



The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Woodcroft
Bishop of Rupert's Land

June 2, 2020

Dear Friends,

I write to you today with important information regarding the meeting of Synod 2020.

The presence of COVID 19, and the various and strict regulations imposed by all levels of government and the diocese, has caused me to suspend the **in-person** gathering of the Diocese of Rupert's Land Synod, originally scheduled for October 2020. Many Health-care professionals and disease experts predict a second, more intense, wave of the virus to happen between September and November 2020.

Jim Ripley, Diocesan Chancellor, and Robert Doyle, Vice Chancellor, have ruled that we are obligated to convene a regular meeting of Synod biennially. The Synod Agenda Committee has met several times through the last two months, discussing what means are available to us for meeting as a full synod. In consultation with the Chancellor, the committee and I have concluded that we must meet electronically; that is, we must meet by ZOOM, or other such platform, always including a *telephone-in* option, as those meeting options are presently open and available to us. **I hereby call the 117th Session of the Synod Diocese of Rupert's Land to meet on October 17th, 2020.**

A virtual Synod presents a myriad of issues and questions regarding process, recognition of speakers, unstable networks and attendance black-outs, and the list goes on. In consultation with the Chancellor, we determined that we must gather, call the roll, pray the Great Thanksgiving, appoint scrutineers, officers and Council nominations to Synod, and perform election processes normally completed at a biannual synod, (and now by mail-in balloting), then adjourn. Presently, it is also my intention to call an **in-person** synod for October 2021, given that much work will be required of us in the wake of COVID 19.

+ Geoffrey

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Our prayer for Synod 2020

*God of abundance, Lord of our calling,
enable your Church for the work of governance,
calling disciples to action within the councils of the Body of Christ,
and to be facilitators for the ministry and mission of our Diocese.
We give you thanks for those who have faithfully served,
and ask that they may partake in a restorative Sabbath.
Grant to your Church wisdom and courage,
that we may answer your call with willing and joyful hearts,
we pray this through Jesus Christ, our strength and our hope. Amen.*