

How can I get involved in the Synod?

We would love to hear from you as well as your friends and neighbours in other Christian faith communities. We also would love to hear from those who have left the Church and those who have no religious affiliation. We are encouraged to consult broadly and listen attentively to the stories of ALL God's people to help discern the direction the Holy Spirit is leading the Church in this place and time.

No matter the type of consultation you participate in, we encourage you to approach it in a spirit of prayer. Please find below five ways in which you can participate:

1. Attend a parish synod consultation.

The main way you can participate in the Synod is through a parish consultation. Group gatherings (whether in-person or via Zoom) provide the richest experience where you are invited to tell your stories and listen attentively to the stories of others. The process itself can be educational and transformative even when faced with difficult truths. Every parish has been asked to organize parish consultations between January and the end of March 2022 so that everyone in the parish will have the opportunity to take part in a discussion of our Diocese main questions:

- 1. Do I feel I belong in my faith community/parish/church and that I have a role in the Church's mission? Which situations have made me feel I belong? Which situations have made me feel unwelcome or unheard? Are there those that my faith community excludes, values less or values more? Share your stories.*
- 2. Is my faith community/parish/diocese a safe place for me to speak courageously, candidly, and responsibly about the Church and about society? Do I feel heard? Share your stories.*

If you participate in a parish or other group consultation, you will be invited to share your response to these questions. Additional questions may also be asked that fall under the umbrella of discerning how we have been journeying together. The responses will be collected by the parish synod coordinator and sent to the Diocese Synod Planning Committee, which will be synthesized into a Prince Albert Diocese document shared with everyone at a Diocesan event tentatively in late May 2022.

Once our document has been reviewed at the Diocesan event, it will be forwarded by June 17, 2022, to the Western Canadian Bishops to include in their synthesis. From there, it will be included in the ongoing synthesis process until it reaches the Pope and his delegates in 2023.

2. Complete an individual response by filling in the print document available through your parish.

Your response will be added to the parish synthesis for those participating in groups.

3. Participate in a Diocesan Zoom Forum

You are invited to register, either as individuals or as a group, to attend a Diocesan led Zoom Forum to share the stories of your experiences journeying together as Church. Please register at: <https://www.padiocese.ca/synod2023>. Once your registration has been received, you will be provided information regarding the questions being discussed so that you can prepare with both prayer and discernment.

The following forums and topics are currently planned:

January 26 – Christian Unity (Ecumenism)

February 9 – Main Synod Questions (see above)

February 23 – Celebration (The Mass, Prayer & Devotions)

March 9 – Main Synod Questions

March 23 – Missionary Disciples (Sharing Responsibility for Our Common Mission)

4. Check to see if your Catholic group is discussing the synod questions. If not, ask why!

5. After prayer and discernment, complete an online survey.

The Synod is not an exercise in evangelism. It is a gathering of the Christian family, the baptized people of God, to talk about our family, the Church of God. The synodal process is intended to gather the wisdom that has been earned through lifetimes of experience.

The survey is accessible through the QR-code on posters distributed around your community or through links at <https://www.padiocese.ca/synod2023>

The survey will take approximately 5 minutes.

Do you need more information? Don't hesitate to get in touch at synod@padiocese.ca

We look forward to hearing from you!