

**Synod is another word for a council**. It is an old Greek word (*σύνδοδος*) *sunodos* that means an “assembly or meeting”. In ancient times synods of the Christian Church were usually gatherings of Bishops to discuss issues of doctrine, administration or ministry.

In our Church today, we understand Synod to be a gathering convened by the bishop that includes representatives of Laity in each parish and all active diocesan clergy.

## **Who are Members of Synod in the Diocese of Central Newfoundland?**

The Bishop

Executive Officer

All active Clergy

Two Lay people elected as representatives by members of each parish.

Two youth delegates from each deanery.

**Ex-Officio Members** (*Ex officio member* means a person who is automatically a member of synod because of the office they hold.

a. The Chancellor of the Diocese

b. The Honorary Treasurer

c. The Diocesan President of the A.C.W.

d. The Executive Officer

e. The Diocesan President of the Layreader’s Association

f. The Programme Officer

g. Other Diocesan Officers appointed at Sessions of Synod.

Guests and Retired Clergy are invited to attend and speak, but are able to introduce or vote on motions.

## **What happens at Synod?**

At the present, we hold synod once a year, alternating focus between Business and Conference.

Business Synods consult and make decisions about: finances, elections to Committees (locally and nationally) as well as the ongoing work and administration of our Diocese.

Conference Synods are held to enable the sharing of ideas, visions for the future and to provide opportunities for educational events. Both Synods have the goal of fostering great fellowship, and strengthening our identity as a diocesan family.

# Are there any other types of Synods in the Canadian Church?

## **General Synod**

The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada is the church's chief governing and legislative body. It is made up of members from every diocese and all three orders (lay people, priests and bishops) from across the country. It meets every three years, for about nine days, during which members exchange information, set policy for the church and pass resolutions and canons (laws). In years when the General Synod does not meet, the church is governed by the Council of General Synod (CoGS), effectively a smaller subcommittee with a similar mandate and similar powers.

## ***Provincial Synod***

To understand the form and function of Provincial Synods, one must first know that the Anglican Church in Canada has defined by geographical area four distinct "Provinces"

They are called **ecclesiastical provinces**. **Within each province is a group of dioceses under the administrative leadership of an archbishop, also called a Metropolitan.** Provincial Synods meet to discuss matters of concern in their region.

## ***Diocesan Synod*** (as Above!)

***Electoral Synod*** These Synods are held when a Diocesan Bishop or Metropolitan retires and it becomes necessary to elect a new bishop. Diocesan Synod elects a bishop for the Diocese, Provincial Synod elects a Metropolitan.

This year, in conjunction with our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we will share our gifts of Hospitality by hosting

The Diocesan Synod April 31 – May 2

And

- Provincial Synod September 10 – 13
- This provincial Synod will be electoral!

We will be choosing a new Metropolitan, who will be installed at the Cathedral Synod Service. Come and see!

Concurrently, the (11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>) - Diocesan A.C.W. Conference will also be in Gander!

## **Looking for More Information on the Life of the Church?**

[www.ourcommunion.org](http://www.ourcommunion.org)      [www.centraldiocese.org](http://www.centraldiocese.org)  
[www.anglican.ca](http://www.anglican.ca)