



The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

September 22, 2019

Available online at StJohn316.com/OEW

Reflections on General Synod 2019

Marilyn Malton

"I have called **you** by name." This theme resounded throughout General Synod 2019, the governing body of the Anglican Church of Canada that meets every three years with lay, clergy, and episcopal (bishop) members from coast to coast to coast. Once again, I was privileged to serve as a lay member of the Diocese of Huron delegation to General Synod. By now many of you will have seen or heard reports from General Synod 2019. The September Anglican Journal and Huron Church News included extensive coverage. This article sketches some of my experiences at General Synod and some possible follow-up from the work accomplished there. For those of you reading this article online the underlined phrases contain clickable links to further information.

"I have called **you** by name" was highlighted as we worshipped each day and met in small bible study groups with other synod members from across the country; each table group brought together a diverse group of people who serve Christ's church in many different contexts and brought many different perspectives.

"I have called **you** by name, you are mine" rang out as we sang a hymn written to honour the 12 years of service by Archbishop Fred Hiltz as our Primate (head of the Anglican Church of Canada). There were grateful tributes to this humble, gifted leader who is one of the most attentive listeners I have ever encountered. We gave thanks for his work and embarked on the election of a new Primate. The Huron delegation had mixed emotions when our bishop, Linda Nicholls, was elected, and again when we processed with her in the installation service and sent her forth from Huron to serve the whole of the Anglican Church of Canada. We rejoiced that she is our new Primate, the first woman to serve as Primate in Canada and only the second female Primate in the Anglican communion, and we were sad to lose her as our bishop. Please pray for Archbishop Linda as she serves in this new and demanding role and for our Diocese as we elect a new bishop.

"I have called **you** by name, you are mine." Synod members participated in an exercise to practice respectful listening and talking. While applicable to all resolutions the focus of the exercise was clearly on the upcoming second reading of the resolution to change the marriage canon. We were reminded that "listening and speaking well through difficult discussions is a way to be as Christ to one another" and that "we are called to be a witness to a world that is hungry for civility, parched for compassion." Canon Brokenleg reflected that "one of the most pressing relational skills of our time is the ability to discuss and, indeed, disagree with one another in love and respect." The table discussions and debates that followed did not skirt difficult conversations and the tone was significantly improved from similar conversations at General Synod 2016. The guidelines used at General Synod would be helpful at any level of the church.

The resolutions at General Synod are wide ranging. All may be found at <https://gs2019.anglican.ca/cc/resolutions/>. There were the usual motions about rules of order, approval of minutes, financial statements, and reception of reports. In addition, General Synod administers a pension fund and continuing education plan for clergy and lay employees. Most of the

(Continued on page 11)

The next issue of On Eagle's Wings will be available on October 20th.

Nurses Notes

Elsie Millerd, Parish Nurse

Why Check Our Blood Pressure?

Blood pressure is a measure of the pressure or force of blood against the walls of your blood vessels (known as arteries). Your blood pressure reading is based on two measures called systolic and diastolic. The systolic (top) number is the measure of the pressure force when your heart contracts and pushes out the blood. The diastolic (bottom) number is the measure of when your heart relaxes between beats. Knowing one's blood pressure gives an indication of the stress under which the heart and blood vessels are living.

High blood pressure is when the blood pressure in your arteries is elevated and your heart has to work harder than normal to pump blood through the blood vessels. Normal range of blood pressure is 120 / 80. A medium risk blood pressure is 120-129 / 80-89. Higher blood pressure of 140+ / 90+ is considered high risk. If you have one high reading, you should have it checked at least two more times on separate days to determine if it is consistently high. Keep a record of your blood pressure readings on a blood pressure tracking card. This record will help determine whether your blood pressure is within a healthy range.

High blood pressure is the number one risk factor for stroke and a major risk factor for heart disease. It can be controlled and so, therefore, it is wise to know whether you need to be concerned. Ways to prevent or lower high blood pressure are:

- Have your blood pressure checked regularly.
- Use prescribed medication for high blood pressure as directed by your doctor.
- Reduce the amount of sodium you eat to less than 2,300 mg of sodium (about 1 tsp / 5 ml of salt) a day total from processed foods and salt added during food preparation and at the table.
- Eat a healthy, balanced diet that is lower in salt and fat (especially saturated and trans fats).
- Be physically active for at least 150 minutes per week with short bouts of moderate to vigorous intensity aerobic physical activity (10 minutes or more).
- Achieve and maintain healthy body weight.
- Be smoke free.
- Limit alcohol beverages.
- Find healthy ways to manage your stress.

Low blood pressure is when the pressure in your arteries drops and your heart is pumping your blood at a slower rate than normal through your blood vessels. Blood pressure levels below 120 / 80 may be considered normal unless you feel light-headed or dizzy. Your healthcare provider can help you determine if you have low blood pressure. Adequate fluid intake may help to maintain sufficient blood pressure.

Please feel free to speak to me about any concerns and questions regarding blood pressure. I try to be available to do blood pressure screening once a month after both the 8 am and 10 am services. Check the weekly bulletin for the day.

Resource: Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada: <https://www.heartandstroke.ca/heart/risk-and-prevention/condition-risk-factors/high-blood-pressure>

Leadership for Kids' Sake – Parenting Tips

As we welcome the children back to Church School, I share some parenting tips from Barbara Coloroso, parent advocate and author of Kids are Worth It: Giving your child the Gift of Inner Discipline.” They provide an attitude and environment to help children develop a sense of self-discipline.

Parenting Philosophy:

1. Kids are worth it!
2. I will not treat a child in a way I myself would not want to be treated.
3. If something works and leaves my child's and my dignity intact, do it.

Six Critical Messages for Every Day:

1. I believe in you.
2. I trust you.
3. I know you can handle it.
4. You are listened to.
5. You are cared for.
6. You are very important to me.

Watch next month for more parenting tips from Barbara Coloroso.

Resource: Barbara Coloroso www.kidsareworthit.com

Coming Soon

Requiem Eucharist:

A special service will be held on **Sunday, November 3rd** at **3 pm** to remember loved ones who have died recently. If you would like someone especially remembered, please leave the name on the sheet for this purpose which is on the Narthex table. A time of refreshment and sharing will follow the service in the Fireside Room.

Neighbourhood Hospitality—A View From The Pew

Rich Hobson

Some of us, not involved with day to day management of this amazing parish, may view the establishment of a safe drug injection site directly across the street from the church, as just another kick in the gut. We have found ourselves in a downtown neighbourhood which is home to people living on the street who bring social problems for which we have no solutions. It sometimes seems a little overwhelming. I do not propose to list the challenges, threats or fears some of our members face daily in keeping this good ship afloat. And it is a ship. Look up at the ceiling of our nave with its vaulted beams depicting the upside down hull of a great vessel, carrying us through the stormy tempest.

The supervised safe injection facility will open across Duke Street in mid October.

Is it a new neighbour to be welcomed or faced with trepidation?

I decided that I would do some research. This past week I spent some time with a public health nurse employed by the Region of Waterloo. Heather Elliott is part of a team who are charged with addressing drug use and abuse in our community. The use of dangerous addictive drugs in our neighbourhood and on our own grounds is a major problem. The safe injection site is intended to help with this affliction. That is vitally important for these neighbours of ours who are struggling with addiction and for us as we struggle to respond as Christ would call us to do. We are incredibly fortunate to have a rector who is committed to this task. Preston Parsons is the right leader at the right

(Continued on page 6)

Summer Rambles Among the Tombstones

Elaine Duncanson

With no vacation planned for me this year, my thoughts turned to other interests. My daughter had traced some family history as part of her work for the gold Duke of Edinburgh award and had given me numerous sheets about family members she has found.

On my first visit to Maria's new home a dozen years ago, she took me to a small United Church in Adjala township where we found the graves of my great-great grandparents who had donated the land for the church and churchyard. They were firm Methodists who had come from County Tyrone, Ireland. Their daughter, Margaret, married Robert Mercer of Connor and had two sons, Albert James, my grandfather, and Robert Joseph.

