



# The Diocese of Huron

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Linda Nicholls  
Bishop of Huron

January 2019

Dear friends in Christ,

*I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.*

(Ephesians 1:15-16)

When you gather for your Annual Vestry meeting you gather as the Body of Christ, baptized followers of Jesus, to consider the life of your parish and how it reflects the light of Christ in your community. You will renew your Mission & Ministry Plan for 2019 - reflecting on how you will continue to fulfill each of the **Five Marks of Mission** - especially the first two, proclaiming God's Good News and making disciples. These Five Marks of Mission are guideposts for a healthy parish. Read them aloud together - post them in your parish - publish them in your bulletin - remind every parish group or meeting of them! Every activity - worship, social, learning or outreach - ought to reflect these Marks. We need to be intentional in our commitment to them. The decisions you will be making about your budget, finances, leadership and property are critical to undergirding the Marks of Mission. They are more than 'housekeeping' - they reflect our values and set the foundation for all we do.

Our theme at Synod 2018 was *Building Disciples - Abiding in the Word*. We are all disciples of Jesus by virtue of our baptism. Discipleship is a lifelong school of learning and transformation, nurtured by scripture, worship, prayer, learning and life in community. At Synod we heard four lay members of our diocese share stories of their faith. I encourage you to take time at your Vestry meeting to share with one another what being a disciple means to you. How has God touched your life in the past year? Share an experience or learning that has made a difference in your life! You will be changed by the opportunity to tell your story - and encouraged by hearing the stories of others. God is at work around us and in our friends and neighbours! We need to tell the stories!!

We also need to know the biblical story of God's love and redemption. In my January Huron Church News article I invited all to join me in reading the bible over the next year. You may choose to read the whole of the Bible - or focus on the Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament) or the New Testament with the Psalms. The reading schedule is posted on our website: [www.diohuron.org](http://www.diohuron.org)! Read as a parish - read with a friend - listen for God's word to you - start a study group - ask any and all questions that emerge - and abide in the Word.

Thank you for your part in our shared life as a diocese. We have seen a strong commitment through apportionment to meeting our diocesan needs. Through good stewardship most parishes have been able to meet their full apportionment commitment. A few, due to pastoral or other situations, have a formal covenant with me to meet annual benchmarks towards full apportionment. We are accountable to each other across the diocese and I am deeply grateful for the commitment all parishes are making to our shared life.

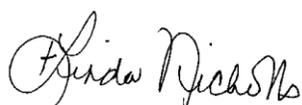
Over the past year we have had several changes in diocesan staff due to retirements. We used the opportunity to reconfigure some positions to keep our diocesan budget as lean as possible while providing parishes with the same level of support in key areas. The staff at Church House are committed to our parishes and I am grateful for their skills and dedication. If you need assistance they are here to serve.

As I travel across the diocese visiting parishes and deaneries I am delighted by the commitment of so many faithful Anglicans. Thank you for the dedication that continues to offer leadership and support in our parishes! Thank you to those who serve as Wardens, treasurers and Parish Council members in leadership and care for daily life. Thank you to the clergy who lead worship; offer pastoral care; teach the Gospel; and guide each congregation.

My prayers are with you as you discern what God is calling you to do and be in 2019.

*Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith,  
from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.  
(Ephesians 6:23-24)*

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Nicholls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls  
Bishop of Huron