

Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island
Information Form
for use by
those proposed for Nomination for the Position of Suffragan Bishop

Name: Gordon Frank Redden
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Education: *Post secondary and beyond. Supply the following information for each degree*

Degree: Bachelor of Arts (Honours), (Awarded Fletcher Memorial Award in Classics, Bronze Medal in Religious Studies, and named a University Scholar.)

Field of Study: Religious Studies and Classics

Institution: Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia

Date awarded: May 5, 1980

Degree: Master of Arts (Awarded Harry Lyman Hooker Fellowship)

Field of Study: Religious Studies (Western Religious Thought and Eastern Philosophy)

Institution: McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

Date awarded: May 29, 1982

Degree: Bachelor of Education

Field of Study: Primary-Junior Education for Teacher's Certification

Institution: Althouse College, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

Date awarded: June 14, 1984

Degree: Master of Divinity (Honours)

Field of Study: Theology

Institution: Huron College, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

Date awarded: April 27, 1989

Other Special training or continuing education: *Describe training and give dates of training*

January 1981 to May 1983 – Doctoral Studies, Department of Religious Studies, McMaster University. During this time I completed course requirements for the Ph.D. program with a major in Western Religious Thought and a minor in Eastern Philosophy. My dissertation proposal was in the area of biomedical ethics.

September 1986 – May 1987 - Completion of Special Education, Part 1, University of Western Ontario. This course offered an introduction to assessment of special needs of students and remedial educational approaches.

1987-1988 - Canadian Association for Pastoral Education (C.A.P.P.E). Successful completion of two basic units of Clinical Pastoral Education at University Hospital, London, Ontario.

Spring 1989 – A two-day preaching workshop at Huron College, London, Ontario, led by The Reverend Dr. David Buttrick, Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics, Vanderbilt University.

October 1989 – Completion Lab 1 of Dr. John Savage’s Laboratory School on Visitation, called “Calling and Caring Ministries: Learning the Language of Caring” (20 hour program)

March 1990 – Completion of Stress Management Workshop (one weekend) directed by The Reverend Brian Murray, Humanicare Inc, Toronto, Ontario.

Spring 1991 – Participation in A.I.D.S. Awareness Seminar, Huron Diocese, London, Ontario

August 1992 – Bishop of Huron’s Conference on the Holy Spirit (three days)

October 26, 1992 – Enrich Canada Inc. seminar for certification to use this marriage preparation and marriage enrichment resource.

February – April, 1994 – Completion of Ontario Ministry of Food and Agriculture training program, Leadership for Community Action”.

April 10-12, 1994 – Anglican, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic Ecumenical Retreat at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, Ontario. Participants were leaders engaged in ecumenical dialogue.

October 16, 1994 – Music in Small Congregations workshop, held at St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Wingham, Ontario.

November 9, 1994 – Toronto School of Theology Workshop “Following Jesus: First Steps on the Way”, led by the Reverend Harold Percy, Director of the Wycliffe Institute of Evangelism.

January 14, 1995 – “Christian Meditation: The Path of Contemplative Prayer” a conference at St. Joseph’s Centre of Spirituality, Hamilton, Ontario, led by Mr. Paul Harris.

1996-1999 – Classical Guitar Instruction, Department of Music, Acadia University.

September 1, 1997 – May 31, 2002 – Served as Archdeacon of the Annapolis Valley. During this time, I participated in professional development events led by Pastor Fred L. Shilling, Alban Institute Consultant. Subjects covered included the following: The ministry of oversight; priest, parishes, and Diocese as a healthy religious system; the development of healthy congregations; development of covenants in ministry; assisting parishes with transfer of clergy; care of clergy; gracious leadership; clergy values and ethics; pastoral care of difficult situations; and transitions (endings, bridging, and beginnings).

November 13, 1997 – Diocesan workshop on Clergy Professional Misconduct.

1997-2000 - Mentor of the Education for Ministry Program, Parish of Aylesford and Berwick, and completion of two weekend Mentor In-Service Training Events during that period.

February 23, 2000 – Participation in an Annapolis Valley Archdeaconry parish financial development workshop for parish treasurers, wardens and clergy.

October 21, 2000 - Margaret Guenther Spiritual Direction Workshop at Atlantic School of Theology

2002 – Prepare/Enrich 2002 training program for re-certification.

Spring, 2003 – Participation in a Conference of Diocesan Executives, Ancaster, Ontario (CODE North). This was designed for diocesan executives of the Anglican Church of Canada.

March 30 – April 1, 2005 - Holy Conversations Event at Tatamagouche Centre. Led by Gil Rendle, Alban Institute Consultant, this workshop dealt with the theory and process related to assessing needs of congregations and assisting leaders in congregations to practice spiritual discernment and plan for the future.

October, 2005 – Certified in CFQ Level One, by the CFQ Healing Qigong Society.

November 3, 2007 - St. Paul's, Halifax, 2007, Parish Retreat "A Student Friendly Church: Developing our Ministry to University Students". Guest presented Jeff Barneson, University Chaplain for graduate students and faculty with Inter Varsity and the Graduate School Christian Fellowship at Harvard University.

Ordinations:

Deacon: May 17, 1989, Diocese of Huron, Bishop Derwyn Jones

Priest: November 30, 1989, Diocese of Huron, Bishop Robert Townsend

Parish Service (or other ministries): *Give current and previous positions. For each position, describe position, and give beginning and ending dates.*

September 1, 1987 – May 30, 1988 – Part-time Student Assistant at St. Stephen's Memorial Church, London, Huron Diocese.

May 24, 1988 – August 30, 1988 – Lay Summer Pastor at Grace Church, Rondeau Provincial Park, Huron Diocese; Parish Internship Program.

September 1, 1988 – May 1, 1989 - Part-time Student Assistant at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, Huron Diocese.

June 1, 1989 – April 30, 1991 – Full-time Assistant Curate at St. Jude's, Brantford, Huron Diocese.

May 1, 1991 – July 31, 1995 – Rector of the Parishes of Clinton and Seaforth, Huron Diocese.

September 1, 1995 – May 31, 2002 – Rector of the Parishes of Aylesford and Christ Church, Berwick, Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

June 2, 2002 – Present – Appointed Executive Assistant to the Bishop. Areas of responsibility include carrying out ministries assigned by the Diocesan Bishop; assisting the Bishop in overseeing personnel matters for Clergy and the Synod staff; offering counsel to the Bishop on issues of public concern to the Church and society, and speaking on behalf of the Diocesan Bishop when requested to do so; providing staff support to Archdeacons and Regional Deans; managing the Synod Office; ensuring the implementation of all Diocesan and Episcopal policies and procedures relating to administration of the Diocese; and establishing effective communication with laity and clergy, in parishes and regions of the Diocese.

June 20, 2002 - Present – Regular Canon of the Cathedral Church of All Saints.

April 20, 2006 – Appointed as Diocesan Executive Director (title change and minor role changes)

June 1, 2006 – present – Appointed as acting Executive Secretary of Synod.

2006-2007 – Sunday School teacher for two, one-term classes at St. Paul's, Halifax.

October 23, 2007 - Present - Honourary Assistant, St. Paul's, Halifax.

Other previous significant employment: *For each position, describe position and give beginning and ending dates.*

September 1980- August 1983 – Teaching assistant, Department of Religious Studies, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Responsibilities included tutoring undergraduates, lecturing, and evaluating written assignments.

August 1984 – August 1987 – Academic Coordinator and Living Skills Trainer at the Dale Home, London, Ontario, a transitional rehabilitation centre for adults suffering from traumatic brain injury. Responsibilities included instruction in daily living skills; individual program planning and evaluation; counseling; assessment of residents' academic strengths and needs; development of individualized educational programs; liaison with community service and health care providers.

