

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

**Name:** Rev. Archdeacon Lynn Uzans

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**Diocese:** Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

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**Education:**

- Masters of Divinity, Trinity College, Ontario - 1997  
*Prize for Preaching Excellence*
- Bachelor of Arts, Religious Studies, Laurentian University, Ontario - 1989  
*ALPS Prize for Highest Standing,*
- Public Health Nursing Diploma, McGill University, Quebec - 1967
- Registered Nursing Diploma, Saint John General Hospital, New Brunswick - 1966  
*Yearbook Editor, Prize for Excellence in Surgical Nursing*

**Other Special Training/Continuing Education**

- Twelve Week Sabbatical with focus on Prayer, Hospitality and Storytelling - 2008
- Pastoral Leadership Conference with Eugene Peterson - 2008
- Spiritual Care of Those with Severe Psychiatric Illness Seminar - 2007
- Two Week Immersion Experience in Anglican Residential Farm Community - 2007
- Suicide Prevention Seminars - 2006 and 2003
- AIDS Seminar - 2006
- Hayward Lecture Series with Dr. Christopher Seitz: "The Goodly Fellowship of the Prophets: The Achievement of Association in Early Canon Formation" - 2007
- Simpson Lecture Series on Congregational Development - 2006
- Birkman Assessment for Leadership, with Dr. Timothy Elliott - 2006
- Spiritual Care and Addictions Seminar - 2005
- Windsor Report and St. Michael's Report Workshops - 2006, 2005
- Spiritual Care for Caregivers Seminar - 2004
- Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario Stewardship Conference for Clergy - 2003

- Biblical Studies Seminar with Dr. Reginald H. Fuller - 2002
- Making Disciples Through Bible Study Leadership Training - 1998
- Conflict Management with Speed Leas - 1995

*In addition to the listed training, continuing education has consisted of much independent study in the area of Congregational Development, Stewardship, Spiritual Companionship, Faith Formation, and Biblical Studies.*

### **Ordinations**

- Deacon: June 24, 1993, Diocese of Algoma, The Rt. Rev. Leslie Peterson
- Priest: December 6, 1993, Diocese of Algoma, The Rt. Rev. Leslie Peterson

### **Parish Service**

- Rector, St. James, Kentville - current since October 2003
- Associate Priest, Trinity, Aurora, Diocese of Toronto - January 2002 - September 2003
- Rector, All Saints', Huntsville, Dioceses of Algoma - October 1996 - January 2002
- Rector, The Good Shepherd, Emsdale, Diocese of Algoma - August 1994 - September 1996
- Incumbent, Uffington/Vankoughnet, Diocese of Algoma - May 1992 - September 1996

### **Other Previous Significant Employment**

- Mental Health Program Co-ordinator (Prevention and Consultation) 1987 - 1991
- Community College Teacher (Job Re-entry) 1985 - 1987
- Lifeskills and Community Development Consultant to Moose Deer First Nation 1985 - 1987
- Community Health/Community Development/ Social Research Positions 1968 - 1984

### **Service on Committees, Church and Community**

#### **Community**

- Pastoral Advisory Committee, Valley Regional Hospital - current since 2005 (chair 2006 - 2007)
- Ad Hoc Group working to preserve Annapolis Valley agricultural land - current since 2006
- Kentville Ministerial Social Outreach Committee - current since 2004
- Ecumenical Inn From the Cold Initiative Member - current since 2007
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank Project Worker - current since 2005
- Storyteller/ Storytelling Trainer (schools and various community groups) - current since 1997
- Workshop Planner/Facilitator - Stress, Time Management, Pastoral Care - current since 1985
- Suicide Prevention Committee, Aurora, Ontario 2003
- High School Trauma Response Team Member 1997-2002
- New Beginnings Consultant (program for disadvantaged parents of newborns) 1998 - 2002

## Regional

- Archdeacon of Annapolis Valley - current since January 2006
- Clermont Junior Camp Director, St. Anne's Camp - 2005 - 2007
- Clericus Member Clermont - current since 2003, Annapolis- current since 2006
- Planner/facilitator several workshops, visioning sessions and quiet days - current since 2004

## Diocesan

### *In Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island*

- Member of Bishops' Advisory Council - current since 2005
- Member of Provincial Council Member of Diocesan Council - current since 2006
- Member of Organizational Effectiveness Task Force - current since 2007
- Member of Bishop's Clergy Wellness Commission 2004 - 2006
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### *In Diocese of Toronto*

