



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE *of*
OTTAWA

Synod Highlights

138th Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Ottawa
October 24-26, 2019

Many Congregations, One Body “the harvest is abundant but the workers are few” – Matthew 9:37.

Bishop’s Charge: The Rt Rev John Chapman opened Synod with recognizing that “as we gather this night on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation”. As this is his last synod due to retiring in six months he would not be giving Synod a Charge but would leave us with a prayer: to walk with Abraham knowing God is with us on our journey; to fight with Deborah for the marginalized, to remember Moses as we step out of church every Sunday and gaze on the promised land of Jesus; to think of Mary and show the world our love of Jesus; to embrace Tabitha and not be afraid of death remembering there is always resurrection. Five great Biblical Friends to keep with us every day as we walk through life.

Guest Speaker: Canon Sue Garvey, born and raised in Ottawa and former Director of Cornerstone for twenty-three years. The Anglican Diocese of Ottawa has a good news story: inviting all peoples to explore their relationship with God in a safe environment, full of strong parishes and leaders, and has a powerful outreach ministry. Check out the video on youtube by Carrie Newcomer “Room at the Table for Everyone” a musical rendition of being open minded and welcoming.

Community Ministries: the work done at our five community ministries, Cornerstone, The Well, St Luke’s Table, Centre 454 and Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre are indeed the works of the church. Check out the video “Diocesan Ministries of Ottawa – Know us Better”. We are evolving and looking at ways to increase our ministries areas outside of Ottawa and are reviewing our mandate.

Property and Finance Committee: Finances: 2018 financial books have been successfully audited. We are very thankful to the City and other levels of government for their financial support. Note that the powerpoint presentation will be available on the Diocesan website soon. Property: Renovations of 71 Bronson Ave, The Synod Office, have begun and we hope to return to the offices in the summer of 2020. Financial Committee notes that it is imperative that all churches file their statistical reports on time to facilitate a prompt release of the new fair share parish statements.

Embracing God’s Future: a steering group has been formed and the priorities of Embracing God’s Future remain the priorities of this Diocese.

Budget: Synod unanimously passed a three year balanced budget for the years 2020–2022.

Keynote Speaker: Albert Dumont, Algonquin Spiritual Teacher in Residence at the Cathedral, shared how much the apology from the Anglican Church meant to him personally. The Indian Act effected many people making them feel inferior but noted that the builders of a birch bark canoe have the same superior skills and talents as the engineers who built the London Bridge. He likened “physical pain to a cake walk compared to emotional pain”. He mentioned how hurtful it is to be told to “get over it” that the long lasting effects of the Indian Act is like telling a paralyzed person to get over it, to just get up and walk again.

All My Relations: Reconciliation work is happening across the diocese. Acknowledgment of the territory is a sign respect to all indigenous peoples.

General Synod: The Anglican Church of Canada is full of caring people and truly blessed. The work of General Synod is important and our delegates did us proud.

Ottawa School for Parish Development: We equip parishes to become healthier, more flexible and more faithful so that they can hear and respond to God's call with boldness and joy.

Stewardship/T4T: Support to parish level stewardship and helping churches discuss the stewardship of time, talent and treasure in creative and engaging ways. The Today for Tomorrow appeal began in 2017 and it has focused on outreach.

Area Parishes Gathering: Becoming and being an area parish is an exploration of faith and a stewardship of resources. Very much a work in process.

YIP/Youth Internship Program: Helps youth prepare for the transition from teenage life to adult life in a Christian setting. "It takes a village to raise a child and YIP is that Christian Village".

Homelessness and Affordable Housing Working Group: We have a goal to provide 125 new affordable units by the year 2021. 42 units are completed, 135+ units are in progress (Julian of Norwich, 100 units and Christ Church Bells Corners, 35 units) and another 5-10 parishes are engaged in conversations. The work plan for 2019-2020 is to support parishes, promote training, provide resources and develop a workshop called "Yes in my Backyard" to assist with bringing the neighbours on board with the proposed changes to the neighbourhood

Amendment to Bylaw 3.01: The motion to amend Bylaw 3.01 passed unanimously.

PWRDF: The Primates WorldRelief and Development Fund has a 60 year long history of bringing aid and Christ's message of love, caring and healing to the most vulnerable of the world.

Refugee Ministry Development Task Force: The Anglican Diocese of Ottawa is a leader in refugee resettlement in Canada. In 2018 we sponsored nearly 1 in every 100 refugees resettled in Canada. The Refugee Ministry Development Task force has made recommendations for a new structure for this ministry which will ensure that it is sustainable in future years.

Centre 105: Rev Deacon Peter Cazaly, director of Centre 015 Drop-In in Cornwall, presented a summary of the growth of that outreach ministry during the past year. Daily visits. Have more than doubled, with an average of 40-60 people coming for breakfast, social activities, counselling and social services referral. Two regular outreach partners, a legal aid lawyer and a public health nurse, have been added. The Centre continues to grow into a potential future community ministry of the Diocese.

Hospital Ministries: Great pastoral work in hospitals is offered by the Diocese. Remember if you are going in for care at any of our hospitals please indicate that you are Anglican to ensure that you are visited by a member of pastoral care.