

March 3, 2021

To the lay and clergy leaders of St. Matthias, Emmaus, Abbey Church and Wild Church,

Late last week I was pleased to receive the Village Team Ministry plan that was prepared by Rob, Meagan, and Matt with the help of Don McLeod as facilitator. I commend the thoughtful and careful work that has gone into the first steps of this three-year experiment in Team Ministry as to how three clergy will work together to serve your communities. As the document says, the clergy are committed to a process that is creative, iterative and in process. I look forward to supporting them and you in that work.

I am grateful for the gifts of these clergy and for the willingness of the worshipping communities to try something new and to be open to new ways of being and doing church.

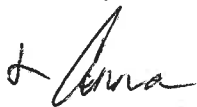
Earlier this week Archdeacon Foster and I met with Margot, Prior of Emmaus, as well as with Rob and Matt. At that meeting I communicated that while I am in support of Emmaus community exploring co-housing for some of its members, I would encourage them to look at options that do not include Diocesan land.

The reality is that Diocesan land is not zoned for this type of housing and our experience is that doing the site surveys, getting the plans drawn up and applying for permits is an expensive and exhausting process that may not, even after considerable time and resources have been invested, result in anything being built. The Diocese has also been advised that encumbering our land with housing and/or selling or leasing land at below market rates is not in the best long-term interests of the Diocese as a whole.

Our core work as communities of faith is the spiritual, not the material. My concern is that if at this juncture in your collective lives, you put too much time, energy, and resources into a capital project, that this will detract from the work of ministry, worship, and service in the world.

I realise that my 'no' to the housing is disappointing to some. As Bishop I feel that it is incumbent on me to let my no be a no and my yes to be a YES. Please hear my resounding YES to this team ministry project and know that the Diocese will continue to support and nurture this ministry as we are able.

With every blessing,



The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee

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