

## Nomination for Prolocutor and/or Deputy Prolocutor General Synod 2019

---

*Nominee:*

**Laura Walton** *of the Diocese of Toronto*

*Nominated by:*

The Most Reverend Anne Germond *of the Diocese of Algoma*

*Provide a brief biographical description of yourself (max. 150 words) with specific reference to involvement in the life of the Church at the local, diocesan, provincial or national level:*

I have experience as a 2 term Prolocutor for The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario and am member of their Executive Council. I was on the Youth Initiatives Team of our National Church for 4 years and have extensive experience with General Synod as Chair of local arrangements, planning member from 2010 and delegate since 2004.

Along with national work, I am an advisory member and treasurer in my rural parish as well as a musician. At the diocesan level, I chair the Review Committee for the Anglican Foundation, work on the Diocesan Response Team and Governance Committee. I also hold the volunteer diocesan role as Children's Ministry Network Coordinator.

My past positions include, Executive Board, Diocesan Council, Area Council and Agenda Committee member. I have held the position of Honorary Lay Secretary to Synod, I continue as a delegate to our Diocesan Synod and am also a member of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto.

*Provide a brief biographical description of yourself (max. 150 words) with specific reference to experience, skill, abilities and gifts that you would bring to the work:*

My personal life experience allows me to bring various skills to this General Synod position. As a cradle Anglican and the daughter of an Archdeacon mom, I have a depth of understanding of both the strengths and weaknesses of our ever changing church. I have an Honours BA in Criminology at the University of Toronto and was also educated and certified there as a family and individual counsellor specializing in bereavement, addictions and mediation.

My counselling work is coupled with a strong background in business administration through work as a manager in a large craft brewery. I honed my

business skills in the corporate world while also working in the not for profit sector as a volunteer counsellor. As a single mom of two young adults and one crazy Siberian husky, I offer a strong skill set and background in both the corporate and not for profit sectors to support the national church.

*Reflect on the challenges and opportunities facing the Church national as it seeks to further Gods mission:*

As our national church is immersed in a significant time of change, I believe we are called to look at this change and use its opportunities. We are defining struggles at all levels of our Canadian church while establishing new ministries. While we wrestle with statistics and finances, the Church also is experiencing new opportunities both globally and nationally.

The struggle our national church is facing now, is how to balance these new opportunities with its financial capabilities. We are in an era of both reflection and action. While we reflect on the things accomplished, we need to move forward in supporting the numerous opportunities to fulfil God's mission in innovative ways. We need to continue working on our relationships with our Indigenous family and our global Church while focusing on inclusiveness and the participation of our youth. Our Church must be guided to do this wonderful missional work in a fiscally responsible way.

*Reflect briefly (max. 150 words) on the challenges and opportunities facing the Church national as it seeks to further God's mission:*

I believe that the primary challenge we face as a church is an ongoing sense of loss of the past and fear of an unknown future. We have tensions in our church that may be unresolvable, and will have to learn to love each other and steadfastly resolve to walk together into God's future. The primary opportunity we have is that I believe God is calling us into a future which will be found in a profound love for God's world and all its inhabitants, lived out in the Marks of Mission. As we adapt our governance structures to make room for a self-determining Indigenous Church we have an opportunity to build on the work of reconciliation. Whilst honouring the best of our past, and repenting of our failures, together we will find that God's future will bring joys that we can not yet imagine.