Service on Committees, Church and community: *Describe your service on committees and give dates. Note if you were chair of the committee. List committees in the following order: Community, Regional, Diocesan, National, and International.*

Community

1993-1994 – Volunteer Pastoral Visitor at Bluewater Youth Centre, Goderich Ontario (a medium security facility for youth offenders). I made weekly visits with two youth.
January 1, 1993 – July 1, 1995 – Member, Seaforth Community Hospital Palliative Care Team
January 20, 1994 – July 1, 1995 – Secretary, Clinton Hospital Chaplaincy Association
1994-1995 - Volunteer with Breakfast with Books Program, Clinton Public School
1995-2002 – Member of Berwick Food Bank Board; Clermont Region Clericus; Berwick and Area Ministerial Association; Member of Face of Poverty Initiative; Pastoral Visitor to Valley Regional Hospital, Middleton Hospital, Grand View Manor, Kings County Correctional Centre; and Waterville Youth Centre.
1997-2001 – Board Member of the Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia Valley Chapter and Chair of the In-Roads (Memory Book) Committee.

Regional

1989-1991 - Member, Brantford General Hospital Chaplaincy Association
- Member, Brant Deanery Clericus and Great Chapter
1991-1995 – Member, Huron Deanery Clericus and Great Chapter
February 24, 1994 – July 1, 1995 - Secretary-Treasurer, Central Huron Ministerial Association
1995-2002 – Member, Clinton and Area Ministerial
- Member, Clermont Clericus

Diocesan

1989-1990 – Brant Deanery Children's Festival Planning Committee
1990 – Brant Deanery Servers' Festival Planning Committee
1993 – Huron Deanery Children's All Saints' Day Festival Planning Committee
Jan 1, 1993 – May 1995 – Served as Regional Dean of Huron Deanery
January 1, 1994 – June 30, 1995 – Chair of Anglican/Roman Catholic Relations Committee Huron Diocese
May 1, 1994 – May 15, 1995 – Huron Deanery Representative to Diocesan Executive Committee, Huron Diocese
1995-1997 - Member of the Diocesan Services to Parishes and Regions Committee
September 1, 1997 – May 31, 2002 – Served as Archdeacon of the Annapolis Valley
September 1, 1997 – May 31, 2002 – Member of Bishop's Advisory Council and Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of All Saints.
1997 to present – Member of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of All Saints
June 23-24, 2000 – Served as Interviewer, Pre-ordination Assessment for the Non-Stipendiary Ordained Ministry Program.
September 11-13, 2000 – Delegate to Provincial Synod, Halifax, N.S.
2001-2002 – Chair of the 2002 Clergy Conference Planning Committee
June 2002 to present – Member of the Management Team; Manager of the Synod Office; Staff Support to Diocesan Council; Member of the Agenda Committee of Diocesan Council; Staff Support to Administration and Finance Committee and its Subcommittees; Chair of the Committee of Chairpersons of the Standing Committees; member

of the Capital Campaign Task Group; Chair of Campaign Financial Planning Task Group; Chair of the Parish 5/3 Visitation Task Group; member of the Bishop's Commissions on Property Re-development (Phase I and Phase II); and member of the 2010 Anniversary Planning Task Group.

National

May 28-June 4, 2004 - Delegate to General Synod, St. Catherine's, Ontario, where I served on the Nominating Committee and as a clergy scrutineer.

Briefly describe your gifts for episcopal ministry: *Suggested length, 250 words or less*

I received the gift of faith in Christ at the age of twelve and that gift has shaped my life. By God's grace, I was confirmed in the Anglican Church of Canada twenty-three years ago and have been blessed with a spiritual home in this Church. It has been a joy for me to serve Christ as a baptized person, and since 1989 as a deacon and priest.

