



# The Diocese of Huron

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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Bishop of Huron

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## Identity and Mission in Christ

### Diocese of Huron, Synod 2020

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**Dear members of Synod,**

*Philippians 2:5-11*

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.*

*Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Synod is going to happen in 2020—September 26—but it will not be like any Synod we've had before! We will register and welcome members both online (through Zoom) and in-person (through very small groups at four "hub" locations around the diocese). It will be a one-day meeting. It will be a time to be "together" in prayer, in thanks and praise, and in service.

We are going through a global experience of pandemic and that has temporarily changed almost everything, so I am grateful for everyone's flexibility and understanding as we adjust. I pray that God will be with each one of us as we trust in the presence of Christ and the gospel of God in this time.

Christ Jesus, as Paul wrote, humbled himself, he emptied himself of all privilege and glory to be near us—with us—even in death. Jesus became entirely receptive to God and God's

will for him and for the world. My prayer is that we will become entirely receptive to God's will for us in this time and as we prepare for ministry over the years to come.

The underlying theme of our 2020 Synod is ***"Identity and Mission in Christ"***. I will expand upon this at the gathering and I hope that it will remind us to go to "the basics" of our faith in a time like this. We start with God's identity and mission: what is the nature and purpose of God, in Christ? Who is Jesus, what's he like, and what does he do? What kind of God is revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth? Then we can begin to respond to the other important questions about us. What is our identity, in Christ? Who are we? What is our mission, in Christ? What are we to do?

Even in the midst of suffering, the news is good. God is good, and we have not been abandoned. The Word and Spirit of God are moving strongly in our midst to focus and commit us to Christ's ongoing, saving mission of reconciliation. In this focus and commitment, we will find joy.

I'm really looking forward to "seeing" you on September 26. Until then, may the peace of Christ be with you.

Yours in Christ,

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**The Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend**  
**Bishop of Huron**