

The Anglican Church of Canada

Diocese of Athabasca

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THE ANGLICAN CENTRE

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As the trees bud and the plants are starting to poke out of the flower beds fall seems a long way off and an unwelcome thought. However, our Diocesan Synod (October 14-17) will rapidly be upon us. There will be many important things for us to consider, but none so important as our mission in Northern Alberta. We are going to have a special guest speaker, Michael Harvey, with us from Manchester, UK. He will be speaking to us on the Friday about how we can invite people to our church and welcome them. His themes pick up directly on our recent Diocesan conference, "It's Harvest Time." We will be scheduling a significant part of the Saturday of synod to the results of the conference and in sharing what is happening in each parish.

At the conference, we asked that each parish come prepared to share about their experience in three things: listening others into free speech, dwelling in the Word, and experimentation. Our intention was that Harvest Time be the beginning of a transformation, and not merely an encouraging event. God has a plan for us, and we want to walk in that plan to the glory of His name and so that the people in Northern Alberta see Jesus lifted high.

In addition to this being a reminder to come to synod ready to participate in the sessions on Saturday, it includes a couple of specific preparations. The first is to take the time to talk together as parishes about the conference and what it means in your environment and to help the whole parish engage in and live out these things. Some parishes were unable to have a delegation present in Peace River. Take the time to contact a couple of the parishes next to you to have them share with you out of their experience. To help us remember, and for the benefit of those who were not able to be present, copies of the presentations are being made and will be distributed in DVD format in the very near future. Part of the regular preparation for synod is to meet as deanery chapters in order to discuss what will happen at synod, to elect 2 youth delegates and to nominate a regional dean. This would also be an excellent opportunity for you to talk about the conference and what your parish is doing with it. The regional deans will make sure this segment is recorded and forwarded to the synod office. We will use that information to help form our time together in Slave Lake so we may better serve God's kingdom together.

The Lord be with you,

+Fraser Athabasca