong process of growing in faith, understanding and attentiveness to God), in each other and our parishes.

Hosted by St. Paul's Anglican Church on June 7, *You Are Leaven* helped participants discover new spiritual formation practices and new ways of seeing old practices.

Participants gathered for Morning Prayer and to sing together, before spiritually fermenting in six workshops organized into two streams. They could choose to experience Gospel-Based Discipleship, Indigenous spirituality, Centering Prayer and more. The day ended with a round dance.

The Rev. Iain Luke, former interim priest at St. Paul's, says the conference had a "you had to be there" quality to it, as the focus was on experiencing a range of different approaches to spiritual formation in community.

"While you can read about these practices, it's not the same as doing them - and in the doing, people could imagine what it would be like for their parish to take up the practice," he says.

Local organizers, the Ven. Jonathan Crane and the Rev. Andreas Sigrist attended the

national You Are Leaven Conference in the Ottawa diocese and wanted to replicate that format in Edmonton by inviting workshop leaders to introduce spiritual practices/experiences, lead participants through the experiences and reflect together on ways to transfer the experiences to each person's or parish's spiritual life.

Just as bakers and brewers can tell when a leavening agent is working, Christians can recognize when spiritual formation is effective in their lives. When planning the local fermentation day, the Discipleship Committee and Bishop Stephen London considered finding a definition of spiritual formation to share and hold in common as a diocese.

"I heard people talking about how they could use Gospel-Based Discipleship for vestry meetings, or how easy it would be to start a new small group ministry as a Spiritual Sharing Circle," says Luke. "Different approaches will work better in different circumstances, and that was one of the benefits of experiencing them as a parish group."

For St. Paul's, hosting the conference and offering hospitality in collaboration with other leaders and communities within the diocese was a "great opportunity to welcome people, many of whom mentioned they had never been in our building before," says Luke. He thinks future collaborative initiatives "will open



up possibilities to get to know each other by working together."

"This was a good first experience, and I anticipate the conference will grow from here as people share what they got out of it," he says. Plans are underway for the second spiritual formation conference to be held in the Edmonton diocese in 2026. The Discipleship committee hopes that a different parish or parishes will step forward to host the conference in the coming years.

May the Spirit of God lead us, the followers of Jesus, to give glory to His Father in Heaven.

Chasing the good news

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

I could not tell you for certain how many issues of *The Messenger* I was privileged to produce. When I began working for the Diocese of Edmonton in 2008, Kelly Fowler was at the helm. In awe of her creative ingenuity, I volunteered to write articles, in part to learn more about the design process. Before I knew it, and before I realized the extent of the work I was taking on, I had begun my ministry as the Edmonton editor, working in collaboration with Peter Clarke (now a Canon and Deacon), the editor for the Athabasca diocese.

That summer, I went to my first conference for the Anglican Editors Association (AEA). I arrived at the residences of St. Mary's University in Halifax knowing not a soul. Finding my way to the dining hall for breakfast, I found an empty seat next to two friendly-looking ladies and gingerly asked if they were Anglican editors. Joanne Shurvin-Martin, associate editor of the *Saskatchewan Anglican* for the Qu'Appelle diocese, and the late Ana Watts, editor of the *News Brunswick Anglican* and "Queen of the AEA," gave me a warm welcome.

Over the next 17 years, I found company and community in this group of Anglican editors, photographers, designers and writers. While I'm a cradle Anglican with a background in community journalism, I had much to learn about covering the church. The Anglican editors and national church staff, in particular graphic designer Saskia Rowley, were an ongoing source of support and guidance. Sharing the good work of our Anglican community quickly became my passion.

I devoted many hours to chasing, writing stories and presenting stories, both in the pages of the paper and in the *Synod Scene* newsletter. I soon discovered, however, that getting the



The Messenger editor Margaret Glidden.

story was not going to be easy. While Anglicans do an unfathomable amount of good work, they are also reluctant to talk about it. For the first time in my career as a reporter, I found myself chasing good news stories. If you are to ask me about the most challenging part of my work, hands down, it is promoting (with reasonable notice) and keeping up with the news of our Anglican community. This role has taught me much about persistence, patience and faith.

As most of you now know, last month I stepped back as communications director for the diocese and editor of *The Messenger*. If you will allow me one last ask, please share your good news with my successor for the interim, the Rev. Stephanie London. The less time she has to spend chasing your stories, the more time she can devote to sharing the good news.

I will be forever grateful to our Anglican, ecumenical and interfaith community for their demonstration of grace, kindness, compassion, forgiveness and generosity. You have helped me realize I am, in fact, part of the good news story I have been chasing all along. Thank you and God bless.

Solar Suitcases help women give birth safely

JACQUELINE TINGLE, Communications and Marketing Officer, Alongside Hope (with files from Lucinda Congolo, Mozambique Country Director for We Care Solar)

Alongside Hope's 2025 Wild Ride aims to raise funds to equip eight off-the-grid rural health clinics with life-saving renewable energy. And thanks to a generous donor, all gifts will be matched, doubling the impact!

At Muripotana Health Centre in Nampula, midwife Ancha Amido Abdala used to begin every night shift in darkness, with no lights, no power, and no possibility of admitting patients after dark. In 2022 that changed, when Alongside Hope and partner EHALE installed a Solar Suitcase – a bright yellow, wall-mounted box powered by solar panels. Inside, it holds LED lights, a fetal Doppler, headlamps, phone chargers and a thermometer.

Abdala says it made an immediate difference. "There was no way to handle medical materials in the dark," she recalls. After lighting went live, women began coming to the clinic at night; births increased, and transparency improved because the patients' companions could follow procedures clearly.

"I gave birth at night," said one new mother. "I felt very happy because I could see what the nurse was doing." In districts with installations, night-time births rose by about 17 percent, and more than 80,000 babies have been safely delivered since 2016, thanks to the installation of 80 Solar Suitcases across the province. The suitcases are made by We Care Solar.

The Wild Ride is part of a larger initiative to provide 35 Solar Suitcases in Mozambique and 14 Solar Suitcases in Madagascar. All donations will be matched, up to \$150,000. Learn more about how you can contribute to the Wild Ride: www.alongsidehope.org/solar-suitcase.

Facing challenging times together in prayer and fellowship

At the end of June, the elected delegation from the Diocese of Edmonton joined with delegations from across Canada at the General Synod. General Synod is the gathering of the elected representatives of the entire Anglican Church of Canada for prayer, fellowship and doing the business of the church together. My experience was that this was a wonderful gathering of the church. Here, I will mention three things:

1. As I was visiting with a new General Synod member over dinner, I reflected on the notion that while gathering for official meetings is important, the best part is meeting, visiting and praying with fellow Christians from across Canada and, indeed, other parts of the world. There is an energy that is hard to explain, but part of it is that the people at General Synod are passionate about the life of the church and want us to reflect in deep ways the beautiful love of God. I loved hearing the stories of what



Bishop STEPHEN LONDON
Diocese of Edmonton

- the Gospel looks like across Canada, and I certainly share some of our stories.
2. We had some challenging moments in formal discussions on the floor of the General Synod. A significant conversation centred on the lease for the new national church headquarters. I was grateful to watch the leadership of the Acting Primate Anne Germond and our National Chancellor Clare Burns. They led us through some challenging conversations with grace and competence
 3. The process of electing a new Primate took an unexpected turn. An aspect of our process was surprising to some: after two ballots, members of Synod can ask the House of Bishops for more names, which is what happened. Ultimately, we elected the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker. He has a challenging job over the next three years. I have appreciated his leadership. When I was a brand-new bishop, he graciously and

informally mentored me in a few areas I was learning about. At the Synod, this surprise felt like a movement of the Holy Spirit. There is much that he brings to the table for this moment in time. And I am grateful for the people who put their name on the ballot. This allowed the church to have conversations about where we feel the Holy Spirit is calling the church today.

The upshot of General Synod is that I am feeling encouraged about where we are going as a national church. We had strong and difficult conversations about the new *Creating Pathways (for the Transformational Change of the General Synod)* document, outlining the areas in our church we need to change. We had conversations about important justice issues. We had times of prayer and worship. I love that we give glory to God through our coming together for prayer and conversation.

The point is that we are doing this together. We are on the way together, which is the real meaning of synod.

Blessings!
+Stephen

South India church recognized ministry

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

The Executive Council has authorized Bishop Stephen London to develop a Deed of Recognition for the Ascension Church of South India as a Recognized Ministry of the Diocese of Edmonton.

At the June 19th meeting of the Executive Council, the Rev. Canon Scott Sharman briefly described the history of the Church of South India (CSI), an ecumenical partnership of Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Reformed Christians. A member of the Anglican Communion, the CSI includes 24 dioceses and 4.5 million people of different social backgrounds. The Most Rev. Thomas Oommen, CSI, Moderator from the Madhya Kerala diocese, visited the Edmonton diocese in 2018 to lead a confirmation service at All Saints' Cathedral with then Bishop Jane Alexander.

The Ascension Church is a congregation of the CSI located in the Edmonton diocese, though governed by a foreign diocese. As a recognized ministry, its relationship with the Edmonton diocese will be modelled on similar arrangements created in the dioceses of Toronto and New Westminster.

Executive Council guests Alpha Zachariah and Mini Abraham, members of the Ascension Church, shared the history of the Ascension congregation, which was formed in 2016. The congregation initially worshipped at St. Luke's and is now at St. Augustine's of Canterbury,

Edmonton, with a core membership of approximately 30 families. A priest licensed in the New Westminster diocese commutes here for a service every second week.

There was discussion about whether the proposed ministry would be held to the standards of our diocese regarding, for example, acceptance of the 2SLTBQ+ community. Bishop Steve indicated that they will be expected not to undermine those standards. The priest would be called from South India but licensed in the Edmonton diocese and subject to our Bishop.

In recent years, the Edmonton diocese has increasingly entered into ministry arrangements that do not fit the definition of a parish, prompting the introduction of and adoption of Canon 13 by the 69th Synod last fall. Sharman noted, in response to a question from the Executive Council, that recognition of the ministry could be an interim step towards eventual parish status.

As a Recognized Ministry, CSI will have representation in synod but will not be subject to diocesan apportionment, though it may choose to contribute financially to the diocese.

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We welcome letters to the editor, news, stories and book reviews (max 500 words), event notices and high resolution photos (min 1 MB, 200 dpi).

Submissions are due one month prior to the issue for which they are intended, for example: September 1 for October 2025.

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The publishers and editorial staff of The Messenger value honest, transparent and respectful communication. We seek to provide encouragement and inspiration to all who are building loving, inclusive, Christ-centered communities. We respect the dignity of every human being, endeavouring to lift the voices of people who are marginalised.

We are committed to the quality of our content, reserving the right to edit all contributed material. We immediately correct factual errors.

General Synod Life-Changing Experience for First-time Delegate

BRUCE SIMPSON

I have been thinking a lot about the chance to attend General Synod and get to know more about our diocese and the great people in it. I now consider Travis (Enright), Jordan (Haynie Ware), Alex (Meek), Scott (Sharman), Betty (Kaahwa), Cathy (Armstrong), Emily (Stephen-Garneau) and Bishop Steve (London) to be good friends.

General Synod was life-changing for me, and so much more than voting and church business.

Certainly, being involved in the election of the new Primate was a highlight, and I felt a responsibility to make the correct choice. Getting to meet and talk with Primate Shane Parker was an honour, and now I know the person we pray for every Sunday.

My chance to go to General Synod was a fluke, because someone dropped out and Bishop Steve asked me to replace them. I believe I am called to be a good steward and volunteered, I thought, for the vestry and executive council, to use my business skills to help execute A Way Through the Wilderness (Diocesan Workplan). I had several reasons not to go to General Synod, such as work and a planned trip. But the trip was postponed, and I would soon find out why.

My *aha* moment happened on the Friday of General Synod. It began like the other days with a 7 a.m. Eucharist followed by morning meetings. When I checked in with home at lunch, I found out my wife Darlene was not well. I mentioned this news in our diocesan group chat and asked for their prayers. Within seconds, a response came for us all to gather and say a prayer for Darlene.

They circled me and prayed. Standing there, a strange sense came over me. There was no voice, but at that moment, I felt like God was asking me to reconnect with him. I stood there unable to speak. Instead, my eyes watered as they hugged me one by one.

Continuing with Synod, things felt different. When we were asked during one session to share the best part of the gathering, I immediately picked up the speaking stone at our table. I said it was the realization that I had been invited to attend to get in touch with my spiritual side. What I can offer to any of our Church's business will not be equal to the gift that the General Synod and our diocesan family gave me.

We have incredible people in our diocese, in our parishes and on the Executive Council. The eight people who were with me will always be an important part of my life. They made me feel welcome and supported.

Thank you, Bishop Stephen, Jordan, Travis, Alex, Betty, Cathy, Emily and Scott.

After the closing banquet, I rode the elevator with the new Primate, chatting about his upbringing and the time he spent in Edmonton. As he walked off, he said a few things, but he ended with 'May God be with you always.' As the door shut, I thought to myself, God has always been with me, but now I have been reminded to talk to him more often. Life is so much better with prayer and the spirit with me.

On my return to St. Matthias, I was so blessed to be given an opportunity to share with our congregation my experience and its lasting impact on me.

May God bless you all.



Edmonton delegation to General Synod, pictured from left: Cathy Armstrong, Dean Alex Meek, Canon to the Ordinary Scott Sharman, Betty Kaahwa, Bishop Stephen London, Emily Stephen-Garneau, Archdeacon Travis Enright, Archdeacon Jordan Haynie Ware, Bruce Simpson.

EMILY STEPHEN- GARNEAU

Hello, everyone! This past Synod has been very impactful for me in so many ways. I am so proud of everyone for their amazing contributions this year, but I'm especially proud of our youth delegates. We strove to accomplish real change, and I am excited about our future in the Edmonton diocese.

I made so many new friends from across the country. A significant discussion we had as youth during this Synod was that *we are the youth of now, not the future*. With that being the slogan for the week for the youth, whenever a youth delegate went up to speak, we started and ended with that. The youth passed many important resolutions during Synod, such as now having two youth delegates serve for each Ecclesiastical Province on the Council of General Synod, which was my resolution to bring to the floor.

During the Opening Worship, I was asked to bring up the wine for communion and was the individual who poured our local diocese's water for blessing for use in the renewal of our baptismal vows; this was such an impactful experience for me, as it was an important gathering of my respected peers.

The community I built while being at General Synod and our

beloved delegates were a huge support to me during the week and the discernment process for electing a new Primate.

Archbishop Shane Parker is our church's new Primate. He was baptized here at my home parish of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Edmonton. When I talked with the Archbishop after his election, he was very happy to hear that St. Peter's was a welcoming church. He sent his best wishes to our parish and congregation.

During the week, I had the honour of sitting at a table with Susan Johnson, former National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. We had some great conversations about the ecumenical work we are doing in our diocese.

It was so interesting and beautiful to see so many different cultures and languages come together all in one room for the election of the Council of General Synod. Of course, we can't forget the youth delegates doing biblical charades while everyone was laughing with us.

The biggest thing I learned at General Synod, and on this trip, is the true importance of community at all levels in our church. Thank you so much for allowing me this wonderful opportunity to serve our diocese as a youth delegate.

Blessings to all!

BETTY KAAHWA

I had the honour of leading a portion of General Synod's opening prayers in Luganda, at St. Peter's Cathedral in London, ON.

Acting Primate Anne Germond's leadership, marked by love, compassion and unwavering encouragement for unity and embracing change within all churches, left a profound impression on our Edmonton delegation.

During one of our table discussions, a question was asked

about what the Eucharist means to you. It is common in churches with regularly serving clergy to celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday. But in some parishes, it is simply not possible. The Gospel of Luke 22: 19-20 talks about the source of the Eucharist. During our discussion, people offered different views. I believe it would be beneficial to pose this question to all parishes of the Edmonton diocese.

Throughout General Synod, I interacted with numerous members

and explored the impressive displays from various theological universities.

The election of our new Primate was truly remarkable. Surprisingly, none of the initially nominated candidates secured the required votes. It was only after a process of deep discernment and spiritual guidance that the name of the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker (Bishop of Ottawa) emerged and, ultimately, was confirmed. The hymns sung throughout this process were

profoundly inspiring.

This extraordinary selection brought to mind the biblical account of David's anointing by Samuel (1 Samuel 16: 6-13). Just as God chose David, the youngest and seemingly least likely among Jesse's sons, despite initial appearances, so, too, did divine guidance lead to Primate Shane Parker's selection. Many who had initially abstained from voting later cast their ballots for him, ultimately confirming him as God's chosen Primate.

Delegates Moved by Theme 'They Will Soar on Wings Like Eagles'

JAMIESON McIIVENNA

The conversations we engaged in, often rooted in complex and deeply important matters, were marked by grace and mutual respect. What made it all the more powerful was the manner in which these discussions were held in the context of prayer and discernment, culminating in thoughtful and spirit-led discussion and worship, prior to the voting.



General Synod delegates representing the Ecclesiastical Province of the Northern Lights.



Bishop Stephen London, left, and Athabasca delegate Blessing Shambare, the new rector of St. John the Evangelist, Edmonton.

The Rev. Dr. BLESSING SHAMBARE

My first experience at General Synod exceeded expectations. Archbishop Anne Germond set the tone by inviting mutual respect and spirit-led engagement. Her leadership fostered a space where every voice could be heard.

The core work of General Synod centers on legislation and canonical processes.

Key takeaways:

- Legislation shapes how we live out our faith collectively and is a reminder to me that our church is Episcopally-led and synodically-governed;
- Some resolutions carried an invitation to action beyond the General Synod;
- The election of the 15th Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada – Bishop Shane Parker (Diocese of Ottawa);
- Synodality teaching by Rev. Canon Scott Sharman.

CANDACE MAHAFFEY

They will soar on wings like eagles was General Synod's theme and from the opening address from Bishop Michael Curry (Episcopal Church), you could feel the spirit move, it was palpable. To soar you have to climb up and that is happening around the country when you hear the stories, they are filled with fresh ideas and new ways of thinking.

Throughout synod, I heard the whisper of the word hope over and over, like it's coming with each flap of the wing as we soar! We are ready to go out to meet people where they are, taking God's hand for the journey.

The Sacred Circle is finding their way and are inviting us to travel together as a family of God.



From left: Candace Mahaffey, Athabasca Bishop David Greenwood, Leon Cadsap; Primate Shane Parker.



Emily Stephen-Garneau, right, with Archbishop Shane Parker and youth delegates.



Edmonton delegates Archdeacon Travis Enright, left, and Bruce Simpson.

The Rev. Fr. LEON CADSAP

Among the many memorable moments were the plenary sessions, the election of the Primate and the table conversations.

What moved me most profoundly was the theme drawn from Isaiah 40: "They will soar on wings like eagles." These words were originally spoken to a people in exile, disoriented, weary, and questioning whether God still saw or cared for them (Isaiah 40:27).

Isaiah does not respond with mere consolation but with a bold theological proclamation: the Lord is eternal, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who neither grows faint nor weary. Beyond affirming God's transcendence, the prophet reveals divine nearness—God gives strength to the weary and power to the powerless.

Ode to Our Synod Office

The Ven. JONATHAN CRANE
Archdeacon for Mission and Discipleship
Diocese of Edmonton

Recently, I found myself as the commissary of the diocese, covering any distinct needs for decision or oversight while Bishop Steve was away. I was the archdeacon who didn't plan his vacation ahead of time, and so had no excuse when the requirement came my way. I was comforted knowing we have some incredible staff at our Synod Office who I knew could help support me in that role.



I have been in this diocese for most of my life and have been a priest of the diocese for over a decade. Stepping into this role reminded me how little I really knew about life in the Synod Office or the life of diocesan leadership. Assuming that I represent, in my ignorance, a vast number of people, I wanted to share some reflections from my experience that inform how we might expect God to be at work among us.

We tend to connect with the diocese through a local parish community. Unless we join a diocesan committee, serve on the executive council, or lead a diocesan ministry, we often don't have a window into wider diocesan life. Unfortunately, when we do not know, we assume or begin imagining something other than what is.

I reflect that we are a small plant and organization. Rumours of Vatican riches and dominance do not apply to us. This summer, with some people taking vacation, there were only three staff members at the Synod Office. As for riches, a previously Baptist friend saw our entire yearly budget as a diocese, and said, "When I was Baptist, we would spend that in one weekend."

It is significant to consider the many different roles our diocesan staff hold. At any one time, people are balancing multiple roles and responsibilities. In this office context, in addition to the insurance, financial and