- Steering Committee Member/ Facilitator of Fresh Start Program 2000 - 2002

### *In Diocese of Algoma*

- Archdeacon of Muskoka Deanery 1998 - 2002
- Member of Task Force on Education for Ordination 1994  
*This Task Force established minimum acceptable educational requirements for ordination in the Diocese. Work of the group led to the development of the Bachelor of Theology Program at Laurentian University, which made it possible for Northern Ontario students to combine distance education and solid scholarship, with local field placements.*
- Chair of Mutual Ministry Committee 1991 - 1994 *This work included development and facilitation of a major diocesan conference and several local initiatives.*
- Member of Diocesan Youth Committee 1993 - 1997 *Tasks of committee included major annual youth gathering, one Young Adults Conference and several local initiatives*
- Clergy Training in Pastoral Care, Active Listening and Conflict Resolution 1991 - 1993

## National

- Member of Provincial Council, Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario 2000 - 2002
- Delegate to Ontario Provincial Synod 2000
- Delegate to General Synod 1998, 1992, 1989
- Member of Small Parish Subcommittee of National Congregational Development Committee 1990 - 1993 *During this time, I chaired a group who developed and implemented conferences on best practices in small parishes in the Ecclesiastical Provinces of Ontario and Rupert's Land. I also helped initiate the publication which subsequently became Ministry Matters.*

- Rupert's Land Provincial Synod Seminar Leader 1994
- Steering Committee Member and Co-Facilitator for Women's Unit National Conference on Leadership and Diocesan Conferences in Ottawa and Montreal 1988 - 1990

## **International**

International experience is limited and informal: connections with Compass Rose while in Toronto Diocese, interactions with Companion Diocese visitors from Peru, Windward Islands and Manicaland, and ongoing connection with Anglican intentional communities in North America and United Kingdom. I attempt to stay current with activity in the worldwide Anglican Communion, but have not, to date, felt called to a major focus on international work beyond the support of mission work described in the section on how I would see fulfilling the role of Suffragan Bishop.

## **Gifts for Episcopal Ministry**

To any role, I bring a deep desire to minister in the manner of Jesus. To this end, I try to ground all ministry in prayer, hospitality and storytelling. I am deeply committed to God through Christ and to the people in whose midst I have been placed. I find delight in opening the Good News to people in ways that can result in transformation of individuals and systems. I am constantly surprised by grace and thankful for God's action in our world. I have been blessed by many experiences that have resulted in transferable skills for ministry in the Church.

To the exercise of episcopal ministry I would bring the principal gifts of proclamation, discernment, encouragement and creativity. My life experience has given me a degree of maturity, common sense, and wisdom. I am able to laugh with people and can often help others see humour even in times of great tension. I genuinely love and enjoy being with people, which enables me to engage others in vision, possibility and practical solutions to formerly seen intractable situations. When problem solving, I am able to "think outside the box" and to help nurture a climate that equips others to think creatively. I have been privileged to serve the rich and poor, the healthy and the unhealthy, young and old and have done so with clarity, comfort and joy.

My ability to be truly present to others usually means that within a short time of meeting, we can be talking about things that really matter. As an archdeacon, I have been well-received in parishes, even during highly conflicted situations. I have mediated some rare and difficult personnel issues in other dioceses, achieving outcomes that enabled parishes to continue ministry in times of trauma, betrayal and tragedy.

I continually find new meaning, challenge and hope in both Hebrew and Christian Testaments. My long commitment to studying and meditating on scripture has given me an ability to help people think theologically. I am told that my homilies and teaching both open the scriptures and give others the tools to hear more deeply and respond to God's Word in their lives.

As Suffragan Bishop, I would continue to dedicate all my gifts and abilities to the benefit of the common life of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, its parishes and people, both clergy and lay.

## **My Understanding of the Role of a Bishop**

The role of a bishop is one of Chief Pastor in the Body of Christ, the Church. This means leading in mission, teaching the faith, maintaining and sustaining the ordered ministry, and administering Church matters. A bishop is called to be visionary and prophetic; called to gather, inspire, and challenge all to an ever deepening commitment to God and neighbour. This aspect of the bishop's role is most critical for leadership of the church's mission, whether near at hand or far away.

A bishop is visible as one who provides a connection between the church and the secular world. As such, a bishop will be modeling and advocating ways of living that support the integrity of all creation. Grounded in constant prayer, a bishop personally exemplifies effective leadership for Christian living. A good bishop will necessarily be both collaborative and decisive.

