



Welcome to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. It is our pleasure to have been chosen host for General Synod 2010. Please feel welcome to experience the home of Canadian hospitality and join in our 2010 Celebrations.

The Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island encompasses, as the name implies, the two geographical provinces named. Established in 1787 (as the Diocese of Nova Scotia) and situated on Canada's east coast, ours is the oldest of seven dioceses forming the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada.

On the banks of the Annapolis Basin within the British ramparts of Port Royal, the soldiers and families of the garrison gathered to celebrate Holy Eucharist on October 10, 1710. In 2010, we will celebrate 300 years of continuous celebration of the Lord's Supper here in our diocese and, therefore, in all of Canada. As part of the year's celebrations, many events are planned throughout the year leading up to a great worship service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday, June 6, 2010.

On October 10, 2010, exactly 300 years from the originating date, a worship service of Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in Annapolis Royal near the site of the first service in 1710. October 10 also is significant as it is the day on which our current Cathedral Church of All Saints was dedicated in 1910; "The occasion was graced by the gathering of many Bishops and church dignitaries and laymen from the British Isles, the United States and the rest of Canada."

Steeped in history, Nova Scotia is the home to many firsts and oldest – many which have direct or close connections to the Anglican Church.

Although steeped in history and tradition, our diocesan church, like the province, is progressive and young in many ways.

Today, with a population of over 390,000, Greater Halifax has the largest population east of Québec City and north of Boston and it ranks thirteenth among all metropolitan areas in Canada. Halifax possesses a relatively young population. Well over one-half of residents in the area are less than 40 years of age and more than one-quarter are under 20. Halifax is home to almost 40% of Nova Scotia's residents and more than 15% of all Atlantic Canadians. Although many other regions of Nova Scotia, eastern Canada, and the northeastern United States are declining in population, the Greater Halifax area has experienced dynamic growth in recent decades.

Nova Scotia, Greater Halifax in particular, is noted for its knowledge base. The area has the most post-secondary schools per capita in all of North America. Its economy is based strongly on high tech and research industries.

At a time in our history, in order to conduct trade or to hold land, one had to be a baptized member of this established church in the civil provinces of our diocese. The Anglican Church has experienced good health in our diocese having the most adherents per capita than any other area in Canada. In its greatest day, our diocese, with its overall small population, boasted over 133 parishes with over 280 active congregations. However, like most main-line Christian churches and in good stewardship, we have closed some church buildings and have amalgamated congregations and parishes.

General Synod companions will be afforded opportunities to see some sights in Halifax and surrounding areas; enjoy local food and hospitality, and, perhaps, get some shopping in. Our General Synod agenda will allow all to have the opportunity to experience some of our local culture, especially at the evening socials; worship at our Cathedral Church and St. Paul's, Halifax, the oldest Anglican Church in Canada; walk along our historic waterfront; join us in our great 300 Celebration worship service; tour the museum and dine at Pier 21, Canada's historic immigration centre; and just take time to slow down and enjoy our pace of life. And remember, you are always welcome to stay longer.

On the shores of the Atlantic, come and chart a new course for our Church; the surf is waiting!

See you in June 2010; that's just a few months away.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "RANDY +". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Rev. Randy D. Townsend
Member, General Synod Planning Committee
and Chair, Local Arrangements Committee.