

Synod Address – 24 October 2024

Synod is required to act for the good of the church. Tonight, amongst other things we note our diocesan accounts for 2023 and consider the budget for 2025.

Whenever we consider accounts and budgets at Synod, we know two things. The first is that what we receive in Synod is the product of hours of painstaking work and planning by our treasurer, administrator and the committees of our diocese. The second is that financial planning is not detached from pastoral care or missionary priorities but that it is a prayerful process which enables both to be done with thoughtfulness and vision. What we have before us this evening is the result of this process and is presented to us with the full support of Standing Committee.

At our last meeting of Standing Committee, we recognized that all our charges face financial challenges, and we felt it would be helpful to add an item to our agenda this evening that offers information about grant funding that may be available to us. Some of these grants are available from the Province or the Diocese, some from public sources. We are building up valuable experience across the diocese of how these grants may be applied for and used and I'm pleased that we have a number of folk willing to share their expertise later, to send us home, I hope, encouraged.

May God bless our deliberations this evening, may our eyes always be focused on Christ's call to us to serve others rather than to be served, and may the Holy Spirit unite us and empower us to find joy in this service and to give glory to God.

+John