

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

**Name:** Ronald Wayne Cutler

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

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**Education:** Bachelor of Theology  
McGill University November 1983

**Continuing Education:**

Fresh Start Facilitator Training- April 2005- Niagara Falls ON  
Dealing With Differences in the Family of Faith- Speed Lees- June 2006- Waterloo ON  
A.S.T. Best Practices Workshop, The Practice of Public Worship- John Bell- Sept. 2007-  
Halifax  
Ongoing educational opportunities as a member of the Bishop's Advisory Council  
esp. conflict management.

**Ordinations:** Deacon: May 17 1981  
Diocese of Central Newfoundland, The Rt. Rev. Mark Genge  
Priest: November 1 1981  
Diocese of Central Newfoundland, The Rt. Rev. Mark Genge

**Parish Service:**

1996 – present Parish of St. John the Evangelist, Sackville, (N.S. & P.E.I.)  
Rector  
1991-1996 Parish of Trinity, Sydney Mines with  
St. Peter & St. John, Baddeck (N.S. & P.E.I.)  
Rector  
1986-1991 Parish of Smith's Sound (C. Nfld.)  
Rector  
1981-1986 Parish of Twillingate (C. Nfld.)  
Catechist/Deacon/Rector

## **Service on Committees:**

### ***Community***

1<sup>st</sup> Sackville Group Committee- Scouts Canada, Cub Leader/Committee Member, 1998-2003  
Camping Association of Nova Scotia, Member Board of Directors 1997-2000  
Kiwanis Club North Sydney/Sydney Mines, Member 1993-1996  
Sydney Mines Community Food Bank, Founding Member Board of Directors 1992-1996  
Pastoral Care Committee Dr. G.B. Cross Hospital, Clarenville NL, Member/Chair 1987-1989  
Rotary Club of Clarenville NL, Member 1988-1991  
Bonnavista-Trinity-Placentia Integrated School Board, Clarenville NL, Member/Chair 1986-1990  
Pastoral Care Committee Notre Dame Bay Memorial Hospital, Twillingate NL, Member/Chair 1982-1986

### ***Regional***

Regional Council, Fort Sackville Region, Co-Chair - Regional Dean 2002-2003  
Camp Bretondean Corporation, President 1993-1996  
Regional Council, Cape Breton Region, Chair - Regional Dean 1993-1996  
Deanery Council, Bonavista Deanery (C. Nfld.) - Regional Dean 1990-1991

### ***Diocesan***

Reconciliation Advocates, Member 2007- present  
Fresh Start, Facilitator 2006- present  
Bishop's Advisory Council, Member 2003- present  
Annual Vocations Conference, Leadership team 1998- present  
Mentoring Newly Ordained, 1998-2004  
Growth For Ministry Fund Advisors, Member 1997-2006  
Canon 25 Review Committee 1997-1998  
Camping Task Group, Member, 1996-2001  
Program Planning & Budget Committee, Member, 1993-1997  
Diocesan Council 1993-1996, 1997-1999  
Provincial Synod, Ecclesiastical Province of Canada 1998  
Bishop's Examining Chaplain (C. Nfld.) 1985-1991  
Board of Trustees, Anglican Charitable Foundation for Children (C. Nfld.) 1985-1991  
Diocesan Executive Committee (C. Nfld.) 1984-1986, 1988-1991  
Youth Ministry Committee (C. Nfld.) 1982-1985

### ***National***

Committee on Ministry 1986-1989  
General Synod 1986, 2004

## **Briefly describe your gifts for Episcopal ministry**

My greatest strength in ministry comes from the joy I find in sharing the everyday events in peoples' lives, especially as these find expression in our opportunities to gather as the People of God. I have excellent communication skills. I enjoy preaching. I believe that I proclaim the gospel in ways that are accessible, hopeful and meaningful. I am a discerning listener and have a relaxed manner with people. I appreciate my pastoral role in community, and thoroughly enjoy exploring our ongoing call to faithfulness. Over the past 26 years I have ministered in rural, small town and suburban settings. I have been grateful to what the people in these communities

have shared with me about their life in Christ. Real hospitality has been shown to me from the people I have met and I try to live out that radical hospitality in ministry.

The Anglican Church has always been a part of my life. It has been my home: the place where I have been formed, challenged, comforted and called to develop the gifts I have been given. It has been the place where I have encountered and been shaped by the bible. I appreciate the strengths of both traditional and contemporary forms of worship. I love this church, although I am aware of its yearning for wholeness. The church has given me an ideal in Jesus and fostered a sense of responsibility for both my own life in faith and in providing direction to the wider community of faith.

