

I HAVE CALLED *You* BY NAME



GENERAL SYNOD OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA, JULY 10 TO 16, 2019, VANCOUVER, B.C.

June 2019

Dear Delegates, Partners, and Guests,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 42nd session of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, meeting from July 10-16 at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre in downtown Vancouver. The theme, “I have called you by name”, comes from the prophet Isaiah as the people of Israel long for home. It is an intimate, powerful, and welcome reminder of God’s promise to us in our longing – for home, for peace, for renewal, for reconciliation, for justice.

As was the case in 2016, we will address serious and challenging matters in this synod, including the second reading on proposed changes to the canon governing marriage. There have been many voices calling for a “non-legislative” resolution to this matter. While our own rules require us to deal with this matter in the form of a motion, directed by our procedures, I do not believe that means we cannot listen with care, speak with respect, and understand that each of us is beloved, known, and named by God. Many good conversations – in synods, in the Council of General Synod, and among the bishops – have given me confidence that we will address this conversation with dignity, love, and honour.

As was the case in 2016, we will take time to consider, to discern, and to decide a range of other matters, including next steps in the formation of the self-determining Indigenous church within the Anglican Church of Canada. And the lay and clergy members will meet to elect a new primate, a new servant leader for the ministries of our church.

We will have as visionary sponsor the Anglican Foundation of Canada, and I ask you to join with me in gratitude for their support for this and for so much else across our church.

We will welcome guests to General Synod, including Bishop Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, Archbishop Suheil Dawani of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, and Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We will also have the pleasure and privilege of welcoming the Rev. Canon John Kafwanka, Director of Mission for the Anglican Communion Office.

The meeting of the General Synod is now just weeks away. I know that many are already praying that the Holy Spirit will draw near, hover, and settle in our midst as we meet, to lead us, strengthen us, and guide us. It is my own prayer that the Holy Spirit’s abiding presence may be evident among us, as Paul writes to the Galatians, as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I invite you to join me in that prayer.

Yours in that same Spirit,

Fred J. Hiltz
Archbishop and Primate

