

## Synod Snippet #3



### “Going Through the Motions”

All of the motions (a.k.a “resolutions”) known in advance of the Synod are printed in the Convening Circular (p.20-29 here [Convening Circular Synod 2023](#)). This time around, all of the motions are aimed at the clarification/improvement of various canon laws, but this isn’t always the case. Motions can cover just about any issue that is important to our ongoing life together as the Diocese of Algoma. The Ven. Deborah Kraft illustrates this with an example of how to draft a resolution regarding lending a hand to Mercy Ships providing health support to Africa (check out [Resolution Training](#)). If you are passionate about an issue or think you have a great idea for helping us to better be a People of Promise together, don’t just sit on it – you have a voice. Remember, we are “episcopally led and synodically governed”. At every level, there is a platform for being heard.

If you would like to see your idea turn into a motion and be brought to Synod for the whole Diocese to hear, there are people who can help with this. Motions at Synod can come from the Executive Committee and other committees, deanery councils, and from lay delegates. For the average parishioner, our Deanery Councils are particularly important in the process of bringing motions to Synod. Incumbents, retired clergy, wardens, treasurers, and lay delegates from across each deanery meet regularly to discuss matters affecting their deanery. Any one of these deanery council attendees can bring forward a topic for discussion that could potentially be formed into a motion for Synod. Whether or not you choose to go through Deanery Council, there is one step you cannot leave out of the process. All proposed motions for Synod must be previewed by the Resolutions Committee (contact info is here: [Synod 2023 General Letter from +Anne](#)).

So, you’ve read the motions for this upcoming Synod but, what happens when these motions actually hit the floor of Synod? When a motion is put before Synod, each member of Synod could take the opportunity to speak to the motion if they so desire. Maybe there are questions for further clarification or maybe even opposition to the proposed motion. Each voting member of Synod who wants to be heard has the chance to be heard. How you go about doing this properly can be found here: [Useful Tips for Synod Members 2023](#). When the discussion regarding the motion is brought to a close, there will then be a vote on the motion.

Other motions not in the Convening Circular can be brought before Synod, after checking in with the Resolutions Committee, of course. The committee that responds to the Archbishop’s Charge typically brings before Synod motions to act upon priorities named in the Charge. However, motions involving changes to the canons must always be published ahead in the Convenor Circular.

Please familiarize yourself with what is ahead at Synod by browsing through the linked documents and then relax and enjoy your Synod experience.