



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ANGLICAN BISHOP DIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG



Our Vision is: To Achieve the Practice of the Ministry of All Believers

16 July 2021

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF SYNOD

Dear Saints

Warm greetings to you all.

I am writing to you to update you on where we are at as a Diocese in a time of what feels to many of us as chaos. Increasing numbers of deaths and infections due to the COVID pandemic, increasingly closer to home and a team of ministers who feel anxious and stretched by the seemingly overwhelming demands. A struggling economy due to the pandemic of both COVID and corruption State looting which has now found expression in individuals looting. A recognition and appreciation that each of these matters are interrelated and complex.

We are however not people without hope or in despair. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is still the God who calls us by name and who will undertake for us in whatever place we find ourselves. Our task is to ask, believe and remain faithful as has our God.

At the meeting of the Synod Advisory Committee of the 6th of July 2021 we had a long discussion about external factors, like the increasing infection rate as well as internal factors in terms of our technical state of readiness and the resources needed to bring us to a state of readiness in the available time.

As a church our response to the pandemic has always been about protecting lives and when we considered the extent of the vaccine roll-out, the level 4 lockdown we were in and which as we all know, now has been extended, meant that our hubs could become super spreader sites because of the number of people who had to be accommodated and the time that would be spent in the venue which increased the opportunities for infection.

In looking at the level of infrastructure available in the identified hubs, our technical teams report indicated that we would need significant resources to get some of them functional, including the need for back-up power and data. In having this conversation, we also agreed to look at this as a capital investment in the different

archdeaconries which could then benefit that Archdeaconry going forward, rather than just for an event.

After some deliberation it was recommended to me by the Advisory Committee that given these factors, it would be prudent to postpone Synod from August to November 2021, when more vaccinations would have been rolled out as well as the projections that by then our infections rates would have decreased. We would also have been able to improve the technical readiness in our different hubs.

Notice is hereby given that the Synod scheduled for the 26th to the 28th August 2021 has been cancelled and postponed to the 25th to the 27th of November 2021. A new summons for this Synod will be issued shortly.

We do however not want to waste the opportunities that the additional time has given us, so we are proposing the following:

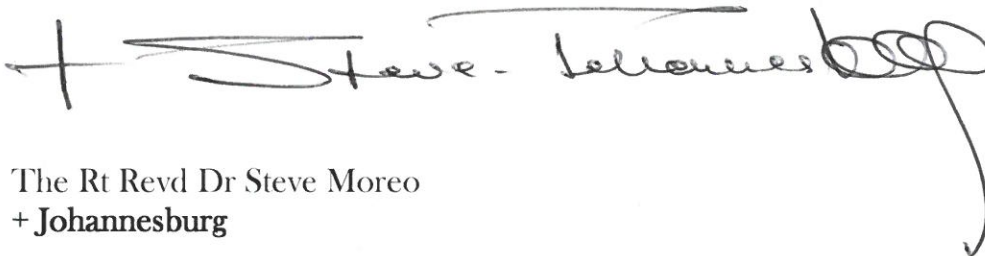
A meeting with the Chaplains and Heads of Schools be held on Friday the 28th of August 2021. We have been acutely aware that the relationship between the Diocese, its schools and its institutions is not as it ought to be. I am therefore meeting with the different heads and chaplains ahead of Synod for us to engage and see how we can best improve relations as well as support going forward. There are also some exciting proposals we would like to discuss with the heads and chaplains going forward. I have chosen to meet on this Friday as I am aware that heads of schools are on a mid-term break so was just logistically easier. Details of the proposal as well as documents for input and discussion will be sent out ahead of time.

A special youth synod will be held at the request of a group of young people to engage us as to how we give effect to our ministry for young people and children. In particular, all candidates being prepared for or awaiting confirmation will also be included and we are working on a date and details for that.

Should there be any further queries or comments, please direct these to my PA Boitumelo Masemola on boitumelo.masemola@anglicanjoburg.org.za

We will continue to pray for our country and its people as we also work for peace.

I remain yours in His service.



The Rt Revd Dr Steve Moreo
+ **Johannesburg**