In parish ministry, as a Regional Dean, as an Archdeacon, and during the past six years that I have held the position of Executive Assistant to the Bishop/Diocesan Executive Director, I have endeavoured to be a faithful servant of Christ and a generous steward of my time, talent, and resources in working to advance the mission of the Church. I would bring to episcopal ministry this readiness, with God's help, to serve Christ and to help advance the ministries to which he calls us as Anglicans of this diocese.

A bishop is called to be a preacher and teacher of the Gospel. Whether preaching a sermon from a pulpit, addressing a group in a parish hall, appearing before a TV camera, at a workshop, participating in a committee meeting, or making a pastoral visit, a bishop has abundant opportunities to preach and teach, both by word and example. I believe I have gifts to offer in this area by virtue of my formal academic training in biblical studies, theology, philosophy, and in elementary education, and my teaching experience in employment settings and in parish ministry. In parish ministry, I have always made preaching a priority and tried to draw upon the gifts, training, and resources available to me. Also in parish ministry, I have given much attention to Christian education, through workshops for Sunday School teachers, vacation Bible schools, First Communion and Confirmation programs, youth group activities, marriage preparation, training of the laity in pastoral visiting, as well as adult Bible study groups, adult book reading groups, and prayer groups.

As the chief pastor and leader of a diocese, a bishop has the role of encouraging parishes and their leaders to discern priorities for ministry that will be beneficial to people locally and globally. The bishop also has responsibility for leading the Diocesan Synod and Synod's committee structures to support the needs of the congregations and parishes in their ministries. Clear thinking, planning, administrative ability, fiscal responsibility, good stewardship of people's energy, talents and resources, tact and diplomacy are all vitally important qualities for episcopal leadership. Those with whom I have worked in the Synod Office and in parish ministry have identified these qualities in me. My experience as Archdeacon of the Annapolis Valley, member of the Bishop's Advisory Council, support person to the Bishops, Regional Deans, the Synod, Diocesan Council, and numerous committees and subcommittees, and my in depth understanding of the activities and services of the Synod Office (everything from budget, investments, mortgages and loans, the investment portfolio, salary and benefit plans, Bishop's Trust Funds, to Canons and Guidelines and payroll) all provide me with useful background and a unique perspective of the issues facing our diocese and the Church at large.

In both ministry and personal life, a bishop, like all clergy, needs spiritual, emotional, and physical health. This is a matter of balancing activity with time for prayer, worship, study, and reflection. In today's world, the tendency for us all, of course, is to be far too active. Without balance, a bishop's health and well being will be at risk and his or her ministry will suffer. Our diocese conducted a consultation in recent years and Anglicans said they looked to the bishop to be a person of spiritual depth and learning and also someone who could model a healthy way of life for other clergy. While I do not claim to have mastered the art of living a balanced and centered life, I have learned some things about self-care that have been helpful. I have also been blessed with a happy family life with my wife Mary Lu and two children, David and Maria, who share their love of life and good humour with me.

Briefly describe how you understand the role of a bishop. *Suggested length, 250 words or less*

The services for Ordaining or Consecrating an Archbishop or Bishop (BCP) and for Ordaining and Consecrating a Bishop (BAS) and the Agreement on Ministry, paragraph 29, page 26, *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*, are key sources for understanding the role of a bishop. What I glean from these sources provides a framework for understanding the ministry and ministerial roles of a bishop.

In obedience to Christ, in continuity with the apostolic tradition, and in conformity with the doctrine, sacraments, and disciplines of the Anglican Church of Canada, a bishop is called and entrusted by God and the Church to fulfill the following roles in ministry:

- **Preaching/Teaching:** To preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, presenting as necessary for salvation through faith in Christ only what is revealed in Scripture. Faithful in prayer and in the study of Scripture, a bishop is to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church and to be a wholesome example for the Church.
- **Sacramental:** To celebrate and provide for the administration of sacraments of the Church, to ordain priests and deacons, and to join in ordaining bishops.
- **Pastoral and Leadership:** To have pastoral oversight of a diocese and responsibility for leadership in the Church's mission; to build up the Church, renew its ministry, and unite its members in fellowship; to encourage, support, and nourish all baptized people in their gifts and ministries; to support and take counsel with the priests, and strengthen the deacons and all the laity; to relate the diocesan community to the wider Church and the wider church to the diocesan community; in communion with the deacons and priests and the whole diocesan community, to be responsible for the orderly transfer of ministerial authority in the Church; to share with fellow bishops in the leadership of the universal Church; and to be merciful to all and compassionate the poor and needy.

The person who is ordained a bishop and who ministers as a bishop gives expression to these roles that are so carefully outlined in the Prayer Book, the Book of Alternative Services, and the ecumenical Agreement on Ministry. The real ministry takes shape, and the dry, technical description of roles recedes, when this person, in his or her own particular way, engages in ministry and helps to equip, encourage, and support others to minister in the name of Christ - all, we pray, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In light of the document, 'Description of the General Qualifications and Requirements for the Position of Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and Qualities in the Person Who Will Fill this Position', prepared by the Episcopal Search Committee and approved by Diocesan Council, discuss how you see yourself fulfilling the role of Suffragan Bishop as described. *Suggested length, 500 words or less*

The Suffragan Bishop, as a bishop, is called to the roles I spoke of in the earlier section. The Suffragan is called to conform to the doctrine, sacraments, and disciplines of the Anglican church of Canada; to preach the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ; to pass on the teaching of the Church; to be faithful in prayer and the study of Scripture; to guard the faith, unity and discipline of the Church; to celebrate and provide for the administration of the sacraments; to ordain priests and deacons; and to be a mature and healthy example in the Church and in the world.

In our diocese the Suffragan Bishop is not a territorial or regional bishop as is the pattern in some dioceses. Here the Diocesan and Suffragan Bishops share some roles together while assigning certain roles only to one or to the other. For example, the Bishops share in regular parish visits on a schedule that allows all parishes to be visited

every eighteen months, they share responsibility for the leadership of the Church's mission, and they share in the orderly transfer of ministerial authority in the Church.

The roles performed specifically by the Diocesan and Suffragan Bishops are spelled out in some of our legal documents (for example, in The Anglican Church Acts of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the Constitution of Synod, and certain canons of the Diocese, of Provincial Synod, and of General Synod). These specialized roles, as well as the roles shared in common, are now being identified in a Covenant in Ministry signed by both Bishops and the whole Diocese. I think this has been a very useful approach for clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all concerned.

I would be prepared to work in a covenant relationship with the Diocesan Bishop, and I accept each of the requirements set out in the "Expectations of a Suffragan Bishop" portion of this Information Form and I do so with the understanding that these initiatives may change or evolve over time. I would also welcome periodic performance reviews to assist me in reflecting on my ministry and priorities.

This is a time of opportunity and challenge in the life of our Diocese. The Diocesan vision of responding to a call to be a Christ-centred, mission-minded, ministering community of faith, along with its four initiatives (developing healthy congregations, supporting Anglican Christian formation, embracing youth, and increasing organizational efficiency and effectiveness), was developed at the conclusion of a diocesan-wide consultation. We have made some remarkable progress in tackling several of these initiatives and our efforts continue. We all know that, while some of our parishes are thriving, others are in decline, largely on account of ageing congregations, declining populations, and dwindling financial resources. New Diocesan initiatives, such as Fresh Start, the Parish 5/3 Visitation Plan, the Healthy Congregations congregational development funding, the hiring of a Youth Ministry Coordinator and Regional Youth Coordinators, Stewardship workshops, and the work of the Allotment Study Task Group, are beginning to make a real difference. I look with many others to the 2010 Anniversary Celebrations as an opportunity to celebrate our rich heritage and to gain a greater appreciation of our diocesan story and our identity as Anglicans of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Should you wish, you may supply additional information relevant to your nomination.