



### LEARNING CHURCH MOMENT:

The Ven. Tanya Phibbs shared that the Diocese is hosting General Synod this year (June 23-29, 2025). Archdeacon Tanya brought the document – **“CREATING PATHWAYS FOR THE GENERATIONAL CHANGE OF THE GENERAL SYNOD”** to Diocesan Council’s attention by providing a quick walk through of the 48-page document which was commissioned by the Most Reverend Linda Nicholls following the 2023 General Synod.

#### LINK TO:

**“CREATING PATHWAYS FOR THE GENERATIONAL CHANGE OF THE GENERAL SYNOD”**

#### **Tasks:**

- I. to ask the question of what is needed now at the national level to effectively proclaim the gospel in sustainable and life-giving ways.
- II. to chart a path for transformation of General Synod structures and resources to assist churches and communities of the Anglican Church of Canada to proclaim the Gospel,
- III. to honour the ongoing journey with the Sacred Circle as described in The Covenant and Our Way

#### **6 Pathways :**

reflecting the structure of the Anglican Church (General Synod)

- 1) ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
- 2) MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND RESTRUCTURING
- 3) INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY IN DECISION MAKING
- 4) COMMUNICATIONS
- 5) PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INDIGENIOUS CHURCH
- 6) MINISTRY IN REMOTE NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

The next phase of this work must be embraced by the people of God within the Anglican Church of Canada. Those who seek to embrace a prophetic imagination. Those who understand the need for urgency. Those who refuse to ignore difficult conversations. Those who are provocative risk-takers that will not be limited by the ‘way things have always been done’.

This work is urgent – and needs to be done in the next 3-6 years and a motion will be presented at this General Synod Meeting to move forward.

### BISHOP’S CORNER:

Bishop Todd shared some of his reflections of the Church since his last meeting with Diocesan Council:

- One of the things that came from the House of Bishops last month was the nomination of candidates for the election of the new primate in June. It was a very spirit-filled process.
- Encourage the people of the Diocese to attend the opening and closing liturgies of General Synod
- Shared that progress is being made on the Cathedral renovations - the work on the flooring has begun and the creation of an inlaid labyrinth is exciting progress!
- Bishop Todd also shared that the Clergy Conference that was held during the first week of May was a good event attended by the clergy of the Diocese.

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN LAMBTON DEANERY:

There has been ongoing conversation off and on for decades about how Anglican parishes in Sarnia might work together.

This most recent conversation began in early September 2024 as four Sarnia area parishes began considering amalgamation as a financially viable way forward. After some initial meetings, the parishes spent a period of time worshipping together, moving between buildings from week to week, to experience shared life. Partway through that worship rotation one of the parishes chose to step out of the conversation, and is working on a separate viability plan.

St. Bartholomew's, Sarnia and All Saints', Sarnia both voted in favour of the motions put before them, and are seeking approval to reorganize into one new parish, with assets distributed as per the following motions.

#### **Motion presented to Diocesan Council :**

All Saints, Sarnia and St. Bartholomew's, Sarnia – Reorganization

**Be it resolved that** this Diocesan Council grant the requests of the Vestries of St. Bartholomew's Church, Sarnia and All Saints' Church, Sarnia to re-organize to form a single parish at the All Saints' site, effective May 8, 2025, with a new name to be chosen for the re-organized parish by the first Sunday of Advent 2025.

**CARRIED (Unanimously)**