



Anglican Network  
in Canada

# The Bishop's Charge

Synod 2020 | November 4, 2020

**O** God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Beloved bishops, clergy, all lay delegates, guests and all who may be kindly and prayerfully observing this online Synod;

I thank you for participating in this the 13th Synod of the Anglican Network in Canada, lovingly known as ANiC, a diocese of the Anglican Church in North America, again lovingly known as the ACNA.

It is a tribute to all of you and our wonderful staff that we have found a way, even in the midst of COVID 19, through the amazing technology that is available, to meet as we are able online today and tomorrow.

By now, you likely are aware of our theme verse which is one of the last verses of Paul's wonderful first epistle to the Thessalonians:

**“He who calls you is faithful– He will surely do it.” 1 Thessalonians 5:24**

Knowing that time is even more precious in an online Synod, I took the opportunity to do the Bible teaching today which was intended to be a very brief overview of that great portion of Scripture, 1 Thessalonians.

I also, in my own simple way, each Wednesday of September and October in my

brief video posts, attempted to give a meditation on two things based on 1 Thessalonians 5:24:

1. In September, we meditated on the faithfulness of God and that Jesus is the Faithful One who faithfully came to this world that he himself had created, took on the form of a servant, and was obedient to the will of the Father to go all the way to death on the Cross for us, sinful humanity. Alleluia!

2. In October we meditated on the fact that he who is faithful has called us and we meditated on his call.

For the sake of time then, I will assume that you are steeped in the solid joys and lasting treasures of the faithfulness of God and the call of God. As I say those words it is impossible for me not to be reminded of John Newton's wonderful hymn "Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken" verse 3:

*Saviour, if in Zion's city  
I, through Grace a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity  
I will glory in Thy name:  
Fading is the sinner's pleasure  
All his boasted pomp and show:  
Solid joys and lasting treasure  
None but Zion's children know*

My dear, dear friends, as Zion's children, we are incredibly blessed, incredibly rich, incredibly secure in the faithfulness of our God who calls us. Peter said in 1 Peter, we have been "born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:3b-5)

If you are like me, you may be thinking— we should just stop right now— what more can be said? Perhaps we should stop and sing the Doxology and call it a day—call it a Synod—call it a year!

But, alas, we're not going to do exactly that. But I pray that those solid joys and lasting treasures would permeate every minute of our precious time together.

Now, last year, you may remember—perhaps painfully for you—that my Charge then had 11 points. Happily for you, I feel the pressure of time and so I have only three points this year! Now before you get too happy, they are perhaps fairly long

points. But I hope they're points worthy of some time to reflect on, based on our theme:

**"He calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."**

1. We give joyful thanks to our faithful God.
2. Knowing this is His idea, His call, His initiative and all by His provision and His Grace—despite many setbacks, afflictions and a pandemic which is ongoing, even in the midst of all this—we press on undeterred "to lay hold of that for which we have been laid hold of" in the call of Jesus Christ, as the apostle Paul spoke of in his epistle to the Philippians chapter 3. We press on.
3. All this we do knowing that certainly God himself will do it. We draw close to him and his purposes together in joyful unity.

Three points 1) we thank God, 2) we press on, 3) we do so in joyful unity.

## 1. WE THANK GOD!

The faithfulness of God and the call of God was of particular significance and concern and interest to the Thessalonian church because, literally from the moment they first believed in the Lord Jesus they were thrust into the middle of persecution and all manner of difficulties. The difficulties were so intense that as Paul pondered them he found himself worrying, even though he was a man of great faith, whether, as he wrote, "for this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, *for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and all our labour would be in vain.*" (1 Thess. 3:5 italics added)

As we've learned, when Timothy and Silas returned to Corinth to report on things in Thessalonica, Paul could rejoice because in fact not only had they started well as "they received the word in much affliction with the joy of the Holy Spirit" (1:6) but now some time later, with the persecution still raging, they were continuing strong in the Lord and moving forward: "For this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God." (1 Thess. 3:7-9)

Going forward because of the faithfulness of God in the midst of afflictions is a reason for great Thanksgiving to God.

My dear friends, I am aware that we have all, over the last months, suffered much loss in innumerable ways. As congregations, as families, as individuals in the midst of struggling communities facing this pandemic there has been much loss and much difficulty. But like the young Thessalonian Church, we can see the faithfulness of God, the goodness and faithfulness of our loving Heavenly Father!

So, I intend to list a whole long list of some of the amazing and wonderful things that I think we of ANiC can and should give thanks to God for in these days. Basically I propose we just listen to them and in a few cases I'll make some comments.

As we say regularly in what's called the General Thanksgiving: “but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory.” We give thanks to our faithful God:

**F**or more than survival through the horrors of COVID-19, which is still ongoing. And even in the midst of all the loss and difficulties which it has brought our way, we as a diocese and our congregations have found ways to move forward. We give thanks to our faithful God.

**F**or our glorious heritage, albeit brief—which began November 22, 2007 with two bishops, two priests, and two deacons and two congregations—to where we are today. What a joy it is to be reminded of Bishop Don, our first Moderator and Diocesan Bishop, and Bishop Malcolm, alongside both courageously blazing a trail for us all in the midst of many difficulties. And to think of the care of Archbishop Greg Venables. To remember with thanksgiving the formation, soon after, at the call of the Jerusalem Declaration, of the ACNA, which began June 24, 2009. For all of this and all that has followed we give thanks to our faithful God! (I am thrilled that we will be hearing from Bishop Trevor later in our synod about a book that he and Canon David Short, along with others, are writing about the history of our movement and diocese. This is so important because it brings glory to our faithful God. We give thanks to our faithful God!

I am thrilled to remember just some 65 km down the road on November 13, 2009, three of us were consecrated bishops: Bishop Trevor, Bishop Stephen and myself. And we continue to have the great joy and honour to serve the Lord side by side in this wonderful diocese. We give thanks to our faithful God!

For our wonderful team of clergy who faithfully and generously spend themselves for the cause of the gospel daily and, even in the midst—and especially in the midst—of these past months. What is particularly exciting is the Lord continues to be raising outstanding new people for ordination, and others are being called from other jurisdictions to join us in this great work before us. Clearly the Lord is sending wonderful labourers for the harvest.

Just since our last Synod we have ordained:

Eric Wong, priest

Colton Carrick, deacon

Alan Mills, priest

Robin Collis, deacon

Jonathan Camiré, priest

Daniel Avitan, priest

Walter Wong, deacon

John Coghlan, deacon

Matthew Seeram, deacon

Joel Strecker, priest

Julian Erb, deacon

James Broadhead, deacon

Janet Gulliver, deacon

Aaron Pieroway, deacon

And we have welcomed to ANiC:

The Rev. Daniel Croft, The Rev. Janet Bigland-Pritchard, The Rev. Charles Alexander, The Rev. Dr. Glenn Taylor, The Rev. Brian Candow, The Rev. Logan Gates, The Rev. Mark Tubbs, The Rev. Ryan Cook, and The Rev. Joseph Pienaar.

We have gained all these amazing clergy since our last Synod. We give thanks to our faithful God!

For a growing number of congregations. For the resourcefulness of all our people to find away to gather by technology during lockdowns and separation, and careful and faithful and safe in-person gatherings as it's been possible. We give

thanks to our faithful God!

**F**or those of our clergy who in these past months have been promoted to glory. What has been striking me this year is what an incredibly godly group of heroes—men and women of faith—we have been blessed to walk alongside. And now they have been called home. Listen to this list of amazing folk who have served as clergy in our diocese and are now with the Lord:

The Reverend Dorothy Thorpe, the Rev. John McIlmurray, the Rev. Canon Dr. JI Packer, the Rev. Roy Vopni and in the Right Rev. Terry Buckle.

I can say as Bishop with our House of Bishops that we all have been humbled and so grateful to share in ministry with these amazing saints.

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them!" Revelation 14:13”

For the life, witness, teaching and service of these and others dear to us as part of ANiC. We give thanks to our faithful God!

*[Let's view an excerpt of an interview that Keith Getty did during their SING GLOBAL CONFERENCE in September past with our present Primate, Archbishop Foley Beach and his predecessor, Archbishop Bob Duncan, speaking of this humble, mighty man of God: Jim Packer]*

**F**or Bishop Andy Lines, who as of June, 2017 became the GAFCON Special Missionary Bishop to Europe. And it has been to our joy that Bishop Andy was brought under our care as a diocese; to care for him and all the clergy and people under his care. This has been a great joy for us and a great honour. It was always intended to be a temporary, emergency measure which it has been; but now, Lord willing, by year's end Bishop Andy will become the Presiding Bishop of a new entity called the Anglican Network in Europe [I like that name- it has a certain ring to it] with two convocations. Bishop Andy and the Anglican Network in Europe will come directly under the Chair of the Primates of GAFCON. Though we will miss the special relationship which we've had for the last couple of years, we're delighted to see this growth and development. Congratulations to Bishop Andy and all those who labour alongside him. We promise to continue to pray in the days ahead.

