



# Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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## **Mandate Letter to the Canon for Evangelism and Witness**

*First Mark of Mission: to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*

**December 15, 2025**

**Commemoration of Simon Gibbons, First Priest from the Inuit, 1896**

Dear Rev. Canon Deborah Pantin,

Grace and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am writing with great joy and gratitude to officially invite you to take on the role of Canon for Evangelism and Witness, effective January 1, 2026, and continuing until January 1, 2029.

In this important position, you will also be a part of the Cathedral Chapter of St. John the Baptist. Your passion for evangelism and Christian witness will inform our decision-making and support our shared mission. Your experience and dedication come at a crucial time as our Diocese reaffirms its commitment to teaching Christian doctrine in the Anglican tradition and proclaiming the Gospel message through witness and evangelism.

This appointment aligns with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the first Mark of Mission: *to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*. Our response to the Baptismal Covenant in our daily evangelism is to be the inspiration for this ministry. Our Diocese is reclaiming its outward call, proclaiming the Good News in a world hungry for hope. We know your voice will spark a culture of invitation, drawing all into the transformative love of Christ.

As your bishop, I envision our Diocese continuing its journey with Set Sail, our strategic plan. We will focus on the Five Marks of Mission to guide our work together. Our goal is to promote evangelism that is relevant, culturally aware, and accessible to all, meeting people where they are in their relationship with Christ as reflected in our Diocesan Mission Statement (listed below).

### **Canonical Mandate**

In your role as Canon for Evangelism and Witness, you will be our primary strategist and advocate. You will equip the Diocese to share the Gospel authentically, while bridging the gap between the church and the community. Your key responsibilities will include shaping evangelistic strategies, policies, and programs; leading training for clergy and laity; fostering

partnerships beyond our walls; and guiding theological reflection on evangelism. Your insights will also influence our governance, worship, and outreach efforts within the Cathedral Chapter and Diocese.

Together, we can launch a "Year of Evangelism" in our Diocese. We could form a digital task force to leverage online platforms for sharing faith stories and connecting with seekers. We may partner with churches and other denominations for outreach and proclamation activities. Our Diocese could host workshops on conversational evangelism and faith sharing, as well as any other opportunities or events that you deem necessary.

It is also essential to ensure that our approaches are inclusive, especially by collaborating with the Canon for Truth, Reconciliation, and Right Relationships, to create culturally sensitive programs.

To further strengthen your leadership and our shared mission, I encourage you to form a small team – an Evangelism and Witness Advisory Council. This group should reflect diverse voices within our Diocese, including clergy, laity, and advocates. By convening this Council, we can build a collaborative spirit that keeps our evangelism efforts grounded in community wisdom and faithful action.

### **Place within the Cathedral Chapter**

The Cathedral Chapter is a group of clergy and lay leaders who help govern and grow the mission of the Cathedral and Diocese. Your role as Canon for Evangelism and Witness will be a key part of our shared work. To help us discern this together, please join our Cathedral Chapter meetings regularly, as scheduled. These meetings will be places for group wisdom, prayer, and thoughtful decisions.

I also look forward to one-on-one meetings with you at least twice a year. These will give us time for listening, reflection, and teamwork that respects your leadership. During these meetings, please share your ideas for a dedicated budget that would support your Canonical ministry. We will seek grants and funding based on your priorities for training, events, and partnerships.

If you ever need to step down from this role due to health, personal reasons, or any other reason, please discuss this with me openly and promptly, before submitting a formal resignation. This will allow us to discuss support options, plan next steps together, and ensure a smooth transition for the Diocese.

Deborah, you are in my prayers, and you will be supported by the Chapter. May our focus on sharing the Good News through word and action draw us closer, bringing Christ's Kingdom to life in our words and actions.

With great respect and excitement for the path ahead, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

The Right Reverend Samuel V. Rose  
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

## **Five Marks of Mission**

- *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 the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*

## **Mission Statement of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador**

As Anglicans, we are called to obey our Lord's commission: "*Go, then to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*"

Our Diocese is an integral part of the body of Christ – a Church empowered by the Spirit through the study of Scripture and the worship of God; proclaiming the good news, as it reaches out in love to relieve the burdens and hurts in the world and affirming the joys.

Therefore, with grateful hearts, we covenant to:

- *worship and praise Almighty God;*
- *provide the means for spiritual growth;*
- *interpret the teaching of Jesus for our time;*
- *teach Christian doctrine in the Anglican tradition;*
- *proclaim the gospel message through witness and evangelism;*
- *challenge injustices;*
- *pray for and nurture our Christian community and the world;*
- *be faithful to our Anglican identity shaped by scripture, tradition, reason and experience;*
- and,
- *be faithful, wise and responsible stewards of God's gifts of creation, redemption and empowerment.*