

Sunday, May 6
Undermount/Brock/Greater Wellington

Sunday, June 10
Mohawk/Lincoln/Trafalgar



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA

January 20, 2012

Information regarding Annual Vestry Meetings in the Diocese of Niagara

The Synod Council of the Diocese of Niagara, at its meeting of January 10, 2012, determined that the deadline for the holding of Annual Vestry Meetings for this year will be **February 29, 2012**.

We have heard of several parishes that are considering a motion at their Annual Vestry meeting to reduce the level of clergy staffing to save money in the parish budget. We want to remind clergy and churchwardens that the appointment of licensed clergy and lay workers and the conditions of their employment are under the purview of the Bishop (not the Vestry). To entertain such a motion has ethical and legal implications, reaching far beyond budgetary concerns.

We know that many parishes are financially challenged and are trying to respond faithfully to that challenge. We also know that in most cases, clergy salaries are the largest item in most parish budgets. If, as a licensed cleric or a churchwarden, you are unsure about your parish's capacity to meet your personnel obligations, please speak to the other members of your Corporation and contact the Regional Archdeacon so we can begin working together with the Bishop on a plan for ministry that is not only affordable, but will be faithful to our mission, life-giving for you, and life-changing for your neighbourhood.

+ Michael Bird

Jan. 20, 2012

Bishop of Niagara
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Secretary of Synod

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