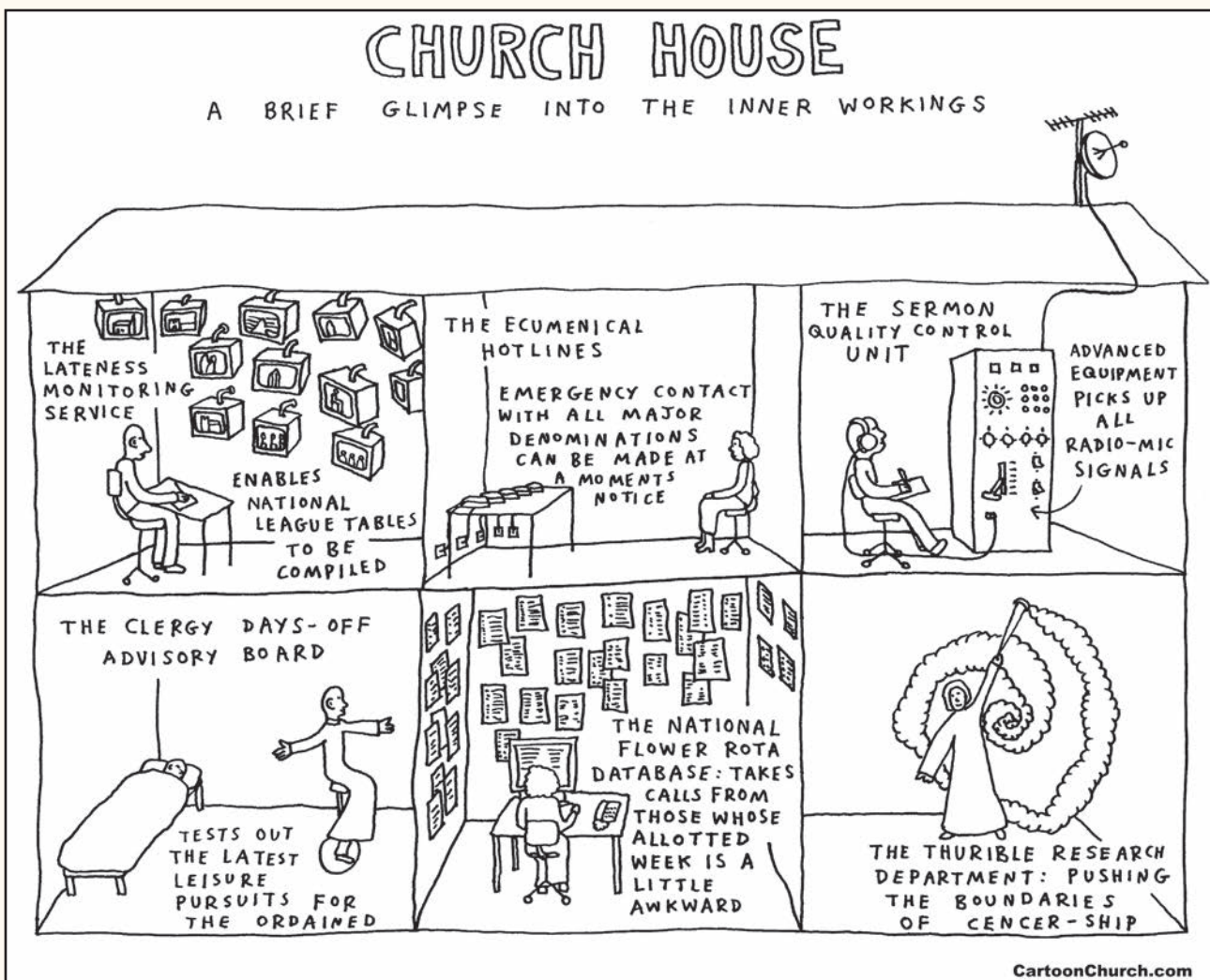
administrative work a church office must do, our staff are truly amazing in what they are able to accomplish. I don't know as much, but it is worth mentioning that neither is our National Church office a mammoth. Currently, "shoestring" is an apt descriptor in this Anglican part of the world.

My time in the Synod Office also brought tremendous gratitude for all the various pterodactyls, godzillas and other monsters our bishop and staff continuously must keep at bay, while parishes continue in relative peace. From old church paraphernalia to legal proceedings, there are countless items our Synod Office staff tend to daily that we on the front lines of parish work have no idea about, and basically, do not need to know about.

From the viewpoint of this commissary, gratitude is in order. If you know the line about concert sound technicians – a sound tech is doing their job if no one thinks about the sound technician – so we know our Synod Office staff are doing their job when we don't know what

they are dealing with. We pray for them and pay apportionment in gratitude as they are funded to protect the fort for the rest of us. It is critical work. I felt honoured to observe it for a short while.

Mission requires us to know who we are and what gifts we have to share in the world. We are not big in the big scheme of things. But we do much. We have the gifts and traditions of a long-term church to guide our lives. We are scrappy – making do with what little we have. We are a diocesan family able to share gifts, staff, resources and skills across our parishes and ministries, as we work with other denominational families. We are a community of people drawn together by faith in Jesus, seeking to live his way in the world. That in and of itself is powerful. We have so much to gain as a diocese together, and our life together becomes ever more critical. God can do far more through "us together" than any one of us could achieve alone.



