

Synod 2017 reflections from Rev. Sean Love

It was a joy to be part of ANiC Synod 2017. I have been at every Synod gathering since they began in 2007, and this one (our 10th anniversary) was one of the best. The element I was most grateful for was Bishop Charlie Master's teaching on 2 Timothy, along with his focus on Jesus Christ, his humility and passion for the gospel, and his instinct to pray often. He embodied Christ-like servant leadership, and encouraged us to "remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead..." Each of the Synod speakers demonstrated commitment to the word of God, "which is not bound" (2 Timothy 2:8-10). Faithful leadership like this will keep ANiC on track in the years to come, and makes me glad to be part of the Anglican Network in Canada. We are an organization standing firm in faith, trusting God for life, health, growth, and mission.

It was significant that the Synod schedule included a 45 minute time of corporate prayer for evangelism. We have not been so specific about this in the past, and it demonstrates a commitment to God's mission through the church to Canada. Bishop Charlie declared our next ten years a "Decade of Evangelism." This is right and good, and must be built on healthy and earnest prayer. This ought to be the case for SJR's next decade, too, and I am committed to reminding us all to pray for evangelism.

One of the best parts of Synod this year was welcoming Tracey Larter and Penny Love as delegates. Penny and I were privileged to co-lead a workshop on Catechesis in the church. We ran two workshops for a total of 60 delegates. Each workshop was 1.5 hours long, and we put people to work! Penny beautifully demonstrated a children's ministry teaching, just as she and Kirsten Vint and Laurie Bakken and many others do each Sunday at SJR. It was wonderful to see so many adults utterly engaged by a children's lesson on the Ascension. See Penny's report for more information on this.

Finally, a treasure for me at any Synod gathering is the opportunity to connect with clergy and friends from across Canada. This year, in particular, I got to hear the stories of two new clergy who have transferred to ANiC from the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) after decisions in ACoC this past summer shifted the ACoC further away from the gospel. One has started a church plant in Kingston, the other has become Rector of Church of Our Lord in Victoria. They are keen and experienced clergy and will bring further strength, under God, to ANiC and the Lord's mission through us.

In Christ,
Rev. Sean Love