When A.J. was about ten, his father died. His mother remarried and had three daughters – Sarah Margaret, Lettie Laura, and Josephine. On a trip in the area, I asked for a detour to Tottenham to see if we could find the cemetery and a headstone. It was almost too easy. Aunt Maggie and all her family were listed on one large rose coloured stone near the top of a slope. Her son, Gordon, had been a doctor in the military and chose to settle in the town near the home farm because he knew the people and they would trust him more than a city fellow who would move on in a few years.

Dr. Gordon visited us once when I was very young. He called and asked Mom to put a large kettle of water on to boil by the time he arrived. He had a lobster and not much time to consume his treasure. I wanted to see what was happening but Dr. Gordon insisted that I stand well back. Mom saw it wiggling in his hand and screamed as he put it in the pot. He brought his own butter and offered us some of the delicacy but we did not partake.

I remember hearing about Aunt Laura and I think I visited Aunt Jo shortly after my brother was born. Mom was convinced he looked like her father and wanted someone who knew A.J. to agree with her. The family was suitably polite about it but my clearest recollections were about animals. I inadvertently sat on the cat's chair while it was occupied. I was offered a trip to the barnyard but found the ducks too noisy and the geese too tall and nosey. Not at all like the creatures in my story books.

Another day we went to St. John's Mono Mills, a very pretty cemetery, where I found numerous Mercers and Masons. My cousin had told me about the stone that linked the two families and for more than two decades I was eager to see it. As we drove up to the gate it was clearly visible. I have since learned that Barbara Mercer married John Mason on April 19, 1852. John was a son of the original couple who came from Northern Ireland and settled on concession 2 in Adjala township.

Their son, Robert Mercer Mason, born 1860, became a veterinarian and settled in Fenlon Falls. He was MPP for Victoria county during three sessions of the Legislature. On one of his trips to Toronto his wife sent along a pair of shoes "for the baby" – that was my mother. Their son, Barkley, and his wife, Rose, sat just two pews in front of us in church during my youth. They were the kindest people I knew. They always had a smile, a bit of news, or words of cheer. Their son Edward was a guardian angel to me as a shy teenager.

Another cemetery, Toronto Necropolis, was on my must see list. According to records and family tradition, my city great-great grandparents were buried there and probably two of their three children. It took a lot of walking around in the shady space and the assistance of two men familiar with the graves to find the stone. It was hard to read but I was

(Continued on page 6)

In The Neighbourhood ...

My name is Kevin and I live in the neighbourhood. Well, at the House of Friendship, actually. It is quite a place. If you haven't been there, you might not know what it is like.

To get in you have to prove you are from Waterloo Region. You have to live here for at least a month. They screen you before you get in. They want to know how much income you have, where it comes from, and what your prospects are for more income. If you have enough, or if someone will co-sign for you, they give you a newspaper and suggest that you find an apartment.

There are about 80 of us at the house. Every day 3 or 4 or 5 leave and the same number arrive or come back. It is very transient. My roommates change often. That can be good or bad. One talks to himself or no one. Some take drugs and get high. More than half are mentally ill, some on meds and others off them.

They get us up at 6:00 am for breakfast and we have to be out the door by 8:00 am. We can return at 5:00 pm. We are supposed to be in bed by 11:00 pm. It is run a bit like a prison. Except some get up in the night for a smoke. Some sit up and talk, to themselves or another resident. It is hard to get much sleep. Elsie gave me some ear plugs to help me.

During the day some of us go to the library, or the park, or Ray of Hope, or a friend's house. Many go to St. John's Kitchen. This is the time to find supplies of cigarettes, alcohol or drugs. I have a car so I often park in different locations and sleep. I also have some part time work.

I didn't always live this way. I had a three bedroom house in Cambridge, a wife, and two children. One day all my stuff was out on the curb. My CDs were taken. That is hard. Now my ex is in palliative care and I am estranged from my kids. My ex wanted her new man to adopt my kids and I will have to go to court and sign stuff.

I had a girlfriend in Ayr but then I went into a psychiatric hospital. She kept in contact. We had different views about religion so she didn't want to get back together. I found a place to live in Elmira. It was a converted garage and I watched the buggies go by.

