



Diocese of New Westminster

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Melissa Skelton
Bishop

To: The People of Christ Church Cathedral

30 January 2019

*A Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop to be read to all congregations of Christ Church Cathedral
on 10 February 2019*

Greetings, Friends at Christ Church Cathedral,

I write to describe the process by which Dean Peter Elliott's successor will be discerned and appointed. I hope that this will assist all of you during this important time of transition both for Dean Peter and Thomas and for the entire Cathedral community.

First, a little background information

In the spring of 2016 I had the first of a number of meetings with parish Trustees to discuss the fact that Dean Peter would reach the age of retirement in the spring of 2019. Subsequently, the Trustees established a Succession and Transition Committee chaired by Ted Chiasson. The Committee's mandate was to gather information from parishioners and other stakeholders to be provided to the Trustees to assist them in giving comments and suggestions to me and the Canonical Committee in the formal call process.

In the spring of 2017, on my recommendation, the Cathedral retained a consultant to provide the parish with information and guidance on its strengths and areas for improvement as it plans for the future. The consultant met with parish representatives in the autumn of 2017. At that time, a sub-committee, the Strategy and Communications Committee, chaired by Tegan Smith, was established. Under its guidance, in the spring of 2018 three surveys were fielded in order to collect data for discussion: one survey among parishioners generally, another survey among parish leadership and a third survey among the staff. The consultant analyzed the survey results and reported to parish representatives in September 2018. The Strategic and Communications Committee then organized three sessions with parishioners and a meeting with staff to discuss the results of the surveys and to provide further insight to the process.

In August 2018, Dean Peter advised the Trustees that he would like to retire as of the end of September 2019. The Trustees requested and I readily agreed to extend Dean Peter's term of office until that date.

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The Strategy and Communications Committee did an excellent job of distilling the information provided by the surveys and by the parish consultative meetings and developed a plan of action, all of which was considered and approved by the Trustees. The Succession and Transition Committee having fulfilled its mandate, the Trustees established a Transition Committee in December 2018 chaired by Tegan.

Tegan and Ted provided me with the analysis and plans of the Strategy and Communications Committee, and we met in early January 2019 to discuss.

Interim Priest-in-charge

While some in the Cathedral leadership did not want to have an interim priest-in-charge, based on the survey results and recommendations, I have concluded, and the Trustees have agreed, that the appointment of an Interim priest-in-charge will best serve the needs of the Cathedral during this time of transition. I have been searching for a person to fill that role who I believe will be appropriate for the Cathedral. In that I value the guidance of the parish in the selection of an interim, I have requested that the canonical committee provide advice to me in this matter.

The canonical committee has been constituted by Father Kevin Hunt, Archdeacon of Burrard. The committee met on January 23, 2019 and will soon begin the process of considering and recommending a candidate (or candidates) for appointment as interim priest-in-charge as of October 1, 2019.

The Work of the Canonical Committee

The canonical committee will prepare a parish profile for approval by the Regional Archdeacon, the Executive Archdeacon and myself. The Transition Committee plans to host a series of meetings in March 2019 to confirm the vision, mission and values of the cathedral, all as input to the canonical committee in developing the parish profile. The profile will be part of the material published when the opportunity to serve as the Cathedral's rector and likely as Dean of the Diocese is posted. Those who respond will be considered by a Diocesan committee which will develop a short list in collaboration with representatives of the canonical committee. The candidates on the short list will be interviewed by the canonical committee and by me. After the interviews the canonical committee will recommend the appointment of a new rector to me. If the canonical committee is not prepared to recommend any of the short-listed candidates, the process will begin anew.

The present objective is to have a new rector in place as of May 2020.

Peter and Thomas

Once Dean Peter retires, he and his spouse, Thomas Roach, must withdraw from participation in the life of the Cathedral. After a substantial hiatus, they *may* be invited to return by the new rector with the concurrence of the Bishop, but their absence will be real.

It's not possible to overstate the importance of Peter's leadership. That is equally true of Thomas's contribution. The significance of the roles they both have played and the hole parishioners will feel once they leave is a significant factor in the need for an interim priest-in-charge.

Conclusion

I was gratified to see the strength and vibrancy of the Cathedral parish revealed in the results of the surveys and in the parish consultations. It is a great tribute to Dean Peter, his pastoral and administrative team, and to you, the parishioners of Christ Church Cathedral. I have every confidence in the continued success of Christ Church and look forward to playing an active role in identifying and appointing a worthy rector for the next phase of the Cathedral's life.

In Christ,



The Most Reverend Melissa M. Skelton
Archbishop, Diocese of New Westminster
Metropolitan, Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon