



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Samuel Rose, B.A, M.Div (Hon)
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Bishop's Pastoral Letter September 24, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Last week, I received a letter from the President and Treasurer of our Diocesan Council Anglican Church Women (ACW) indicating that their membership has made the difficult decision to close its organization and end its governance due to declining membership effective September 30, 2024. I understand how difficult this decision must have been for all involved. The weight of such news can feel heavy on our hearts, especially when it involves an organization that has played a vital role in our Diocese for many years.

I am reminded of the many blessings that the ACW Diocesan Council has brought to our Diocese over the years - blessings stemming from the love and dedication of its members, who have invested their time, talents, and treasure in service to God and one another. While witnessing the decline of such a cherished fellowship is painfully sad, we must also recognize and celebrate the many ways the ACW has made a difference.

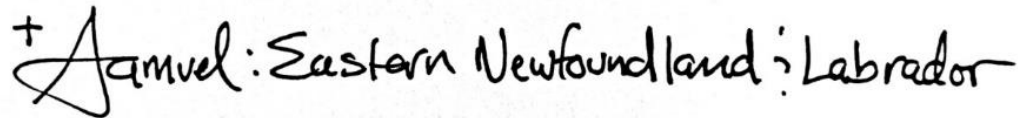
It's important to acknowledge that the decline in membership and the financial hardships many of our ACW branches face reflect broader societal changes. These challenges require our understanding and compassion. We honour the legacy of the ACW Diocesan Council and the faithful service of its members, many of whom have contributed tirelessly over many years. Their devotion is a testament to the love of Christ in action, and we are deeply grateful and appreciative.

The unity and fellowship the ACW has fostered through the years will remain a source of strength as we navigate these changes together. In the spirit of faith and resilience, I encourage you to lean on one another in prayer and support, recognizing that the Church's mission is not confined to any one organization but continues in the hearts and hands of its people.

Though the ACW Diocesan Council and its governance structure may be ending, those existing local branches that are vital groups in their congregations, if they so desire, should continue to function in their ministry of fellowship and support and report to the Vestry. While the ACW in our Diocese has chosen to end its structure and governance, I do not believe it ends the ministry of Anglican Church women.

As we move forward, I am hopeful and confident that we can find new avenues of support and fellowship that will allow our congregations to thrive. Together, let us seek God's guidance, trusting that God has a plan for our continued mission and work through us.

With love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Samuel: Eastern Newfoundland; Labrador". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Rev. Samuel Rose
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador