

The
Diocese of Huron
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
The Right Reverend Todd Townshend, Th.D.
Bishop of Huron

April 2022

Together on the Road with Christ

Diocese of Huron, Synod 2022

Dear members of Synod,

They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' Luke 24:32

As I write this, we have just finished the great celebrations of the Triduum and Easter Day. What a joy it was to be able to celebrate our greatest feast in-person, gathered physically once more as Christ's disciples to celebrate his resurrection.

I am looking forward to gathering with many of you in-person for the 182nd Synod of our Diocese, something we have not been able to do since I became bishop. Not everyone is comfortable gathering in large groups yet so it will also be possible for delegates to join via electronic means. One thing we have learned over the past two years is that even though physically separated, we can be together in the Spirit.

Synod will start with a BBQ on the Cathedral Lawn at 5:30pm on Sunday, May 15th, followed by the Synod service at 7pm. On Monday, we meet at the RBC Center (formerly the London Convention Centre) beginning at 9am and concluding in the late afternoon. As part of our continuing care for one another, we have made plans to be more physically spaced out than at synods past and we will require masks to be worn by those attending in-person.

During this year's synod we will continue to focus on our common strategic diocesan goal of shifting the centre of gravity in our practices from an emphasis on operations to an emphasis on new creation, to better reveal the marks of mission by becoming: a learning church, a just church, a diverse church, a new church. Attuned to the needs of the world around us, the key is to be willing to go more deeply into the practices of the church, fully open to God's desire for us and for the world, focusing on Jesus and yielding to the life and movement of the Holy Spirit.

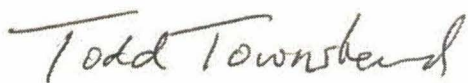
We began this theme in 2020 with a focus on our "Identity and Mission in Christ" as we explored how we were doing as a church in the midst of the pandemic. In May of 2021, we

continued the same theme with a focus on "Yielding to the Life of the Spirit". For a third meeting in a row, we will continue using the basic theme to focus on life "Together on the Road with Christ".

I pray that there will be many ways in which this theme will resonate within our life together. From the Resurrection onward, Jesus has come alongside us as the Risen One who teaches us, guides us, gathers us, and sends us. In the Scripture we see that this often happens "along the way", "on the road" to somewhere or another. These encounters always bring the disciples back to faith and life in him. Through these encounters, they (and we) are saved.

I look forward to seeing you at Synod this year as we continue to walk "Together on the Road with Christ."

Yours in Christ,

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