

Anglican Deacons Canada

2021 Board of Directors Nominee Profile

Nominee: Cheryl Rafuse

1. "How do you envision contributing to the AADC Board?"

I envision myself contributing passion, positivity, encouragement, sensitivity, zeal, team play, and support to the other board members. I work to be pro-active and diplomatic. My plan would be to become a definite asset to the Board as I would strive to be. I am an intentional and active listener. My desire is to be a contributing voice from the East Coast of Canada in hopes of strengthening the bond of camaraderie across our country. I have a heart for advocacy, hospitality, ecumenism, Christian love and unity. I would bring my love of God and people to the table, joining in with your hands and hearts together in prayer and service to the Lord. I have a multifaceted background of experiences and training for life and ministry which therefore could contribute to the diversity of perspectives to the board which I believe is critical to the enrichment of board dialogues, sustainability and in furthering Christ's mission in the world.

2. "What is your vision for the future of AADC? (125 words or less)"

My vision for the future of AADC is growth through "drawing the circle wider" by further building up and strengthening the worldwide community of deacons regardless of denomination or location. I see that it is even more possible today through all the means of communication that is available in this day and time. When doors seemed to have closed many windows flew open. There is so much to hear, see and do. I see the AADC jumping in, adding to, and gleaning from what was good and from what possibilities are right before us today. My vision is for the AADC to dare to dream dreams in Jesus name. I see a continuation of the broadening of the horizons for the diaconate and diakonia. It has been heartwarming to witness and take part in a closer relationship with the Episcopal Church in the United States. AADC has been a work in progress and has brought us a long way forward and will continue to. My vision is to be a contributing part of it.

Closer to home I believe it is important to continue to work on the pieces of best practises for clergy relationships and team ministry through clergy and laity in churches by teaching, coaching, and respecting one others' calls and God-given gifts used for servanthood through the power of the Holy Spirit thus encouraging us all to keep our eyes on Christ and to live out His commandment of loving God and one another. We continue to pray for His perfect will.

3. "Please let us know more about yourself: what ministries you are involved in, which ones do you enjoy most, and perhaps something about your hopes and dreams for your ministry as a servant leader in the Anglican Church of Canada. (250 words or less)."

In all honesty I am so humbled and overjoyed to be in ministry and I truly love every part. It is my passion. After having a spiritual experience when I was 7 years old I fell in love with the Triune God when I came to understand that He-Father, Son and Holy Spirit, loves me.

My passion is chaplaincy (spiritual care) of the sick and suffering, death and dying. I love my hospital work and Jesus walks the halls with me leading and guiding me, providing His wisdom, care and comfort to His people.

Funerals are an important ministry for me and the follow-up pastoral care. Preaching and presiding when invited. Deacon of the Word and Table when invited. I have been presiding at weekly Morning Prayer and/or a bible study for 15 years which we now do on Zoom. The community food bank ministry is an important portion of missional and advocacy work. Currently I chair the Community of Deacons in this Diocese. Other ministries are telephone prayer for folks, visiting, and cold calls. My hope is that I serve God

as He would have me. I have great hope and I am encouraged by the ACC. It is moving forward and shining light on the diaconate. I am proud of AADC on deepening our relationships with others.

I dream of growth and strengthening in the diaconate and furthering the Gospel out into the world. I dream of the ACC becoming more missional, reaching out into communities sharing our faith in action. I dream of less politics and more love, hospitality and acceptance in the Church. I dream of Christians being a united front, joining together as God intended. I dream of us, the ACC changing the methods but never the Message.

30