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The Mustard Seed.

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GENERAL SYNOD LONDON ONTARIO 2025

By the Rt. Rev'd Rachael Parker

Two Significant Elections at General Synod 2025

At our General Synod Gathering in June, the Anglican Church of Canada had a few offices which needed to be filled. All positions are important but two of them hold special importance for our Diocese: the new Primate and the Deputy Prolocutor of the Council of General Synod. It would seem that the Primate would be the biggest news for our Diocese but arguably the more impactful election for our Diocese was the election of our own Brian Lee from St. George's, Birtle to the role of Deputy Prolocutor.

Brian will be “second in command” in the workings of the Council of General Synod during the triennium (3 years) until our

next General Synod in St. John's, Newfoundland in 2028. COGS, or the Council of General Synod, is the national Church equivalent of our Diocesan Executive Committee. It is the group of people who continue the work, decision-making, and communications of the National Church on behalf of the Dioceses and Ecclesiastical Provinces between General Synods. While Brian will not be moving or voting on motions, he will be advising and assisting COGS and the staff and leadership of the Anglican Church of Canada. Please join me in wishing Brian all the best in his new role and responsibility. May we commit to holding Brian and COGS in our regular prayers.

The other big election held at General Synod was that of the Bishop of Ottawa, The Right

Reverend Shane Parker, as our new Primate. Archbishop Shane was not on the original slate of nominees for the Primacy but after several ballots, the Laity and Clergy Houses of General Synod requested more Bishops' names for the election. Bishop Shane humbly allowed his name to go forward to the floor of the election and two ballots later he was duly elected our next Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Primate Parker must retire on his 70th birthday in late May of 2028, which allows us both the gift and challenge of another Primatial Election in St. John's in three years. Our new Primate has been clear and consistent in his message that the Anglican Church of Canada is in need of doing the hard work of implementing the

Pathways as identified by the Primate's Commission in efforts to discern and put in place a nimble, responsive, and discerning Church which acknowledges and works into the challenges ahead for the Anglican Church of Canada specifically and the Mainline Churches generally. Under the strong, intelligent, and theologically sound leadership of Primate Shane every Ecclesiastical Province, Diocese, and Parish will be called to hard work, honest conversations, and deep prayer. I also ask that you keep our new Primate in your prayers regularly. The work he is prepared to do and the efforts he will make are truly being offered to the glory of God, in serve of Jesus Christ, and with love for all the Primate's siblings in Christ across the Canadian Church.



Mr. Brian Lee
Deputy Prolocutor



Most Rev'd Shane Parker
15th Primate of Canada



A Word from the Bishop



This past summer has been a busy one in the National Church and for our Diocese. General Synod was hosted by the Diocese of Huron in London, Ontario at the end of June. The Diocese of Calgary hosted Sacred Circle – the National Gathering of the Indigenous Anglican Church – at the beginning of August. The Diocese of Saskatchewan hosted the National Youth programme called Firetalk, which included a number of members of our own Diocese of Brandon. This 2025 summer has held many reminders that the Anglican Church is so much more than simply our own local Parish. We are a part of a glorious and complicated Church Family that spreads from coast to coast to coast. Much of what has happened this summer is a reminder to us all that we are called to be in real and honest relationship with the entirety of the Church.

Over the next ten editions of The Mustard Seed, we will be delving into the decisions made by the General Synod, and your delegates, on behalf of the whole Church. From large and obviously transformative decisions like the reception of The Primate’s Commission Pathways and the election of our new Primate, to decisions made around the liturgies of the Church Year, and calls to speak to the Federal Government and our communities about issues of war and climate change, Anglicans from across the country gathered to discern where

the Holy Spirit is calling us to go; how we are called to move forward as a faithful Christian Community.

While it may seem that unanimity would be a goal to strive for when we gather to make decisions, the truth is that same mindedness can all too often lead to a laziness in decision-making. It is quite often in the frank discussions, passionate differences of opinion, and intense recognition of various lived experiences, that our minds and hearts are best able to recognize the bigger ways that God is working in our midst and calling us to move forward. The intense debates, shared laughter and frustrations, excitements and disappointments, exhibited at General Synod are indicators that the diversity of the Anglican Church of Canada allows for creativity, compassion, and empathy for cultures, communities, and churches which are part of our Anglican Family but very different than what we may experience and assume in our own congregations Sunday by Sunday.

Throughout this “school year” of Mustard Seed editions

(September 2025 to June 2026) we will be including articles about our General Synod, what decisions were made, and how those decisions will impact us as a Diocese and as community parishes. We do not live in a vacuum of “Diocese of Brandon Anglicanism” and we all need to explore, experience, and pray with/for the national Anglican Church as we discover how God is encouraging, exhorting, and expecting Brandon Anglicans to share the Good News of Jesus Christ alongside our Anglican siblings from the Diocese of the Isles and Inlets to The Arctic to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and all dioceses in between. Our Anglican Church of Canada is a beautiful, challenging, exciting, intellectual, passionate and compassionate, gathering of peoples with whom we are called to both serve and share Jesus Christ. I invite you to join me this coming “year” as we learn together just how intrinsic and important our whole Church is to our Diocese and congregations, and how intrinsic and important our congregations and Diocese are for the Anglican Church of Canada. Together we are strong in Christ and together we can become even stronger in Christ.

+ Rachael



A Big Thank You from Greig Scott

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Bishop, our Financial Officer Greig Scott would like to offer a big thank you to all the Church Communities who have been so faithful in their Fair Share submissions. At the end of June, the Fair Share rate was sitting at an amazing 93.8%. When Parishes send in their Fair Share in a timely manner it allows for the support of the many ministries of our Diocese and contributes to the work of the National Church as well. The Diocese of Brandon then receives Council of the North funding which is completely funded by the Fair Share offered by all Canadian Anglican Dioceses to the National Church. The Fair Share in your local community helps us through those very Council of the North funds. Thank you so very much! Keep up the good work.



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 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 day of the month preceding publication.

2025 PUBLICATION DEADLINES	
Issue	Deadline
May 2025	April 1, 2025
June 2025	May 1, 2025
Sept 2025	Aug 1, 2025
Oct 2025	Sept 1, 2025

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!



News From Around the Diocese

Several decades ago, the Anglican Church of Canada recognized the disparity in ministry availability and the truth about life in the North of our country, specifically for those Dioceses of the Anglican Church which live and serve in these remote communities. To assist with encouragement and recognition of these specific ministries, the Council of General Synod created The Council of the North. The dioceses currently participating in Council of the North are Territory of the Peoples; Caledonia; Yukon; Arctic; Athabasca; Saskatchewan; Brandon; Moosonee, and the Spiritual Ministries of Mishamikoweesh (formerly Keewatin).

The Council of the North committee is comprised of the bishops from the Northern dioceses and works within established parameters so that ministry can be facilitated and partially funded for these Northern dioceses.. Since its inception, the participating dioceses in the Council of the North have received annual grants to be used for ministry specific to Northern circumstances.

The grants cover many different needs which are allocated through triennial applications to the Council, and which are then applied to agreed upon ministry needs. In some dioceses the grant pays the cost of episcopal ministry and administration support for the diocese. In others, like the Diocese of Brandon, the funds are allocated for the cost of Northern/ Indigenous clergy stipends, specific Indigenous ministry initiatives, and lately to supporting Anglican Memorial Camp and its work with our Indigenous youth. Other Council of the North grants are available yearly, upon application, and we are blessed that Henry Budd College and many of the salary and other related costs are covered by Council of the North grants in their varying forms.

The CoN grants are completely funded by the Fair Share gifts provided to the National Church by all the dioceses in the Canadian Anglican Church. When dioceses send in their full Fair Share requests then the Northern dioceses are apportioned a certain percentage. When dioceses do not

send in their Fair Share, similar to our own Diocese of Brandon, the shortfall impacts ministry. In this case, falling national Fair Share contributions have led to the decision to reduce the Council of the North grants every year until a balance is established between what is being shared with National Church and what can then be shared with Council of the North. As you can imagine, with costs in the North rising and grants being lowered, more and more ministries are being, and will continue to be, negatively impacted. To better honour the gifts being entrusted to Council of the North dioceses, the CoN Grant Accountability Committee meets every July for several days via Zoom to review, consider, and suggest ideas for greater accountability for each of the nine dioceses. There is a considerable amount of work in preparing the Accountability packages by bishops, diocesan treasurers, auditors, and support staff. The Grant Accountability Committee then looks at each Diocesan report and balances it with the 3-year application and previous accountability reports.

The Council of the North has been under significant scrutiny of late due to questions about the National Church's financial picture, the future of the Church, and the acknowledgment that budget cuts are having a negative impact on Northern ministries. As the Council continues to serve the Northern Church, it looks forward to discovering the ways that decisions made at Sacred Circle and the implications of those decisions are considered. The relationship between Sacred Circle and Council of the North are intricate as many of the Northern Communities served are Indigenous but there are many non-Indigenous or mixed remote communities as well. The Council of the North asks your prayers as we await the new pathways forward which will strengthen all peoples and ministries in the North.



Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Diocese of Brandon

For Our Parish

God our Creator, we thank you for the strength, wisdom and grace you have given our parish through the generations of families who built the parish and worshipped here before us. We pray for strength and guidance as we enter this time of renewal and move into the future. Strengthen and increase the faithful, visit and relieve the sick, turn and renew the hard-hearted or careless, bring again those who have wandered. Give us hearts to be faithful stewards as we build a renewed community. Give us a spirit of generosity to reach out to others during this difficult time and give us patience with one another as we deal with difficult issues. We ask all this through your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Let us Pray returns this fall on October 20 at 12:00 noon with a presentation and discussion with Primate Shane Parker. Now is the best time to mark this on your calendar and make plans to attend this AFP ZOOM session.

Join us at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89192823143>

Zoom Meeting ID: 891 9282 3143

For more information or answers to questions, call Barry+ at 1-204-647-0400 or email barrykn@zoho.com

Restoring Hope and Goings On at the Anglican Centre

Over the summer, Dean Chris Evetts and Canon Rob Parker have been busy project managing the various physical changes coming to the Anglican Centre (the Diocesan offices) and the Cathedral and crypt. As part of the negotiations with Westman Immigration Services [still ongoing at the time of writing] the Bishop’s and Diocesan Financial Officer’s offices needed relocation. For the same reason, Dean Evetts and the Cathedral congregation had to begin revisioning what the Cathedral worship space might look like and where the amenities needed both by the congregation and potential user groups might end up. Work is well underway for both.

The Dean has procured amazingly comfortable chairs to replace the pews in the nave of the Cathedral. Over the past while, interested parties have been rehoming most of the pews and chairs have been put into use. A ramp available at the camp is just awaiting the time and talent of those who can “do the things” to put it in permanent place on the Louise Street side of the building. An accessible washroom is almost completed in the front portion of the former Resource Room in the crypt and will be up and running

HBCM Hosts Flin Flon Evacuees

By the Ven Kara Mandryk

On May 28, the entire city of Flin Flon had to evacuate due to wildfires in the area. There had already been multiple evacuations across northern Manitoba, with video footage of raging fires, helicopter water bombers, and military airplanes evacuating remote communities, so we knew that it was serious and dangerous. As the Archdeacon in the north, I tried to communicate with members of the communities affected, so I called folks at St. Peter and St. James in Flin Flon to make sure that people had places to go. I offered Henry Budd College for Ministry as a place for people to stay, as we have 4 bedrooms that are meant for community members. Some people went to

soon, if not yet at time of printing. There is a “seated” chair lift already installed to assist people in getting downstairs to the new washroom. It will be made operational once the washroom has received the A-OK from the powers that be. The Cathedral Music Director Jia has begun coordination of a proper Music Library and Music Studio, which will also host a modest ACW “museum” display honouring the work of St. Matthew’s ACW women in the past. All the work in the Cathedral and crypt are part of the St. Matthew’s Cathedral Restoring Hope Campaign. There is a new atmosphere of that very hope throughout the congregation and building. People are excited by the call God is whispering into their community and hope is indeed growing in leaps and bounds. That hope, albeit accompanied by dust and plumbers and carpenters and other trades people!

Due to the need to relocate the Bishop and Greig Scott, Canon Rob did some scouting around and developed a plan that will utilise the space in the Cathedral while allowing the Diocesan staff and offices to stay in the building, still contributing their rent and loving senses of humour to the atmosphere of St. Matthew’s. This was decided after a serious search to find alternative spaces off-site for the Anglican Centre. As this was long-term cost prohibitive, it was decided to make creative

family members, others to hotels, but lay leader Carrie Hume and her partner Brent Taylor ended up coming to the College. They had stayed here many times, as Brent is the volunteer who repaired and repainted the entire upper floors of HBCM. After one night, they informed me about a couple that had been evacuated from their first evacuation stopping place. Could they come and stay? I said of course, as long as they understand what the College represents in the community. This was the beginning of a month-long stay at what became affectionately known as “the Henry Budd hotel”.

It was only about 3 days after Carrie, Brent, Bill, and Shonnoah settled in that they began to ask me for any “jobs” around the College. They were anxious about their homes and

architecture decisions within existing spaces of the Cathedral precinct.

The old Sunday School room and Music Library on the second floor, which also served as Dean Don Bernhardt’s office for a time, has been gutted and fitted to form the new Bishop’s office and the office for Executive Archdeacon Cheryl Kukurudz and a very modest reception/meeting area for Diocesan visitors. Our Financial Officer, Mr. Greig Scott, will move into Archdeacon Kukurudz’ office tucked in behind the Anglican Centre-Cathedral office where Jia resides. The “break room” for Anglican Centre staff – Diocesan and Cathedral – has been tucked into the south side of the Sacristy, which is getting new flooring and a coat of paint. Along with Greig and Jia’s offices, the Dean’s office and Sacristy now have air conditioning installed and working! The hallway that leads to the Sacristy, the sanctuary of the cathedral and the stairs up to the new Diocesan offices will also be replaced, walls painted, and lighting updated before the Anglican Centre’s portion of the work has been completed. While square footage has been lost for all Diocesan staff members, Canon Parker is doing an excellent job of ensuring that all work spaces will be appropriately appointed and decorated to ensure that the hope being restored in the Cathedral

is also evident and vibrant for the folks who work within the Cathedral space as well. Once the Anglican Centre work has been completed, pictures hung, and people moved into place, the Diocese will arrange for an open house for all who wish to pop by, have a coffee in the break room, and check out the Bishop’s new digs! Keep your eye on the Mustard Seed for the announcement.

The Bishop and the Dean would like to offer their most sincere appreciation to all who have been supporting these projects. They require patience, understanding, and a reliance on discerning what God is calling us to do on every level. Your prayers and support mean so much. However, as these were changes which are necessary but unexpected, they do require financial resources and planning not anticipated over the past years. If you or your congregation would like to support the Cathedral’s Restoring Hope Campaign or would like to assist the Diocese in these unexpected expenditures, your contributions would be greatly appreciated! Thank you so much. Dean Chris and Bishop Rachael are extremely excited for our grand unveiling of all that the Spirit – and the Spirit’s trades people – are doing in your Cathedral and Anglican Centre!



community, and liked to keep busy. At first, I felt bad – I mean, who puts their guests to work? But, they were insistent that they wanted something to do, so I mentioned a few things that needed fixing. HBCM is in a century-old house, which requires constant repairs and maintenance that I, as the lone employee, can’t seem to stay on top of. Our wonderful guests took care of so much! They built new stairs to the garage, fixed sagging gates, trimmed overgrown hedges, polished old brassware, and Brent even painted our chapel! Every day when I would come to work, someone would thank me for letting them stay at the College, yet I was a little embarrassed because they were blessing me before returning to Flin Flon on June 26.

I have been thinking about that month of anxiety and activity, now that the College is quiet again. Though the evacuation was difficult, and the wildfire devastation continues to be horrific, there was something so beautiful about people sharing their talents and time amidst their own time of need. Carrie, Brent, Bill, and Shonnoah didn’t know if their community would survive, but they invested in our Henry Budd community, choosing to bless us in the midst of their distress. To an outside eye, it might have looked like some people “just keeping busy”, but to me, it was a picture of living generously – a life that Jesus calls us all to live.



HIS MASTER SAID TO HIM, ‘WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT. YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL OVER A LITTLE; I WILL SET YOU OVER MUCH. ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR MASTER.’

MATTHEW 25:21