



**By Holly Morrison,
St. Mark's, Minnedosa**

From September 24 to 26, I attended the 52nd Synod at the Cathedral of St. Matthew's in Brandon. Despite awaiting repairs, the historic building remains breathtaking, from its stained-glass windows—including a memorial to the Titanic—to its open-timbered oak ceiling, vintage sconces, elevated pulpit, and ornate sanctuary.

make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.”

Thursday: A Welcoming Beginning

The evening Eucharist was a highlight, with pipe organ music, a children's choir, Communion for all, and participation from all three deaneries. As the program declared, "All Are Welcome at The Lord's Table."

Bishop Rachael's Charge brought Revival into focus with a call to regroup, rethink, and renew our hope, energy, and commitment to sharing our love for Jesus. Her address, "A Charge to Synod: The Bishop's Call to the People of the Diocese of Brandon," is available on YouTube through Church @ Home with Rachael.

The Bishop's Reception closed the evening with conversation, laughter, and refreshments—a warm end to the first day.

Friday: Ministries That Connect Us

Friday began with Morning Prayer, Bible study, and my now-favourite hymn, “Seek Ye First,” before attention turned to Synod business. Reports and the Convening Circular introduced elections for General and Provincial Synods, the Executive Committee, Constitution & Canons, and Diocesan Court. Candidate profiles were posted for delegates to consider before nominations closed at 3 p.m.; voting was scheduled for Saturday morning.

The morning session concluded with three presentations under the theme *Ministries That Connect Us*:

Henry Budd College for Ministry. The Venerable Dr. Kara Mandryk described the College in The Pas as a theological training centre offering clergy and lay-

reader training, pastoral care, visitation, Communion, and other resources. Its partnership with the Indigenous Studies Program at Vancouver School of Theology is notable. Despite longstanding infrastructure challenges, she emphasized the blessing of having a place to study.

Alongside Hope. Sue McLeod explained that the former PWRDF emphasizes partnership—the “power of the local”—in sustainable development and humanitarian relief. Its work includes health, food security, disaster response, refugee support, climate-related assistance, and access to water in northern Canadian communities. Need, rather than local faith, guides its choice of projects.

Anglican Foundation. Scott Brubacher described the grant-making foundation as “investing in tomorrow’s Church today.” It supports

A Word from Our Bishop



As I write this November Bishop’s Message, I am at a monastery in Niagara Falls for National House of Bishops, at once upon the heels of having spent a weekend at a convent for Provincial House of Bishops in Toronto. We are only 8 days removed from our Diocesan Synod, and while exhausted, I am also exhilarated. Just as I called each of you to begin, continue, or renew an intentional prayer life, I have been given this gift of eight days in prayer, and with colleagues doing the same. It is my continual prayer that you will join me in these prayers over the next three years.

Our theme for Synod, and the three years before our next Synod, is “Revival.” God is calling us all to come home; to come back to Jesus in a vulnerable, powerful, transformative way. Revival does mean that we are inviting the Holy Spirit to move in and through us to share Jesus Christ with the communities and world around us. However, before we are to be equipped to do that, we must first be re-energized in our own hearts and minds to re-commit to Christ ourselves.

Throughout the next months and years leading to our 53rd Synod in June of 2029 the Diocese will be sharing with you opportunities to learn about prayer, ways of studying God’s word and sharing Jesus’ love with others. We will never expect you to do (1) that which we are not committed to do alongside you; and (2) that which you do not know how to do. This journey of Revival is one that the Diocesan Leadership and Clergy will walk with you, and one on which we will often stop to learn a new thing together.

There is a story of a young Billy Graham, kneeling in the grooves beside Wesley’s bedside, in which Wesley himself prayed night and day. Billy Graham was heard by his mentor praying to God, “do it again, Lord. Use me and do it again.” Graham was asking God to so fill him with a love and desire to share Jesus’ love with others that a revival might happen again, as it did with Wesley.

Our world is in such a state that we are in great need for God to “do it again.” How many people do you see each week who are struggling with depression? How many are concerned about tomorrow or next year? Do you know of any grandparents who are fearful of the paths their beloved grandchildren are taking? Do you find yourself wondering about whether all your church upbringing was really worth it or even credible? Whether people are aware of it or not, they are in need of Jesus! They need not struggle alone. Jesus has sent disciples out into the world to introduce those very wanderers to the one, true path! (By the way, you are one of those disciples!)

As your Bishop, I pledge to pray with you, study with you, and walk with you. This call to Revival is one which lays on

my heart as a gift and privilege, but it is a call that I cannot do alone. I need your support, your companionship, and your partnership as we pray for and work toward Revival together. You and I cannot carry or cure all the ailments of this world on our own, but we know of one who can – Jesus. Jesus will carry the load *and* teach us how to do our part as well. The key is that Jesus will never force us to take part in anything, even revival. We need to be willing to trust in the Holy Spirit’s guidance and presence as we kneel beside our own beds and pray “Do it again, Lord. Do it again and use me.”

I invite you to cut this Diocesan Prayer for Revival out of the paper – after you have read it cover to cover! – and put it near your Bible and coffee cup, at your favourite chair, or wherever you will commit to spend time with Jesus in prayer. Join me as we pray this prayer daily. And join me as we pray, study, and walk the path Jesus is inviting our Diocese to walk, as we allow God to use us to “do it again.” Let us bring Jesus to our Diocese and all the people within our bounds who need Jesus as much as we do!

Heavenly Father, pour out Your Spirit and revive our hearts once again. Let revival begin within us, turning our eyes away from complacency and back to our first love. Breathe life into our communities, replacing division with unity and doubt with a bold hunger for Your Word. May Your grace heal our land, drawing many back to a living, joyful relationship with You. Amen.

+ *Rachael*

The Mustard Seed

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Deadline for submissions:

The first day of the month preceding publication.

2026 PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Issue	Deadline
Sept 2026	Aug 1, 2026
Oct 2026	Sept 1, 2026
Nov 2026	Oct 1, 2026
Dec 2026	Nov 1, 2026
Jan 2027	Dec 1, 2026
Feb 2027	Jan 2, 2027

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!



Keep the Faith.
The most amazing things in life tend to happen right at the moment you about to give up hope.

The 52nd Synod Continued from Page One

infrastructure, ministry training, Indigenous-led initiatives, and programs for children and youth, including *Say Yes to Kids*. Grants range from up to \$5,000 to \$50,000 for exceptional projects; special funding also addresses housing insecurity, poverty, addiction, and food shortages. In Scott's concise phrase, the Foundation "presents what can be."

A noon-hour discussion examined the diocesan budget and Fair Share. To avoid misinterpretation, I will leave the details to the official minutes, but one encouraging point was that investment income has continued to exceed expenses.

After lunch, delegates discussed a resolution on pastoral care, safety, belonging, and same-sex marriage for 2SLGBTQIA+ people. The subject prompted substantial discussion, and although no canon was set, an open information-gathering process was established.

Other motions carried, while the Parish Safeguarding Officer motion was tabled until Saturday. Evening Prayer then brought the formal sessions to a close.

After such a draining day, we were royally treated to a banquet at Lions Manor. Road construction and closures

made finding our way there a challenge, but the extra effort was well worth it. The meal catered by Shady Lane, live music, wine and other beverages, and another opportunity to visit with fellow delegates made for a delightful evening. Exhaustion finally won out, and the banquet ended soon after the last bites of angel food cake topped with strawberries.

Saturday: Belonging, Service and Hope

Morning Prayers and Scripture began our day.

Our study group considered how to involve more young people in church. We kept returning to belonging: invitations to suppers or outreach events, meaningful responsibilities, genuine listening, and social media that shows why young people volunteer—not merely when services begin. Minnedosa's youth response during a flood threat showed how tangible service can create purpose. One line from my research captured our discussion: "...we don't need to convince young people that they need the Church; we need to show that the Church needs their voices, their questions, their dreams."

A video presented by Mackenzie Kukurudz highlighted Anglican

Memorial Camp, whose three week-long camps combine worship, friendship, faith, and space to be oneself; Teen Camp also included leadership training. Accredited by the Manitoba Camping Association, the camp has improved infrastructure and equipment but still faces funding, regulatory, cabin, and volunteer needs. Its goal is simple and compelling: for every camper, staff member, and counsellor to say, "Yeah, that was an awesome summer."

Discussion of the **Pastoral Response to MAID** resolution affirmed the need for timely dialogue. Bishop Rachael noted that clergy would not be expected to attend a MAID procedure if it conflicted with conscience or theological conviction, and encouraged them to consult her. I have since joined a MAID discussion group and welcome thoughts or opinions, shared openly or in confidence.

Saturday afternoon concluded with a well-deserved vote of thanks to the many people who organized Synod.

Restoring Hope and Looking Ahead

The theme of hope came fully into focus in Dean Chris Evetts's presentation, **Restoring Hope**, which

reflected on the past, present, and future challenges of St. Matthew's—and on the hopes and dreams that are becoming viable through efforts such as seeking community partners.

Three years ago, St. Matthew's faced financial pressures from an aging building, pandemic aftershocks, declining membership, secularization, and rising repair costs—challenges familiar to St. Mark's.

In response, St. Matthew's partnered with Westman Immigrant Services, which plans to renovate the basement for a licensed daycare under a long-term lease. The broader vision includes pop-up gatherings and a music studio for children who might not otherwise have access—new ways to welcome people who may never enter a church.

The organizers' Herculean effort carried Revival through worship, speakers, hospitality, and countless opportunities for delegates to add their voices. I will remember Bishop Rachael's simple message of hope: ask, because "yes" may follow; pray every day; then buckle up for what comes next. It was a fitting expression of Synod 2026—REVIVAL.



Following Up From Synod

By Bishop Rachael Parker

This is the first Mustard Seed to be published following our 52nd Diocesan Synod. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to all the volunteers, clergy, lay delegates, and observers who chose to participate in this years Synod. Not ever having chaired a Synod before, I must say that I think it went rather well! People’s willingness to participate, consider, speak and listen to the presentations and motions made was beautiful. Well done, members of Synod!

One of the promises I made to Synod in the Bishop’s Charge was to work with all of you and the Diocesan and Parish staff and personnel to increase both the volume of communications and the importance of the same. To that end, each edition of the Mustard Seed will have Synod/Executive Committee updates to share with you how we are working on the mandates you have given us and what you can expect in the future with respect to them. As I write this article,

I am literally only seven days away from Synod and no work has yet to begin for any of our motions. That, however, does not mean that work is not being planned!

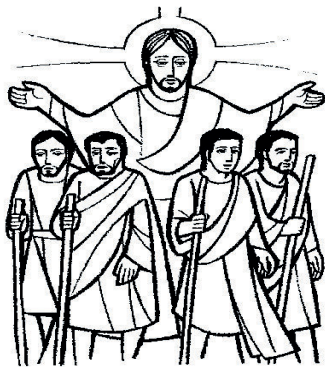
In this November update, I would like to highlight the two motions that carried the most anxiety for me as the Chair, and which will probably have the least impact – overall – for our Diocese. Motion Nine was regarding pastoral issues and the future of how we will discuss, pray about, study, and discern our relationships with our own 2SLGBTQIA community (2 Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer, Intersex, Ally Community). Motion Ten discussed how we will pray about, study, discern, and converse about MAiD (Medical Assistance in Death). As I am sure you have discerned for yourselves, there is no common mind with respect to either of these topics – within the Diocese or in the greater Church.

You may have taken objection to my statement

that these two motions will probably have the least impact on our Diocese of all the motions passed at Synod. While the process of discernment, study and conversation will hopefully be a wide-ranging and very engaging process, involving every one of our congregations and parishes, any decisions we may or may not make will have a limited impact on the day to day life of this Diocese of Brandon. What I am trying to say is that in three years I can count on fewer fingers than one whole hand how many requests I have received to consider a same-gender wedding and/or MAiD considerations. While these may be powerfully theologically challenging issues to hold gently in our hands and hearts, whatever we may decide will have a much smaller practical impact on the day to day life of the Church. More pressing and impressing will be such motions as the work we are called to do with our Indigenous siblings, and in establishing solid ministries and opportunities for our Diocesan Youth!

As we continue to pray, work, and walk together into the Revival God is calling our Diocese to share with the world, I ask your prayers for all who will say “yes” to the opportunities to participate in the fulfilment of these motions, and all the other work Synod has called us to do. Over the next few months, information and opportunities will be advertised and communicated with you to invite you to pray, study, converse, discern how God is calling us to be faithful and pastoral companions to the members of our communities for whom Motions Nine and Ten will have significant impact.

And so, a phrase you will come to read, hear, and trust in the next three years: Pay attention because there is more to follow!



“Let us not forget that after 9/11, we joined hands and cared for each other; let us not forget that even if it was for one brief, shining moment—we loved each other. Let us not forget that hope is on the way. What we did then we can, by God’s grace, do again—and discover who we truly are.”

— Bishop Michael Curry, Sermon at the Trinity Wall Street 9/11 Requiem Eucharis, 12 September 2021



Bishop Michale Curry and Bishop Rachael Parker
General Synod, London, Ontario, 2025

Planning for the Future

By Bishop Rachael Parker

At our Synod, a Resolution was passed that called upon this Synod (and the Executive Committee working between Synods) to offer continued diocesan support for Indigenous-led ministry, leadership development, and community gatherings, including a continued commitment to use Council of the North funding for ministry in the Archdeaconry of The Pas.

As you may know, the Diocese receives a block grant from the Anglican Church of Canada each year which is designated for Council of

the North dioceses. These monies are budgeted each year for specific ministries in The Pas Archdeaconry and in support of Henry Budd College for Ministry. The Diocese has also been fortunate to receive an annual grant from The New England Company, with the sole purpose of funding to assist ministry within our Indigenous communities. We are very fortunate to receive these two grants.

Thanks to our public involvement in Council of the North, a generous benefactor from outside the Diocese has established a

Trust within the Diocese of Brandon to provide a funding base for ongoing Indigenous Ministries. Seed money has been gifted us, with the promise of a significant donation upon her death. The desire of our benefactor is that we would work together to build up **The Bishop Terry Finley Fund for Indigenous Ministries** and together, with her, ensure that these important and crucial ministries become a legacy within our Diocese.

If you would like to donate to this newly established Fund or would like more information about

its intent and purpose, please reach out to Bishop Rachael.

This example of Legacy Planning is an excellent way for individuals, congregations, and communities to invest in the future of our Diocese. Legacy Planning can be set up for general Diocesan use or for specific ministries such as The Bishop Terry Finley Fund or AMC (Anglican Memorial Camp). Please pray and consider this opportunity for ongoing stewardship in the Diocese of Brandon and for the world God is calling us to serve!

Synod Photos



Above and lower left: Friday night Synod dinner with live music.
Lower Right: The Clergy and Lay Readers from the Synod Service, Thursdau night.



More Synod Photos



When Archdeacon Kara speaks, everyone listens!



With great Power Point comes great responsibility.



Yes! Canon Rob you must vote...Bishop says so!



Great discusion, lead by great people!

"Christian hope isn't passive. Hope in the certainty of God's future calls us to change the world in which we live now, to make it look a bit more like the Kingdom we await."

Archbishop Justin Webley

ST. PAUL'S DAUPHAN, MANITOBA

St. Paul's in Dauphin is working hard in their basement. First we dealt with a leaky roof, which led us to having services in the basement during repairs. That was completed, and services resumed upstairs, just in time for the basement to flood! Here we are sorting out the basement, ready for repairs there. With keen workers and cookies, we can accomplish anything!



Bishop's Thanksgivings Message

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.
Matthew 13.16 (NRSV)

Thanksgiving 2026

My Dear Siblings in Christ,

As I write this Thanksgiving letter, we have only just concluded our Synod five days ago. It seems serendipitous that I am called to write this letter on the heels of what, to me, was a beautiful time of conversation, prayer, and the promise of great hope. Our Diocese is, by the very nature of our being, a body called to prayer, faith, and sharing those prayers and faith with the wider world.

Our call to Revival is indeed one which will be a gift and a grace to the people and communities around us, but it will also be the same in our own lives, families, and churches. As we are more intentional about seeking, seeing, and serving Christ right in our midst we will find a renewed energy, a greater strength, and a stronger recognition of the many blessings God has placed right before us. Our eyes will indeed begin see God's blessings, and our ears to hear the same. When we energetically strive to walk with Christ in God's world, the Holy Spirit will share with us wisdom, beauty, hope, and challenges which we wouldn't have been prepared for in the past.

The Revival we are called to participate in will be a Grand Thanksgiving as we energetically participate in the cultivation of the ground God is giving us as our field, as we plant seeds of hope through new relationships and prayer, as we tend to those relationships, and then, when the time is right, share with the Spirit as we go out into the fields white and ready for harvesting.

Like this Harvest Season, there may be times when circumstances threaten to slow us down and prevent the work we are called to do but we will continue to plough ahead, trusting in God's timing and knowing that, when the time is right, we will indeed see the Harvest God is intending for our Season of Revival right here in our Diocese, and possibly even in the world beyond.

I encourage you to take extended moments and times of offering your Thanksgiving to God. We have all been invited to prepare the Thanksgiving Feast table – for our own families and churches, and the communities beyond. We are called to remember God's wonder, abundance, love and grace not just in the secular season of Thanksgiving but throughout the year as well. God is filling our barns to overflowing. Now we are called to share the harvest with all whom we meet!

May God continue to bless and guide you and all who you love and serve through this Thanksgiving celebration and on into our Season of Revival!

+ Bishop Rachael



The Kid's Corner



Where in the World is the Bishop?!?

November – December 2026 Itinerary

November	
1-2	Council of the North In-Person mtgs - Winnipeg
3-5	Anglican-Roman Catholic Bishops' Dialogue- Winnipeg
7-8	Flin Flon – Legion Dinner & Sunday worship at St. Peter & St. James
9	Meetings in Office
10-13	Transformational Task Force – Pathways In-Person Mtg – Winnipeg
14	Cathedral for Worship Training
15-20	Office
21-22	Swan River for a Congregational Gathering and Worship
23-27	Office
29	Annual Leave
December	
1-3	Annual Leave
14	BARDS mtg (Mtg with Dean & Archdeacons)
14-18	Office
20	St. Mark's, Elkhorn
21-23	Office
24	Killarney Parish
25	St. Matthew's Cathedral