I read the Bible while I was in the hospital. When I got out, I wanted to find a church. I went to a Pentecostal church and the people were very friendly. The pastor was young and spent a lot of time with me. But it wasn't a good fit so I didn't go back.

I moved again and knew I had to pick a church. I was starting to get lost. I saw St. John's on the website and the pictures looked attractive. I saw the sign out front and, since I had to be up at 6:00 am, I thought I would give it a try.

St. John's is central and really beautiful. I like the doors, the stained glass windows. I talked to Preston and told him my life story. I was looking for a home and St. John's is home.

(Continued from page 4)

given a printout to keep with my notes. Matthew Wright died June 19, 1856, in his 46th year. That means he was 22 when he arrived in muddy York and was married later that year to Nancy Oliver who had arrived the year before.

Grandma told me stories about the early days of the city and the part the family played in it. Her Uncle John died nearly thirteen years before she was born. Her mother, Bessie Jane, married John Hamilton and had five children but my grandmother was the only one to reach her first birthday. Bessie Jane died about 1874 so Grandma was raised by her grandmother Nancy Wright and Aunt Sarah. They were very strict but seemed to indulge her at times. She had many a merry tale to tell.

There is so much more to learn about these people and their lives and so many more people to discover. Maria was in contact with a woman who sent her five obituaries with a wealth of connections as well as stories about each of the people. Common themes emerge: they were serious about their religion, and their politics too. They were respected in the community and often a source of aid to others. None of them was wealthy but there seems to be a richness about their lives that comes from being industrious and using their talents for others.

I can see their influence in my life. So much of what my mother instilled in me came from generations before. Grandma played the piano and sang in the Mendelssohn choir. I had piano lessons and plenty of choir experience. No excuse I could think of was enough to get me out of a dull Sunday School class so I became accustomed to Church on Sunday as one of those necessities of life. None of them had an easy life but they found happiness and brought up their children well.

(Continued from page 3)

time for St Johns to embrace this ministry. I had that in mind as I chatted with Heather Elliott.

These are some of the things I learned:

- The staff of the new facility will have an initial roster of four, growing to six later on. That will include addiction counseling, social workers, and housing advisors charged with finding homes for people living on the street. Importantly, there will also be peer workers with personal experience with addiction and drug abuse. They will be a resource responding to individual human needs of people on the street. They will conduct needle sweeps to keep the neighbourhood safer. They will address loitering issues and provide help and counseling to drug users. They will also liaise with us to address our concerns and problems.
- The new site will be staffed from about 8:30 every morning till about 9:30 each evening. It will be equipped with a kiosk with a sharps container where used needles will be safely deposited. I was reminded that we should not handle used needles without work gloves. They are best picked up with safe tools and placed in a hard container such as an empty plastic bottle. Then placed in a sharps container.
- This site will be operated by a not for profit organization known as Sanguen under the medical direction of a medical doctor Dr. Chris Steingardt.

This project will not mean an influx of new drug users. Rather it is expected to serve drug users already living in our neighbourhood. The need is here now to help the existing population to have the protection of a safe place to deal with addiction. It should reduce the use of drugs in our gardens. It will help us to keep our property safe for them and for us.

I believe this facility will be good for the people of St Johns.

So, as we reach out to our neighbours, as we live as we are called to do, as we follow the lead of our parish priest in living out a ministry of hospitality I say to our newest neighbour welcome and God Bless.

ACW Outreach

Throughout the year, St. John's ACW (Anglican Church Women) is involved with a number of ongoing outreach projects. They are listed here.

Postage Stamps: Please save any USED POSTAGE STAMPS. They do not need to be separated from the envelope. The stamps are sent to effect:hope (The Leprosy Mission Canada). From there, the stamps are sold to stamp collectors. For over one hundred years, The Leprosy Mission has worked to support education and research as well as those affected by this disease. Stamps may be put in the labelled box located on the shelf downstairs outside the choir practice room. If you are interested in helping with this, please speak to Enid Emery.

Prescription Glasses: Prescription eyeglasses are collected and sent via the Lyons Club for use in other countries. The collection box for these also located downstairs on the shelf near the choir practice room. If you have any questions about this, please speak to Enid Emery.

