



To the Parish Lay and Clergy Leaders of the Diocese,

I am writing to commend the very good work of the Anglican Church Women in the Diocese of New Westminster.

The president of our Diocesan ACW, Ms. Kelly Bowman, in collaboration with the ACW Board and others is enthusiastically planning a refresh of the ACW profile. Kelly would like to visit parishes to share information about the exciting work, ministry, and future of the ACW and invite all women to be part of the ACW's newly organized and growing, *Friendship Circle*.

Over the years, the ACW in the Diocese of New Westminster has played an active role supporting the life of individual parishes and strengthening the life of our diocese. In most recent times the ACW has supported students preparing for ordination, hospital chaplaincy, the work of the bishop, creating bales of clothing and other items for those in need in northern Canada.

They have also been instrumental in partnering with the Anglican Foundation, with a gift of \$100,000, to launch a fund for retired clergy in the Anglican Church of Canada's northern dioceses. Other groups and individuals have in turn supported this fund so that it has grown to allow even greater support. This fund will support individual retiring clergy to find housing in retirement—many clergy in this part of our Church do not have a stipend while in ministry.

I encourage you to invite Kelly Bowman to visit your parish on a Sunday and share in-person with members of the congregation. Please contact Kelly via email: acw.kelly@gmail.com to book a day when she can visit. I commend the work of the Diocesan ACW to you, as it is appreciated across our beloved Anglican Church of Canada.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John R. Stephens', with a small cross symbol above the first letter.

The Right Reverend John R. Stephens