*[Let's hear from Bishop Andy as he brings greeting by video]*

So when the Anglican Network in Europe is formally created, there will be a small service, likely online, in which it will be my joy to commend Bishop Andy to the chairman of GAFCON who, of course, is our own Primate, Archbishop Foley Beach, and to bless Bishop Andy and this new GAFCON Ecclesial entity as they begin this new work in the cause of the gospel. We give thanks to our faithful God!

**W**e also celebrate with Bishop Todd Atkinson and Via Apostolica, who in this past year became a Missionary District of the Province of the ACNA and are domicile in the Diocese of the Upper Midwest of the ACNA. This of course is exciting for Bishop Todd and Via, but for us and all of the ACNA, who love them very much, we are delighted that we will be labouring shoulder to shoulder as part of the ACNA in the days ahead.

*[Let's hear from Bishop Todd by video.]*

We give thanks to our faithful God!

**F**or our ANiC Council who represents us all through the year and are the leadership body between synods. As you can imagine this past year has been challenging, but they have been faithful and strong in their leadership. There are four who will have completed their term of six consecutive years and will be retiring as of this Synod: Joan Deeks, Matt Strolz, Archdeacon Dan Gifford and Archdeacon Paul Charbonneau. These people are each outstanding leaders and will leave a big gap in the council. We are tremendously grateful for their service and are counting on them to continue to serve, as they naturally do in all sorts of ways. I anticipate we will be looking to them to again give leadership. We give thanks to our faithful God!

**F**or our mighty Intercessors who cover us all in ANiC in prayer and a team who are equipping our people to know how to minister wisely and effectively in spiritual battle. We give thanks to our faithful God!

**F**or the many who served in all sorts of capacities in the care and administration of our Diocese such as our amazing registrar Canon Tom Carman and the chairs of our Five Priorities. Incidentally the Rev. Neil van Heerden is stepping away from leadership of the On Mission priority, but will be turning his attention very much to his primary calling of evangelism, for which we're very grateful. For our amazing, competent and faithful diocesan staff, under the leadership of our passionate for the cause of the gospel and the growth of the Church and wise National Director, John MacDonald; our joyful and skillful Executive Administrator, Jessica Underdown; our amazing and patient Communications Director, Scott Hunt, who has over the past months of the pandemic introduced most of us into online ministry and technology and has prepared, trained, drawn together and is now directing and implementing this online Synod—all this from their little apartment in Fergus, Ontario, where he and his dear wife Richelle are caring for their first newborn and beautiful daughter Selah Grace.

Two of our staff have in the last months battled serious illness. Both are recovering well. Jamie Wood continues on sick leave, and Catherine Neal just started back this past month, for which we are very thankful. We are so thankful to the Lord for them both and for their healing.

Susan Reynolds joined us just in time and is such a gift from the Lord for us all. Larry Lavery offers his considerable experience and talents in the gathering and filing of financial reports, assists in the preparation for our annual audit, and this year has been putting in countless—and often frustrating—hours to represent the parishes in making applications for government funding as a result of the pandemic.

Most recently, upon the recommendation of the Harvest Task that I search for an Executive Archdeacon, I have invited, and he has accepted, Archdeacon Paul Charbonneau to take on this important staff role in addition to his ministry as Rector of St Hilda's, Oakville. More will be said about his job as Executive Archdeacon later in our Synod.

These are all wonderful godly folk who serve the Lord and us with such grace. We give thanks to our faithful God!

**F**or the place that AMMIC holds in our heart and ministry, by making disciples of all nations through "building biblically faithful, gospel sharing, Anglican churches" a growing reality under the leadership of Bishop Stephen. We give thanks to our faithful God!

**F**or new congregations in new communities:

- St. Francis Anglican Worship Community, Saskatoon, under the leadership of the Reverend Dr Jan Bigland-Pritchard
- Église Saint-Lazare, Saint-Lazare, QC – under the leadership of the Reverend Jonathan Camiré
- Highway in North Vancouver, BC under the leadership of the Reverend Joe Pieenaar
- Kainos Church Plant, Northwest Calgary under the leadership of the Reverend Paul Orritt
- All Saints Anglican Church, Bonavista, NL, which became fully recognized as an ANiC Parish, under the leadership of the Reverend Shaun O'Connor

We give thanks to our faithful God!



