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Convening Order One Hundred and Forty-Five

The Right Reverend Michael Bird,
Administrator of the Diocese of Ottawa,
has announced that the
Annual Meeting
of the Synod of the Diocese of Ottawa
will be held on October 23-25, 2025,
at the St. Elias Centre,
750 Ridgewood Ave. Ottawa

**Registration will commence
at 7:30 am on October 24, 2025
at the St. Elias Centre.**

The Rev. Canon Stephen Silverthorne
Clerical Secretary

Margaret Porter
Lay Secretary

NOTE: The Convening Circular will not be made available in printed form. Please either print out a copy of your own or download onto your device to access these documents at Synod.

Anglican Diocese of Ottawa Synod 2025 Agenda

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

Morning

- 7:30 Registration (Reception Area) until 9:00
- 8:30 New Member Orientation (Lower Hall)
- 9:00 Opening Prayers
- 9:10 Introduction from the Chair
- 9:15 Call to Order & Omnibus Motion
- 9:20 First reflection: The Rev. Canon Dr. Sarah Johnson
- 9:40 Report from General Synod
- 9:55 Update on Episcopal Election
- 10:15 Video Greeting from Dean Richard Sewell
- 10:25 Announcements, Refreshment Break & Displays (Lower Hall)
- 11:00 Update on Triennial Cycle and current Priorities
- 11:30 AMR Circle (Episcopal Panel)
- 12:00 Announcements, Grace, Lunch & Displays (Plenary Hall & Lower Hall)

Afternoon

- 1:15 Nominations Report
- 1:20 Canon Amendments
- 1:40 Learning Commons I - Parish Self-Assessment
- 2:25 Anglican Foundation of Canada
- 2:45 Announcements, Refreshment Break & Displays
- 3:20 Learning Commons II - Contextual Mission
- 4:05 Second Reflection: The Rev. Canon Dr. Sarah Johnson
- 4:25 Announcements and Prayer

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

Morning

- 8:30 Opening Prayer
- 8:40 Financial Update
- 8:55 Community Ministries Update
- 9:15 Evaluating the Triennium
- 9:55 Accessing Ascension House
- 10:00 Learning Commons III - Financial Stewardship
- 10:15 Announcements, Refreshments & Displays (Lower Hall)
- 10:45 By-law Amendments
- 11:05 Notices of Motion
- 11:35 Third Reflection: The Rev. Canon Dr. Sarah Johnson
- 11:55 Election Results, Episcopal Concurrence, and Final Announcements
- 12:05 Thanksgiving and Adjournment

MOTION 1: OMNIBUS MOTION

MOVED BY The Rev. Canon Stephen Silverthorne, Clerical Secretary

SECONDED BY Canon Henry Schultz, Chancellor

That Synod approve an omnibus motion that grants the privileges of the House, appoints Sessional Committees, adopts the Agenda, approves the Minutes of the 144th Session of Synod, and receives the financial reports, as distributed in the Synod package.

MOTION - PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

That Synod grant the following people the privileges of the house:

- The Rev. Canon Dr. Sarah Johnson
- Resource People Assisting or Making Reports or Presentations at Synod

MOTION – SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

That Synod appoint the following sessional committees for the 143rd Session of Synod:

1. Committee to Review the Minutes
 - The Rev. Rosemary Parker
 - The Rev. Susan Smandych
 - Court Harkness
 - Kate Jordan
2. Resolutions Committee
 - Marian McGrath
 - Margaret Porter
 - Canon Henry Schultz
 - The Rev. Canon Stephen Silverthorne
3. Scrutineers Committee
 - The Rev. John Holgate (Chair)
 - The Rev. Bob Albert
 - The Rev. Jonathan Askwith
 - The Rev. Lee Lambert
 - The Rev. Mark Lewis
 - The Rev. Christine Muisse
 - The Rev. Rosemary Parker
 - Arlene Armstrong
 - Barbara Dransch
 - Mallory Green
 - Jean Lockett
 - Diana Partridge
 - Norm Villegas

MOTION – AGENDA OF THE 145th SESSION OF SYNOD

That Synod adopts the agenda found in the Synod package as the agenda for this session of Synod.

MOTION – MINUTES OF THE 144th SESSION OF SYNOD

That Synod receive the Minutes of the 144th Session of Synod and approve them for publication in the Synod Circular.

MOTION – FINANCIAL REPORTS

That Synod receive the 2024 auditors' reports and the financial statements of The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ottawa, the Consolidated Trust Fund of The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ottawa, the Cornerstone Housing for Women Foundation, and the Cathedral Hill Foundation and approve them for publication in the Synod Circular.

In Memoriam

CLERGY

The Venerable Dr. John R.H. Fowler
The Reverend Canon William Gilbert
The Venerable Rodney Ives

LAY

Art Babych
Joyce Moore-Cowan
Sandra Sharp
Sharon York

Bishop Michael A. Bird

Administrator of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa



The Rt. Rev. Michael A. Bird served as the eleventh Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Niagara, having been consecrated on September 30, 2007. During his episcopacy, he provided visionary leadership rooted in collaborative discernment, pastoral care, and a strong commitment to justice, inclusion, and the renewal of the Church's mission in the world.

Ordained in 1984, Bishop Bird has over four decades of experience in ordained ministry. He served in five parishes across Newfoundland and Southern Ontario, holding leadership roles as Regional Dean and Archdeacon. Following his episcopal ministry, he was invited by the Rt. Rev. John Chapman, then Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, to serve as Incumbent of the newly formed Parish of the Valley, a regional ministry encompassing congregations in Whitney, Barry's Bay, Killaloe, Eganville, Pembroke, and surrounding communities. He also served as Archdeacon of Pembroke and as Bishop's Commissary during a medical leave period in the Diocese of Ottawa.

Now in semi-retirement, Bishop Bird continues to serve part-time in the Diocese of Ontario, ministering to congregations in Maynooth and Bancroft. He brings a theologically grounded and pastorally sensitive approach to ministry, with a focus on collaboration, faithful witness, and community engagement.

Internationally, Bishop Bird was actively involved in the Consultation of Anglican Bishops in Dialogue since its founding in 2011. His participation has included global conversations in Tanzania, South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, England, the United States, and through ongoing engagement with Niagara's companion diocese in Cuba.

Bishop Bird holds a long-standing personal and spiritual connection to the Madawaska Valley, where he now resides on Lake Kamaniskeg with his wife Susan and their Old English Sheepdog, Abby. They enjoy time with their three adult children, their partners, and two grandchildren. His interests include jazz music, reading, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, boating, and travel.

Bishop Bird was appointed Diocesan Administrator at the August 6, 2025 meeting of Diocesan Council, and began serving in the role on September 21, 2025.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Sarah Kathleen Johnson Synod Responder

The Rev. Canon Dr. Sarah Kathleen Johnson has served as Director of Anglican Studies and Assistant Professor of Liturgy and Pastoral Theology at Saint Paul University in Ottawa since 2022.

She is a practical theologian who studies Christian worship in the context of a changing North American religious landscape. Her research at the intersection of liturgical studies and sociology of religion employs qualitative methods that value everyday religious experience. Commitments to interrogating the relationship between liturgy and ethics and engaging ecumenically across Christian traditions ground her research, teaching, and church leadership.

Sarah is the author of several publications engaging the Anglican tradition, including her book *Occasional Religious Practice: Valuing a Very Ordinary Religious Experience* (Oxford University Press, 2025), and the published version of her Canadian Theological Society presidential address, “Looking and Listening for Lived Theologies of Truth and Reconciliation: Learning from a Diffuse Art Installation in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa” (Toronto Journal of Theology, 2024).

Sarah served on the Primate’s Commission Reimagining the Church: Proclaiming the Gospel in the 21st Century; as an adjunct member of the consulting team for the Diocese of Toronto Cast the Net Strategic Visioning Process; and currently serves as a co-chair of the Anglican Church of Canada-Mennonite Church Canada Ecumenical Dialogue. Ordained for ministry in Mennonite Church Canada, Archbishop Shane Parker appointed Sarah an Honorary Canon of the Diocese of Ottawa in 2025.