In addition to maintaining a collaborative approach within the diocese, a bishop meets with fellow bishops, nationally and internationally. In council, bishops provide an ongoing connection across the ecclesiastical boundaries of time and space. A bishop is tasked with the pleasure and burden of guarding the faith, ensuring that it continues to be rooted in the creeds and doctrines of the Christian tradition, while remaining open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

## **How I Would See Myself Fulfilling the Role of Suffragan Bishop in The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island as Outlined in the Search Committee's Document**

The greatest skill I can offer to the role of Suffragan Bishop is an ability to build and rebuild community. From the time I was a child, I have placed major importance on extraordinary hospitality and the development of caring community. Throughout my adult life, building community has been an integral aspect of every position in which I have served, both in secular and church areas. In the role of Suffragan Bishop, this would be enacted through sharing, with the Diocesan Bishop, the joy of regular visits to parishes and regions. Proclamation, liturgy, teaching, fellowship, witness, theology, and encouragement would be some of the gifts I would bring to this aspect of the role. Experiences in group process, adult education and liturgy are additional skills I would bring. A long personal commitment to stewardship, means I can speak with integrity of the delights experienced in generous living. I know that I am loved by a generous, steadfast God; I am told that radiates out from me to others.

Reflecting on my years in parish ministry, I am regularly filled with gratitude for the role I've been allowed to play in people's lives. I've been privileged to help people discover new life through intensive bible study, deep prayer, and discipleship. I've been instrumental in calling and nurturing others for mission, both locally and internationally. I am told that the greatest gift I give to the life of the Church is my ability to call forth and nurture the gifts in others. People tell me they take risks and step out in faith as a result of my nudging, often doing things they thought were impossible and then discovering that God turns the impossible to the possible.

Our Diocesan Vision Statement, *to be a Christ-centred, mission-minded, ministering community of faith*, resonates deeply within me. Developing healthy ways of being congregation, being intentional about Anglican Christian formation, embracing all ages and having efficient and effective organizational structures have been a central part of my way of being rector. I believe the skills and abilities I have in this area would be transferable to the role of Suffragan Bishop. Helping both rural

and urban, small and large parishes discover their mission and name their ministry has been one of my favourite tasks as archdeacon. Exploring how we can effectively and faithfully live out our baptismal ministry has, over the years, resulted in study of and involvement in a variety of ministry models.

There are many good and faithful things happening in our diocese. We have people offering a wide variety of gifts for our mission and ministry. Funds from the Leap for Faith Campaign make it possible to explore new ways of mission and ministering. We have both history and new program initiatives on which to build. As Suffragan Bishop, I would support the current and evolving initiatives with enthusiasm and energy. My facilitation and conflict resolution skills would, I believe, be helpful in expanding our focus on building healthy congregations and maintaining unity within a diverse diocese. My proclamation skills would, I believe, aid in calling people to discipleship and enhance Anglican formation. I have a longstanding commitment to the full inclusion of children and youth in the life of the Church and I am increasingly concerned about how we may effectively support young families in their faith journey. As Suffragan Bishop I would work in partnership with the Diocesan Bishop to support creative initiatives for this age group, particularly in the areas of liturgy and accessible programming. I am finding that our full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada is enriching Anglicanism in our country and welcome opportunities to work together whenever possible.

While I see my gifts being predominantly valuable at a diocesan level, I think my prayerful approach to communication, emphasis on community-building, gentleness, and creative problem solving skills would be helpful at the level of the House of Bishops and wider Church.

### **Additional Relevant Information**

I am married to Elmer, my husband of thirty-five years. We have two grown daughters: Drea, who lives and works in Halifax and Nicole, who is a member of an intentional Anglican community in England. I was received as an Associate of the Sisters of St. John the Divine in 1992.

I continue to delight in finding ways to engage the world in hearing and discussing the Good News God has enacted through Christ. I am scheduled to be on sabbatical for twelve weeks, beginning April 28, 2008. During that time, I will be part of an intentional Anglican farm community. My days will include a rhythm of monastic prayer, farm labour, study, reflection and rest. My reading will focus on the ministry of hospitality and the role of the Church in this critical mission for our time. For those who wish to know more about this time of renewal and focused study, detailed information can be found through a link from our parish website [www3.ns.sympatico.ca/stjames/](http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/stjames/).

I care passionately that we as Church lead the world in forming authentic, caring communities that are Christ-centred, mission minded and ministering. I look forward to returning from sabbatical time more fully equipped to be a servant leader in this formation. I am willing, with God's help to walk the road to which I am called, be that a continued path as priest in a great parish, or a new-for-me path as bishop in a great diocese.