**F**or the Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada and Anglicans for Life Canada and our partners in the Cuba Mission, who assist us in proclaiming the gospel, promoting life and the protection of life and the care of people around the world in the name of the Lord. We give thanks to our faithful God!

**F**or the creativity and resourcefulness of our congregations during these past months and for the fact that many of our company have discovered new gifts in ministry which they have been able to offer online and in-person. We give thanks to our faithful God!

**F**or God's provision in every way, inspiring our people to continue to be generous in sacrificial, faithful giving, and in how they found ways to give even when we we're not able to gather in-person. We give thanks to our faithful God!

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness of loving kindness to us and to all of you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; But above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

We give thanks to our faithful God!

## 2. WE PRESS ON!

In the Acts of the apostles, after the summary statement of the great commission in Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Then the Holy Spirit was given, as was recorded in Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost. From then on the gospel went forward with power in an ever increasing circle just as Acts 1:8 promised. The promise was made and He who promises

never lies but delivers on what is promised. What does not seem to be an issue is whether things were going well or not well, in terms of things like persecution and difficulties. Whether there was peace, as it is recorded in Acts 9:31 after the conversion of Saul of Tarsus:

“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied”

Or earlier, while Saul was breathing out violence and many Christians such as Philip and his family had to flee Jerusalem, even then the gospel went forward in power as Philip and others continued to witness to the Risen Lord Jesus:

“Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.” (Acts 8:4-8)

The gospel went forward in a terrible time of danger and the end result was joy in the city. Did you know that one of our congregations is called Celebration Church in Barrie, Ontario because of Acts 8:8?

I believe we have seen the gospel go forward in power even during a lockdown and even during other times of great restrictions of all sorts. It has been very interesting to me that some of our relatively small churches in their online ministry have seen incredible numbers of "views" week by week, far beyond what they could have ever imagined. Clearly the Lord is doing something even though there are such dramatic restrictions.

Accordingly, it is clear that in difficult times, as well as in good times, we can be confident that the Lord is at work and therefore we can turn our attention to pressing on with the gospel, even when the situation may appear to be less than promising.

Interestingly, Paul could describe his imprisonment in Rome in Philippians 1 as being used to serve the cause of the gospel:

“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.” (Philippians 1:12-14)

The gospel went forward, people received the Lord and the Christians were emboldened, all during a time when it would've seemed as if things should have been

bogged down, in terms of gospel ministry.

Similarly, as recorded in 1 Thessalonians, Paul made it clear that though things were very difficult in Thessalonica he could say:

“For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. (1 Thessalonians 2:1-2)

No wonder Paul could assert so confidently, "He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."

Clearly therefore, as a diocese, as each congregation, as individuals, whether we consider our situation and the future to appear promising or not, because of the faithfulness of God, because of the promises of God, because God is not deterred by difficult situations we must press on in God's call on us in these days.

Our mission has been, right from the start, about making disciples of all nations right where we are by building Biblically faithful, gospel sharing, Anglican churches across Canada and in New England.

To do that we have to concentrate very intentionally on what we've called our Five Priorities, which we have been praying for the last six years might become a transformational reality in every ANiC congregation. Praying that in fact the DNA of each of our congregations would be so profoundly affected by a work of the Spirit of God that we would all be: Bold Witnesses; Biblically Grounded; Loving Children and youth into the kingdom; not a club but strategic operational platforms for ministry who are On Mission; all about Planting and Growing Churches because it is evident this is God's plan as seen in the Bible for reaching the world with the transforming love of Christ.

It is evident that when there are such restrictions as we now are experiencing, and we don't know what the future holds, we do require the wisdom of God and creativity and a boldness to attend to these things and press on, believing that God can use them for good.

I am tremendously thankful for the Chairs of our Five Priorities: Scott Hunt – Bold Witnesses , Canon George Sinclair – Biblically Grounded, the Reverend Jeremy Graham – Loving Children and Families, and Canon Alastair Sterne – Planting and Growing Churches. (Soon we hope to have our next chair appointed for our On Mission priority as well.)

There are on our ANiC website lots of resources, for instance for parents and would-be church school teachers including wonderful, biblical children's resources and also helps for every person to learn to be a bold witness.

I love it that, in terms of church planting, under the leadership of our chair Canon Alastair Sterne, we now have folk who have gone through the assessment and training and support of C2C, and have the prayer, support and encouragement and supervision of a sponsoring congregation. We have two—going on three—that you will meet this synod and we anticipate there will many be many more in the days ahead. This is very wonderful.

At the same time there are congregations which are being raised up as a result of folk gathering together, often without a leader or clergy, who are beginning to work as a church project or gathering towards a church plant. We are tremendously grateful for Bishop Ron Ferris and the Rev. Geoff Chapman and Anglican Explorers for the support they're giving, and for the fact that congregations, often in remote or rural areas, are being raised up and supported. Alleluia!

What I'm trying to say dear friends is that the difficulty of our situation now in time and the uncertainty of where things are heading in no way changes the call of God. Our call is for a harvest. Because He is faithful, because He promises to do it, we must and we will press on to build Biblically faithful, Gospel sharing, Anglican churches.

### 3. WE DO SO IN JOYFUL UNITY

In the Pre-Synod Orientation meetings I described this Synod as a “Bridge Synod” because a large part of the work we have to do is to lay the groundwork for the next two years of transition. If everything goes as planned by the end of Synod 2022, Lord willing, in two successive Synods there will be Episcopal elections to choose replacements for me and Bishop Trevor. This Synod then is a kind of bridge between what we have been thus far as a diocese and what the Lord may want to do under new leadership in the years ahead.

Sometimes people can legitimately fear transitions but this is not necessary. If it's true that this has always been the Lord's thing, His call based on His faithfulness, there need be no anxiety as we press into Him and His will and the promise says “He will surely do it.”

If everyone opts for their own preferences and does what is right in their own eyes we will surely be in trouble. But if we remember His call and renew our commitment to Him and to that call in joyful unity, surely, surely He will be pleased to do and fulfill His call on our Diocesan life.

Three things I want to say about this unity.

Through some excellent work by a group of three: Joan Deeks, Bishop Ron Ferris and John MacDonald, and then our Canons Committee led by Victoria Huyer and our Chancellor, Mike Donison—all working with and reporting to our ANiC Council, working closely with our ACNA leadership and staff— and now with Archdeacon Paul Charbonneau, our new Executive Archdeacon, there is beginning to form an Episcopal Electoral Committee made up of wise, Spirit-led representatives of our Diocese to walk us through this whole two year process. And there should be no reason for there to be any distractions for us all looking together to the Lord in unity for His leading.

It would seem to me that as we look back—as it were—in the mirror, we can see clear signs of God’s call on us, which can establish the road-map for a future that we can all commit to. As I reflect on our past (and I am so excited for the work Bishop Trevor and Canon David Short are doing on the history of our movement, Diocese and Province), the gospel and Bible shine through. And that, right from our Anglican Essentials days which clearly gave birth to ANiC, we have been clearly a three-stream movement, a three-stream Diocese (Evangelical, Catholic and Charismatic).

The three groups that sponsored the 1994 Montreal Conference were three-stream and the very first days of ANiC—with a makeup of two bishops, two priests, two deacons and two congregations—though the numbers were so small, even in those six leaders unmistakably all three streams were well represented. In one of my very last conversations with Canon Dr J.I. Packer, he encouraged me and challenged me that in his view ANiC held a very unique and strategic place in the ACNA which, in his view, was very important because there are some benefits to being Canadian (yes), but primarily because truly we are three-stream.

We also represent very clearly what is sometimes known as or what is called two integrities: those whom by conviction hold the belief that women, scripturally are welcomed to be ordained to the priesthood or presbyterate, and those who believe they are not. In ANiC women who are called to be ordained are welcomed and needed. We have a big job to do and we need “all hands on deck.” We of the House of Bishops have supported the two integrities, and believe that has been very important for the health and future of our diocese.

And more recently we have also prayed for and laboured for what we have called five priorities. It is therefore my view that these are our heritage and in fact God's call on us. It is my hope and intention to encourage our new ANiC council as soon as possible to consider our heritage and find a way to renew our commitment to this vision of God's call on our life together in joyful unity.

As the clock continues to tick and I am aware there are so many things I had hoped we would have been able to do, but thus far in which have been less than completely successful, it causes me to want to make clear and good choices, such as the five priorities, which will not change for me.

It is true however that thinking of foundations and the long term health of this thing called ANiC, establishing what is sometimes called a "good pipeline " or a comprehensive diocesan plan for the recruitment, discernment of call, theological training and equipping, deployment and support of our ordained leaders is essential. In a conversation with the recently retired General Secretary of GAFCON who continues to lead the GAFCON Theological Education Network, he challenged me that if he had two years remaining in tenure as a Diocesan Bishop he would prioritize our theological education which is providing a diocesan-faithful, workable plan that will serve the needs of preparing our leaders to be mighty, biblically grounded folk who handle the Word of God faithfully; have a vital, growing relationship with the Lord; know how to lead people to Christ; teach and equip God's people in the power of the Holy Spirit; are growing in Christ-like character and the fruit of the Spirit; and have growing competencies to lead a church family, and in most cases to plant churches.

I agree with him and as part of these final couple of years it is my hope to turn much of my attention to this incredibly important area. Accordingly, along with the House of Bishops, we hope to work with the ANiC Council beginning at our very first ANiC Council after this Synod, hopefully before the end of this month, and again very soon meet with our Archdeacons. And then have a major consultation before this year's end with all the Theological Seminaries, Colleges, and various institutions which are right now helping prepare our leaders.

If you were able to look around (if we were in an in-person Synod) you would be thrilled and impressed by the quality of outstanding young leaders that are coming our way. Clearly there are some outstanding theological training facilities that our people are enjoying and we are receiving the benefit from. Our Examining Chaplains and Dove can give testimony to how blessed we are. Let me list some that I am keenly aware of and thank God for: Regent College, Artizo, Christ College, SOL-AM (School of Life and Ministry), Ryle Seminary, Trinity School for Ministry and

Nashotah House and also C2C assessment and preparation for Church Planters, and also The Titus Institute. These are some of the main ones of late. We also have one student at Wycliffe College, Toronto and now one of our priests is a faculty member of Wycliffe and others are doing graduate degrees there.

My hope with my fellow bishops, and with staff support, is to start with a Zoom Day of Consultation with representatives of these training colleges and groups and of course our Dove team and Examining Chaplains. I intend to reach out to all these groups and invite their help to come prepared to share and give their input regarding how they are already and hope to contribute to the theological training needs of our diocese. From that consultation perhaps we can form a small task force, in consultation with the House of Bishops and ANiC Council, which will seek to establish a diocesan way forward by identifying and providing for the theological educational needs of ANiC, so that together we can make sure we are providing everything needed as a three-stream, two-integrity, five-priorities diocese, in joyful unity for the health and future of this diocese we love.

My dear members of Synod and all members of ANiC, the Lord has clearly called us and therefore in joyful unity we can and must move forward as partners in the gospel because He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

## APPOINTMENTS AND APPRECIATION

Finally, it is one of the great joys of this office along with the House of Bishops to occasionally make appointments.

I have already announced the appointment of my dear friend, Archdeacon Paul Charbonneau, to be our Executive Archdeacon which began November 1, 2020. I personally am thrilled that he has accepted this position, as together we begin this two-year period of transition.

I also, along with my fellow House of Bishops want to appoint four individuals to be Canons of our Diocese:

I am honoured to appoint the Reverend Shihoko Warren our Canon for AMMIC to All Nations.

I am very honoured to appoint the Reverend Barclay Mayo our Canon for Outreach and Missions.



I am very honoured to appoint the Reverend Vicky Hedelius our Canon for the Promotion and Protection of Life.

And finally, I am very honoured to appoint the Reverend Chris Doering our Canon in Our Synod Life.

All four are godly, Spirit-filled leaders who are a huge encouragement and blessing to us all and are making a major contribution for the gospel in their respective congregations and far beyond, which impacts the whole diocese for good. The Lord bless you! We thank God for you, Canon Shihoko Warren, Canon Barclay Mayo, Canon Vicky Hedelius, and Canon Chris Doering.

I want to now conclude my Charge by saying it continues to be my great joy and honour to serve as your bishop along with our faithful and mighty Bishops Stephen and Trevor—our two Suffragan Area Bishops, Bishop Don, our founding Bishop Moderator and now Episcopal Vicar, Bishop Ron who serves in so many capacities including Anglican Explorers , Bishop Andy, likely in ANiC for just a few more months, and our wonderful Bishop Malcolm now in retirement but such a key leader in our first years.

Dear friends, I count myself so blessed to be in the company of these godly bishops and together to serve alongside with all of you in the call of our faithful God, knowing that we all have this ministry by the mercies of God and that He who has called us will surely do it. Alleluia!

I respectfully submit this Charge.



The Right Reverend Charlie Masters  
Diocesan Bishop of the Anglican Network in Canada

