

DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE



**MINISTRY
PROFILE**



*Called by God to live
and proclaim the Gospel*

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A Profile of the Ministry of the Bishop of Moosonee

*“Receive this staff as a sign of your pastoral office; keep watch over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has appointed you to shepherd the Church of God. Encourage the faithful, restore the lost, build up the Body of Christ; that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, you may receive the unfading crown of glory.” (p. 640, *The Ordination of a Bishop, The Book of Alternative Services*)*

Conversations about a Bishop’s Ministry

In 2020, Archbishop Anne Germond called for a Season of Holy Discernment with respect to the future of The Diocese of Moosonee, including how episcopal ministry is best provided. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Assisting Bishop, was asked to offer guidance in this venture. In February and March, Great Chapter Gatherings took place in each deanery, James Bay and Watershed. In those gatherings considerable time was taken to talk about the ministry of a bishop. We began with Gospel Based Discipleship, reflecting on the Risen Lord’s commissioning of Peter to shepherd his flock (John 21). Then we turned to The Ordinal, to the liturgy for consecrating a bishop in The Church of God, taking time to consider The Examination of the one elected to this Order of Ministry and the Vows one makes (pp. 636-637). Then we looked at Canon 11, The Bishop of Moosonee,¹ and considered three questions:

- + What image of a bishop’s ministry speaks to you?
- + What might be the delights of being Bishop of Moosonee?
- + What might be the challenges?

Conversations were robust and the feedback substantial, all of which was reported to the Spring 2020 meeting of Executive Council.

¹ A copy of Canon 11 is attached as an appendix to this Profile. Also relevant is Canon III of the Canons of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario which is also attached as an appendix to this Profile.

Further to these conversations there were others in Clericus and also opportunity for conversations in every parish.

The Faithful throughout Moosonee know what they are looking for in the ministry of their Bishop. They need and want:

- + a good shepherd
- + a spirited presider, preacher, and teacher
- + a wise mentor in ministry
- + an able administrator
- + a good ambassador for Moosonee

Our Bishop is a Good Shepherd

Shepherding the People of God has deep roots in the writings of the prophets, the Gospel of Jesus, the Letters of The New Testament, and The Writings of The Church, ancient and modern. The essence of a shepherd's work is to gather, guide and lead the flock committed to their care.

The people of Moosonee are praying for a bishop who will lead with confidence in the name of The Good Shepherd himself. We trust that, having read our Diocesan Profile, he/she will set out clear priorities for his or her ministry for the first three to five years. We trust too that the Bishop will encourage all of us to look for signs of the movement of the Holy Spirit calling us into the future.

We look to our Bishop to help us with visioning in our parishes, so that each one embraces the opportunities to grow healthy, vibrant communities of faith with a good positive profile in the wider community we serve.

Our Diocese is largely Indigenous, and we look forward to our Bishop's guidance in the emergence of truly Indigenous (Eeyou / Eninew / Ililiwak / Ojibwa) expressions of cultural and traditional beliefs and values within The Church, especially for the Indigenous communities. We welcome and invite our Bishop's guidance in conversations about the documents approved by Sacred Circle, 2023 – Our Covenant and our Way of Life – and their impact on ministry and governance throughout the Diocese.

We expect our Bishop to uphold the Marks of Mission of our Worldwide Anglican Communion:

- + to proclaim the Good News of The Kingdom
- + to teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- + to respond to human need by loving service
- + to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- + to strive to safeguard and protect the renewal of creation and life on earth, its air, waters and human life

Our Bishop is a Spirited President, Preacher, and Teacher

People throughout the diocese have spoken of the Bishop as “having a good aura ... it is clear that the Holy Spirit is in him/her.” We pray for a bishop whose own love for God shines through their countenance, word and manner of being among us. We pray for a bishop who exudes reverence and joy in presiding, and competence and conviction in preaching. We look to be inspired by the teaching of our Bishop, encouraging us to be faithful followers of Jesus. We long for a time when once again our Bishop will spend more time in our communities ... celebrating Baptisms and Confirmations, leading Bible Studies, and training people for the ministry of catechesis. We hope our Bishop will seize every opportunity to meet with those to be confirmed ... chatting about the vows of baptism they are about to claim as their own, the nature of Confirmation and the prayer associated with the Laying on of Hands with Prayer, with a particular focus on the petition, ‘Empower him/her for your service,’ or as we pray in Moosonee, ‘Empower him/her first the work you call them to do.’ We yearn for a bishop who has a real interest in young people, engaging them in conversations about their life as followers of Jesus, and encouraging them into active ministries in the life of their church local.

Our Bishop is a Wise Mentor in Ministry

At ordination a bishop vows “to take counsel with the priests, to guide the deacons, and strengthen all others who minister in the Church. (p. 637, BAS)

We look for a bishop with a great commitment as pastor to the pastors, encouraging them in every way in the exercise of their ministry, offering encouragement in Christ, wise counsel, and clear direction as may be necessary from time to time. Much of this work is accomplished through regular gatherings of Clericus and in personal time spent with each of the clergy, ideally around the anniversary of their ordination.

Knowing that one of the most important ministries of a bishop is identifying and nurturing vocations to ordained ministry we hope our Bishop will spend considerable time in chatting with people who may be discerning a call. We expect our Bishop to have a strong and guiding hand in shaping a diocesan process like ACPO in naming candidates for training and formation for ordained ministry. We expect our Bishop to have a lead role in the work of the Bishop Tom Corston School for Ministry – in its mandate and organization, in its course offerings and certificates and diplomas, in its relationships with other Diocesan Schools for Ministry and Missional Leadership.

Likewise we look to our Bishop to offer support and encouragement for those called to the Office and Work of a Lay Reader in The Church. Working closely with the Warden of Lay Readers he/she will ensure good training and mentoring is in place.

Our Bishop will be a vigilant ambassador for the ministry of all the baptized, helping us to fully embrace St. Paul's teaching about how the Spirit graces many people for many varieties of service – some liturgical, some pastoral, some catechetical, some diaconal, some political in the interests of God's will for what is good, right and just for all.

In all things, our Bishop models for us all the very nature of servant leadership in which we “we seek not our own glory, but the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (p. 656, BAS).

Our Bishop is an Able Administrator

Moosonee needs a bishop with strong administrative skills, a bishop who leads from the long held Anglican Tradition that we are “episcopally led and synodically governed.”

There is a need to appreciate afresh the principles of Anglican Polity. There is a need for diocesan-wide education re our Canons and Policies. There is a need to strengthen ties between the parishes and the Synod Office. Inherent in a bishop's ministry is their role in this task, and it can be accomplished in large measure through meetings of Select Vestry when the bishop is visiting a parish. The bishop can clarify roles and responsibilities of Wardens, Treasurers and others, and can assure them that the Synod Office is ever ready and willing to help them fulfil their duties. Of particular concern in our diocese is the need for widespread stewardship education with respect to the provision of financial resources to support our ministries, local and diocesan.

We look to our Bishop to be glad and well prepared in gathering us in Synod, in Executive Council, in Assemblies, and in Great Chapter. We look to our Bishop to set the tone for our work – that our vision be clear, our resolution firm, and our zeal unabating. We look to our Bishop for good will and good cheer in all we are about as the Church throughout Moosonee.

Our Bishop is a Good Ambassador for Moosonee

Moosonee is a member diocese of The Council of The North, the dioceses that are supported by a fair share of the block grant from the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. We pray our Bishop's voice in that Council will be strong, positive and hopeful. We look to our Bishop to share our stories in the yet wider Councils of the Church – The Provincial Synod of Ontario, The General Synod, and The National House of Bishops. We hope our Bishop will be glad to accept invitations from bishops and dioceses in the South that are eager to learn more about ministry in the North. We hope that he/she will cheerfully tell our stories and invite prayerful and financial support reflected in the spirit of Diocesan Companion Relationships. We hope our Bishop will forge

a strong relationship with The New England Company which has long supported ministry in the North of Canada.

While much of that ambassadorial role is exercised beyond the diocese, there is also a need for it within the diocese, in particular in the James Bay Deanery, all of which comes under the governance of the Cree Nation. Building relationships with Chief and Council within each community is of vital importance. In a number of communities, the church and the rectory are the property of the Nation. The bishop can be a real advocate for attention in their maintenance and upgrading. The bishop can also have a considerable voice in negotiating support for the ministry of the Church from the perspective that we provide an ‘essential service’ in the communities. Forging good relationships with Cree government at all levels, including Cree Health and Social Services and Cree Compensation Board could be of great benefit in accessing support for our abiding commitment to a ministry of pastoral presence in every community; in acting on words of Apology regarding the Church’s complicity in the Indian Residential Schools, the harms inflicted on generations of children and their families, and the intergenerational trauma borne by many to this day; and our commitment to gatherings in the interests of healing and reconciliation.

The Care of Our Bishop

At ordination a bishop makes many vows in caring for us. And we too make a vow which we must take seriously ... that is to “uphold our bishop” (p. 635, BAS).

In the exercise of ministry as Bishop of Moosonee, one is required to be on the road for extensive periods of time, away from home and family. We recognize that such extended travel can be very tiring. In managing his/her time, we will encourage our Bishop to plan for, and take, Quiet Days, Continuing Education Opportunities, an Annual Retreat and a full vacation in the interests of their well being – physical, emotional, and spiritual. We pledge to uphold our Bishop in our prayers every day, that he/ she may know the grace, strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit in all the cares associated with being Shepherd of Christ’s flock in Moosonee.

Our Prayer

“Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts: Grant your blessing, we humbly beseech you, to the clergy and laity who will assemble for the election of a Bishop; and give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that a chief pastor may be chosen who shall minister before you to the glory of your Name, the spread of The Gospel, the good order of your Church, and the great care of the flock entrusted to their care. We pray in the name of your dear Son and our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Amen.”

