

Dear Synod Delegates,

One of the recommendations from the Structures Working Group in the report “A Path Forward” was “to develop in conversation with scripture, tradition, reason and experience a compelling Diocesan story that allows all of us to see that God is with us, has always been with us, and will continue to be with us”.

As per Isaiah 43:18-21:

*Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.*

We need your help.

On June 4, 2023, a week after our Special Session, the Diocese of Kootenay will have been incorporated for exactly 120 years. In 1960, a [special Jubilee issue of The Highway](#) celebrated and recounted the history of the various parishes across the Okanagan and the Kootenays. This article is a gem that speaks not only to the faithfulness of God but also to the commitment and vigour of “all who laboured in this part of the Lord’s vineyard”.

Our question is: What has happened in the Diocese in these 120 years? With parishes already in existence, what prompted our establishment as a Diocese? Where has God been present? Where is God present now?

In light of your discoveries about the Diocese’s beginnings, what are 3 highlights that have happened in your parish and/or region thanks to God working through us individually and collectively?

Please consider the highlights in light of:

- Wholehearted Worship in the Anglican Tradition
- Daring Discipleship

- Right Relationship (with God, Creation, and One Another)
- Thriving Communities, and
- The Second Prayer of Thanksgiving from the Book of Alternative Services (page 129).

While working through these questions, we encourage you to engage your entire congregation, ranging from those who are new to the parish to those who would be considered “parish historians”.

Please send your three (3) highlights to admin@kootenay.info by May 12th so that they may be incorporated into the 2023 Special Session of Synod. If you have related images to share, please also include those in the email.

With Thanks,

The Synod Planning Committee