

A COVENANT IN MINISTRY

between

**The Right Reverend Susan E. Moxley
Diocesan Bishop**

and

**The Right Reverend Ronald W. Cutler
Suffragan Bishop**

with

**The Clergy and Laity of
The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island**

I. Introduction

All who are baptized into Christ are called to ministry. Some within the ministry of the whole People of God are called to ordained ministry.

Bishops preach the Word, preside at the sacraments, and administer discipline in such a way as to be representative pastoral ministers of oversight, continuity and unity in the Church. They have pastoral oversight of the area to which they are called. They serve the apostolicity and unity of the Church's teaching, worship and sacramental life. They have responsibility for leadership in the Church's mission. They relate the Christian community in their area to the wider Church, and the universal Church to their community. They, in communion with the presbyters (priests) and deacons and the whole community, are responsible for the orderly transfer of ministerial authority in the Church.

Agreement on Ministry, para, 29, p. 26 *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*,
Faith and Order Paper No. 111
World Council of Churches, 1982

II. Shared by both Bishops

- The commitment to a disciplined spiritual life through prayer, reading, reflection, Quiet Days and an annual retreat.
- Commitment to Continuing Education and Sabbatical leave.
- An on-going program for study, writing and reflection; including a day per week for this purpose.
- Proclaiming the Gospel and celebrating with the People of God the sacraments of our redemption.
- Assuming a full share of parish visits; i.e. anniversaries, dedications and other special parochial events.
- Assuming a full share of regional itineraries over an 24-month cycle; each bishop doing 2 or 3 per year.
- Gathering the diocesan family together for special occasions in our life as the pilgrim People of God.
- Encouraging and supporting the ministry of all the Baptized.
- Ordaining deacons and priests.
- Sustaining the priests and taking counsel with them.
- Guiding and strengthening the deacons.
- Nurturing mutual support in the College of Clergy.
- Promoting clergy health and well-being.
- Advocating and implementing the renewed vision for the diocese.
- Providing direction for the budgeting process.
- Delegating work for effective sharing of responsibilities and accountability.
- Chairing Synod and Diocesan Council.
- Working with Archdeacons, Regional Deans and other lay leaders in promoting healthy parishes for a healthy diocese.
- Delegating to the Executive Assistant to the Bishop all matters relating to property and personnel and benefits.
- Working with others, through Staff, Synod and Committees, to ensure:
 - effective program initiatives
 - comprehensive oversight of all forms of ministry in the diocese
 - efficiency in the administration of the diocese
 - best principles with respect to stewardship
 - the diocese sees itself as part of the wider Church and its mission in the world
- Providing leadership for the Church's concern for the dignity of every human being, peace and justice for all, and the integrity of creation. Speaking out on matters of public social concern as appropriate.
- Interacting with the Media when appropriate.

- Participating in the councils of the Church -- diocesan/provincial/national/international.
- Participating in the ordination of other bishops.
- Actively participating in the House of Bishops -- provincial/national.
- Attending the Lambeth Conference.

III. Assumed by the Diocesan Bishop

- Appointment and licensing of clergy.
- Pastoral care for clergy and their families, in conjunction with the retired Archbishop, the Suffragan Bishop, the archdeacons, the hospital chaplains and other health-care professionals.
- Oversight for the Capital Campaign/Annual Appeal.
- Oversees Visioning initiatives in developing and sustaining Healthy Congregations, and in Diocesan Organization and Communication.
- Episcopal liaison for:
 - Administration and Finance Committee
 - Doctrine and Worship Committee or its successor(s)
 - Stewardship Resource Development Group
- Chair of Bishop's Advisory Council.
- Chair of Dean and Chapter; works with the Dean in promoting the life and work of the Cathedral.
- President of the Mission to Seafarers.
- Interfaith relations.
- Health Care Chaplains
- Oversees visioning initiatives in Healthy Congregations and Organizational Effectiveness.

IV. Assumed by the Suffragan Bishop

- Oversight of the process for those discerning a call to ordained ministry, and the Discernment and Formation Committee.
- Oversight, in consultation with Formation Director and Faculty of theological schools for those in training for ordained ministry.
- Oversight of ongoing formation for newly ordained
- Oversight of University Chaplains.

- Provides leadership for Bishop's Commission on Clergy Health and Well-Being.
- Episcopal liaison for:
 - Committee on Ministry and related bodies
 - National and World Mission and related bodies
- Chair of Regional Deans.
- Oversees Visioning initiatives in Anglican Christian Formation and Embracing Youth.

V. Bishops' Pledge

In the interest of supporting one another in our shared and respective ministries, we covenant to:

- Support one another in ensuring an adequate amount of time for a well-ordered spiritual life, including an annual retreat and a healthy lifestyle including two days off a week.
- Encourage one another in time for study, reflection, writing and continuing education.
- Maintain open communication.
- Meet regularly, at least every 2 weeks, for check-in and planning.
- Meet regularly with the Episcopal Administrative Assistant for check-in and planning, and the timely disposition of work.
- Consult, as appropriate, with Management Team and other diocesan staff, Chancellor and Solicitor to reach best quality decisions.
- Invite open dialogue and candid discussions.
- Model unity by respecting difference.

VI. People's Pledge

As an episcopal Church, and in the interest of upholding our bishops in the ministry entrusted to them, the clergy and laity of the diocese covenant to:


- Uphold in prayer the bishops and the whole Church in the service of God's mission.
- Support and encourage the bishops in modeling both a healthy life style and a wholesome approach to the exercise of ministry.
- Honor the bishops in the way in which episcopal ministry is delegated, especially to archdeacons and regional deans and provide creative ways and means to optimize the use of time, travel, and communications.
- Strive, as clergy and laity, to be effective in our various ministries in the diocese.

- Continually identify and develop the gifts of all the baptized, equip the saints for the work of ministry, strive for parishes that are full participating members in the life of the diocesan family.
- Assume responsibility in giving life to the diocesan vision for becoming a more Christ centered, mission minded, ministering community.
- In the spirit of speaking the truth in love, strive for open dialogue and candid discussion in forums that are marked by mutual respect and responsibility.

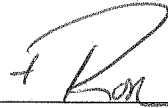
VII. Declaration

As the whole People of God, we covenant to carry out our ministries in partnership with one another. We commit ourselves to review this Covenant one year from this date.

Together we make this Covenant commitment at the October 2008 meeting of Diocesan Council.

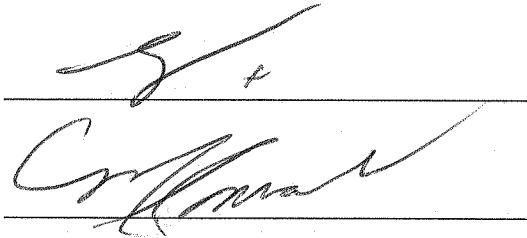


Diocesan Bishop



Suffragan Bishop

Representing the Clergy:



Representing the Laity:

