



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

From the Archbishop

People of Promise: Our Story, Our Joy, Our Hope



*Almighty and ever living God,
Give wisdom and understanding to the members of the Synod of the Diocese of Algoma.
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*

April 2023

Dear Synod delegates,

The 51st Synod of the Diocese of Algoma will convene on Wednesday May 10th at 7pm with a Eucharist celebration at St. Luke's Cathedral on Brock Street. God-willing, that service will include the ordination of deacons and the installation of honorary Canons of our Cathedral. It will be a glorious celebration, especially as it will be the first diocesan *in person* gathering since the 2019 May Synod. The following morning on May 11th we will begin the formal agenda at the Water Tower Inn and continue our gathering until Saturday 13th in the early afternoon.

Thank you for letting your name go forward at your annual vestry meeting for election as a Synod delegate, and for making attendance at synod a priority. I am keenly aware that for many of you this means taking leave from your day job and finding alternative arrangements for other areas of responsibility in your life. As synod delegates you may be eligible for election as deanery officials which also means being part of the diocesan Executive Committee. These elections will be held at the spring deanery council meetings which I urge you to attend as Jane Mesich and Jennifer Baron will be attending to cover a number of synod related items.

The dates of the spring deanery council meetings are as follows: Saturday 15th April – 9: 30am, Thunder Bay/North Shore; Tuesday April 18th (evening) Muskoka; Saturday April 22nd 10:00 am Algoma (St. James Goulais River); Saturday April 29th, 9:30 am Temiskaming (St. Mary Magdalene Sturgeon Falls); Saturday 29th April, 1pm Sudbury/Manitoulin (Church of the Epiphany). Each deanery is able to elect three youth delegates (16-24) and three alternates to attend diocesan synod. The youth delegates have all the rights and privileges of adult delegates and participate fully in synod. **Please** encourage the youth in your parish to let their name stand for election to Synod. It is a terrific opportunity for our young people to experience ‘churchland’ as the people of God walk together and work together in faith. If youth delegates are unable to attend their Deanery Council meeting in person, they may be nominated without being present with the submission of a short resume including why they would like to attend synod.

Details of the arrangements for Synod 2023 can be found on the Diocese of Algoma website here: <https://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Memorandum-from-Diocesan-Treasurer-Feb-14-2023.pdf>

Please check the website regularly as there will be frequent updates to the synod page. Rev. Susan Montague Koyle is preparing ‘Synod snippets’ which will go out on the diocesan e-news, so make sure you are signed up for those as well.

It is your parish’s responsibility to cover your travel and accommodation costs for synod, as well as any meals not covered by the diocese during synod. Remember to keep your receipts for reimbursement from your parish treasurer. Registration takes place at the Synod office the afternoon of May 10th, or in the early morning of the 11th at the Water Tower Inn.

Because Algoma covers such a vast geographical area our time in synod is not simply a business meeting to review the budget and financial statements or propose amendments to the canons. Algoma’s synod also serves as a learning opportunity and a time to connect with delegates from other deaneries. Don’t be shy about introducing yourself to your fellow delegates – by the end of synod they will be your friends.

2023 Synod Theme

People of Promise: Our Story, Our Joy, Our Hope

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

(1 Peter 1.3)

The theme for this year's Synod is inspired by the First letter of Peter which will be the focus of the Scripture Circles and in worship services during synod. As we immerse ourselves in this 'keynote' letter we will find similarities in our own story with the story of the people to whom this letter is addressed. We will be challenged and surprised to discover that even though the Christian life is not always a walk in the park that life in Jesus is transformative and open to possibilities for everyday living and loving.

We know that the recipients of 1 Peter suffered from rejection and even harassment by others around them in society because of their Christian identity. The letter uses a number of powerful metaphors to describe how Christians in that context experienced themselves as 'resident aliens', 'exiles', 'strangers', 'foreigners' and 'sojourners'. From our own context we know the negative connotations these metaphors have, boiling down to not belonging, not being made to feel welcome, and even worse – 'You have no place here – go home.'

Yet, the opening words of 1 Peter call Christians challenged by this kind of environment, who have been sanctified by the Spirit, to put their faith in God and not to lose hope in the face of suspicion and hostility. More than that they are called to witness to the transforming joy of Christ even as they are suffering in Christ's name.

Hope in the midst of persecution is clearly and repeatedly developed throughout the letter. From the opening verses of 1 Peter hope is central and hope is a gift of God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This hope is not a kind of 'optimism' or 'wishful thinking' that things will get better, that life will improve, or that a sports team will win their tournament. It is hope that is deeply rooted and anchored in God.

But here's the thing, the promise of hope and new life is patterned on the life of Jesus and is openly inclusive, welcoming everyone *just as they are* but leaving no one *just the way I am*. New life in Jesus, hope in Christ transforms our fears and frees us from our sinful pasts and opens up new possibilities for today and tomorrow.

Your responsibilities as Synod delegates- the four “P”s Pray. Prepare. Participate. Post-Synod

1. **Pray** for God’s people in the Diocese of Algoma, for delegates to Synod and for those who are planning synod, preaching, leading worship, preparing videos, speaking at workshops, and chairing the various committees. Include prayers for synod in your weekly parish intercessions.
2. **Prepare** well by reading the pre-synod materials that are circulated through the synod office or posted on the diocesan website under ‘Synod Notes’. Read the profiles of the nominees for elected positions for General Synod 2025, Provincial Synod 2024, Diocesan Court, Diocesan PWRDF representative, and the Bishophurst Maintenance Committee.
3. **Participate** in the pre-synod deanery council meeting in your area and in Scripture Circles and other opportunities offered at synod .
4. **Post-Synod parish presentation** -Prepare a report with your incumbent and the other synod delegates. Plan a parish gathering to talk about significant motions, the Bishop’s Charge and response to it, and who will be representing Algoma at the upcoming Provincial and General Synod. Attend post synod deanery meetings. Ensure that there is an opportunity to bring reports from the wider church to your parish council/board.

From the Response to the Archbishop’s Charge 2021 (Chair Archdeacon Deborah Kraft)

“Many churches and individuals have become innovative and worked hard to keep Christ’s love alive in their area and beyond. There are more ways than any of us are aware of, so let us go back to our churches and make some lists of what your church did to stay connected during this past 18 months. Also, in the coming two years as we move into different stages, keep lists to help remember what you tried that may be new, innovative or restructured. Then at our next Synod, each church could bring two cards. The first card listing all of the innovative efforts that your congregation has used to continue to “be church”, which were helpful and perhaps ongoing, and a second list of the efforts that you tried that did not work as you expected. When we return in 2023, there would be many, many cards, containing much of the same information, but perhaps there is a seed here or there, which would benefit us all. For the cards containing ideas that were unsuccessful, there can be a time of letting go. Perhaps a burning of those cards or a ceremony to commemorate those less successful efforts.”

Resolution 3 (approved at Synod 2021)

That the synod delegates for 2023 bring cards from their congregations that identify the community-building ideas that were tried and worked, and the ideas that were tried and didn't work between Synod 2021 and Synod 2023. The cards, similar to the seeds presented at Synod 2017, will be presented during a worship service when Synod convenes.

We build community within our parishes and then we reach out, with the hands of Christ, and build community outside of our parishes.

Please work with your Advisory/Leadership Boards to develop the cards, and then bring the cards to Synod 2023. Thank you!

Elections during Synod 2023

During Synod the following elections will take place online:

1. 2 Clergy and 2 Lay delegates and 1 Youth (over the age of 16 and under 26) plus alternates to General Synod, scheduled for 2025. If elected delegates may be appointed to General Synod sessional committees or to working groups that function between General Synods/Assembly. This is a three-year term.
2. 4 Clergy and 4 Lay delegates and 1 Youth (over the age of 16 and under the age of 26 at the time of Provincial Synod) plus alternates for Provincial Synod which takes place in Sault Ste. Marie in the Fall of 2024. One of Algoma's lay and one clergy delegate will be chosen from among the Provincial Synod delegates to represent Algoma on Provincial Council. Provincial Council meets twice a year, spring (online) and in person in the fall, usually in Toronto.
3. 1 Youth member and 1 alternate youth, from the youth delegates to the Executive Committee. This committee typically meets three times a year with the meetings taking place online and in person alternatively.
4. Diocesan Court – 1 cleric holding the bishop's licence as deacon or priest for more than five years are eligible. Two lay members - candidates need not be members of Diocesan Synod.
5. Primate's World Relief and Development Fund – 1 representative
6. Bishophurst Maintenance Committee -2 members and 2 alternates who need to live near the Sault, but do not have to be members of Synod.

Delegates to Synod are asked to study the nominees for the various positions as there will not be an opportunity to meet them during Synod. The election will take place during Synod with the rules and procedures for voting explained carefully beforehand. The nomination process for those wishing to stand for election is outlined in the form online [HERE](#). (Algoma Synod 2023 – Election Summary).

Technology

Echotech will be taking care of the technological aspects of Synod and ensuring that things run as smoothly as possible. Cory Brunatti is the Chair of the Communications Committee and is available throughout synod along with other members of the Communications Committee to assist with any of your technological needs.

We are in the process of accessing equipment for those who are experiencing a hearing impairment and will have the information of how to access it at registration.

Synod 2023 guest speakers

There are a number of speakers during plenary sessions and in the breakout groups on Thursday afternoon. Please consult the agenda and decide amongst your parish delegates who will be attending which session as you will not be able attend them all.

The speakers for the various breakout groups will be some names and faces that are very familiar to you and others that you will get to know when you join that session.

The breakout group session speakers are: Diocesan Archdeacon Jay Koyle (Deacons and ReStorying the Church), Diocesan Treasurer, Jane Mesich and Assistant Treasurer, Jennifer Baron (Insurance with Larry Day-Dawson and Keenan and Rob Jordan, Ecclesiastical and Investments with Leila Fiouzi from RBC, PH&N Investment Counsel), Administrative Assistant, Liz Hamel (Screening in Faith), members of the diocesan Social Justice Committee (round table discussion on Homelessness), Mitch Case (Métis Nation of Ontario) and Erma Howe (Becoming Trauma Informed). Biographies of Mitch Case, Erma Howe, Jay Koyle, and Larry Day are found at the end of this letter.

1. Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada will bring written greetings to our Synod.
2. The Rt. Rev. Michael Oulton, Bishop of Ontario will be the preacher at the opening Eucharist of Synod on May 10th at 7pm.
3. Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada will bring greetings to our Synod in person.
4. Mr. Will Postma, Executive Director of PWRDF will bring greetings to our Synod in person.
5. Bishop Michael Pryse from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada will send greetings which will be read by Rev. Brad Mittleholz (Zion Lutheran).
6. Bishop Thomas Dowd of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie will bring greetings online.

7. The Rev. Canon Dr. John Gibaut, President and Vice-Chancellor of Thorneloe University, along with the Rev. Dr. GailMarie Henderson and Professor Ryan Turnbull who teach in the School of Theology at Thorneloe will make a presentation during one of the Plenary Sessions on Theological Formation.
8. Provincial Executive Officer Alex Pierson will bring greetings from Provincial Council members and give an update on matters pertaining to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario.
9. The Rev. Canon Edward Swayze will bring greetings to King Charles III.

May God grant you and your fellow delegates travelling mercies.

I look forward to seeing you all in May and remain your grateful bishop in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Anne: Algoma". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Most Rev. Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma

Biographies of Breakout session speakers

1. **Erma Howe** (Becoming trauma informed)

Erma was born in Malaysia, and spent a lot of her childhood in Africa. When she was 10, she moved to Canada with her Canadian-born father and Indigenous Indonesian mother. Erma earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology and her Masters degree in Social Work. She has been a psychotherapist for thirty years specializing in trauma, grief and loss, death and dying, and relationship issues. She works primarily with Indigenous individuals and families. Erma has a private practice in Sudbury.

When Erma was 22, she joined St. Mark's Anglican Church in Ottawa and was baptized and confirmed with her mother. At 30, she moved to Sudbury with her spouse Michael. They joined the Church of the Ascension and throughout her years there was active in children's ministry and music ministry. Erma has been a lay reader, a Synod lay delegate, and warden. In the wider church, she was active in Cursillo, a volunteer parish assessor during the Diocese's assessment process, and was an ACPO assessor. In her commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, she has facilitated the Kairos Blanket Exercise for parishes and community groups.

Erma's hobbies include nature walks with dog companions, reading, and quality time with her partner Michael, her German Shepherd Billy, and sharing laughter (and tears) with those she journeys with. She loves going on annual silent retreats at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph, and when she can she enjoys the Women's Camp at Camp Temiskaming.

2. **Mitch Case** (from Mitch's website – Mitchcase.ca)

Mitch Case is a proud Métis citizen from the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Community. Mitch is a community-based historian, focusing on the history of Ontario Métis communities; especially those around the Great Lakes.

In June of 2020, Mitch was elected to serve as the Region 4 Councillor on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Mitch was elected on a platform of advancing Métis Self-Government, improving communication, advancing Métis culture, and most importantly advancing the historic claims of Métis community in the Sault Ste Marie, Superior East, Huron North Shore area.

Mitch has served as a Youth Representative at the local and regional levels and was elected President of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) in 2012, and reelected in 2016. As President of the MNOYC, Mitch was a member of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Mitch is passionate defender of the Métis right to self determination, jurisdiction over lands and resources and the cause of Métis Nationalism. Mitch volunteers in schools, colleges and universities across Ontario where he is invited to speak about Métis culture, history, traditions, rights and contemporary issues. Mitch serves on several boards and committees at the local, provincial and national levels. Mitch is a graduate of [Algoma University](#) where he studied Anishinaabemowin and History.

For 6 years Mitch worked as Director of Student Services, Outreach and Resources at [Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig](#), an Anishinaabe culture-based post secondary education institute in Sault Ste Marie. Mitch is a former member of the Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities which advises the Ontario Premier and 24 Ministries and Agencies on youth policy.

Mitch has been recognized for his dedication and commitment to the Métis Nation on many occasions, including being awarded:

- **Young Medal for Volunteers**
Lt. Gov. David Onley
- **Sovereign's Medal for Volunteerism**
Gov. General Julie Payette
- **Alumni Achievement Award**
Algoma University
- **Suzanne Rochon-Burnette Volunteer of the Year Award**
Métis Nation of Ontario
- **Indigenous Professional of the Year Award**
Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce

3. Archdeacon Jay Koyle

Archdeacon Jay Koyle has a long history of animating joyful and transformative worship, and effective formation for baptismal and ordained ministry in parish, diocesan, national, international, and academic contexts. With many years' experience as a pastor and professor, a doctoral degree in Homiletics through the Association of Chicago Theological Schools, and a graduate degree in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame, he continues to contribute to discipleship formation across all levels of the church's life.

Jay is past president of The Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission (APLM), and a former chair of Faith, Worship and Ministry for The Anglican Church of Canada. Among Jay's ongoing professional associations is membership in the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation, Societas Liturgica, the Christian Initiation Seminar of the North American Academy of Liturgy, the Colloquium of Anglican Liturgical Scholars, the North American Association for the Catechumenate, and APLM. His current national church service is through the Spiritual Formation for Discipleship Network, and he is the author of new baptismal texts approved recently for use in The Anglican Church of Canada. He is a contributing author of *Go Make*

Disciples: An Invitation to Baptismal Living, published by Augsburg Fortress, and has articles published in a number of journals. Over the years, he has served as a consultant for The Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sweden, and a number of dioceses in Canada and the U.S. In addition to his fulltime position as Executive Officer of the Diocese, Jay enjoys the privilege of serving as Incumbent (part-time) of St. James' Church, Goulais River.

4. Mr. Larry Day

My name is Larry Day, and I am an insurance broker with Dawson & Keenan Insurance in Sault Ste. Marie. Archbishop Germond has asked that I introduce myself to you as the new insurance broker for the property and casualty insurance coverage for the Parishes of the Diocese of Algoma.

I am no stranger to the Diocese of Algoma insurance program. Some may remember Dawson & Keenan Insurance when my firm was previously the broker for the Algoma Diocese. I am excited to say I am back and look forward to working with Archbishop Germond, and Jane Mesich, providing the service expected by the Diocese of Algoma.

Dawson & Keenan Insurance has been in business for over 125 years and my experience in the insurance business spans over 35 years. We are a customer centric company that values the relationships we have with our clients. I am the main contact for all of the Parishes with respect to coverage and claims. I also have a dedicated team in place for general inquiries and policy administration.

People of Promise: Our Story, Our Joy, Our Hope
Prayer for the Diocese of Algoma - 51st Synod, May 2023

Loving God, Creator of all that is good,
you have given so much and ask us for so little.

Through the death and Resurrection of your only Son,
you promise to us the gift of eternal life.

Through the waters of baptism, you anoint us with the Holy Spirit,
and call us to love and honour you with all we are and all we have.

From deep within your heart of love, that called all of us into being,
you now bid us to share your promises with all your children.

Open our hearts and minds to see you in the face of everyone we meet.
Open our eyes and imaginations to the endless possibilities
of revealing your mercy, peace, and justice to all the world.

Make us quick to give our hands to holy work.
Make us swift to lend our voices so love overcomes hate.
Let us be eager to walk the path you set before us,
and in love for you, serve those who are precious in your sight.

In seeking you, Lord,
make of us living examples of your love in all we think and say and do,
a People of Promise for the life of the world.

We humbly ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.

(The Ven. Roberta Wilson-Garrett and members of the Spiritual Care Team)

