



20 May 2021

To the Parishioners of the Cathedral Church of St. George, Kingston

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you today to let you know of the next steps that will be taken as together we continue in the work that will culminate in the appointment of the next Incumbent of St. George's Cathedral and Dean of Ontario. First of all, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Interim Dean, Archdeacon David Selzer, for his ongoing work as we move through this process. David and I have spoken and I am pleased that he is willing to remain in place until the appointment of the next dean. Thank you also to the leadership team at the cathedral as you continue to move forward in ministry while attending to the work of preparing to embark on the search for the next dean. Finally, thank you to all of you who are part of the cathedral congregation for your faithfulness, commitment and dedication to supporting the ministry of the cathedral both through your gift of time as well as resources.

Recently, the cathedral retained the services of Rev. Susan Graham Walker and Archdeacon Michael Thompson to pursue the establishment of a process, the goal of which was to determine the future mission and ministry of the cathedral in preparation to create the parish profile. There were three aspects to this proposal: considering the internal workings of the cathedral as a parish, the cathedral's wider connection to the city of Kingston and its relationship to the parishes of the Diocese of Ontario. Some preliminary work was undertaken and following feedback obtained from members of the parish advisory council and the corporation, the consultants determined that the approach they had proposed was not a viable way forward. Subsequently they made the determination to step back from the process.

Following a discussion with the consultants and Archdeacon Selzer, I made the decision that the way forward for the cathedral could be found in the utilization of the Parish Selection Advisory process as set out in Canon 8 and expanded upon in the PSAC Guide that will be accessible from the Cathedral's website. I do not see the work with the consultants as a failure, as the work thus far has allowed for a frank exchange of views and the clear sense that the leadership desires to move forward with a process that they both own and with which they are involved. The current process for the establishment of a PSAC and the scope of its work was put in place in January of 2020. I believe that it will serve the cathedral well as we move forward.

Let me lay out some of the decisions I have taken and the next steps that will happen which were discussed with the cathedral wardens and Archdeacon Selzer this past Tuesday.

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- As per Canon 8, I have asked the wardens to prepare a slate to be placed before a special vestry meeting of the cathedral for ratification. The slate for the PSAC includes the 2 wardens together with a minimum of four and maximum of six other members. Two weeks notice of the vestry meeting are required and will be given at worship on May 23rd and 30th for a meeting on June 6th.
- Once the PSAC membership is ratified, they will meet to elect a Chairperson.
- Normally, the Archdeacon would direct the PSAC as my representative, but in this case, given the breadth of discussion that needs to take place leading to the preparation of the parish profile in matters unique to the life and ministry of the cathedral, I will be directly involved in the work of the PSAC.
- While I will be closely involved with the work of the PSAC, I have taken the further step of asking Archbishop Colin Johnson, retired Bishop of Toronto, Moosonee and Metropolitan of Ontario to serve as my representative on the PSAC. Archbishop Johnson brings a vast wealth of experience in the workings of cathedrals and knows our cathedral well. I am pleased that he has accepted my invitation and the diocese has retained his services to work with your PSAC.
- The first piece of work that the PSAC will undertake is the development of the parish profile and I look forward to being involved with them in this work.

We gather to celebrate Pentecost this year under the same challenging backdrop as last year, dealing with the disruptions of the global pandemic. While we are not able to worship as we desire, the truth of the faith we uphold is that the Spirit of the Living God directs and upholds us in all our doings. I firmly believe that the Spirit will direct and uphold us as we consider the future direction of the mission and ministry of the cathedral and the work of discerning the next dean. We are blessed with the services of Archdeacon Selzer and Archbishop Johnson as we move forward and be assured of my continuing prayers as the next days and steps unfold.

Yours in the Mission of Christ,



Bishop Michael Oulton