I also bring an awareness that I need time for balance in my life if I am to serve faithfully. I enjoy the outdoors, gardening, reading and time for reflection. I have a sense of humour.

**Briefly describe how you understand the role of a bishop.**

I see the bishop as having both a pastoral and a prophetic role. As chief pastor, the bishop presides at the celebration of the sacraments. He or she has a role in placing the struggles, the challenges and the joys of the faith communities in the context of the greater story found in the life of Jesus. The bishop has the responsibility to call the community to be 're-membered' in its worship. This happens in the congregations of the diocese as a part of the parish visitation itinerary and in the worship when the whole diocese gathers. The bishop has the responsibility to live out his or her own baptismal vows as a model and is a leader in the shared ministry of the whole church. This involves strengthening the college of clergy as well as encouraging and providing resources for the ministries of the whole people of God.

The prophetic role calls the bishop to see the ministry of the church and its members in the 'big picture'. The bishop is a focus for our connection to the Anglican Communion, other Christian Churches and other faith communities. He or she walks a fine line in protecting those signs, symbols and activities that have long provided us with comfort and a sense of belonging and at the same time providing leadership in keeping the message of the gospel relevant to a changing world. The bishop must be a realist in dealing with the practical side of leading an organization that touches the lives of many people in many different ways. The bishop shares the responsibility for the stewardship of a large pool of resources; diocesan employees and volunteers as well as buildings and budgets. The bishop is called to be a visionary, called to prophetic leadership, which is grounded and rooted, in personal and communal faith.

**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', discuss how you see yourself fulfilling the role of Suffragan Bishop as described.**

I have grown into priesthood over the past 26 years. Anyone who is elected to be a bishop will have to grow into that office. Many of the items listed as 'the functions of a suffragan bishop' can be learned. Some, I am already doing in sharing ministry with another priest and in serving as an archdeacon. I feel that I possess many, but certainly not all of the general qualifications and personal qualities that are listed in the document. I do love God and feel that I am loved by God. The church has been a place where I have been comforted and challenged by God for my whole life. It has also been a place where I have been called to use my gifts ever since I was a young person. I have hope that it can continue to be a place where not only I can respond faithfully, but where others of all ages can be comforted and challenged.

There are so many images from scripture that speak of the life of faith as a journey. The prophetic role of the bishop means keeping the reality of journey and change always before us. This will always be an uncomfortable place. I celebrate the diversity within the Anglican tradition. My greatest concern for our church is that I see the gift of diversity challenged at every level of the church's life. Maintaining the open dialogue within the church is a key part of our identity and a necessary part of our future. I believe I have gifts in this area.

Supporting parishes and congregations that are vital and life giving is an area of our life as a diocese that I believe impacts directly on many of the other issues we are facing. It is an area where the bishop(s) can give clear direction and it will take resources, time and energy to work toward wholeness or alternative methods of providing ministry. I have experience working, as a leader in communities in different stages of the life cycle and in congregations seeking to re-define themselves.

Over the years, I have worked in team ministry with non-stipendiary and stipendiary ordained colleagues in three different parish settings. The people that I have worked with have all been very different in terms of skills and visions of ministry. This has made working out covenants and shared job descriptions and dividing areas of responsibility into challenging tasks. This work has always proved to be fruitful in the long-term for total ministry in the parishes concerned. I have enjoyed the collegiality of working with someone who understands the issues involved in ministry but who looks at issues through a different lens. This experience is something that I could bring to the role of suffragan bishop.

I have been a regional dean three times and for the past five years I have been an archdeacon. I have enjoyed working with my colleagues in clericus. I have been fortunate over the years for the most part, to have felt supported by the clericus of which I was a part. I value good working relationships with my colleagues in ministry and have great commitment to maintain these relationships.

#### **Attestations and Consents:**

I am a priest or bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada or of a church in full communion with that Church.

I meet the canonical requirements for age according to Diocesan Canon 1 (thirty years or older, but less than seventy years of age).

I give my consent to be considered for nomination for the position of Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

I give my consent for this completed Information Form to be given to and reviewed by members of the Episcopal Search Committee to determine eligibility and suitability for nomination.

If nominated, I give my consent for this completed Information Form to be circulated to members of the Electoral Synod, posted on the Diocesan Website, and published in the Diocesan Times.

Should I be elected Suffragan Bishop, I shall be available to commence duties on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

Signature:

Date: