



Diocese of Toronto Anglican Church of Canada

January 19, 2017

Mission: To worship God and proclaim Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and to embody – in word and action – God’s reconciling love, justice, compassion and liberation – through which knowledge of God’s reign is extended.

To Incumbents, Churchwardens and Lay Officials of Peterborough Covenant,

Bishop Shaw has asked me to continue my service to the Trent-Durham Episcopal Area and act as Commissary specifically with regard to the Peterborough Covenant. I will act as *episcopal* facilitator in partnership with Diocesan Lay appointee, Peter Tovell in the process of considering and implementing the recommendations of the Commission.

To that end I am calling a meeting of ‘the Council’- parish and congregational clergy leadership, Churchwardens and their Lutheran counterparts to *present the motion* which *each* congregation will be asked to vote on at a Special Vestry or Congregational Meeting indicating their willingness to proceed or not with the Commission recommendations.

Proposed Dates and Times of Council Meeting

Monday, January 23 7.30 or earlier if possible. Tuesday, Jan 24, 7.30 or earlier

Mr. Tovell will do the same for the members of the Commission. And so will begin the next steps many of you have been enquiring about for some time now.

As one who has been included in your deliberations with the knowledge that I would most likely *not* be around to see the process through I am now in a position to do just that- see it through with you. And so, now I am more fully invested with you in the outcome of the bold step contemplated in the final Commission Report. This means getting quite specific about the next steps. Given the need to get on with it I submit the following for your information. We can talk further about them when we meet. Please keep these between you and me until we do. Cone of silence is the term *du jour*.

Parish Information sessions

Following quickly upon the two meetings above the *motion* will be presented in turn to each congregation in a series of *information sessions* according to the schedule below. The purpose of these parish/congregational meetings is to lay the groundwork for an *informed* decision in each congregation about the process required to move to full implementation of the Commission’s recommendations.

Sunday, January 29, All Saints, afternoon
Monday, January 30, Christ Lutheran, evening
Saturday, February 4, St John’s, morning
Saturday, February 4, St Barnabas, afternoon
Sunday, February 5, St Luke’s, afternoon



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If any of these dates conflict with other parish events or meetings please feel free to switch among yourselves.

Special Vestries /Congregational Meeting

We would then ask that each parish/congregation convene a special Vestry or Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 26 to approve ‘in principle’ the Commission proposal that the five parishes/congregations amalgamate and form *two* new parish/congregations.

Annual Vestry or General Meeting

Clearly any decision to proceed will have significant bearing on many decisions about budgetary matters, programmes and events for the upcoming year.

And so, we would further request that these meetings convened *specifically and exclusively* for the purpose of agreeing to proceed with the implementation or alternately *decline* to proceed with the recommendations of the Commission **would precede any Annual General Meetings or Vestries**. For Anglican parishes permission is granted to defer AGM/Annual Vestries until as late as the end of March.

I hope that you will regard the process outlined above with the seriousness that it requires. It is essential that we act *in concert* in considering what will be historically and pastorally ground-shifting decisions about the mission and ministry of Anglican and Lutheran Churches in Peterborough.

Once the decision is made finally to proceed with the recommendations the process of implementation will begin. The tire hits the road.

With every blessing

+Patrick White
Commissary for Peterborough Covenant
Trent Durham Episcopal Area
Diocese of Toronto