



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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Mandate Letter to the Canon for Mercy and Loving Service *Third Mark of Mission: to respond to human need by loving service*

December 15, 2025
Commemoration of Simon Gibbons, First Priest from the Inuit, 1896

Dear Rev. Canon Byron Barter,

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 Mercy and Loving Service, 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 mercy and loving service 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 reach out in love to relieve the burdens and hurts in the world and affirm the joys.

This appointment aligns with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the third Mark of Mission: *to respond to human need by loving service*. Your ministry is inspired by Micah 6:8, to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God,” and your role embodies Christ’s love through action, much like the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), responding to need with compassion. Prioritizing service, our Diocese uplifts the marginalized, visibly manifesting God’s kingdom.

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 ministry 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 Mercy and Loving Service, you will be our primary strategist and advocate. You will equip the Diocese to serve the vulnerable authentically, while bridging the gap between the church and those in need. Your key responsibilities will include shaping service strategies, policies, and programs; leading training for clergy and laity; fostering

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

Together, we could establish a Diocesan Mercy Network to coordinate parish service programs, such as food banks, clothing drives, our Diocesan Community Farm, and the Mobile Ministry Bus. With organizations like Alongside Hope, we can partner for disaster relief, develop parish workshops on compassionate outreach to serve vulnerable populations with dignity and empowerment, and host an annual Diocesan Service Day for community projects such as cleanups, food banks, or shelter volunteering.

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. We could lead a Diocesan initiative to engage with truth and reconciliation processes, such as those related to Indigenous communities or historical racial injustices.

To further strengthen your leadership and our shared mission, I encourage you to form a small team - a Mercy and Loving Service 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 loving service 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 Mercy and Loving Service 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.

Byron, you are in my prayers, and you will be supported by the Chapter. May our focus and mercy and loving service 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

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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.*