

Randy Duane Townsend

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Born: 28 April 1959, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Married: 19 August 1978 to Deborah Irene (Hazel) Townsend
Children: Sarah Irene (Townsend) Smith [26 September 1980]
Edward Duane Townsend [29 August 1982]

Post-Secondary Education

Institute of Pastoral Training

Clinical Pastoral Education (August 2000)

Atlantic School of Theology

Master of Divinity (April 2000)

Diploma in Theology and Ministry (April 1995)

Nova Scotia College of Art and Design

Studies in Fine Arts (April 1979)

Other Special Training or Continuing Education

Numerous institutions

Continuing education events, seminars, workshops (1979 – present)

Numerous institutions

Emergency planning, preparedness, measures (2000 – 2005)

CDHA, QEII HSC, Halifax Infirmary, Spiritual and Religious Care Department

Supervised field education, directed independent study (1998-1999)

Numerous institutions

Management, administration, conflict management, personnel, leadership courses
(1983 – 1999)

Numerous institutions

Photo industry, marketing courses (1979 – 1995)

Canadian Forces Reserves

Various trades courses (1975 – 1979)

Community Experiences (continued)

Nova Scotia Department of Community Services

Advisory Group for Emergency Psycho-Social Planning

Member (2004 – present)

Canadian Council of Churches Nova Scotia Advisory Group for Emergency Planning

Member (2004 – present)

Central Region Emergency Support Team

Member [spiritual, religious, and cultural responsibilities] (2001 – present)

Supreme Court of Nova Scotia

Commissioner (2001 – present)

Ward 5 Neighbourhood Centre Society

Member (1998 – present)

Association of Atlantic Provinces University Alumni Associations

Member (2005 – 2007)

WRHS Alumni Association [Class of 1977]

Founding Director, Chair, Treasurer, Member (1985 – 2006)

Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank Society

Member (2004 – 2005)

St. Margaret's Bay Community Band

Member (2000 – 2001)

Dalhousie University, Learning from Experience Project

Member, Co-Author and Presenter of study papers post Swiss Air Flight 111 (1999 – 2003)

Sir John A. Macdonald High School

Photo Club Advisor (1995 – 1998)

TASA

Hockey Coach (1995 – 1997)

Scouts Canada

Sespenaak District

District Chaplain, District Council Member, District O&E Member (1995 – 1997)

Basin Lakes District

District Chaplain, District Council Member, District O&E Chair, Group Committee Chair and Member, Scout Leader, Cub Leader, Beaver Leader (1987 – 1997)

Photo Marketing Association of America

Regional Representative, Member (1993 – 1997)

Tantallon Junior High School

Board of Trustees Chair, Discipline Committee Member, Volunteer Parent, Assistant Hockey Coach, Band Parent Association Chair and Member, Jazz Band Member (1992 – 1997)

Hammonds Plains Recreation Association

Founding Director, Chair, Treasurer, Member, Baseball Coach, Soccer Coach, Baseball Umpire (1990 – 1997)

Highland Park Ratepayers Association

Community Services Chair, Treasurer, Member (1988 – 1996)

Community Experiences (continued)

Nova Scotia Community College

Sessional Lecturer [photography & communications] (1988-1995)

Numerous community action groups and committees

Chair, Member (1985 – 1995)

Numerous venues

Lecturer, Instructor, Guest Speaker, Workshop Coordinator (1982 – 1995)

Hammonds Plains Consolidated School

Board of Trustees Member, Volunteer Parent, Volunteer Library Assistant (1985 – 1994)

Community Freelance Writer

Various publications (1987 – 1992)

Exhibitor

Various individual and group art shows (1978 – 1980)

Windsor Regional High School

Stage Band Member, Concert Band Member, Music Librarian, Yearbook Editor, Reach for the Top Team Member, Photo Club President, Student Council Member, Points Committee Chair (1972 – 1977)

Wider Church Community Experiences

Association of Professional Anglican Clergy

Founding Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Member (2005 – present)

Halifax West Ministerial

Member (2004 – present)

Atlantic School of Theology Alumni

President, Acting President, Member (1995 – present)

Institute of Pastoral Training

Vice-President, Working Group Member, Member (2000 – present)

Numerous venues (including AST)

Guest Speaker, Lecturer, Workshop Presenter (1995 – present)

Atlantic School of Theology

Chaplaincy Committee: Member (2007 – present)

Senate: Member (2001 – 2007)

Honourary Degrees Committee: Member (2001 – 2007)

Faculty Review Committee: Member (2004 – 2007)

Academic Appeal Panel: Member (2003 – 2007)

Capital Campaign Cabinet: Member (2003 – 2007)

Chaplaincy Committee (ad hoc): Co-Chair, Member (2003 – 2007)

Lecture Series Oversight Committee: Member (2003 – 2007)

Koinonia Planning Group: Member (2006)

Lilly Endowment Inc. Grant Application (*ACECM*) Advisory Group: Member (2004)

Presidential Search Committee: Member (2004)

Continuing Education Committee: Member (2001 – 2004)

Shannex Inc. (Homes for Special Care) - Pastoral Care Committee

Member (2004 – 2007)

Wider Church Community Experiences (continued)

Interfaith Council of Halifax

Member (2001 – 2004)

South Shore Regional Health District - Pastoral Care Standing Committee

Member (2000 – 2004)

Canadian Associate of Pastoral Practice and Education

Member (2000 – 2003)

Parish Church Experiences (pre-clerical)

Parish of St. John the Evangelist Church, Lower Sackville

with St. Nicholas, Hammonds Plains and Good Shepherd, Beaver Bank

Parish Warden, Parish Secretary, Parish Council Member, Parochial Committee Member, Church Warden, Church Treasurer, Church Secretary, Church Council Member, Committee Member, Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School Co-Coordinator, Confirmation Instructor, Sunday School Co-Superintendent, Synod Delegate, Regional Council Delegate, Lay Reader (1982 – 1995)

Parish of Christ Church, Windsor

Server, Choir Member (1968 – 1974)

Regional Church Experiences

Chebucto Region

Regional Council Member, Clericus Member (2004 – present)

St. Margaret's Region

Regional Council Chair and Member, Clericus Member (2000 – 2004)

Fort Sackville Region

Regional Council Member, Clericus Member (1990 – 1995, 1998 – 2000)

Diocesan Church Experiences

Synod

Delegate, Member, Chair and Member of several sessional committees (1992 – present)

Synod Arrangements Committee

Chair, Physical Arrangements Convener, Member (1992 – present)

Diocesan Book Room Advisory Sub-Committee

Chair, Member (1996 – present)

Diocesan Postulants

Mentor (2004 – present)

Diocesan 2010 Celebration Planning Committee

Member (2005 – present)

Youth Ministry Sub-Committee

Member (2001 – 2007)

Diocesan Church Experiences (continued)

Diocesan Youth Conference

Co-Director, Planning and Leadership Team Member (2003 – 2007)

Diocesan Council

Member (2003 – 2005)

Nominations Committee

Member (2001 – 2004)

Regional Deans

Member, Agenda Convener (2001 – 2004)

Visioning Task Group

Member (2002 – 2003)

Diocesan Manual for Parish & Church Officers Revision Task Group

Lead Revisionist (2003)

Canon 25 Task Group

Member (1998 – 1999)

Diocesan Lay Readers' Association

President, Vice-President, Member (1990 – 1995)

Provincial Church Experiences

Provincial Synod Arrangements Committee

Physical Arrangements Convener (1999 – 2000)

National Church Experiences

General Synod Planning Committee

Member (2005 – present)

General Synod

Sessional Staff (2007), Delegate (1998)

Recognitions and Awards

Atlantic School of Theology

Associate Designation [outstanding service] (2007)

Dalhousie University

Community Recognition Award (2002)

Weekender Magazine, Halifax

Person of the Year (1992)

Municipality of the County of Halifax

Volunteer of the Year (1992)

Windsor Regional High School

Student Union Award [outstanding participation] (1977)

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

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

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*

I believe the role of a bishop is aptly described in the words of the prayers and examinations found in our church’s forms for the ordaining and consecrating of a bishop as delivered to us in our authorized service books (*BCP* pp.657-667, *BAS* pp.633-641). The role of bishop is fulfilled in one living out one’s calling – called to be forever one in Christ, as “one with the apostles in proclaiming Christ’s resurrection and interpreting the Gospel” – called to “guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church” – called to “celebrate and provide for the administration of the sacraments of the new covenant” – called to “ordain priest and deacons, and to join in ordaining bishops” – called to “be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ.”

I understand the role of a bishop to be, most importantly, that of a point of focus – pointing us all in unity to Christ and to his mission and ministry in the world. I understand that the greatest amount of mission and ministry happens at the local level, within the parish. I have come to see that one aspect of the role of a bishop is, by leadership and example, to be a conduit for the sharing of God’s gifts, Christ’s love, with those within our communities of faith and beyond – to facilitate the sharing of our bountiful resources. That is to say, not to draw all things to a centre but to spread all things about to where God’s people are. Through regular visits and the facilitation of communication with and within the local communities, a bishop brings the wider Church, the wider world, to the parish and in turn takes the care, concerns, and needs of the local parish into the broader communion. I see a bishop as one who is called to gather us together, being the wholesome example, regardless of our geographic spread or our differences.

First, and foremost, my gift for episcopal ministry, or, for that matter, any ministry, lays in the knowledge and love of our saviour, Jesus Christ. I revel in the joy that Jesus came that we may have life, and have it abundantly (*John 10.10*).

