

# Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario Synod 2024

## *“Conversations at the Crossroads”*

### A Welcome Letter from the Metropolitan

Dear Provincial Synod delegate,

I am looking forward to welcoming you to the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Synod for the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario being held in Sault Ste. Marie from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September until the evening of Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

The theme we have chosen for Synod is from the prophet Jeremiah:

***“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls”***

**Jeremiah 6:16**

Thank you for agreeing to be a Synod delegate for your diocese and for your participation in the councils of the church. We are delighted that there are many new names in the list of registered delegates as we hold our first in person Provincial Synod since 2018, thus making it a very special gathering. Our time together will be bookended with Holy Eucharist, that great act of thanksgiving and hospitality where we eat and drink our Lord's life in the company of his friends from Niagara, Huron, Toronto, Ontario, Ottawa, Moosonee and Algoma.

The meetings will be held at the Delta Hotel and Conference Centre located on St. Mary's River Drive with some delegates staying there and others at the Holiday Inn Express which is just a few minutes walk away.

This Convening Circular contains everything you need to know in advance of Synod. You are encouraged to read through it carefully ahead of time, making note of any questions. We will be holding an online orientation session prior to Synod convening, as well as at the beginning of Synod. Remember - there are no silly questions in churchland!

If you do have questions about the arrangements, dietary needs, or please email our Executive Officer Alex Pierson at [apierson@ontario.anglican.com](mailto:apierson@ontario.anglican.com) or our Prolocutor Canon Laura Walton at [lwalton@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:lwalton@toronto.anglican.ca)

We are so pleased that the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell will be our keynote speaker as part of his cross country Canada tour. Joining him will be his spouse Rebecca and also his Chaplain. Archbishop Chris Harper be in attendance, as well as the Executive Director of PWRDF - Will Postma and of the Anglican Foundation of Canada- Scott Brubacher.

As Vocations and Formation for priestly ministry have been the focus for Provincial Council (the group that does the business of Provincial Synod between Synods), there will be opportunities for reporting back and engagement on this priority.

We will also be attending to some of the usual business of synods, finances, a constitutional change, as well as receiving reports from the triennium. There will be two elections – Metropolitan and Prolocutor. Our days will begin and end with worship, and throughout Synod we will enjoy one another's company in moments of fellowship. Colin and I are looking forward to welcoming you all to Bishophurst following the closing of Synod for a reception.

Sault Ste. Marie or 'Bawating' in Ojibway, means *the place of the rapids*. When you look outside your hotel room, if you are staying at the Delta Hotel, you will see those rapids.

This has been an important gathering place of Indigenous peoples for thousands of years and continues to be to this time. It is on Robinson Huron Treaty territory and is the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg, specifically the Garden River and Batchewana First Nations and the Metis. Bawating was once the home of Chief Shingwauk who represented the Ojibway in the signing of the Robinson Huron Treaty in 1850

One of the reasons we selected Sault Ste. Marie to be the gathering place for this Synod is so that we can visit other important landmarks in Bawating so that you could come to know something of its painful history as well as the great hope for reconciliation that is evident here today. Together we will spend time at Algoma University, the site of the former Shingwauk Residential School where experiences of residential school survivors are told in words and pictures on the hallways of the former school.

We will visit Shingwauk Chapel, now a national historic building, which was built by the children and teachers of the school, and we will spend time at the newly constructed Anishinabek Discovery Centre designed to support Shingwauk Kinomaage Gamig the indigenous led institute which one day will be a repository for Indigenous information, research and scholarship

Sault Ste. Marie, like so much of Ontario will be stunning in September as the maples, birches and oaks radiate their fall beauty. I wish you all safe travels whether you are driving or flying.

Join me as we pray for our Synod:

“Almighty and ever living God,  
Give wisdom and understanding to the members of the Synod of this Province.  
Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory.  
May we perceive what is right,  
Have courage to pursue it,  
And grace to accomplish it,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

(A Prayer Book for Australia)

+Anne