



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Venerable Samuel Rose, B.A, M.Div.(Hon)
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A Letter to the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

December 16, 2020

My Dear Friends,

I thank you for your prayers and support last evening at the Consecration. Although we were not able to gather in person, the Diocese was fully represented through representatives of our Diocesan committees, organizations, and partnerships. As well, there were various denominational and faith community leaders in attendance. Of course, thousands participated all over the country and beyond through social media and, believe me, your prayers and “virtual” presence was felt yesterday evening in a powerful and holy way. Bless each of you for taking the time to watch and participate in the Consecration and Installation of your new Bishop.

I now turn to some announcements for the Diocese. With the Consecration and Installation of a new Bishop, the Constitution of our Diocese states that all appointments from the last Episcopacy are concluded. However, I am going to extend the membership of the current Cathedral Chapter for the next number of months during this transition period. I will also be looking at the role and purpose of the Chapter in light of the impending reorganization of the Diocese.

As is our custom, those members of the Chapter who have indicated their intention to retire will retain their titles in retirement. I have received notices of retirement from two members of Chapter, the Rev. Canon Sandra Tilley and the Venerable Gregory Mercer, and I am pleased to retain and confer these same honorific titles after they retire from active ministry. If there are any current members of the Chapter who intend to retire in the near future and inform me of such, I will do the same for them.

The current membership of the Diocesan Executive Committee and Diocesan Finance Committee will stay in place until our next Synod. There is crucial work that needs to be done in the coming months and these people are important leaders in

our Diocese. I thank them for serving beyond the normal term and look forward to ministering with them as the Bishop. It has been an extraordinary year and our Executive and Finance members have provided sound guidance and leadership and I am indebted to each of them for their faithfulness and patience. It is my intention to hold a Diocesan Synod in the Fall of 2021 or the Spring of 2022 depending on the COVID situation.

The first thing the Diocesan Finance and Executive Committees will be dealing with is our Diocesan Budget for 2021. This Budget will bring immediate change to our structure as we deal with less income from the parishes which means having to make some reductions in our expenditures. These will have to be made in the immediate so that we can ensure long term ministry for the future. Those cuts in expenditures will begin with the Bishop and the Bishop's Office. As your Bishop, I will not be asking you to do anything that I would not be willing to do myself.

I will be making one important new appointment in this letter and that will be the next Diocesan Executive Officer to replace my former position in the Diocese. It gives me great pleasure to appoint the Venerable Charlene Taylor as Diocesan Executive Officer and Episcopal Commissary effective January 1, 2021. Archdeacon Charlene will bring great experience and grace to this position which will be a support to the Bishop and Diocese. I am also grateful that Archdeacon Charlene will cover Sunday duties and pastoral emergencies for the immediate future at the Parish of the Good Shepherd in Mount Pearl. She will also retain her role as the Territorial Archdeacon for Avalon as well.

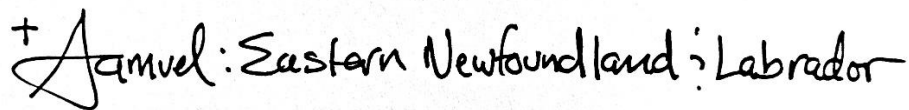
The New Year will bring further changes as the Synod Office located at 19 King's Bridge Road will be moving into one of the vacant houses at the Cathedral. This new location will be called the "Church House" in which the Bishop and Diocesan team will be housed for ministry, outreach and the administration of the Church. It is my hope that our new "Church House" will be open in February of next year. I thank the Rector, Archdeacon Roger Whalen, and leadership of the Cathedral for their cooperation and accommodation for us during this transition.

I know that these are anxious and uncertain times for our Church. Yet we must never forget that this is God's Church! Last evening, our preacher, Archdeacon Greg Mercer, asked us to reflect on what kind of Bishop, clergy, and people God is calling us to be in this Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. If we are not to be about the Mission of God in our words and actions, then we are not living out our true calling. Anglicans are missionaries for Christ and His Kingdom and we should never be ashamed of our faith and baptismal ministry. To quote Archdeacon Greg's sermon, "*the God of mission is calling his Church, purchased by the precious blood of Jesus (Acts 20:28) to get on with the work of mission as its first priority — making known the Great love of Jesus Christ — and nothing is to get in the way of that.*"

As we enter this Holy Season of Christmas, let us never forget that God sent His Son as the greatest gift of love we could ever receive. And we are called to share this same Love to everyone, but especially to the poor, the weak, the vulnerable, those rejected by society, the broken and marginalized. Let God's Love in Christ be the best gift we can give someone this Christmas, for it is in giving that we receive.

May you be blessed by God so that you may be a blessing to others. Amen.

Yours in Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel: Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador". The word "Samuel" is written in a large, stylized cursive font with a crossbar that loops back to the left. The rest of the text is in a smaller, more straightforward cursive script.

The Rt. Rev'd. Sam Rose
Bishop
Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador