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The Mustard Seed.

A PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BRANDON • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL • OCTOBER 2023

Reflections on General Synod 2023

*Written by the Ven. Jonathan Hoskin
Archdeacon of Brandon & Rector, St. George's, Brandon with St. Luke's, Souris*

This past June 27 to July 2, the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) met in Calgary, on the University of Calgary campus. The route to General Synod was not a direct path for most of our delegates – some of the elected delegates and alternates were not able to attend on the dates it was scheduled for, and so the diocesan executive selected some new alternates. This was what sent me there. Our diocesan chancellor, Elizabeth Sims, and I flew out on the same plane the evening before, and I ran into an old family friend in the Calgary airport who gave us a ride to the campus (incidentally, my friend's daughter is marrying my brother on the Thanksgiving weekend). For Freda Lepine and Flora Young, who drove down together from Wabowden/The Pas, the trip involved some backtracking around Prince Albert – but that's their story to tell. I believe that Nadia Sinclair, our youth delegate, had a standard travel experience!

Our General Synod was scheduled to overlap with the National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), who have been full-communion partners with our national body for over 20 years. Partnerships at the local level aren't as abundant in our diocese as they are in some places across the country, though we

are moving to work more closely as time progresses, where possible. Because of our proximity, we had some sessions together with the Lutherans, and we shared meals and certain times of worship, also.

We covered several of the items that were the business of the General Synod, though time didn't allow for us to address everything on the agenda. The matters that the General Synod was unable to attend to will be dealt with by CoGS (the Council of General Synod – sort of like our diocesan executive, which handles the business of the diocese between our synod meetings). Members of CoGS are selected by the provincial bodies of our church: Canada (composed of the civil provinces of Newfoundland, the maritime provinces and Quebec); Ontario (composed of most of Ontario); Rupert's Land (covering northwestern Ontario, the prairie provinces, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut); and British Columbia & Yukon (self-explanatory). When our ecclesiastical province met, it selected two of our General Synod delegates to represent the province on CoGS for the next two years: myself and Nadia Sinclair. Please pray for us both as we move to serve the Church faithfully on this council.

For me, there were many highlights. I saw

friends that I hadn't seen for many years: friends from seminary and friends from other dioceses that I've served in. I really enjoyed hearing our national indigenous archbishop share the Gospel on multiple occasions: twenty years ago Archbishop Chris and I were in most of our seminary classes together (except for electives, although some of those as well!). At the time we were in the midst of Bishop William being inhibited, and so many people expressed heartfelt support for him and for us – it was moving.

My primary takeaway from it is that we are one. Sometimes it takes a little more imagination to see that, than at other times. But we are one. When we disagree with one another, and even more so when those disagreements feel like they are drawn along racial lines, or economic lines, or even geographical lines – when we disagree with one another, it can be easy to lose sight of the unity that we have in Christ. But we are one, and as we hold Jesus at the centre of our life together, as we learn to seek Him first and not ourselves, as we listen to one another as brothers and sisters rather than as enemies (which seems to be the default, when we have disagreements!), we will grow in our love for one another as we know His love more greatly.



The Ven. Jonathan Hoskin and Freda Lepine share a moment of levity during General Synod. *Photo Credit: Jim Tubman*



The font at General Synod. *Photo Credit: Carter Brooks*



Freda Lepine during General Synod. *Photo Credit: Jim Tubman*

A Word From the Administrator

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...

- Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 (NRSV)

For everything there is a season. It's the Bible's way of reminding us that change happens. As much as we might look fondly at the past, remembering the "good old days", for everything there is a season.

We are in the midst of some very significant change, both within our world generally, and within the Diocese of Brandon specifically. October 1 marked the end of Bishop William's time with us as the 7th Bishop of Brandon. As you likely know, he is now the Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario, centred around Kingston.

Bishop William came to us in March of 2016 at another time of uncertainty, a time when some even questioned whether this Diocese would survive. But thanks to his stewardship, his desire to trust in God and his faith in all of us, we did more than just survive. We flourished, and in doing so, became an example of faith, commitment and reconciliation for places much larger than us.

Just one example of this is the revival of our church camp and the vital ministry it provides to children all over the north of our Diocese. This change only happened because



The Very Rev'd Don Bernhardt TSSF
Administrator of Brandon

of the work of Bishop William in going out and championing our camp to those with the means to support us.

Yes, we changed, but not simply for change's sake, but because we listened for where God was calling us to go, and Bishop William faithfully led us. Trust me when I say this, the way was not always easy, but God does not promise easy. God simply asks that we trust in him. +William did just that.

Well, we're again in a time of change. We are actively preparing for the election of the 8th Bishop of Brandon. At the same time, one of the larger parishes in our Diocese, St. George's, deconsecrated their church building and moved across town to worship alongside the people of Redeemer Lutheran. They are moving, changing, to allow them to continue doing the ministry they are called to do, but do it in a new place, alongside new people.

Here at the Cathedral, we have decided to, over the course of the next few months, rent out the entirety of our parish hall, both upstairs and

down. We're also exploring other changes to the cathedral side building to allow for easier access. It is our hope that by doing this, the Cathedral's finances will stabilize and give us the ability to do ministry well into the future, in the same space, alongside new people.

In the north of our diocese, there have been some changes, hopefully temporary, to the number of clergy available to do ministry. And I'm quite sure that changes are happening in many other parts of our diocese too.

There will be changes in the publishing of the Mustard Seed too. Until there is a new bishop in place, the "word from the bishop" will move to letters from Archdeacon Jonathan Hoskin, Archdeacon Kara Mandryk and me. For now, three heads will be better than one!

My sisters and brothers, I know that change can be challenging. But change, if looked at in the right way can also be a time of renewal and excitement as we see and discern what God's new plans are for us. At the same time, even in the sea of change that we are presently in, we can hold firm to the fact that we follow a God whose unchanging love has always been with us and always will be.

So as we say farewell to Bishop William, our prayers for his new ministry in the Diocese of Ontario follow him. Thank you +William, for your wisdom, your spirit of generosity, your presence among us and the love that you showed us, each and every day. You will be deeply missed and

The Mustard Seed

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The Mustard Seed is circulated ten times a year (from September to June), as a section of the Anglican Journal, to all supporting households in the Diocese of Brandon.

Contributions to the expense of the paper are normally requested each March but donations are accepted anytime. Changes of address can be made through your parish or directly with the Anglican Journal. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Bishop or of the editor.

Deadline for submissions: the first of the month. *Please note:* All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, timeliness, appropriateness, or length. Submit writing to the Editor in Microsoft Word file format or in the body of an email. Photographs must be large, high resolution jpg files. Please ensure you have permission from parents or guardians of all minors who have their photos or names published in The Mustard Seed. If including a photo, please send a name of who took the photo along with it, so the Editor can give proper credit!

fondly remembered.

As for us, for everything there is a season, and a new one is dawning.

Let us embrace it.

Sacred Circle

The Eleventh Indigenous Anglican Sacred Circle took place from May 28 to June 1, 2023 at the Fern Resort in Ramara, Ont. Over the course of five days, Indigenous Anglicans from coast to coast to coast came together to endorse a new vision for the self-determining church within the Anglican Church of Canada. The Diocese of Brandon was well represented at this event by the Rev'd Cameron Buck, the Ven. Lydia Constant, the Rev'd Charlie Lathlin, Nadia Sinclair, and the Rev'd Flora Young. Below are a smattering of photos of our delegation in action.

The photos below were taken by Brian Bukowski.



The Deconsecration of a Sacred Space

Text by the Editor, Photos by Janet English

On August 27, the congregation of St. George's, Brandon, alongside former members and supporters from across the diocese and province, gathered to mark the end of an era. The deconsecration of a church building is always a sombre event since the church building for so many people holds fond (and not so fond) memories. As was said to me in an email as I was putting together the paper, "Many people in the diocese, including myself, trace our connection with Jesus, spiritual conversion or development to events which happened in this place over the decades." This is true. However, out of this deconsecration arises a few new things: the first is that the old St. George's building has been sold to Cities Church, a church plant in Brandon, and will continue to be used for the glory of God and the preaching of His Word. The second is a new relationship between St. George's Anglican and Redeemer Lutheran in Brandon. This relationship is still being moulded at press time, but we pray that in God's time it will blossom into something fruitful that brings glory to the Holy and Undivided Trinity.



Diaconal and Priestly Ordinations

Text by the Editor, Photos by Janet English

On August 29, we gathered at Redeemer Lutheran church to ordain two deacons and one new priest in Christ's Holy Catholic Church. A hearty congratulations go out to the Reverend Debra Chapman, now Deacon Assistant at St. Paul's, Wawanesa, to the Reverend Tim Moore, now Deacon Assistant at St. Paul's, MacGregor, and the Reverend Cheryl Kukurudz, who continues her work as assistant to the Bishop and Dean, but takes on the role of Honorary Assistant at St. George's, Brandon.



Notices of Synod: November 2023

The following announcements were sent out to the clergy and parishes regarding upcoming Synods in the Diocese of Brandon. They are re-printed here for the edification of the entire diocese. Please do reach out to the Secretary of Synod if there are questions or concerns.

NOTICE OF A CONVENING OF A REGULAR SESSION OF SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF BRANDON NOVEMBER 23, 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Synod of the Diocese of Brandon will be convened on Thursday, the twenty-third day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three, to receive financial statements, elect members of the Executive Committee and other Diocesan committees, and delegates to the Provincial and General Synods, as well as other business as may be lawfully considered. Registration of delegates will commence at 4:00 p.m. in the nave of St. Matthew's Cathedral. The Synod will begin with a Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening.

If there are concerns or queries, please contact the undersigned.

Please hold the leadership of the Diocese in your prayers as we prepare for this Synod.

Yours in Christ,



The Reverend Matt Koovisk BA, MTS, MDiv, ThM, FGMS, SCP
Secretary of Synod

NOTICE OF A CONVENING OF A ELECTORAL SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF BRANDON NOVEMBER 25, 2023

Notice is given that the Synod of the Diocese of Brandon will be convened on Saturday, the twenty-fifth day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three, to elect the eighth Bishop of Brandon. Registration of delegates will commence at 8:00 a.m. in the nave of St. Matthew's Cathedral, Brandon. The Synod will be called to order by the Metropolitan at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 25th.

On the previous evening (Friday, November 24), there will be an opportunity for members of Synod to gather to watch videos provided by the candidates and to ask questions regarding procedure in advance.

Any member of Synod may submit names of persons to be considered for nomination to the Search Committee Chair, provided such persons meet the Canonical requirements and have given consent to allow their names to be proposed.

If there are concerns or queries, please contact the undersigned.

Please pray for the Episcopal Search Committee and the Diocesan leadership as we prepare for this Synod.

Yours in Christ,



The Reverend Matt Koovisk BA, MTS, MDiv, ThM, FGMS, SCP
Secretary of Synod



St. Mary's, Brandon had a project to collect blankets for the Brandon Bear Clan. As winter approaches, the Bear Clan patrols need warm blankets to hand out to people who needed them.



The Rev'd Canon Joy Ruddock at her book signing at St. Mary's on August 20.

On August 29, Vivian Cook received a medal and the title of "Lay Reader Emeritus" for her work at St. Mary's, Brandon.



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Curtis & Bonnie and Family In Concert

OCTOBER 15, 2023 AT 2:00PM
ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
144 LUNDY STREET
BIRTLE, MANITOBA

For more information on the musicians, check out <http://www.curtisbonniefamily.com>.

For tickets, contact Pat at 204 842-5190 or BettyAnne at 204 842-5126.