



For Immediate Release

Bishops of Niagara appoint new Administrators

Hamilton Ontario, February 19 2008-02-19

In our earlier releases, it was indicated that two parishes in the Diocese of Niagara voted in favour of leaving the Diocese and the Anglican Church of Canada to seek a more conservative leadership. These parishes are St. Hilda's in Oakville under the pastoral leadership of The Rev. Paul Charbonneau and St. George's, Lowville, under the pastoral leadership of The Rev. Charles Masters.

It is the Bishop's responsibility to uphold the unity of the Church and ensure that the laws of the Church and of the land are observed, in order to protect the people of the church and its heritage. To that end, as of Tuesday February 19th, Bishop Spence and Bishop Bird have appointed:

The Rev. Dr. Brian Ruttan as administrator of St. Hilda's Church in Oakville and

The Rev. Susan Wells as administrator of St. George's, Lowville.

The previous rectors have been suspended from their responsibilities until further notice.

We understand that many of the parishioners who voted for separation will not be pleased with this move. However, we hope that they understand that the integrity of the local church is at stake. The buildings and their contents belong to all the people in the Niagara Diocese – not to a small or local group. This is the case with all church properties.

We also hope that those who have felt left out or pushed out of their parishes during the past few months by this division will once again find their home in the parishes that they love. The doors of these parishes are open to all parishioners previous and present who wish to walk in unity with the diocese of Niagara and the Anglican Church of Canada.

For those who can no longer journey with us, we offer you our blessing and our best wishes. We trust that together we will continue to listen to voice of God's Spirit among us and that we will do everything in our power to work toward a unity which truly witnesses to the presence of Christ among us.

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