



# The Diocese of Huron

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Todd Townshend, Th.D.  
Bishop of Huron

January 5, 2024

## **Greetings, siblings in Christ, I pray that you will be blessed as you prepare for your annual meetings of Vestry.**

The primary work of an annual church meeting is to build up the work of the church for the sake of the world around us. Our constant goal is to deeply understand what being church is, and needs to be, for this time and place. It is time to assess the resources you have and the mission in which you participate.

Now concerning spiritual resources, I do not want you to be uninformed. Collectively, we have been given every spiritual gift that we need to faithfully live our lives as disciples of Christ and communities of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who blows where it wills, willed to blow around in our lives. This is an awesome thing – because when the Holy Spirit comes, when the Holy Spirit of God says, “those people, I’m going to bless those people”, it is done for a purpose.

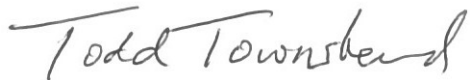
Nobody comes into contact with the Holy Spirit and remains still. They get blessed, and they must become a blessing. We have a word for this blessing-activity. Mission. The Holy Spirit has a mission for us together, and for each of us individually.

Most of us at one time or another wonder, “what on earth am I here for?” What is the meaning of my life? What is it that God created me to do? In Christian life we learn to start with God in order to answer this. We try to know what God’s mission is before trying to figure out your own. You were made for a mission, or many of them. God is at work in the church and the world, God is at work in your life. Sometimes subtly, sometimes overwhelmingly, God is preparing you, and gifting you, and gathering you together, activating something in each of us that we offer through the church.

What is your mission? How is it specific to you? How is it shared through the church? How is it changing? In one meeting of Vestry, we can only begin to name it and ask for it.

If you have not done so already, pray today that God will lead you to at least one part of your 2024 mission. God has given these spiritual gifts in the Diocese of Huron so that the triune God's glory may be revealed; and so that Christ's disciples may believe in him and live in him. That is our deepest blessing, thanks be to God!

Peace in Christ,

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**The Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend**  
**Bishop of Huron**