

OUR VISION STATEMENT

The Diocese of Moosonee – called by God to live and proclaim the Gospel

NORTHLAND

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE • www.moosoneeanglican.ca • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL • SEPTEMBER 2025



The newly consecrated Bishop of Moosonee, Rod BrantFrancis, shared a joyous moment at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins with Archbishop Anne Germond - the previous Bishop of Moosonee. **Photo courtesy of Mark Hauser, Diocese of Ontario.**

Oh, What a Day

Article by Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Diocese of Moosonee.

ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 28TH, 2025 the Diocese of Moosonee celebrated the Consecration and Seating of Rod BrantFrancis as our new bishop. It was a beautiful bright sunny day in Timmins. Many of us woke up with a song in our hearts.

St. Matthew's Cathedral was abuzz with final detail preparations for the 10:30 liturgy. In the chancel, several members of the Timmins Symphony Orchestra were getting in tune. In a little office downstairs Bishop William Cliff was overseeing the work of bishops signing the Consecration document and sealing it with their rings. Outside preparations were being made for the opportunity of smudging for those coming into the cathedral ... that they might see, hear, think, feel, and walk in a good way this day.

The procession which had



The Reverend Lisa BrantFrancis and Bishop Rod BrantFrancis at the Consecration Service. **Photo courtesy of Mark Hauser, Diocese of Ontario.**

formed up in the hall made its way out the back door, up and around the corner to Fifth Ave-

nue and then into the Cathedral accompanied by drumming. In the procession were Lay Reader Grace Park - who has just been recommended as a candidate for ordination - deacons, and priests of the diocese, visiting clergy, ecumenical guests - the chancellor and vice chancellor. They were followed by Bishops of the Dioceses of Ottawa, Ontario, Toronto, Niagara, Huron, Quebec, and Fredericton. Then came the National Indigenous Archbishop, Chris Harper and the Metropolitan, Archbishop Anne Germond.

Dressed in beautiful shades of purple traditional ceremonial regalia honouring his Indigenous heritage (Mi'kmag) Rod was accompanied by those who on behalf of the diocese would present him for ordination. When all were in place, Rod's wife, The Reverend Canon Lisa

See "Our Bishop" on page 2.



Cathy Millions was one of the many volunteers from St. Matthew's Cathedral who worked to make the consecration service a success.

Making it Work!

Article by Erin Liley, Staff Writer for the Northland

ROD BRANTFRANCIS WAS CONSECRATED BISHOP OF MOOSONEE at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins on May 28th. The Diocese of Moosonee finally had its own resident bishop after a ten year period in which the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario was automatically also the Bishop of Moosonee. This role had most recently been performed by Archbishop Anne Germond with the assistance of Archbishop Fred Hiltz.

In order for the consecration service to be held and Bishop Rod to begin his new role, the people of the Parish of St. Matthew's set about making preparations to receive many guests and create an inviting atmosphere for the consecration service. A working committee was set up to assist Bishop Rod in the preparation for his consecration as the 12th Bishop of Moosonee. Bishop William Cliff, The Reverend Karen Coxon, Canon Grace Delaney, Canon Patricia Dorland and Nicola Alexander and worked together via Zoom to work on the preparations. Reverend

See "Parishioners Participate" on page 2.



Parishioners Participate continued from page one.

Karen Coxon observed that "pretty much everyone has to put their shoulder to the wheel to get this achieved." The committee worked on the music, the order of service, the assignment of different roles, flowers, livestream, photography, the luncheon and also dinner for the visiting clergy following the rehearsal. The rehearsal was needed to review the ceremonial aspects and to ensure that everyone was clear about their roles.

The Timmins Symphony has a long standing relationship with the cathedral and they were happy to participate in the service. Nicola Alexander - flute, Peter Colbert - cantor, Cam McEachern - piano all of whom are members of the cathedral parish invited their colleagues Angela Garwood Touw - violin, Joana Milson - violin, Yu Pei - cello, Mits Takayesu - bassoon, and Mary Ellen Pauli - violin to join them to provide wonderful music during the consecration service.

JoAnn Jenkins organized the set up and clean up of the kitchen for the luncheon to be held after the service. She decided that 17 loaves of bread would be used for sandwiches for the expected guests. There would



Members of the Timmins Symphony Orchestra gave their time and talent to provide superb music for the consecration service.

also be veggie trays as well as deserts, tea and coffee. Parishioners dropped off their food donations in good time for the service. Coordinating the efforts of the many volunteers was a major effort in itself.

Don Montague and Alyn Harvey worked to make the church yard in very good shape for the Indigenous drum-



JoAnn Jenkins and Taryl Brousseau were two of the workers who ensured the success of the luncheon.

ming and smudging which took place immediately in front of the cathedral doors. A great deal of effort was spent making the cathedral's interior as clean and inviting as possible. The people of St. Matthew's did everything possible to support our new bishop at his consecration.

The Tie That Binds Article by Canon Patricia Dorland, Diocese of Moosonee.

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love: the fellowship our spirit finds is like to that above."

THAT SONG CAME TO MY MIND as I was sitting in the church of St. Matthew's Anglican and St. Paul's United Church, Hearst, before the worship service began. For many, many years, these people have gathered together each Sunday and on Sunday, May 25th they gathered again to worship in prayer and praise and to support the leadership of Susan Jansson and Kerttu Ladoucer as licenced Lay Readers in the Diocese of Moosonee. I officiated at that service as Regional Dean and it was my delight to recovenant these two faithful leaders and I was very warmly greeted and made welcome.

It was a beautiful sunny day and people from the Anglican tradition and the United Church tradition came together. Doris Ermel called them forth by the tolling of the bell; she drew people to the living church, to a building that they have shared with each other for decades.



Susan Jansson, Canon Patricia Dorland, and Kerttu Ladoucer at St. Matthew's Anglican and St. Paul's United Church in Hearst.

In 1960, the two denominations entered into a formal agreement to come together as a shared ministry and up to the 1980's the Anglican Church was used for worship and the United Church was used as the parish hall. When the Anglican owned building was found to be beyond repair, it was deconsecrated and closed and a memorial at the church was erected. The United Church building was then extensively renovated and has become the sole location for this shared ministry. The liturgical traditions of both churches have been maintained by alternating worship



Doris Ermel derives great pleasure from ringing the church bells and calling people to worship.

formate during the month. These worship services are led by Susan Jansson and Kerttu Ladoucer; there is no resident priest.

Like many parishes within our diocese and across Canada, the ministry provided their congregation and community has changed. Last year, with Grace Park as Lay Minister, they continued their Bible studies and social time but Finnish pancakes are no longer served on Shrove Tuesday. It is inevitable that change will continue to take place because the world around us is also changing. However, what does not change



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Anglican Diocese of Moosonee.

is our desire to seek God's will for us as God's beloved children; to do the work set before us and to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God for Susan and Kerttu and for those who have always supported them in their ministry.



Our Bishop continued from page one.

BrantFrancis led “*Ohen:ton Kar-ihwatekwén*”, “*The Words before All Words*”, a traditional Mohawk prayer that we give thanks and pay respect for all that the Creator has made. Each of the biddings ended with “*Etho niohtinhak ne onkwa:nikon:ra*” meaning - “*So let our minds be that way.*”

The Collect and Readings were those for the Ascension of The Lord. The first reading from the *The Acts of the Apostles* (2:1-11) was read by Lay Reader Frances Mark from Wemindji. *Psalm 47* was read by Peter Colbert from the cathedral. The second reading from Paul’s *Letter to the Ephesians* (1:15-23) was read by Canon Anne Dyas from Cochrane. *The Holy Gospel* (Luke 24:46-53) was proclaimed first in Cree by The Reverend Gladys Matoush and then in English by Archbishop Colin Johnson. Bishop William Cliff engaged us in an inspiring homily on the calling of the Church to be faithful to that great hymn, “*I feel the winds of God today, today my sail I lift*”.

Rod was then presented for ordination by Ed Madill and Anne Dyas representing the laity and Canon Patricia Dorland and Canon Grace Delaney representing the clergy.

Archbishop Anne asked all present, “*Is it your will that Rod be ordained a bishop?*” The response was loud and clear. “*It is.*” So too was the response to her next question, “*Will you uphold Rod as bishop?*” In that moment our minds were back at Holy Trinity Church in Cochrane where Rod had been elected on March 26th and all the joy of that day for the diocese - a joy that anticipated all the joy of this one.

Rod was examined by the bishops of the Province, making solemn vows for episcopal ministry. Then came the heart of a Consecration Liturgy. The Litany of Ordination sung by Archbishop Chris Harper was followed by the ancient hymn of the Church, “*Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire*” and a time of silent waiting on God. All the bishops joined Archbishop Anne in the Laying on of Hands with these words, “*Send down your Holy Spirit upon your servant Rodney whom we consecrate in your name to the office and work of a bishop in the Church.*”



The procession participants in the consecration service made their way to the front of the cathedral; they were accompanied by drumming and smudging so that they “might see, hear, think, and walk in a good way.”



Archbishop Anne Germond led the consecration service which saw The Reverend Rod BrantFrancis become Bishop Rod BrantFrancis of the Diocese of Moosonee. **Photo courtesy of Mark Hauser, Diocese of Ontario.**

With much love, Lisa presented Rod with a pectoral cross and Canon Grace Delaney and Reverend Marion Maybee gave him his episcopal ring. His dear aunties vested him with stole and cope and then Archbishop Anne placed the mitre upon his head. Archbishop Fred gave him a copy of The Scriptures that had been signed by all the bishops. And then with emotion in her voice, Archbishop Anne presented him with the pastoral staff that has been carried by successive Bishops of Moosonee. Taken to his chair in the sanctuary, he was seated by Canon Patricia Dorland and The Reverend George Matoush. When he was brought to the chancel steps and presented as the 12th Bishop of Moosonee, the applause went on and on in joyful welcome. For once again we have our own bishop, elected by us, and living among us. One could feel even in that moment the great joy of so many more wonderful welcomes as Rod begins his

first round of visits to all the parishes throughout the James Bay and Watershed Deaneries.

Calling us to exchange the Peace of the Lord one with another, Rod then joined Archbishop Anne at the altar for the celebration of the Eucharist. When all had received Holy Communion, we gave thanks to God for uniting us in this holy mystery and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit ... “*for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of Word and Sacrament.*” ... “*We pray*”, that prayer continued “*that Rod may be to us a godly example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with him, may serve you now and always rejoice in your glory.*”

After giving his first episcopal blessing, Bishop Rod then made his way to the chancel steps and made a few remarks about his journey of faith and acknowledging those who had accompanied him. Noting the journeys of healing on



Bishop Rod led the Eucharistic service at his consecration. **Photo courtesy of Mark Hauser, Diocese of Ontario.**



The Reverend George Matoush of Wemindji processed in the consecration service. **Photo courtesy of Mark Hauser, Diocese of Ontario.**

which so many survivors of the Indian Residential Schools have set their feet, he invited all survivors who were present to come forward and stand with him and as they did so he pledged his commitment to walk with them. Then Vanessa Genier, Executive Director of Quilts for Survivors in South Porcupine came forward and wrapped Rod in a beautiful quilt featuring themes of the Grandfather Teachings. Lisa was also wrapped with a quilt. These were truly sacred moments as were a few others in which parishes came forward with gifts of their own for their new bishop.

Bishop Rod’s final words were by way of invitation to carry the grace and joy of this day into the new season of our life together in Christ throughout the land of Moosonee. And then with a boisterous singing of “*lift High the Cross*” we made our way from the cathedral to the hall for a bountiful reception hosted by the cathedral’s congregation.



Food Bank Focus

article by Kim Skidmore, Holy Trinity, Cochrane.

FOOD SECURITY IS AN ISSUE that occurs across all strata of society at the local, provincial, and global level. It can be overwhelming and leave us asking the question "What difference can a small parish make?" Well, the answer is this: A big difference!

At Holy Trinity Cochrane, we have partnered with our local food bank to provide staple food items to individuals and families. Each month we communicate with the Director of the Food Bank, Ardis Proulx, and she lets us know what item is most needed. That item then becomes our 'Food Bank Focus' for donation for that month.

Before long the huge wicker basket at the back of our

Be part of the journey...



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church is overflowing with the requested item. Examples of monthly focuses include: cereal, peanut butter, feminine hygiene products, and pasta.

Volunteers then bag up the donations and they are delivered to the food bank at the end of the month.

In Cochrane, over 375 fami-

lies access the food bank on a monthly basis, approximately 4,500 annually ... so yes, even a small parish can make a difference!

Serve with Alongside Hope

article by Erin Liley, Staff Writer for the Northland.

ACCORDING TO THE ANGLICAN COMPASS: "Anglicans believe that Jesus Christ is the saviour of the world. We believe that the Bible, the Scriptures, tells the story of the human race, from our creation to our fall. And the story of God raising up the people of Israel and then from that people a Messiah (promised one). It tells of Jesus being born of the Virgin Mary, living, dying, raising again and ascending to heaven. The Bible also tells the story of the founding of this Church and its mission to the world in his name through the Holy Spirit. We believe that each and every human being is loved by God and that salvation is offered in the name of Christ to all who believe in him."

By becoming a local Canadian Youth Council volunteer and member with a Canadian, Anglican international organization called Alongside Hope, you can devote yourself to service where your leadership and achievement will foster great things. This will add to your resume and indicate that you are a volunteer and activist with an international policy organization. There are two places on the Canadian council of 14 open - comprising of youth 16-30 years of

age and it is hoped that a youth from (especially) the James Bay Deanery and another member from elsewhere in the Diocese of Moosonee will apply for the positions.

