



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Samuel Rose, B.A, M.Div (Hon)
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

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Bishop's Letter regarding "A Sacred Trust" November 17, 2024

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in Jesus Christ.

As many of you may know, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, offered his resignation last week following the Makin Review in the Church of England. To read the Archbishop's Letter of resignation, visit the website <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements/statement-archbishop-canterbury-0>

In response, our Primate, Archbishop Anne Germond, issued a Pastoral Letter to the Anglican Church of Canada, stating: "*The Anglican Church of Canada is committed to continuing the work necessary to make the church a safe place for everyone, in line with our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of every human being. We pray for the humility, courage, and wisdom required for this crucial task.*"

To read the Primate's full letter, please visit the Anglican Church of Canada's website at <https://www.anglican.ca/news/statement-on-the-resignation-of-the-archbishop-of-canterbury/30047750/>

Our Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador has had a Safe Church policy titled "A Sacred Trust" for many years. This policy represents our commitment to ensuring our church is a safe and holy place for all. As our Baptismal Covenant states, we are called to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbours as ourselves (Book of Alternative Services, p. 159). Therefore, it is our solemn responsibility to actively promote the welfare of all members of our community, especially those vulnerable due to age, infirmity, or other pastoral circumstances. This is a sacred trust which must be responsibly and safely managed.

To be clear, anyone - clergy, employees, and laity - working or volunteering in our Diocese with children, youth and vulnerable persons must be fully aware and compliant with "A Sacred Trust" without exception.

As “A Sacred Trust” states in section 19:

19. All stipendiary clergy and employees, as a condition of employment, as well as all non-stipendiary clergy and volunteers eighteen years of age and older, holding positions identified as involving risk, as a condition of voluntary service, must then:

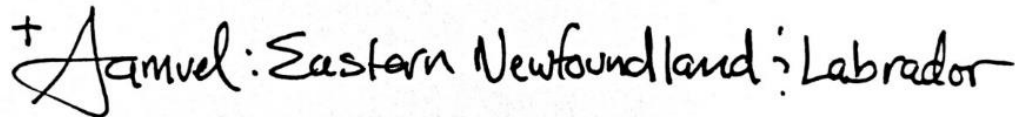
- a. receive and read a copy of, and participate in an orientation to A Sacred Trust;*
- b. agree in writing to comply with A Sacred Trust (Annex C); and*
- c. apply for a ‘Certificate of Conduct’ and a ‘Vulnerable Sectors Check.’*

To familiarize yourself with our Diocesan policy, “A Sacred Trust,” visit our website: <https://anglicaneni.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Sacred-Trust-Updated-June-19-2023.pdf>

As we move forward, let us not only offer our prayers for those who have suffered abuse and maltreatment in the church but also take meaningful action to ensure that such harm is never repeated. As a church, we are called to be a community of healing, justice, compassion, and unwavering commitment to protecting the vulnerable. May we be ever mindful of the sacred trust placed in us as the body of Christ, and may our hearts be open to both the suffering of the victims and the necessary work required to respect the dignity of every human being and protect the most vulnerable in society. May we, as individuals and as a Church, commit ourselves to creating a safe, welcoming, and trustworthy place for all to encounter Christ's love.

Let us walk this difficult but necessary path together in prayer, respect, and action.

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel: Eastern Newfoundland; Labrador". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross symbol at the beginning.

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