

# Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

Information Form

for use by

those proposed for Nomination for the Position of Suffragan Bishop

Name: James Moore Slack, Jr.

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Diocese: — (Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada)

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## Education:

Degree -	Bachelor of Science	Master of Divinity
Field of Study -	Psychology	Theology
Institution -	Dalhousie University	Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
Date Awarded -	May 1981	May 1985

## Other Special Training:

Global Hunger and Justice Seminar - New York & Washington 1980

Clinical Pastoral Education - Halifax, 1983

Natural Church Development - Chicago, 2005

Holy Conversations (Janet Marshall) - 2007-2008

## Ordinations:

Deacon: ---

Priest: 21 June 1985, Eastern Canada Synod, Lutheran Church of America,  
Bishop William D. Huras

Bishop: —

## Parish Service:

St. James Lutheran Church, Renfrew ON 1985-1993

St. James Lutheran Churches, Mannheim & New Dundee ON - 1993-1996

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bridgewater NS 1996-2003

Peace Lutheran Church, Lower Sackville NS 2003 to present

## Other previous significant employment:

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## Service on Committees, Church and community:

Counsellor, Caretaker and Program Director at Camp Mush-a-Mush 1975-1980

Chair and member of the Atlantic Youth Team 1976-1981

Chair and member, Intentional Ministry Sub-Committee 1984-1993

Management Board and Program Committee, Camp Lutherlyn 1985-1993

Chair, secretary and member of Renfrew Ministerial Association 1985-1993

Dean, Ottawa-St. Lawrence Conference 1987-1993

Chair and member of New Dundee Ministerial 1993-1996

Dean, Kitchener-Waterloo Conference 1994-1996

Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Board of Governors 1996-2000

Chair, secretary and member of Bridgewater and Area Ministerial 1996-2003

South Shore Anti-Poverty Coalition 1999-2001

Bedford-Lower Sackville Ministerial 2003 to present

Fort Sackville Clericus 2003 to present

Dean, Atlantic Conference 2004-2008

Diocesan Council 2005 to present

Briefly describe your gifts for episcopal ministry:

I have agreed to be nominated for election as suffragan bishop for the sake of the Waterloo Declaration. The time may have come for a Lutheran cleric to serve at a high level in one of the dioceses of the Anglican Church of Canada, and for an Anglican cleric to serve at a high level in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Based on what I have learned about myself through twenty-three years of parish ministry, Clinical Pastoral Education and several spiritual gifts and personality inventories I believe that God has blessed with the with gifts of a) faith, b) compassion, c) vision, d) teaching and e) administration. I believe that each of these can be employed in episcopal ministry.

Briefly describe how you understand the role of a bishop:

I believe that suffragan bishops in this diocese and in the Anglican communion serve the wider church by providing support for diocesan bishops. In this particular diocese I believe that many members expect the suffragan bishop to a) have gifts and skills which complement the diocesan bishop, b) play a leading role in parish visits and confirmations, c) work with the diocesan council and committees, especially in developing a clear vision and goals for ministry, d) supporting the identified programs of the diocese including healthy parishes, clergy wellness, youth, and the 2010 celebration, and e) representing this diocese on behalf of the diocesan bishop at local, regional, national and international events. The role that a suffragan bishop may be asked to play in regards to transitions in the parishes and other settings for ministry and the discipline of clergy would have to be worked out in consultation and cooperation with the diocesan bishop.

If elected I have no expectations of ever being nominated to serve as diocesan bishop. At this time it may be too big a step for us to take together.

In light of the document, "Description of 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 the Diocesan Council, discuss how you see yourself fulfilling the role of Suffragan Bishop as described.

I was surprised, humbled and unnerved by a telephone call asking me to consider accepting this nomination.

I grew up in the town of Lunenburg, where the carillon at St. John's was an audible reminder that believers in all denominations are sisters and brothers in Christ. As a pastor in the community my father provided a living example of ecumenical cooperation. As I have served in place to place I have sought out the local ministerials and have tended to assume that the Christian Church is bigger than any of our parochial organisations (even those made up of members from around the globe, like the Anglican communion and the Lutheran World Federation). I have been privileged to have voted in favour of the Anglican-Lutheran Interim Sharing of the Eucharist at several of our national conventions, and to have been present when the Waterloo Declaration was signed. For several years I have thought that the next step in our journey together might be the election or appointment of clergy from one denomination into positions of leadership in the other.

It's a little bit different, though, when someone asks whether I might be that someone, and whether this diocese might be prepared to set this example for the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

There are at least four good reasons for me to have declined this nomination. I am a sinful human being, often tempted to rely on my own abilities rather than exercising the gifts God has given me and acknowledging my shortcomings. Day to day concerns about myself, my spouse, my children, my grandchild and my extended family seem overwhelming at times. I am a Lutheran pastor who has expected to serve one parish or another

until my retirement. And some aspects of the authority granted to the suffragan bishop in this diocese intimidate me; they exceed those granted to Lutherans leaders.

There are three reasons why I have entered the process. God may be speaking to me and to us, and we can't afford to ignore this message. My participation in the election, and even a single vote in the first ballot would take the conversation between our two denominations a step further. If elected I am willing and able to devote my full attention to the tasks expected of the suffragan bishop, by the grace of God and in spite of my limitations and imperfections.

Many would call me a moderate-liberal. Above all I believe that Jesus (and his Incarnate message of mercy and loving service) is the Word of God. I value God's words to us in Scripture, but tend not interpret many of these passages literally or legalistically. I appreciate liturgy, but welcome the wide range of variety and creative expression that it allows as we worship God. I am supportive of ecumenical dialogue (inter-denominational and inter-faith). I rejoice at the ordination of women. I believe that there is intrinsic value in learning how to live with one another as we continue to debate controversial subjects like same-sex blessings. I am excited and frightened by God's call to love others as boldly as Jesus has loved us.

I tend to work in committees and groups by asking questions of meaning, and trying to reach decisions through consensus. I believe I am also effective in helping groups to see the "big picture" by helping them develop statements of mission, goals and a schedule of objectives. I become frustrated by what business leaders call micro-management (fussing over details that have already been assigned to staff or sub-committees).

Elected or not I welcome your prayers.