

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 Friends:

A very warm welcome to the forty-second session of the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada, taking place in Vancouver, in the Diocese of New Westminster, July 10-16. Vancouver is a magical place, and we are so excited about spending time as the church gathered, working, praying, and learning together. The General Synod Planning Committee, along with the Worship Committee and the Local Arrangements Committee, have all been hard at work as we prepare for this most important time together.

The Synod will take place at both the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre and at Christ Church Cathedral. Archbishop Melissa Skelton, Dean Peter Elliott, and the many local volunteers from the diocese are all looking forward to welcoming us. The hotel is great and very well equipped, and will serve our needs very well; the beautiful Cathedral is a short walk away; and we will all enjoy the magnificence of the lower mainland as we travel to local churches for worship on the morning of Sunday, July 14.

There is a host of information available for you as you prepare for Synod; both on our website (gs2019.anglican.ca) and in the Convening Circular. We will communicate with you as we have need over the coming weeks, and we are happy to answer any questions or offer clarifications as needed. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (905) 527-1316 ext. 240 or at peter.wall@niagaraanglican.ca.

Amongst the many important matters before Synod, we will be asked to further our work on Truth and Reconciliation and the important work of the Indigenous church. The second reading of the motion to amend the Marriage Canon will be before us; we will gather in Electoral Synod on July 13 in order to elect the fourteenth Primate of our church; and we will welcome special guests from around the world into our midst. It promises to be an uplifting, at times challenging, and always life-giving opportunity to be the church national, gathered for our work.

The weather in Vancouver will, of course, be beautiful while we are there (I have this both from the Archbishop and the Dean!); dress at Synod should be comfortable; remember that the hotel will have air conditioning which might make packing a sweater or light jacket a good recommendation. 'Thursdays in Black' is an international campaign that advocates and raises awareness for an end of violence toward women. Since we will be in session on Thursday, July 11, we invite you to consider wearing black that day.

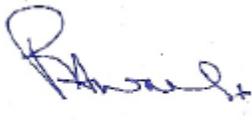
Any General Synod involves a huge amount of work by volunteers and staff; I want to thank, on your behalf, all the members of the General Synod Planning Committee, the Worship Committee, the Local Arrangements Committee, and the staff of General Synod, particularly Shannon Cottrell, for their

unstinting and gracious dedication to these tasks. The leadership both of the Primate, Archbishop Hiltz, and the General Secretary, Archdeacon Thompson, makes all the work we do feel so supported and valued.

We will spend time together in prayer, in grateful thanksgiving, in joyful celebration, and in significant work. Please remember all delegates and staff, along with Officers of General Synod, particularly our Prolocutor, Cynthia Haines-Turner, as they prepare to exercise leadership at this Synod.

We look forward to seeing you in July, and to answering any questions you may have in the intervening weeks.

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Wall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Very Rev. Peter Wall
Chair, General Synod Planning Committee
Deputy Prolocutor