Alongside Hope was previously called the Primate's World Relief Development Fund (PWRDF) and it changed its name in 2024. This worthy organization affirms the United Nations dedication of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls-to-Action of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and takes actions towards reconciliation in consultation with our Indigenous partners and colleagues.

The history of Alongside Hope began in 1958 with a disaster in a coal mine in Springhill, Nova Scotia that killed 75 men. The tragedy moved Anglicans and other Canadians to respond with assistance to the stricken families. In 1959 the PWRF was established at the General Synod. In 1969, the "D" for "Development" was added and the PWRDF was committed to addressing long-term development needs and to working in partnership with local communities and organizations. In 2024, the PWRDF celebrated 65 years of supporting people, partners,



and progress. The new name, Alongside Hope, was approved to replace PWRDF. It has continued its traditional work and began to work with Indigenous communities.

Today, Alongside Hope works with partners in over 32 countries in Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean as well as with Canadian Indigenous communities. We work together in a wide range of both humanitarian and development programs such as the electric suitcase in Africa, bee-keeping in Columbia and supporting refugees across the planet.

These programs address poverty, gender justice, and environmental concerns as well as food security, preventative health, and finance areas of priority work.

Alongside Hope emphasizes the action collaboration, partnerships, teamwork, and community aspects of the organization. It is a group of Anglicans and patrons working for change in Canada and around the world through its efforts as an Anglican Aid Organization.

Please see: alongsidehope.org and look under About Our Volunteers and Youth Council Openings. Apply today!

The First to Graduate

article by Canon Patricia Dorland, Diocese of Moosonee.

AMINI CONVOCATION CEREMONY was held during General Synod 2025 in London, Ontario for a very special Licentiate in Theology graduate: Canon Anne Dyas of Holy Trinity Church in Cochrane and the first such graduate from the Diocese of Moosonee. The Reverend Dr. Grayhame Bowcott, a member of the teaching faculty from the Huron Faculty of Theology was there to present Canon Anne with her diploma. In addition to her Licentiate in Theology Diploma, Anne also received the Foundations in Diaconal Ministry Certificate.

The Licentiate program is offered by Huron University and financially supported by the Council of the North. This allows our students to register for the courses at no personal cost. The Diploma Program consists of 16 courses and obtaining an overall average of 65%. The on-line delivery of the unit courses usually runs for six weeks and they are about 2 - 3 hours in length. The diploma requirement is successful completion of at least two courses in theological study, sacred text, history of religion, and then ten elective courses relevant to the theological program.

Canon Anne's post-secondary



Canon Anne Dyas, centre with the diploma was surrounded by well wishers who were in attendance at the General Synod. Bishop Rod Brant Francis, Canon Patricia Dorland, Archbishop Anne Germond, Canon Grace Delaney, and Caroline Chum from the Diocese of Moosonee all gave Canon Anne their moral support.

education was in the sciences are but she is a lifelong learner and began theological study many years ago. These most recent studies have helped to equip her in her baptismal vocation and specifically as she

is the Steward of Lay Readers for the Diocese of Moosonee. However, Canon Anne has been a long time participant in ministry offering her time, skills, and talents at the parish, diocesan, and national level. Most

recently, she served as an Honorary Secretary at General Synod taking minutes of the proceedings during the time that General Synod was in session.

Well done Anne, congratulations!

The Synod: A Personal Reflection

article by Canon Anne Dyas, Diocese of Moosonee.

GENERAL SYNOD is work and pleasure, past and present; tiring yet fulfilling; with meetings, discussions, and decisions; conversation and listening; worship and Bible study and music; food and friends both old and new.

I learned that God's gifts come in many different shapes, sizes and colours. That the Anglican Church in Canada participates in a large numbers of ministries and projects most of which are managed by volunteer committees. That many of today's youth are considerate, caring, and concerned about their fellow person and God's creation.

I resolved to forget my age; get on with God's plan and put into practice what I had learned: 'it takes a village';



Canon Anne Dyas and Canon Grayhame Bowcott, Program Director for the Licentiate in Theology Program at Huron University were both active participants at the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Canon Grayhame presented Canon Anne with her diploma at the General Synod because she had successfully completed the Licentiate in Theology Program.

listen more intently and say less; realize that change will lead to new growth and especially to encourage others to stand as a delegate to Synod as often as possible for each Synod presents different concerns and solutions. It is an honour to represent the people of this vast Diocese of Moosonee.

I participated in discussions, resolutions and elections of personnel, committees and historically, the 15th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Shane Parker. God at work with his people!

And I received the gift of being in a 'thin place' for a time. That feeling of being closer to God than usual, despite being in the midst of hundreds of people. Peaceful, joyful, and loving.



Canon Patricia Dorland, Canon Anne Dyas and Caroline Chum at the General Synod.



Reverend Lisa Brant Francis and Canon Grace Delaney enjoyed their friendship at the Synod.





The Reverend Gladys Matoush and Archbishop Colin Johnson processed together at the consecration service. **Photo courtesy of Mark Hauser, Diocese of Ontario.**



Archbishop Anne Germond and Bishop Rod BrantFrancis joyously processed together after the consecration service was completed. **Photo courtesy of Mark Hauser, Diocese of Ontario.**



Traditional drumming played an important part of the consecration service for Bishop Rod BrantFrancis. The drumming occurred on the steps of St. Matthew's Cathedral.



The Reverend Dina Asquabansneskum played a great deal of attention to the beautiful consecration service for Bishop Rod BrantFrancis. **Photo courtesy of Mark Hauser, Diocese of Ontario.**



Bishop Rod BrantFrancis was most pleased to be presented with a quilt made by members of "Quilts for Survivors" - an Indigenous entity which seeks to bring comfort to survivors of the residential school system by making and bestowing quilts. **Photo courtesy of Mark Hauser, Diocese of Ontario.**



Smudging was another Indigenous practice which played a significant role in the consecration service at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

Walking the Good Path article by Canon Patricia Dorland, Diocese of Moosonee.

THE 44TH GENERAL SYNOD was a week of rich experiences. Each morning, the who assembly gathered in small table configurations beginning with prayer, song, and a Gospel reading. We used the Gospel reading to centre us into the day's work of reports, presentations, and consideration of resolutions. Throughout the day, we always circled back to more song and prayer and if necessary a re-reading of the Gospel.

What I immediately picked up on was the high level of skill and ability of our leadership. They led us through difficult conversations (yes, we had those), an adherence to time lines, clarity of purpose, and compassionate listening to those in the room. The resolutions covered a broad range of financial, legal, ecological, and equity issues. Reports from The Primate's Commission, Faith Worship and Ministry Committee, The Anglican Foundation, and Alongside Hope plus many more all provided informative details on the work that has been completed since the last General Synod of 2023. For a full review of all the areas go to: <https://gs2025.anglican.ca>

The major piece of work was the election of the new Primate. This was held in the Cathedral and again, it was led very well by our leadership. We had electronic clickers for voting which gave us almost immediate results. The short waits were filled with beautiful organ music by the very accomplished organ player and Director of Music for St. Paul's Cathedral, Laurence Williams, newly arrived from England.

On the fifth ballot the Rt. Reverend Shane Parker was elected the 15th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. Following the election, he spoke to the whole



The Diocese of Moosonee was well represented at the General Synod held in London by: Canon Anne Dyer, Canon Patricia Dorland, Canon Grace Delaney, Caroline Chum, Bishop Rod BrantFrancis and The Reverend Lisa BrantFrancis.



Canons Grace Delaney and Anne Dyer worked diligently with the reports and resolutions which comprised much of the work delegates needed to perform during the General Synod.



Canon Patricia Dorland, treasurer of the Diocese of Moosonee, brought a wealth of experience to her clergy role at 44th General Synod in London, Ontario.

of General Synod on how his primacy will be shaped. He said there would be major changes to our church during his tenure, in accordance with General Synod's adoption of the Primate's Commission, "Pathways" document that calls for transformation in six areas. Primate Shane Parker said, "There will be deep changes in our culture, in our structures, in our operations, in the way we behave and how we speak of ourselves and how we speak of our church and how we

speak to one another." The Primate is encouraging the whole of the church to trust in the process and to be brave.

I left London and the 44th General Synod with a sense that we have very competent people in positions of leadership. They will see our beloved church through the next two year and eleven months until we gather again as part of the whole body of Christ, to do the work of God's church in Newfoundland. Thanks be to God!



Ed Madill, Parishioner at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Kapuskasing, ON

IN 'REAL LIFE' I taught English in French high schools in Kapuskasing and Smooth Rock Falls until retiring in 2017. Carmen and I have been married since 1989 and we have a grown daughter, Alexis, who lives in Ottawa. Although they are the two most important people in my life, involvement at St. Mark's, Kapuskasing has also always been a large part of my life.

My connection to St. Mark's began because of gentle encouragement from my parents and because of the involvement of my godparents. It continued because after confirmation, there was always an invitation to take on a role: from server to Sunday School teacher, to Select Vestry, to Warden, to treasurer, and so on. Although these roles all involved doing some work, they offered me some things that I value: a chance to learn new things, a chance to meet and work with interesting people, and ... fun.

