

*Bishop Michael Pryse's address to the Synod of the Diocese of Huron*

**Diocese of Huron    May 27, 2013.**

Bishop Bennett, Bishop Dance... reverend clergy and lay delegates to this synod  
... it is a great privilege to greet you today on behalf of your 200 partner  
congregations in the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.  
Thank you for your ecclesial hospitality in extending an invitation to be with you.

I want to begin by saying some words of thanks to your Bishops for their very  
generous and gracious support to me in my ministry as bishop. Bob, Terry and I  
been partners in a variety of settings and circumstances through the years. But  
more than trusted colleagues, they are dear and much-loved friends!

Folks, I come before you today with a heart that is deeply thankful for the gift of  
growing unity and deeper fellowship that our respective church communities  
have experienced in recent years. We live in a time when we are experiencing  
unprecedented levels of inter-church co-operation and agreement on significant  
issues that have divided church communities for centuries.

Believing that God wills the unity of Christian people, I receive our experience of  
an increasing common life as a precious and God-given gift that has continued to

grow and stretch since that day in the summer of 2001 in Waterloo when our respective church bodies declared in a formal way that they recognized one another as church communities in which the Gospel is preached, sacraments administered and ministries ordered in ways that are seen as mutually legitimate.

This summer we will take a further step in that journey when we gather once again in Ottawa, Together for the Love of the World, a joint assembly of the National Convention of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) and the [General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada](#). It is the result of many years of planning and dreaming! Twelve years into [our full communion relationship](#), this exciting gathering of Anglicans and Lutherans—almost a thousand of us—is taking place at the [Ottawa Convention Centre](#), July 3 to 7, 2013.

We know that we share much, as two distinct and historically important Canadian churches. We strongly support each other's distinctive character and ministries. Together we are committed to mission—God's mission in God's world—and we are privileged to engage in that mission together, as Lutherans and Anglicans from coast to coast to coast. While each church will carry out its usual and important business at both convention and synod, we will, together as God's people, worship, learn, celebrate, listen, act, and commit ourselves to the mission

of God’s church. Both National Bishop Susan Johnson and the Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz are deeply engaged in our common mission; they work closely together on many fronts, and speak to each other regularly. They are excited about the prospect of our two churches gathered together—indeed, for the love of the world!

Since the [Waterloo Declaration](#) was signed by Bishop Telmor Sartison and Archbishop Michael Peers, the relationship between our churches has grown and deepened. The work of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission on which both Bishop Terry and I serve, continues as we seek to encourage and monitor the commitments made in Waterloo.

In 2011 a historic joint meeting of the National Church Council and the Council of General Synod took place. Our bishops continue to meet together regularly. We have sought ways to forge stronger common ties with our partner churches to the south, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church.

But what matters most of all, is the way in which our congregations, conferences, deaneries, dioceses, and synods have sought to live out our Lord’s fervent wish “that they all may be one.” What matters most are the joint and special ministries, which we now call “Waterloo Ministries” have been seeded and

developed, and that flourish across the land. The shared study groups, mission programmes, pulpit and altar exchanges, prayer rotas, youth and women's events. That's where the proverbial rubber actually hits the road.

As such, I want to close by offering a special work of thanks and appreciation to those of you in this diocese who have done so much to put sinews, flesh and muscles on the bones of Waterloo. Those of you who have established new partnerships, who have made the effort to engage your full communion neighbours. Those of you who pray for one another, who bother to "show up" even when it's the last thing you want to be doing in the midst of a busy week. You are the champions of Waterloo, you are flesh and blood expressions of the answer to Jesus prayer of John 17. You are inspiring signs of the Gospel that calls us to unity; that calls us to be Together: For the Love of the World.

May God bless the work of this synod. May your reach always exceed your grasp!

Thank-you for your gracious listening!