

The Diocese of Huron

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Linda Nicholls
Bishop of Huron

January 2018

PASTORAL LETTER

To be included with Annual Vestry Reports - and read to congregation

Dear friends in Christ,

“In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.” Colossians 1:1-5a

A few weeks ago I was reminded that it has been a full year since I became diocesan bishop of Huron and was seated in my ‘little house’ at the service at Metropolitan United Church. What a year it has been!

I want to thank you, the clergy and people of the Diocese of Huron, for the joy and privilege of serving as your bishop. I know that this past year has been a challenging one as I have asked us all to face our sustainability squarely and to work on stewardship and accountability. That has included work on five year Mission and Ministry plans based on the Marks of Mission.

Thank you for stepping up to that challenge as many congregations have discovered they are stronger than they thought! I am hearing good news as parishes talk about their Mission & Ministry and set new goals. You will be approving your Mission & Ministry Plans at your Vestry meeting and I look forward to hearing more about them in the coming months.

Thank you to those who have courageously taken creative steps to try something different - to test - to fail - to try again - to see where God is at work beyond their walls.



Thank you to TEAM HURON - our dedicated staff; hardworking Archdeacons; Executive team; Dean; Regional Deans, Lay Co-Chairs and Committees working in partnership with all of you.

Thank you for the daily work you do to love your neighbour and care for your parishes - visiting, helping, serving, and caring.

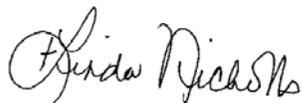
As you look to 2018 - I pray that you will remember the goals I commended in my charge to Synod 2017 under the theme of '**One Body, One Spirit - Live a life worthy of your calling**' and make plans for each of these areas.

1. **Discipleship** - How will your parish deepen faith and understanding in this year? Consider participating in the Lenten devotion 'Meeting Jesus in John' (booklets available from Davor Milicevic)
2. **TRC Recommendations** - What actions towards reconciliation with First Nations will your parish engage in this year? A book study? Blanket Exercise? Visit to Six Nations or other reserve to learn more?
3. **Huron Church Camp** is a wonderful resource - for children to enjoy God's creation and learn about God and for mentoring youth in leadership skills. How will your parish support the camp in 2018? Send children/youth? Support a bursary? Volunteer? Fundraise for the Camp? Encourage local youth to attend!
4. **Local and Global Church** - How does your parish connect with the wider church? Prayers for our Companion Diocese of Amazonia as they seek a new bishop? PWRDF support and/or speaker? Bring a speaker to a parish or deanery event?

We will continue in 2018 in the consultation required on the revision of the Marriage Canon. The reflections of the gatherings held over Fall 2017 and Winter 2018 will help us at Synod 2018 to prepare a response, representing the Diocese of Huron, to go to General Synod 2019. Thank you for your participation in these meetings.

Gratitude is the starting place for deep joy. Take time to be thankful for the gifts and commitment of your clergy, Wardens and many, many volunteers. The family of God is a rich, diverse community and we are blessed by each other as we seek to follow Christ.

With gratitude and joy in the ministry we share together,



The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls
Bishop of Huron