

## Opening Message from Bishop Anna

Dear friends,

Thank you for serving as a delegate to our 2024 diocesan synod. Please take the time to read the 'Synod Primer' from our guest speaker, The Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman. Scott explains that the word *synod* comes from the Greek and means, literally, together on the way. We gather as a synod because the Christian journey is never a solo journey, but always a pilgrimage that we undertake *together*.

Travelling together is of course different than travelling alone. Scott reminds us that as we travel together, we take the time to listen to one another, share with one another, deliberate with one another and, when the spirit calls us, change course, together. I look forward to Scott's Saturday morning keynote address calling us, as the church, to be more collegial, dialogical and provisional.

One of my own observations about being "together on the way," is that *we can only move at the speed of trust*.

Unfortunately, we know as church that when there is no trust in the system things fall apart. Nothing gets done. Meetings are held, minutes are taken, but nothing truly good or life giving comes. But where there is trust, that is where the Spirit breaks in. That is when, by glory, God's power working in us does infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

As you prepare to come to Synod 2024, I ask you to remember that our primary task as we gather as a synod is to build trust. At synod we will elect representatives, disclose and explain our shared financial situation, and consider adopting revised, more straightforward canons to govern ourselves by. These tasks might seem dull or routine but are, in fact, us as the church putting in place the proper building blocks so that we can, by God's grace, build the trust we need to journey together out into the world to live out our baptismal covenant of loving and faithful service to all God's people.



+Anna