

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 General Synod Delegate,

It is my great privilege to welcome you to the 42nd session of the General Synod as a delegate. Once the synod begins, you will be a member of a body constituted to consider matters that affect the common life of our church in the areas of jurisdiction identified by the Declaration of Principles. Those areas are listed on the reverse side of this letter.

As a member, you are more than a representative of a point of view, of a diocesan or regional interest, or of a constituency. You are part of a body considering the good of the whole church.

At the very same time, you bring those local perspectives, values, and practices as a gift to the General Synod. All ministry is local. There is no way of constructing a national understanding and movement in the areas of the General Synod's jurisdiction that does not consider deeply and respectfully the diversity of perspectives, values, and practices out of which we gather.

It is the work of members of synod to achieve that deep and respectful consideration. It is the responsibility of every member to respect a diversity that will challenge and disturb at times, at others enriching and widening our common life. Often, it is out of the challenge and disturbance that the breadth and enrichment flow. We pray that we would hold our convictions with depth and clarity, and understand the convictions of others as emerging out of their faithful reflection and offered in a generous spirit. We pray for a communion with one another that will sustain us as the Body of Christ across the differences that might otherwise divide us.

In the midst of this work, we find friends new and old. We stay up late or rise up early – sometimes both – because we are enjoying the time God gives us together as this synod. We do our work, relax, take our rest, and, in the end, give our work into the hand of God.

Thank you. Your giving yourself to this work is generous. I pray that, at the end of our work, you will have a sense that you contributed your gifts of heart, mind, spirit – and perhaps a tired body – to something that truly can be an instrument for justice and love in the hand of God.

With a grateful heart,

The Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson
General Secretary

6. The Jurisdiction of the General Synod

- a) the constitution and organization of the General Synod including the regulation of the time and place of its meeting, the order and conduct of its proceedings, and the appointment, functions and duties of its officers, committees, councils, boards, commissions and divisions, for the proper conduct of its affairs;
- b) the national character, constitution, integrity and autonomy of The Anglican Church of Canada;
- c) the relations of the Church to other religious bodies in Canada and elsewhere;
- d) the relations of the Church to other Churches of the Anglican Communion;
- e) with the consent of the ecclesiastical provincial synod or synods concerned, the creation and constitution of new provinces within Canada;
- f) the election, retirement and resignation of the Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada;
- g) structural uniformity in relation to the episcopal prerogative of licensing clergy;
- h) the constitution and powers of a Supreme Court of Appeal, with original and appellate jurisdiction, including procedure therein and the enforcement of its decrees and judgments;
- i) the definition of the doctrines of the Church in harmony with the Solemn Declaration adopted by this synod;
- j) the revision, adaptation and publication of a Book of Common Prayer and a Hymnal for the Church;
- k) all divisions employed in the carrying on of the work of the Church;
- l) the basic standards of theological education, and the qualifications and training of candidates for the ministry of the Church;
- m) the establishment, operation and maintenance of a general pension fund;
- n) the administration of a group insurance plan for the benefit of the clergy and lay employees of the Church;
- o) the regulation of the inter-diocesan transfer of clergy;
- p) the relinquishment or abandonment of the ministry of the Church;
- q) the administration of all funds and trusts established in respect of the Church;
- r) the appointment, election, confirmation, consecration and resignation of a National Indigenous Anglican Bishop;
- s) the appointment, election, confirmation, consecration and resignation of a Bishop Ordinary having jurisdiction over the chaplains of The Anglican Church of Canada on duty with the Canadian Forces.

*Excerpt from the Handbook of the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada,
18th Edition, published 2016, pages 6-7.*