

Official Notice of Synod

October 15-18, A.D. 2026

Notice of the **60th** Synod of the Diocese of Athabasca.

To all Diocesan members:

Notice is hereby given that the **60th** Synod of the Diocese of Athabasca, a regular session, will take place from October 15 to October 18 inclusive, in the year of our Lord 2026, in Peace River.

As per Article III of our Constitution (<https://athdio.ca/resources/diocesan>), the synod shall consist of the bishop of the diocese as president, the dean of the diocese, the archdeacon, those priests and deacons of the diocese licensed by the bishop, lay ministers in charge of parishes, the chancellor of the diocese, the secretary and treasurer of the diocese, and those lay representatives duly elected or appointed. The peoples' warden of each parish shall be an ex-officio member of synod.

Every parish recognized by the bishop, duly organized by the election or appointment of church wardens and vestry members, and in good standing in the diocese, shall be entitled to send three duly elected representatives to synod, in addition to the People's Warden.

Members of synod must be members of the Anglican Church of Canada or of a church in full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada.

As per Canon 1, additional members of Synod are:

- a) Each deanery may elect two (2) youth delegates who shall be at least fourteen (14) years of age.
- b) The bishop may appoint up to five (5) members at large.
- c) Pastors of shared ministries who are not clergy of the Anglican Church of Canada, or of a church in full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada, shall be honorary members of synod with voice and vote except in matters of faith and order.
- d) The ACW Co-ordinator.

The above defines the voting and executive members of Synod.

In addition, all members of the Diocese are invited to listen to the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Most Reverend Shane Parker, who is our guest speaker. As well, all diocesan members are invited to observe, comment, and participate in the workshops being offered:

- a.) **Missional Workshop** Are you worried about church decline? Baffled by how ideas you hear might relate to your parish? Let's Reimagine church together! It can be scary to think about mission. What is it? How do we start? In this workshop we will talk about how we got where we are, agree on a new definition of Mission, talk about the role of prayer and learn to think differently about mission, and what God has in store for his beloved church.
- b.) **A Small Church is NOT a Failed Big Church** Small churches are often measured against larger parishes—and, unsurprisingly, they can end up feeling like failures by those standards. But that comparison is misplaced from the start. A small church is not an underperforming big

church. It is a different kind of community, with different possibilities, different strengths, and a different calling. What does health actually look like for us? What if growth is not first about numbers, but about depth—depth of relationships, depth of prayer, depth of presence in a community?

This session will explore how we discern what matters, how we make decisions with limited capacity, and how we define faithfulness in a way that fits our actual context. Because the goal is not to become something else. It is to become a healthy version of what we already are.

- c.) **Everything Belongs – A New Way to See.** If you move straight to action without first contemplating, you could be stepping out with your own ego and plans, causing more harm than good. On the opposite side, if you spend all your time in prayer and contemplation and do not allow it to drive you into the world, you are not stepping out in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We will explore the concept of contemplation, followed through a group practice.

Voting members of Synod are invited to submit motions to the Resolutions Committee, by way of the Synod Office. Motions must be received by August 1, 2026 to be included in the Convening Circular.

Written reports to be included in the Convening Circular must also be received electronically by the Synod Office by August 1, 2026.

May our Lord Jesus support you as you walk in His Way;

The Right Reverend David Greenwood
Bishop of Athabasca,
July 24, A.D. 2026