



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

From the Archbishop

October 2nd, 2024

Season of Creation

Dear people of God in Algoma,

It has been two weeks since I stepped into my new role as the acting primate for the Anglican Church of Canada, a quarter time position until General Synod 2025. Now that I have my toes nicely wet, I wanted to tell you a bit about my responsibilities in the church until a new primate is elected. Thank you for the notes, emails and messages of encouragement I have received over the last several weeks, and always for your prayerful support as I step into this unknown territory.

I was deeply moved at the Temiskaming Deanery Day in September and at St. Luke's Cathedral this past Sunday to be invited to the chancel stairs for prayer. Hands were laid on me or stretched out to offer blessings and to ask for God's guidance and wisdom as I assume this mantle of responsibility. To be surrounded by the prayers of my home diocese is a gift beyond measure. Thank you.

Be assured that even though my life will be changing Algoma remains at the core of my ministry. I will continue to be your bishop, serving you and praying for you in your daily life and work, and in your faith communities. These are uncharted waters, so I ask for your patience and grace if I do not respond as quickly as usual to your emails and calls.

I am grateful beyond measure that Archbishop Fred Hiltz has assumed full responsibility for the Diocese of Moosonee and is Commissary for that diocese. Please continue to pray for them as they prepare to elect their own bishop in 2025.

You will be pleased to know that Bishop Michael Oulton, a great friend of Algoma's and former Bishop of Ontario, has kindly agreed to be our assisting bishop for the next eight months, serving one week a month.

As our assisting bishop, some of Bishop Oulton's ministry will happen online as he mentors postulants and new ordinands. He will be offering an online teaching for lay readers on "Preaching Year C" as well as an Advent and Lenten book study. He will prepare seasonal reflections for our diocesan enews and on occasion be involved with clergy reviews.

There will also be an in-person component to Bishop Oulton's ministry. He will be visiting each deanery once presiding at services of confirmation, reception into the Anglican Communion, parish anniversary celebrations, or deanery days and Sunday visits, as I have been doing. Bishop Oulton will be present in the diocese through Holy Week and Easter and involved in the planning of the Early Ministry Conference next May.

If your parish is planning a special service for 2025 please contact your Territorial Archdeacon together with Bishop Oulton and Carla will find suitable dates for him to visit if possible. Winter driving is challenging in the north so activities in January and February will likely be all online. Please join me in offering Bishop Michael a warm and hearty Algoma welcome!

The summer has been a time of preparation for me as Archbishop Linda Nicholls and I have been working together to orient me to some of what will be asked of me in my role as acting primate. This is a quarter time position which means that I am not expected to fulfil all the duties of the Primate, but there are some responsibilities that belong to the Primate's office which I will be undertaking as we prepare for General Synod 2025:

- Chairing the fall and spring meetings of the Council of General Synod. This is the council that does the work of General Synod between General Synods;
- Chairing the fall and spring meetings of the National House of Bishops. This will include overseeing the nomination process of candidates for the position of Primate.
- Chairing meetings of the Metropolitans and National Indigenous Archbishop.
- Working with the Primate's Commission members.
- Attending all meetings of the General Synod Planning Committee and the Council of General Synod Planning Committee
- Making a monthly visit to Church House in Toronto, connecting with the General Secretary, and presiding at Eucharist in the Chapel of the Apostles.
- Writing messages and pastoral letters to or on behalf of the Anglican Church of Canada.
- Preparing a monthly message for the Anglican Journal.
- Attending events to which I am invited - PWRDF volunteer appreciation in November and preaching at Christ Church Cathedral on January 1st, 2025.
- Overseas travel if needed.
- Chairing General Synod 2025 in London, Ontario (June 23rd-30th)
- Responding to emails and other correspondence.
- Writing 500 Christmas Cards
-and all other duties as assigned!

I have already spent two days at Church House in Toronto and met with each of the Directors and other members of staff who are eager to do whatever they can to support the office of Primate in whatever way they can. I was pleased to be at Archbishop Linda's final Thursday Eucharist in the Chapel of the Apostles and at the farewell lunch which was held in her honour afterwards. While there is no official service of installation for the role of acting primate, hands were laid on me by those present.

This new call to be acting primate is daunting. But over the years I have experienced the hand of grace as it has been extended to me, and seen firsthand how prayer really does work. I never feel alone because our church is filled with gifted and Spirit-led individuals who are already immersed in the church's work and are eager to help. I am grateful for each one of you and for the work you are doing in your local faith communities. The embers of new fires are burning, and God is on the move in Algoma.

May God continue to bless and keep you in God's love as you do the gathering work of Christ.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Germond". A small cross symbol is written above the first letter 'A'.