



Bishop
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THE DIOCESE OF QU'APPELLE

Anglican Church of Canada

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Dear friends in Christ, Colleagues, grace and peace be with you all.

Though I have not formally written to the Metropolitan, it is after much prayer and discernment, that today I gave diocesan council advance notice of my intention to retire, on or around my 65th birthday, July 6 this year.

This decision is not taken lightly for it remains a great honour and privilege to serve you as bishop. Age, family, and my own fatigue are factors of course. However, as I observe our particular diocesan and worldwide situation; and as vaccines begin to be rolled out, and the pandemic, God willing, becomes more manageable by the summer/fall of this year, you will need a bishop to help nurture, steer and lead the diocese through the changes that will need to be lived through, and built upon. A bishop with the energy, the vision and the charism to lead the diocese into a new future. I have peace with God that I am not to be that person. So instead of waiting-out a year, or more. God being my helper, I am intending to step aside in June or July this year to give opportunity for the 13th Bishop of Qu'Appelle to shape a new vision; call the next diocesan synod; be present at the upcoming provincial and general synods; and attend the Lambeth Conference next year.

As much as I have ever discerned the will of God. This seems right. My vision is that a new bishop is already being called to come alongside and take the helm. God has this and we know we can trust God. Giving this intention, well in advance of my actual retirement day, and with diocesan council and Metropolitan approval, it allows for the possibility for a new bishop to come alongside sooner rather than later.

I have dearly loved my time in this great diocese with all of you. A new future now awaits us all. Till then, by the grace of God, I will continue to lead faithfully, complete the race before me, and continue to pray daily for you and the Diocese I love, way beyond my leaving.

Our post retirement plans, subject to the sale of our house, are to move to the UK in the fall, probably somewhere near Fort William in the Highlands of Scotland where my son now has a posting, or to my ordaining diocese in Nottinghamshire, England where my sister lives. Either way, and God willing, to then take on a part time parish or a house for duty position. Not being able to be close to my sister or to truly get to know our grandchildren these past 12 years has been a great sacrifice. It is time they get to know Lorraine and me, and it's time to build further the bonds of love we have for one another, whilst serving the Lord in a land of His choosing.

God bless you all for your leadership and companionship in the Gospel and God bless especially the prayerful discernment and decisions that will be asked of you and diocesan council in the weeks ahead.

In the words of the Lord, ⁹"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9).

As always, I remain yours in Christ Jesus, our great Saviour and Lord.

The Rt. Revd. Rob Hardwick.
Diocese of Qu'Appelle.