Canons of the Diocese of Moosonee

CANON 11

The Bishop of Moosonee

The Ministry of the Bishop of Moosonee

- a) Oversight
 - i) Maintains an awareness of the mission and needs of each Parish and Congregation within the Diocese;
 - ii) Encourages a vision for the Diocese through consultation and establishes the diocesan priorities necessary for its achievement; and
 - iii) Represents the Diocese by attendance at Anglican, ecumenical and community meetings, conferences and activities.

- b) Pastor
 - i) Encourages and supports all persons in the Diocese in fulfilling their Baptismal ministry in their community, their parish and in their personal spiritual growth;
 - ii) Functions as pastor and guide, by both word and example, in living the Christian life as outlined in the Baptismal Covenant of *The Book of Alternative Services*;
 - iii) Develops and promotes collegiality among all clergy and others responsible for the ministry of the Diocese; and
 - iv) Ensures that the faith of the Church speaks to the needs of the present times and in the diversity of theology and culture in accordance with that which has been received by the Anglican Church.

- c) Administrator
 - i) Maintains a sense of order and dignity within the Diocese;
 - ii) Is responsible for the recruitment, appointment and termination of appointment of all clergy and lay ministers in the Diocese;
 - iii) Promotes and encourages the ongoing stewardship development of the Diocese; and
 - iv) Is responsible, through individuals and duly appointed committees, for all financial and administrative matters of the Diocese.

The Authority, Duties and Responsibilities of the Bishop

- a) The Bishop is due obedience by both clergy and laity in all matters governed by church law and covenantal obligations.
- b) The Bishop shall maintain a record of all official acts undertaken during his/her tenure.
- c) The Bishop shall enjoy all the rights and privileges conferred, and be subject to the responsibilities contained in *The Book of Common Prayer*, *The Book of Alternative Services*, and the applicable provisions of canon law.
- d) The Bishop shall be elected in accordance with Canon 13 of the Diocese and in compliance with the Canons of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario and the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.
- e) The Bishop shall serve as Diocesan until resignation, retirement, death or removal from office by proper authority.

Canons of the Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

Canon III - The Election and Resignation of Bishops

1. A bishop shall be elected to such office by the Synod of a Diocese pursuant to the Canons and Constitution of such diocese then in force, and written notification thereof shall be transmitted to the Metropolitan within seven days of such election. On receipt of such confirmation, the Metropolitan shall transmit a notice thereof to all other bishops of the Province and such other bishops shall, within seven days of receipt of such notification, file with the Metropolitan any written objection which any such bishop shall have. If the Metropolitan receives no such objection within such seven day period, the election and confirmation of such bishop shall be deemed to be final. If a written objection to such election is received by the Metropolitan within such seven day period, the Metropolitan shall forthwith call a meeting of the Provincial House of Bishops to consider the objection, and a decision of the House of Bishops with respect to the confirmation or nullification of such election shall be final and binding on all concerned.
2. Objection to the election of a bishop may be taken on any of the following grounds: The person so elected:
 - a) not being thirty years of age or more nor a priest in Holy Orders for at least seven years in the Anglican Communion;
 - b) being deficient in training or learning;
 - c) having used simony, collusion, or improper means of election;
 - d) being guilty of a crime or ecclesiastical offence as set out in Canon XVIII of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada;
 - e) teaching or holding at the time, or within the five previous years, anything contrary to the doctrine and discipline of the Anglican Church of Canada.
3. All bishops in the Province shall hold office until their resignation or until reaching the age of seventy years, whichever first occurs. Any bishop may resign prior to attaining the age of seventy years by written notice to the Metropolitan or, if the office of Metropolitan is then vacant, to the diocesan bishop of the Province senior by election to that office. The Metropolitan, as bishop of a diocese, may resign as such bishop (and, as a result, must resign as Metropolitan) by written notice to the diocesan bishop of the Province senior by election to that office.
4. If the bishop, synod, or executive committee (or similar body) of any diocese in the Province believes that additional episcopal assistance is necessary and desirable in and for the diocese, whether as coadjutor bishop, or suffragan or assistant bishop or bishops, then, in the absence of a procedure set out in the Canons or Constitution of such diocese, a resolution to this effect shall be passed by the diocesan synod, and the diocesan bishop shall set out to the diocesan synod the duties to be assigned to such bishop or bishops. The description of such duties shall be subject to change as need develops or conditions alter, and all changes shall be reported by the diocesan bishop to the diocesan synod. Prior to the election of any such bishop, the diocese shall satisfy the Metropolitan that sufficient financial provision has been, or will be, made with respect to such additional bishop.
5. Where a diocesan bishop determines that additional episcopal assistance in the diocese is necessary but that a formal election of an additional bishop is not, a diocesan bishop may appoint (with the concurrence of the diocesan executive committee or similar body) a retired bishop from the same or another diocese or a presently active bishop from another diocese to be an assistant bishop or an assistant to the diocesan bishop to perform such duties, for such period of time and at such remuneration as may be agreed to. Any fulltime assistant bishop or assistant to the diocesan bishop so appointed may attend Provincial Synod and meetings of the Provincial House of Bishops and shall be entitled to vote thereat.