Forging way together through wilderness

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

A Way Through the Wilderness, a potentially transformative workplan for the parishes, ministries and administration of the Diocese of Edmonton, was launched this spring.

"We are a family of churches that are for one another," said Executive Council member Suzanne Oswald at the workplan launch party on May 15 at St. Augustine's, Edmonton. "This community is made up of the people God has given us to live with, and together we share a common purpose and identity."

Following the launch, an estimated 180 people, including individuals, parish vestry groups and congregations, attended three online information sessions, led by members of the Executive Council, to delve deeper into the Edmonton diocese's roadmap to adaptive

change.

Rooted in Six Guiding Principles, the diocesan workplan was shaped with input gathered over several months through parish engagement sessions, online surveys, one-on-one interviews and guided conversations at the 69th Synod last October. An extensive report by Another Way consultant Anna Bubel, and more than 40 pages of Synod discussion notes were reviewed and refined by Executive Council members who worked to identify desirable outcomes, actions and resources.

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Executive Council member Suzanne Oswald shares her thoughts about helping to shape *A Way Through the Wilderness, Diocesan Workplan* at the launch party in May.

Lakeland Out of the Elements Shelter Helps Restore St. Andrew's Church Pews

The congregation of St. Andrew's, Lac La Biche has been blessed to work in collaboration with the Lakeland Out of the Elements Shelter to refinish church pews that had been damaged by the fire in our building.

Members of our congregation and clients of the shelter, gave generously of their time and skills to help restore these cherished sanctuary pieces.

Special thanks go to Chad Franz of the shelter, Shirley Butler,

St. Andrew's People's Warden, deacon Kevin Pederson and Kathryn Pederson, and everyone who contributed to making this a meaningful and rewarding endeavour.

While a few pews are still needing work, the work done so far has been outstanding. A sincere thank-you as well to all those who provided the necessary tools to make the job possible. Your support and teamwork are deeply appreciated.

Photos: Shirley Butler



'Extremely Happy' July for Companion Diocese

In July, the Edmonton diocese prayed for several "extremely happy" occasions in our companion Diocese of Buyé in Burundi, Africa.

Firstly, 369 Christians, from 5 parishes, were confirmed by Archbishop Sixbert Macumi on Sunday, July 6. The service was held outside to accommodate the more than 1,000 Christians in attendance.

Then, on July 20, Archbishop Macumi ordained 10 deacons and 2 priests in St. John parish, Kinyami, Ngozi. More than 2,000 members of the Buyé archdeaconry, as well as all the bishops from the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi, attended the service which was followed by a meal.

"Archbishop Sixbert is thankful to everyone who attended, and to those who prayed for the ordination," says the Rev. Canon Dominique Ciza, Diocesan Secretary

Finally, on July 27, Archbishop Macumi confirmed 183 candidates at All Saints' Cathedral in Ngozi.

St. Mark's, High Prairie challenges Athabasca parishes to support Diocese of Ibba initiatives

The Rev. Deacon PETER CLARKE
Athabasca Editor

For several years, the Diocese of Athabasca has nurtured a supportive partnership with the Diocese of Ibba in South Sudan. In 2017, Bishop Wilson Kamani visited many of our parishes and the Athabasca diocesan synod. Each year, Bishop Kamani has participated in the Bible Reading Marathon hosted by this diocese during Holy Week, provided they have a working internet connection. A close bond has developed between the two dioceses.

This year, in a message to the people of this

diocese, Bishop Kamani mentioned the need for some help. The Ibba diocese is in an area impacted by conflict, and the churches in Ibba and Juba have been working with the various participants to find a peaceful resolution. Funding is needed to facilitate conversations in safe and suitable places.

Bishop Kamani also mentioned that, in 2024, the ladies of the Mothers' Union had not been able to meet, due to difficulties travelling safely. Ibba diocese hopes to be able to purchase bicycles for the ladies to ride to their gatherings.

In response to Bishop Kamani's letter, St. Mark's, High Prairie, raised \$4,012 to provide bicycles, challenging other parishes and ministries of the Athabasca diocese to raise support for Ibba. The ACW ladies raised \$1,065 for peace and/or bicycles at their annual conference. In addition, the Cathedral Parish of St. James raised \$1,565 to provide bicycles. In total, the Ibba diocese will receive \$6,642 to facilitate peace talks and assist members of the Mothers' Union.

We give thanks to God for calling us to help the people of Ibba diocese proclaim the Gospel.

Way together through wilderness continued

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"I'm not sure I'm always adept at recognizing God's actions in my own life or in the lives of the communities I am a part of, but the process of working on the diocesan workplan has not only involved the input and gifts of many in our diocese, but it has been, I think, a spirit-animated process," said Oswald, a member of Holy Trinity, Edmonton, who was ordained a deacon by Bishop Stephen London on June 8, Pentecost Sunday.

"And so, I'm left with a feeling of

anticipation. How will things unfold from here? How will they take shape? I look forward to moving ahead with you and perceiving together what the Lord is doing in our midst."

The workplan is intended to guide our journey together as co-workers of God and a family of churches until our next Synod in the fall of 2026. You can read our plan and find resources to help implement the plan in your parish context at www.edmonton.anglican.ca/pages/a-way-through-the-wilderness



From left: Bishop Stephen London and Archdeacon Jonathan Crane help launch the Diocesan Workplan in May.

Agents of God's Love, Canon, Deacons, Presbyters Vow to Bring Healing to One Another and the World



Pictured clockwise from top left: Deacon Judy Purkis vests deacon Fred Matthews; canon Fiona Brownlee is installed by Bishop Stephen London; Gordon Hills, Betty Tyszkiewicz, Suzanne Oswald, Fred Matthews, Helen Chan Bennett, Jordan Giggey presented for ordination as deacons and presbyters; Bishop Stephen London prays over ordinands Jordan Giggey, Helen Chan Bennett; Bishop Nigel Shaw (Anglican Military Ordinariate) presides over the Eucharist; chalices presented to presbyters Jordan Giggey, Helen Chan Bennett.

Photos: Margaret Glidden

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While working with immigrants and refugees as a language instructor for two decades, Suzanne Oswald says she “began to feel a call to diaconal ministry. The students I work with have complex needs. In addition to facing language barriers, many deal with challenges, such as poverty, trauma, separation from family members, abuse and racism. I have long felt God’s love for these students and pray each day that I can be an agent of God’s love and healing in their lives, just as they are often agents of God’s love and healing to one another. As my ministry progresses, I find myself humbled by the perseverance of the newcomers I work with, and full of admiration for the many valuable gifts they bring to Canadian society.”

Betty Tyszkiewicz says that providing communion for residents

in extended care facilities, hospital patients and to people unable to leave home, enables her to “bring connection, comfort and the tangible presence of God’s love through the body and blood of Christ. In these moments I become the bridge between the residents and the church, reminding the seniors that they are seen, valued and deeply cherished.”

Going forward, as a deacon Tyszkiewicz will “continue to ease loneliness, uplift spirits and remind our seniors of the hope that transcends their current circumstances. These moments of shared faith can renew their strength and bring peace to their hearts.”

Ordained as presbyters by Bishop Nigel Shaw, Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Armed Forces, and Bishop Stephen London, respectively, Capt. the Rev. Helen Chan Bennett and the Rev. Jordan Giggey, vowed to

“amid the gathered community, preside at the sacraments of the new covenant, nourish Christ’s people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.” The newly ordained presbyters will “tell the story of God’s love and baptize new disciples in the name of the Holy Trinity.”

Helen Chan Bennett, presented for ordination by the Rev. Bob Peel and Patricia Peel, has been appointed interim priest in charge of St. Luke’s, Edmonton. She has served as a military chaplain at Canadian Forces Base Edmonton and staff chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) educator at the University of Alberta Hospital, Stollery Children’s Hospital and the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute.

Jordan Giggey, presented by the Ven. Travis Enright, Archdeacon for Reconciliation and Decolonization, and Darrell

Derksema, was appointed as rector of St. Timothy’s Edmonton in June. He helped form and lead Queer Beginnings, a queer-affirming group at St. Mary’s, Edmonton.

“I always think back to the book Bishop Jane gave me on the priesthood,” says Giggey. “And how it describes the priest as an enabler of God’s holiness in the people. So, for me and my ministry, I have focused not only on being a holy enabler, but on that reminder that God’s holiness isn’t just for a select few, but God’s holiness is a call and gift for all creation.”

And, as Canon to the Ordinary and Executive Officer Scott Sharman said in his homily, as we look for ways to witness as “Pentecost-hearted people, may the whole world see and know the Good News of the diversifying and reconciling love of God our Creator for all people and all the world.”