



# Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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## **Mandate Letter to the Canon for Truth, Reconciliation, and Right Relationships**

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

Dear Canon Thomas Mugford,

*Atelihai!* 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 Truth, Reconciliation, and Right Relationships, effective January 1, 2026, and continuing until January 1, 2029.

In this sacred role, you will also join the Cathedral Chapter of St. John the Baptist Cathedral, sharing your profound wisdom, pastoral depth, and Indigenous perspective to guide our shared journey. Your gifts, rooted in your own experiences and heritage, come at a time when our Diocese, marked by its history of colonial harms, yearns to listen, learn, and walk alongside Indigenous peoples in true partnership. It is an honour beyond words to welcome you into this space, knowing that your voice will help us all grow toward the justice and reconciliation that the Creator calls us to.

This invitation is grounded in the Gospel's call to love our neighbours as ourselves, to seek justice, and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). As a settler, I am committed to the Anglican Church of Canada's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, especially here in Newfoundland and Labrador. Your leadership will illuminate our path, embodying the Five Marks of Mission and our Diocesan Mission Statement (see below) in ways that centre Indigenous knowledge and self-determination and proclaim the Good News.

### **Canonical Mandate**

In your role as Canon for Truth, Reconciliation, and Right Relationships, you will serve as a vital bridge, guiding conversations between our Diocese and Indigenous communities both within the Church and beyond. Your responsibilities will include shaping policies, programs, budgets, and initiatives to ensure they are inclusive of Indigenous perspectives, leading circles of dialogue in response to the Calls to Action, championing Indigenous-led ministries,

and facilitating theological dialogue between Indigenous spiritualities and Anglican traditions. This position within the Cathedral Chapter is one of shared discernment, where your insights on Indigenous spirituality, self-determination, and inclusion will shape how we live out justice, cultural respect, and mutual partnership. I pledge to listen deeply, learn continually, and support the theological, pastoral, and strategic wisdom you bring, allowing it to transform our collective understanding of faith on this land.

Over the next three years, under your guidance, I see us bringing these ideas to life in our Diocese by forming a Diocesan Indigenous Ministry Circle, that is led by Indigenous members, to co-create a plan for reconciliation and ministry; hosting learning sessions for clergy on cultural humility and the effects of colonization, through the Mapping the Ground we Stand On exercises and other resources, informed by your insights; partnering with elders to blend Indigenous languages and traditions into our worship services, if that is needed; and having you represent us in national forums like the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples to advance our shared commitments, plus any other events or opportunities you feel are essential.

### **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 Truth, Reconciliation, and Right Relationships 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.

As a settler, I approach this with a heart full of awe for the gifts you and Indigenous peoples bring to the Body of Christ. Tom, you are in my prayers, and you will be supported by the Chapter. In Christ, may we discover that the Good News unites us as one people, mending what has been divided. *Nakummek!*

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.*