More recently, I have benefited from filling roles within the diocese as part of the Executive Council, the Finance and Property Committee, and the Episcopal Search Committee. And I have joined the Gospel-Based Discipleship group. Our diocese is rich in caring, wise, and inspiring people who bring such deep faith and varied experiences. And I am blessed by the opportunity to work with them and to call them my brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Synod: A Personal Reflection article by Caroline Chum, St. Thomas, Moose Factory.

BISHOP ROD asked me if I could go to General Synod as the original delegate was not available. What a gift and honour!

The highlight for me was the election of the Primate, Archbishop Shane Parker. He has very diffi-

cult work ahead with the approved changes that will have to happen before the next General Synod. Archbishop Anne Germond was amazing to watch as she chaired the event. She offered wonderful prayers when they were needed to move the agenda along. The volun-

teers at the event were wonderful and so helpful. There were many youth present which gave me encouragement for our church's future.

I always come away from these gatherings refreshed, spiritually renewed and thankful.



A New Season

article by Bishop Rod BrantFrancis, Bishop of Moosonee.

"For the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the Sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

AS SEPTEMBER BEGINS, our minds turn once again to the changing of the seasons. We see the reds and yellows begin to sneak back into the trees; we anticipate the warm days of Autumn and those cool evenings. As the fall harvests appear we often begin to think of family gatherings and traditions, thanksgiving celebrations and maybe those who no longer grace our family tables. In the northern part of our great diocese, people are heading out to their trap lines once again. The Geese and the Moose are on the move and it's time to gather Eeyou Meechum - traditional food to feed families and communities through the next season of life. The practice of the bi-annual journey to the trap line has been going on for time immemorial. The Cree people have for their entire lives followed the rhythms of the land and its seasons. In spite of the fact that huge change has come hard and within a relatively short time they have still maintained that relationship with Creator and his Creation. There has always been an understanding of dependance upon and responsibility to a Creator who provided for, guided and protected them and their families. There was always time for prayer and with the coming of Christianity those prayers and family worship times



Bishop Rod BrantFrancis, Bishop of Moosonee at his consecration service.

became an integral part of life in the camp. Extended families and others in close proximity would gather on Sundays to listen to the scriptures being read, to sing the hymns and offer the prayers together as God's people gathered in Teepees, winter dwellings and lodges across the vast territory of James Bay. People who knew quite well the power and presence of God in every moment and place in life.

As Isaiah speaks to the people of his day, he reminds them of the Power, Presence, and Provision of God in every season of life. The Word goes forth, even in the stormiest moments of life, and accomplishes the purposes of God. The Word causes the fruit to be produced. The Power, Presence, and Provision of God in every season of our lives has not nor will not ever change. As God was, He is, and He will forever be! What assurance this reality gives us, what peace as we enter a new season of life, what certainty even in this hugely uncertain world. God, in the person of Jesus Christ, is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Life in many of our parishes and communities has changed drastically in our lifetimes. There



Bishop Rod BrantFrancis was wonderfully supported at his consecration at St. Matthew's Cathedral by his fellow clergy as he took his first steps on his journey as the Bishop of Moosonee.

are fewer and fewer people to do the work; there's less clergy to serve our vast diocese; buildings have been closed and some have been sold. In many ways, we grieve those days and those places. Yet in the midst of all that, God has been, still is, and always be present empowering His people and providing for them in ways that we don't fully understand and haven't yet lived into.

In our beloved Diocese of Moosonee, we have been and continue to be in a new and uncharted season. Although Lisa and I spent twelve years serving the diocese, and mostly the people of James Bay, much has changed since we left in 2016 to be closer to aging parents and other family members. We look forward to spending time in every parish and learning where we see the Power, Presence, and Provision of God in the day to day life of our communities and people. It is exciting to think that God is already preparing new opportunities for ministry and mission for us all and that even now God has been working in the hearts of individuals preparing them to take up new mantles of leadership and ministry. We are, my sisters and brothers, enter-

ing a season of great hope and new life as we remember day by day that God is working his plans and purposes out for us. As these next months unfold, we anticipate times to: share, pray, worship, study, and grow in faith together as we seek God's presence and discern his leading us in the way forward.

We are looking forward to making this new journey with you and strengthening the familial ties across the many miles, cultures, and diverse languages of this great land of Moosonee. It is my hope to develop a stronger sense of team and cooperation across the diocese and that parishes come into a fuller understanding of the fact we are connected to and in relationship with every other parish in the Diocese of Moosonee. We do not stand or work alone but are always a part of and in partnership with every other parish. From these relationships we see a fuller picture of God's presence, power, and provision for us both individually and corporately.

Please be assured of our daily prayers and support for every parish and every individual in our beloved diocese.

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Our General Synod 2025

article by The Reverend Peter Wall, former priest-in-charge at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

THE 44TH MEETING of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada is now in the books, as they say. Meeting in London, Ontario, hosted by the Diocese of Huron, the bishops, clergy, lay, and youth representatives from Canada's 30 dioceses gathered together as the singular national legislative body of our church.

The most significant thing about General Synod, every time it meets, is the gathering of the whole church. It is not so much the agenda, nor the business, pressing though it may be, that is the hallmark of this triennial event - rather it is the bringing together of the entire church from coast to coast and from sea to sea. Large and complex dioceses, often centred around metropolitan areas; smaller and more rural dioceses; dioceses that are quite compact geographically, others that contain vast, almost incomprehensible areas of land. Despite all those differences, what General Synod embodies is the unity - not uniformity, but unity - of our church. Bishops, clergy and people drawn together into one denomination with a rich history and deep impact on this country, unified by our common faith, mission, and perspective.

This was my tenth General Synod in a row - my first was in Montreal in 1998 (although I had also participated as a youth delegate in the 60's - goodness, I am old). I have had the great privilege of service as Chair of



Bishop Shane Parker of the Diocese of Ottawa was elected as the 15th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada at the General Synod in London, Ontario. Photo courtesy of Brian Bukowski, Manager, Anglican Church of Canada Web Team.

the Planning Committee (several times), Chair of the Worship Committee, Deputy-Prolocutor, and several times as a member of the Council of General Synod. So, it was a special treat for me to be able to be at this year's Synod without any specific duties or responsibilities but simply as an observer!

There, of course, were significant pieces of business in which Synod had to engage this year - primary among them were the election of a new Primate for our church, and the endorsement to pursue the six pathways for change recommended by a primatial commission. The Synod rejoiced in the election of Bishop Shane Parker of the Diocese of Ottawa as the 15th Primate, and celebrated his in-

stallation in the closing service on June 29th. Equally important was the adoption of a resolution to fund the work on implementing the six pathways proposed by the Primate's Commission for the future. A rather sobering moment for the Synod was the report that the proposed relocation of the Church's national office, planned to be a new venture with the United Church of Canada and the Presbyterian Church of Canada, was going to be significantly more expensive than earlier thought. This move, an important ecumenical initiative, and one which rationalize several administrative functions of all three churches, involves a dramatic redevelopment of an historic United Church site in downtown Toronto. The project-

ed costs, for the first five years, are prohibitively expensive, and Synod was advised that serious work is being undertaken to understand the nature of these higher than expected costs, and that the Council of General Synod would be kept fully informed.

Of course, there were many other wonderful and important moments - meaningful and deeply faithful resolutions; reports on ministries and programs across the church, and the good work which takes place at all levels and in all places.

General Synod always takes place within and around worship - daily worship and bible study, and always great celebrations to open and close Synod. St. Paul's Cathedral in downtown London has just under-

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gone a massive renovation to their impressive building, and Synod was privileged to worship together there at the grand opening service and the impressive installation of our 15th Primate at the concluding service. As well, the electoral process for the new Primate took place at St. Paul's - a Primatial Election always begins with a celebration of the Eucharist, after which the bishops retire to another place and the 'lower' houses of clergy and laity elect the new Primate. At that service, Bishop Susan Johnson, the National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and a very good friend of our church, preached. The opening service, complete with 'wows' over the amazing transformation of St. Paul's, featured Bishop Michael Curry, just recently retired Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church (USA) as preacher - Bishop Curry, a spellbinding orator, had everyone in the palm of his hand. (Many will remember him as the preacher at the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle). The synod service was full and magnificent, with great music, drumming, smudging, and earnest prayers for the synod and the church.

Similarly, the Closing Service, at which Archbishop Parker was formally installed as the 15th Primate of our church, featured a special sermon by Bishop Marinez Rosa dos Santos Bassotto, the Primate of the Episcopal Church of Brazil, a special guest at General Synod. Always grounded in prayer, General Synod is a deeply spiritual and prayerful experience for all.

So, how was my time as an observer? With no official responsibilities or duties, I was able to watch and listen in a way that I had not been free to do before.

When the church 'convenes' and 'gathers', one is genuinely impressed by the length and breadth of our church; by its diversity and its richness; by the talented dedication of so many; and by the strength of ministry across our church - sea to sea to sea and coast to coast to coast. At the same time, there are challenging and difficult issues which face us. The 'six pathways' ([I encourage people to search them out on the General Synod website](https://anglicanjournal.com/general-synod-overwhelmingly-votes-for-change/)): (<https://anglicanjournal.com/general-synod-overwhelmingly-votes-for-change/>) compel us to look carefully at the structures and governance of the church - many would agree



Ruby Sandy-Robinson, Diocese of Quebec, posed with members of Moosonee's delegation to the General Synod. Bishop Rod BrantFrancis, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Caroline Chub, and The Reverend Lisa BrantFrancis all played their parts in our church's General Synod.

this careful and comprehensive review is long overdue and I, from my somewhat lengthy experience, would agree wholeheartedly. This work is not easy and demands openness, candour, and vulnerability. My hope and prayer is that this bears fruit.

This was my fourth Primatial election, and it is a tortuous, almost medieval process which needs serious examination and reflection. It reflects a church which, I submit, no longer exists - one based in power and privilege, and I strongly believe that it needs to change.

My other, more general ob-

servation is that a 6 to 7 day General Synod is neither affordable nor sustainable. Over the last several years, we have tried to reduce its length and to make it more accessible to all - we still have a ways to go, but I hope that the new Council of General Synod and the leadership in Church House will look at other possibilities seriously.

For all of my reflections, I was very glad to be able to be at General Synod. I rejoice with everyone at Archbishop Shane's election and with the multitude of important and transformative ministries across this country.

The Venerable Dr. John Richard Hart Fowler, 1935-2025

Obituary provided by Hilary Fowler.

Those who knew Archdeacon John Fowler will remember him as a genuine, kind, gentle, priest and scholar with a 'pun'ishing sense of humour.

It is, therefore, with profound sadness - albeit tinged with relief that his recent struggles are now over - that we now announce his death at home in Perth on June 24th in his ninety-first year. He will be very deeply missed.

A beloved husband, best friend and mentor to Hilary for over 56 years, proud father of Ben (Ceridwen) and Tom (Monique), loving granddad to Graham Fowler and to Max and Will Bates. Uncle, cousin, and mentor to many, many others.

We all need a John Fowler to help us in this changing world. Neither hero nor saint - his was



The Venerable John R. H. Fowler was the Dean of the Diocese of Moosonee and the Rector of St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins from 1974 - 1985.

a belief in careful planning, proper preparation, and never, never being in a hurry.

This modest but engaging and gifted conversationalist lived for others, pushed comfort zones, led many to leap into the unknown and to believe in 'self' - the accompanying support and guidance he gave changed lives and inspired many.

Most recently he displayed remarkable courage and perseverance in the face of a complicated mix of irreversible physical challenges which brought about an horrendous fall, resulting in a surgery from which he never recovered.

At some convenient time, please raise a 'cuppa' to 'life' ... friendship, and hospitality ... not forgetting loyalty, confidentiality, direction(s) with large 'maps'

and an unstoppable sense of adventure and wonder in roads less travelled.

A fitting memorial would be to simply take a walk and be refreshed in leafy, green nature. Then consider planting or gifting life-giving native tree(s) - actions and symbols of hope, love, and healing - a small start in making the world around us whole again. Everything is wonder.

Above all, take comfort that John is in a place where he will experience love eternally. Before you sleep tonight, reassure a friend, relative, anyone - of your love and support for them.

Respecting John's wishes, cremation has already taken place and there will be no public service. His was a desire for a private affair with tree planting in celebration of others' lives.





Moosonee Moments



Susan Brown, Holy Trinity Church, was one of the workers who strove to provide some food security for the people of Cochrane.



Hot Dog Hilarity: Chichi Abati-Shobulo, JoAnne Jenkins, and Christine Bronson are three of St. Matthew's long-time volunteers at the Friday lunch program for the general community. They shared a lovely moment of 'hilarity and friendship' as they tasted the barbequed hot dogs which were available for one and all.



The Reverends Anne Marie Carrier and Valerie Isaac of St. Mark's Anglican Church in Kapuskasing went to a local grocery store to give away some 500 Easter eggs to shoppers as Easter approached.



The Reverend Marion Maybee recently baptized Patrick Joel Iserhoff at St. Thomas Church in Moose Factory, Ontario. This baby is Reverend Marion's great-grandson. On the same day that Reverend Marion performed that baptism another was under way at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Wemindji, Quebec. This baptism was performed by The Reverend George Matoush. The baby who was baptized was Divine Allan Raymond Maybee. This child is also a great-grandson of The Reverend Marion Maybee!



Caroline Chum and Ruth Corston were both happy to be present at the consecration service for Bishop Rod.

