



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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Letter to the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador Diocesan Budget 2021

March 3, 2021

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that you are staying safe during this current lockdown due to the pandemic. It has indeed been a struggle for many and my prayers are for all those whose lives have been dramatically changed due to COVID. As we see the continuation of the vaccine being administered in our Province, it is indeed a hopeful sign that “this too shall pass.”

It is no secret that this pandemic has had an extremely negative financial effect on the majority of our parishes. With this letter, you will find a Summary Budget for the Diocese for 2021. The work on this Budget began last Fall and continued throughout the New Year and was passed by our Diocesan Executive last month. You will see how hard COVID has negatively affected our Diocesan income, thus resulting in the unfortunate, but a necessary reduction in expenses. This means some ministries will be greatly reduced and others will sadly, come to an end.

As your Bishop, I have had difficult conversations with those impacted by these reductions. You see, these are not just numbers on paper, these are lives that will be affected. Believe me, when I spoke to these faithful and dedicated people, I did so with tears in my eyes and hurt in my heart. Yet, these grace-filled people understood why we had to make decisions in this way and even offered to pray for me and our Diocese at the end of our meetings. Even in the darkest of times, God's Light breaks through in moments of healing and grace.

My friends, I truly believe that this is God's Church. Even now amid such uncertainty and upheaval, my hope rests in this truth. As we often sing, with great gusto, the great hymn, “*The Church's One Foundation*,” let these not be empty words but an **anthem of hope** for us in the time ahead:

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, our Lord;
We are his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought us to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.

2. Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
Our charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One glorious name we hallow, partake one holy food,
And to one hope we follow, with ev'ry grace endued.

3. Though with dismay and wonder we see the church oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

4. Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of our war,
We wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blessed,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

5. Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

Text: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900), alt.

I respectfully ask for your continued stewardship and support of your local church and parish. Stewardship is a response to the mission of God. As we have been blessed by God, may we may be a blessing for others. Amen.

In Christ's love,

+ Samuel: Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

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