Monica Place: Each fall, we collect items for young moms and their babies so set aside gently used/new baby clothing or clothing suitable for teens. Watch for further announcements coming soon containing a more detailed wish list of needed items and dates for collection.

Huron Church Camp: In the late spring, arts and crafts supplies are collected for this camp which has been run by the Diocese of Huron for over 70 years.

Always watch for our ACW announcements in this newsletter as well as the Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions regarding our various outreach projects, please speak to Nancy Chittick or Sandra Roy.



is

Bales Co-coordinator Needed

Nancy Chittick

For many years, each January, St. John's packs boxes of gently new and used clothing to be shipped to Kenora. We do this in conjunction with two other churches in our Deanery. Kenora is located close to the Manitoba border. Our clothing boxes are shipped free of charge by HomeHardware. In Kenora, the clothing is delivered to a shop called Twice Is Nice which is owned and operated by St. Alban's Cathedral which is located in town. While the store is located in Kenora, clothing is also delivered to surrounding First Nation Communities.

In order for this outreach activity to continue here at St. John's this year, a co-coordinator is needed. This opportunity is open to anyone at St. John's willing to take on half the work involved. It would involve assisting with packing the clothes, organizing the loading and delivery of the boxes (in volunteers' vehicles) to the Home Hardware warehouse in St. Jacobs. If you think you might be willing to assist with this project, please see Nancy Chittick for further details. As plans for this year's delivery will begin mid-October, a volunteer will need to come forward by that time.

St. John's 71st Annual Pudding Factory Begins November 1st 2019

Once more we move forward in faith with the Annual Pudding Factory.

The ACW asks all members of our church community to mark your calendars for the Annual St. John's Pudding Factory which begins on Friday November 1st. While the ACW provides the leadership, we need the support of all in the Parish, both men and women, to make it a success. It is always a great time for fellowship and getting to know other members of our Parish.

The proceeds support the parish operating budget as well as outreach.



PUDDING ORDERS TAKEN DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Our goal this year is to produce and sell 2,000 pounds of puddings. Our traditional puddings are made with all natural ingredients from a cherished secret recipe. We need your help by asking friends, family, neighbours and co-workers to place orders. Order forms are available on the narthex table at St. John's during October. If you do not have an order form, you can place an order by contacting:

Wilma: 519-578-0175 OR Email: acw@stjohn316.com OR Online: www.stjohn316.com/pudding-orders/

VOLUNTEER TIMES:

We hope that you will sign up to volunteer to help make the puddings. Please bring a friend or other family member. Carol Thurnell is our volunteer coordinator and she will have lists for you to sign up at the coffee hours and in the Narthex during October. It is important that even the regular volunteers sign on for the times they will be here so that Carol can tell when more volunteers will be needed.

A list of tasks with descriptions and volunteer needs is available with the signup sheet. Shifts are available throughout each day.

Friday	Nov. 1 st starting at 9 a.m. to clean fruit
Saturday	Nov. 2 nd starting at 9 a.m. to move and setup the equipment
Monday	Nov. 4 th starting at 9:30 a.m. and running all day and evening
Tuesday	Nov. 5 th starting at 8:30 a.m. and running all day and evening
Wednesday	Nov. 6 th starting at 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday	Nov. 7 th starting at 9 a.m. to ...

REFRESHMENTS are available each day. Please bring your own lunch if you can stay.

PARKING passes are available for those who stay for several hours. We encourage sharing the drive, taking public transit, or parking at the City Hall.

For further information contact Carol Thurnell cathurnell@hotmail.com or telephone (evenings) 519-725-9022.

PUDDING PICKUP and CRAFT MARKET:

The puddings will be packed on Friday ready for pickup starting on Saturday morning.

Saturday November 9 th	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday November 10 th	8:30 a.m. to Noon

A wide variety of gift items will be for sale at the Craft Market during Saturday pickup time.



Deanery of Waterloo Refugee Report

David Whitfield

As you know our church is one of the 13 Anglican churches in the Deanery's Refugee Committee. The Refugee Committee was established in 2015 and to date the 13 Anglican churches have sponsored 3 refugee families and assisted 2 other families. The Refugee Committee wished to sponsor and assist a 4th family and to do so the 13 churches had to raise a minimum of \$8000 to add to the money in our Deanery Refugee Budget. We are pleased to advise that we met our goal and our church donated \$700 to this end.

On September 26 our new refugee family will be arriving. We have a furnished apartment in Cambridge awaiting their happy footsteps. Our family is Bahavu and his wife Tabisha and children Cedric (age 8) and Dorcas (age 5). They have been in a refugee camp in Kenya but are originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Wait until they see snow!

The Refugee Committee is made up of about 25 volunteers. In addition we have many other volunteers from our 13 churches, who together with the committee members, assist the families in matters such as: finding accommodation, finding and furnishing the families' accommodation, stocking the accommodation with food and supplies, finding doctors and dentists, helping with grocery shopping, registering the refugee children in schools and other programs. We have a group of volunteers who drive the families to school and appointments on a daily and weekly basis. We also have 2 or 3 from our churches who will act as primary contacts for our new family for the sponsorship year.

And there are other ways to help. We have some church members who want to donate specific items that a refugee family may need. As an example, one parishioner bought a car seat for our last family as her way of showing her support. Another bought a new mattress. We had another church member take one of our refugee families to Lake Huron for the day where the family swam, played on the beach and saw another part of our beautiful province. If you are interested in considering such help, please speak to Ann Coughlin, David Whitfield or Syd Reginato.

The Refugee Committee is always looking for new volunteers to help with any of the above services to assist our new family settle into their new country and home.

We are pleased to advise that Syd Reginato has recently joined the Refugee Committee and she is looking forward to helping our newest refugee family and any future refugee families we may sponsor.

This Fall in the Church School

Jenn Levitt Birdsall and Marilyn Malton

Church School Coordinators

This fall St. John's Church School will join with Anglicans around the world who are trying to live Jesus-shaped lives as part of a nine-year Season of Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making. What might it mean for us to be intentional about having our lives shaped by Jesus?



In Church School we'll start out by looking at Jesus as a Jewish disciple, at Jesus' discipleship school, and discipleship in the early church. Then we'll look at four areas of living a Jesus Shaped Life – belonging, witness, belief, and service - including the sacraments of baptism and Eucharist and the Anglican five marks of mission.

Watch for the announcements each week in the bulletin for more information or speak to us. You may also want to pray the International Disciples' Prayer from the Anglican Communion with us:

*Almighty God,
you have called us to live and share
Jesus-shaped life in a Jesus-shaped church for a Jesus-shaped world.
Empower us with your Holy Spirit to live as disciples
who make disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.
Amen.*

Get involved with the Pudding Factory

If you're new to St. John's, you might not be familiar with one of our oldest traditions, the Pudding Factory. Every year since 1949, members of St. John's Anglican Church Women (ACW) have organized this one-week event, which produces 2,000 pounds of Christmas puddings.

Made from a cherished recipe, these traditional desserts are sold to raise money for charity and for church activities; in fact, the Pudding Factory is the St. John's primary fundraiser. The puddings make wonderful Christmas gifts and our customers have sent them all across Canada, and as far as California, Scotland, Australia and even Afghanistan. Several local restaurants also serve them during the holiday season.

We begin taking pudding orders in October. All orders must be in at the beginning of November when the upper parish hall transforms into a pudding-making assembly line. Dozens of volunteers from both the church and community measure ingredients, mix batter and steam puddings. Other volunteers package the finished puddings and manage pudding pickup, which takes place this year on November 9-10.

The Pudding Factory is a wonderful opportunity to experience life at St. John's. There are many different ways to get involved and we would love to have you join us. Please contact Carol Thurnell at cathurnell@hotmail.com to learn more.

(Continued from page 1)

motions are related to the work of various committees and task forces and represent at least three years of work, and often many more, by committees, staff, volunteers, and the Council of General Synod (CoGS) which serves as the executive body of General Synod.

The ongoing work of **reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and the development of a self-determining Indigenous Anglican Church** was prominent at General Synod 2019. Archbishop Fred Hiltz offered an apology for spiritual harm on behalf of the Anglican Church of Canada toward all Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Inuit, and Métis – and the Indigenous Elders of Synod 2019 later read a statement indicating their reception of the apology and our Church's commitments for spiritual healing that it contains. We viewed the powerful *Doctrine of Discovery; Stolen lands, Strong Hearts* documentary (see <https://vimeo.com/321909285>). In a historic vote, synod amended the constitution to enable a self-determining Indigenous church within the Anglican Church of Canada and the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, Mark MacDonald, was installed as archbishop.

The **resolution to amend the Marriage Canon**, to permit the solemnization of same sex marriages, was before synod for second reading. Much work had been done since it passed first reading in 2016. All provincial synods and most dioceses, including the Diocese of Huron, considered the proposed changes and submitted reports to the Council of General Synod (CoGS). CoGS reviewed the submissions and issued *A Word to the Church* in March 2019 in preparation for the second reading. It is well worth taking the time to read *A Word to the Church*. It contains a brief chronology of the church's work related to same sex relationships, a description of current realities, and a series of affirmations acknowledging the right of indigenous people to self-determination, diverse understandings of marriage and the marriage canon, and commitments to presume good faith among those who hold diverse understandings and teachings and to walk together and preserve communion.

On July 12, Synod overwhelmingly affirmed *A Word to the Church* but later that day failed to pass the resolution on amendments to the Marriage Canon. There was deep anguish, pain, and grief in the room when we realised that although the laity and clergy had passed the motion by more than the required two-thirds majority, it narrowly failed in the order of bishops. Three days later, on July 15, Archbishop Fred Hiltz read a statement from the House of Bishops acknowledging the pain and anguish and hurt inflicted by the work and vote on the amendments to the Marriage Canon and offering an apology. The statement acknowledged that "the bishops are not of one mind but looked with hope to *A Word to the Church*" and its affirmations as a way forward. "We are walking in a way which leaves room for individual dioceses and jurisdictions of our church to proceed with same-sex marriage according to their contexts and convictions, sometimes described as 'local option.'"

Lay and clergy members did not have an opportunity to present a statement to synod, so we released one via social media on July 16. All members of the Diocese of Huron delegation signed the statement which reads:

The clergy and lay delegates of General Synod 2019 have by overwhelming majorities voted in favour of the proposed change to the marriage canon to explicitly permit same sex marriage (Resolution A052-R2) and the affirmations of "A Word to the Church" (Resolution A101-R1). We are saddened and dismayed that the change to the marriage canon was blocked by the vote in the order of bishops, though we are heartened that a strong majority of bishops (62%) voted in favour.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Therefore we affirm:

1. The full inclusion of LGBTQ2S+ people in the life, leadership, liturgies and sacraments, including marriage, of the Anglican Church of Canada
2. That in accordance with the affirmations found in “A Word to the Church”, same sex marriage can and will proceed by local option.
3. That we regret and lament the hurt and harm that has been caused by the actions of this Synod and by our church to LGBTQ2S+ people. We apologize, and call on our Church to end the harm.

Since then, many dioceses, including the Diocese of Huron, and the Anglican Military Ordinariate have authorized the availability of same-sex marriage as a pastoral local option with some guidelines. In Huron, Archbishop Linda authorized same-sex marriages, as of August 1, in parishes where the priest and the Parish Council have considered the matter, agreed that the parish will do so, and request permission of the Bishop. No parish will be required to offer same-sex marriage and clergy already have provision to refuse to perform a marriage for reasons of conscience. St. John’s Parish Council is following up with this work.

There was additional important work at General Synod. Regarding **social and ecological justice**, General Synod passed resolutions addressing the global climate emergency, the Season of Creation, use of single-use plastics, human trafficking and modern slavery, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. **Faith, worship, and ministry** resolutions focused on discipleship, safe church, and new liturgical and daily prayer resources. Other resolutions concentrated on **ecumenical and interfaith relationships** with Lutherans, the United Church, and our Muslim and Jewish siblings, while others addressed the **communications strategy** of the church including changes to the Anglican Journal.

Readers interested in more details about some of the resolutions and possible local action will find additional information below and by following the links in the text above.

Self-Determining Indigenous Anglican Church and Reconciliation

Established the Vision Keepers as a permanent forum for overseeing the work of the Church in implementing the spirit of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). *Local action?* How are our parishes engaging with UNDRIP?

Directed the Council of General Synod to establish a committee to guide the ongoing work of truth, reconciliation and justice. *Local action?* How are our parishes responding to the calls for truth and reconciliation?

Social and Ecological Justice

Passed a resolution brought by youth members to recognize that there is a global climate emergency. *Local action?* Parishes and all Anglicans are encouraged to make the Baptismal Covenant and the fifth mark of mission a priority in our faith, worship, and lives.

Adopted the Season of Creation as a time of prayer, education, and action to protect the gift of God’s creation, observed annually from September 1 to October 4. *Local action?* Dioceses are encouraged to develop initiatives and resources for parishes to use during the Season of Creation.

Affirmed efforts to reduce the use of single-use plastics. *Local action?* Parishes are encouraged to curtail purchasing single-use plastic products with the intention of ending their use by 2023; individual Anglicans are encouraged to do

the same.

Condemned human trafficking and modern slavery and directed the Anglican Church of Canada to engage with all levels of government to combat exploitation. *Local action?* How might our parishes build relationships with local networks to combat trafficking, slavery, and exploitation?

Affirmed the new United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development and encouraged engagement with them in concert with the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion. *Local action?* Parishes are encouraged to assess and increase our involvement in projects supporting the Sustainable Development Goals that are most applicable to our missional work.

Faith, Worship, and Ministry

Affirmed the “Arusha Call to Discipleship”, a document from the 2018 World Council of Churches Conference on World Mission and Evangelism. *Local action?* This short document is well worth some study by local parishes as we develop our ministries of discipleship and witness in the community.

Officially adopted “The Anglican Communion Charter for the Safety of People” and the “Protocol for the Disclosure of Ministry Suitability Information between the Churches of the Anglican Communion.” *Local action?* Our Diocese of Huron will use the charter as we revise and create safe church policies and practice.

Authorized use of new liturgical texts created by the liturgical task force, namely, “Alternative Collects for the Revised Common Lectionary”, “Gathering Rites for Paschaltide”, “Thanksgivings Over the Water”, “Seasonal Forms for Daily Office”, and “Daily Prayer for Ordinary Time”. *Local action?* The approved liturgies are an option for parishes and individuals who wish to use them in worship services and daily prayer.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships

Recognized full communion among the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC), the U.S. Episcopal Church (TEC), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Affirmed *A Common Word between Us and You*, offered by Muslim leaders. *Local action?* The model of *A Common Word* initiative can help us further develop Christian-Muslim engagement in our community.

Calling all crafters, bakers and vendors

Sarah Guthrie

As part of our pudding pickup, the ACW would again like to incorporate a craft/vendor sale on Saturday, November 9th— our second annual Christmas Bazaar! We hope to raise additional funds to support the church and our outreach projects.

You can help by:

- Attending and purchasing items
- Inviting your friends and family
- Donating crafted or baked (or other) items
- Volunteering on the day
- Having a table of your own to sell your own items



If you have suggestions, or would like to contribute, please contact Sarah Guthrie (sarah.guthrie@gmail.com).

Community Kitchen Co-op KW presents

Protein-Packed Plant-Based Cooking 101

Always wondered how to cook tempeh and tofu?

Learn how to prepare high-protein vegan dishes in this fun, hands-on workshop. Learn several recipes and enjoy them for lunch. All abilities and diets welcome.

**12:30 pm - 2:30 pm Saturday Sept 28
Rockway Community Centre**

Register via Eventbrite - \$20

www.eventbrite.com/e/protein-packed-plant-based-cooking-101-tickets-71701726795

Instructor Cécile, born in France, is not your traditional French chef. Unpretentious, original, nutritionally dense, and using quality ingredients, her recipes are meant to become part of your kitchen.

Cécile's website: www.untamedkitchen.ca

**Follow for more events from
Community Kitchen Co-operative KW**

Facebook @communitykitchenkw
Instagram @kitchencoopkw