God has graced me with plenty, including particular gifts; however, I, too, have many weaknesses and shortcomings. Although, other folk have recognized within me a gift for leadership, that is, an ability to discern and to enable – to discern the God-given gifts in other people and to enable them to recognize them and to use them in the building up of God’s kingdom through the work of the Church. Through educational opportunities and many varying experiences (vocational, employment, volunteer), I have been able to hone such leadership skills.

With humility, I would have to agree that I possess many of the gifts that other people have recognized in me. Collaborative and consultative; there is more joy in being a community when we as individuals can take ownership of the things that we can do together. I am an avid team player. A bishop is called to take counsel with fellow presbyters and to strengthen all who minister in the Church. To be collaborative and to consult will require my gift of being a good listener and a permission giver. I strive for consensus building and discerning the mind of the many.

I thrive being amidst people, hearing and being a part of their life's journeys. I relate well with people of all ages and from varying backgrounds. It has been noted, by many whom I have journeyed with, that I have a refreshing pastoral presence.

I am tolerant. I realize that being an individual there is no one else exactly like me; we are all made in the image of God but express our thoughts, desires, and joys in a multitude of manner and fashion. I love our Church and our Anglican expression of it – as broad and inclusive as it is. I may have my own personal preferences for expressing spirituality, prayer, worship, and many other things but that does not negate the validity of the preferences of other persons or communities. We, including our bishops, being blessed with God's offer of grace, are called to be extravagant in our hospitality and in turn offer out the invitation of God's grace to all people.

It is said that I am a stickler for detail but I can draw the larger picture and I do not believe that anyone who knows me would deny my talent for time management. I enjoy rolling up my sleeves and getting into the thick of things. I delegate well and trust those who are so gifted to do the tasks of particular ministries. Micro-managing and procrastination do not belong to my vocabulary. It is said that I am collaborative and pragmatic in my decision-making – and I do not fear making decisions or owning up to and learning from errors I have made or will make.

I am eager to continue in ministries, in a new way, which lead to developing healthy congregations, supporting Anglican Christian formation, embracing youth, enhancing clergy wellness, and providing for organizational efficiencies and effectiveness (including modern technologies and communication tools). If we camp too long in one place, like the Israelites following Moses, we will become too complacent and lose sight of where we are going and whom it is that we follow. We need to be constantly assessing and re-assessing our vision, as parishes and as a diocese.

God has gifted you and me with so much I can not be anything but happy. I reside in good humour, live out joy, smiling and laughing often. Jesus said, "Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" (Luke 12.25). On a bulletin board at my home, there is a little cartoon that is captioned, "Relax: God's in charge." We all would be better off if we heeded such advice more often.

The "*Description of the General Qualifications...*" document prepared by the Episcopal Search Committee and approved by Diocesan Council puts forth a tall order. I thank God that it is not an expectation that these ministries or tasks be accomplished alone or in solitude.

Second, I understand the role of Suffragan Bishop to be just that, an assistant to the Diocesan Bishop, currently the Right Reverend Sue Moxley. I would perform such episcopal ministries to the best of my abilities and collaboratively and in cooperation with the whole of the episcopal ministry team – Diocesan Bishop, Diocesan Executive Director, Episcopal Executive Assistant, Archdeacons, and Regional Deans – and with all, lay and ordained, who minister in the name of God in the office and the parishes of our diocese. If elected Suffragan Bishop, I would cheerfully take on the many tasks required of a bishop in our diocese, these sacred responsibilities. Through a covenant relationship with our Diocesan Bishop, I would strive to perform well the episcopal duties that correlate to my particular gifts, share in those we could mutually perform, and support her in the ministries that would be in her particular purview. Learning is a life-long process; with this understanding, I am always more than willing to avail myself of educational or training opportunities to develop new or existing skills.

The personal and relational life of the Church is always prior to the structural (*Virginia Report, 5.4*). Out in the community is where the direct contact is between the gospel, ministries, and God's people. However, the structure should be a useful tool as long as the vision is clear and well articulated. As well, parishes must be aware that they cannot fulfill the mission of our church operating in their own silo. Our diocesan structure, with its expression of episcopal ministry, is one window to the wider creation of God, our world. In focusing on the strengths of parishes, whether they are rural or urban, large or small, enhancing the relationships of individuals with one another and with God will result in a strong diocese and the building up of God's kingdom in this time and place and beyond.

We must care for all God's people, especially speaking out on behalf of the disenfranchised. We must, in good stewardship, use our plentiful, God-given resources wisely. We must justly treat all people and God's creation. We must respect and cherish the dignity of every human being. In all things, I, as well as you, must live out the eternal truths of the gospel. Holding strong to these truths, we must promulgate the good news of Christ in fresh and relevant ways. How we journey is just as important as where we are going.

For all God's blessings, I give thanks. For everything and always, I pray.