

## Nominee Information: The Reverend Sandra Fyfe

### A. Basic Information:

Name: Sandra Fyfe

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone number(s): [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

### B. Education: *(Post secondary and beyond. Supply the following information for each degree.)*

Degree: Master of Divinity (Honours)

Field of Study: Divinity (ordination track)

Institution: Queen's Theological College, St. John's, NL

Date awarded: May, 2000

*Received awards for highest academic standing in each year of study and for creativity and visionary leadership. While at Queen's I encouraged the College to expand its scholarship and awards program from one based solely on academic achievement to one including a recognition of other gifts for ministry – these remain part of the awards program at Queen's today.*

Degree: Bachelor of Public Relations (BPR)

Field of Study: Public Relations

Institution: Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

Date awarded: May, 1988

*Received Merit Award Scholarship and made the Dean's List in 1986*

Degree: n/a

Field of Study: Foundation Year Program (1<sup>st</sup> year in the Bachelor of Journalism program)

Institution: University of King's College, Halifax, NS

Date awarded: Foundation Year Program completed in April, 1985

### C. Other Special training or Continuing Education: *(Describe training and give dates of training. Indicate whether any diplomas or certifications were earned in the course of study.)*

*MORE Mission Schools, Diocese of N.S. and P.E.I. (attended in 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017)*

*Life-Changing Liturgy: Sabbatical, June to August, 2019*

*During my sabbatical I visited clergy and parishes in St. John's, NL, Victoria, B.C., and within our own diocese to discuss and reflect on the nature and practice of liturgy and its potential as a transformative power for change. This was combined with extensive reading, study and experiential learning, including attending Beer and Hymns, outdoor liturgies, and contemporary and traditional forms of Sunday worship in a variety of Christian denominations.*

*Vital Church Maritimes, Western Shore and Truro, N.S. (attended in 2019, 2018 and 2016)*

*Worship Facilitator, Refresh (Friday evening worship), November 2018*

*Presenter, Contemplation as a Missional Practice, November 2018*

*Simpson Lectures, Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, N.S.*

*An annual three-day lecture series including workshops on preaching and the practical aspects of ministry. Years attended and themes include: Preaching and Worship: Once More with Feeling (2020); Flourishing Congregations (2019); Learner-Sensitive Preaching (2018); We Are Babylon: Dispelling the Myths of Exile, Hospitality & Security (2016); The Character of Preaching (2014); Christian Witness in an Age of Change (2013); Living Into Focus: Embracing Abundant Life (2012); Windows into A Christian Understanding of Personal and Professional Identity (2011)*

*Responding to Disaster: Prayer, Song, Presence, July 2018, Victoria, B.C.,  
This National Worship Conference of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada focused on equipping the church to respond liturgically, theologically and ritually in times of disaster and violence.*

*Ministry of Supervision, Atlantic School of Theology, October 2015 to April, 2016  
This intensive program assisted participants in effectively supervising Staff and Ministry-based students - Certificate of Completion awarded*

*St. Clement's College of Preaching, November 3-6, 2014, Mississauga, Ont.  
Facilitator/Guest Lecturer/Preacher: The Rev'd Dr. Thomas Long*

*Conflict Resolution/Mediation/Strategic Planning/Visioning, 2006 to 2009, 2014 to 2015  
Diocese of N.S. and P.E.I., This training was offered during regular meetings of the archdeacons.*

*Buildings for a New Tomorrow, April 2013, Albuquerque, NM  
This Episcopal Church Building Fund Symposium focused on repurposing of Church buildings for mission and outreach.*

*Common Ground: Canadian Ecumenical Youth Ministry Forum, London, Ont., May to June, 2011*

*Changing Congregational DNA, Halifax, N.S., September 2009 to May 2010  
This Best Practices Institute at the Atlantic School of Theology gathered an ecumenical clergy cohort to learn about and integrate congregational renewal and change.*

*Healthy Parishes Symposium, March, 2007, Anglican Church of Canada, Orillia, Ont.  
This national gathering focused on local opportunities for mission and outreach, and the use of technology in worship.*

*Renewing Worship, June, 2006, Toronto, Ont.  
This Trinity Divinity Associates Annual Conference focused on the use of space for worship and the structure of worship in the modern church.*

*Breaking Bread, Breaking Boundaries, July 2004, Toronto, Ont.,  
This Annual Worship Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada focused on music and liturgy, incorporating new Lutheran worship resources.*

*Theology That Matters: Open Hearts and Thin Places, June, 1999, Truro, N.S.  
This annual Atlantic Seminar in Theological Education was held for clergy and laity.*

Guest speakers: Dr. Marcus Borg and the Rev'd Marianne Borg

*Strategic Communications Planning*, November, 1994, Toronto, Ont.  
*This intensive training program focused on communicating during change.*

*Front Line Leadership Training Program*, 1994 to 1995, St. John's, NL  
*I completed modules on working in teams, problem-solving and dealing with difficult people.*

*Time:Text Priority Management*, 1992, Halifax, N.S.  
*A time management training program.*

*Leadership Development Weekends*, 1990 to 1996 International Association of Business Communicators (IABC)  
*These weekends were held in a variety of Canadian cities and focused on equipping volunteer leaders in this non-profit, professional association. Over the years I attended, offered presentations, and eventually chaired a Planning Committee for this national event.*

*Canadian Theological Students' Conference*, Winter 1999, Montreal, P.Q.

*Urbana*, Winter, 1996, Urbana, Illinois - *A world missions conference for students*

**D. Ordinations:**

Deacon: June 8, 2000, Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador,  
The Right Reverend Donald Harvey  
Priest: March 20, 2001, Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador,  
The Right Reverend Donald Harvey  
Bishop: n/a

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

Parish Service

*Rector, Parish of Horton*, May 2009 to present

Providing leadership in worship, preaching, pastoral care, and spiritual and educational development events; equipping parishioners to serve and lead; and sharing in ministry with lay leaders, musicians, and other clergy. Highlights include the sale of our Hall to the L'Arche community; restructuring our Church building to make it fully-accessible to the community; leading a discernment and education process around Human Sexuality and Marriage; expanding our music program to involve Acadia students; and infusing the Parish with hope for the future.

*Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Lockeport-Barrington*, December 2008 to May 2009

Providing oversight while the parish was in transition; coordinating a worship schedule; leading worship; preaching; providing pastoral care and responding to pastoral emergencies.

*Priest-in-Charge, St. James, Kentville*, April to August 2008

Providing oversight while the Rector was on sabbatical; leading worship; preaching; and sharing in pastoral ministry and Christian education with an Associate Parish Priest and lay leaders.

*Rector, Parish of Christ Church, Shelburne, September, 2001 to June, 2007*

Providing leadership in worship, preaching, spiritual and educational development events, and pastoral care. Highlights during my ministry include leading the parish through an extensive visioning process resulting in changes to our church building and ministries, creating a covenant in shared ministry with a neighbouring parish, and inviting youth and families with young children into relationship with our parish (in the pre-Messy Church days).

*Curate, St. Thomas' Anglican Church, St. John's, NL, July, 2000 to June, 2001*

With a ministry team, sharing in all aspects of Parish life and ministry in this large urban church with one building and five worshipping congregations. Highlights include my ministry with youth, confirmation candidates, families with young children and families preparing for baptism.

Other Ministries:

*Mentor, Mentoring the Newly-Ordained, 2017 to current*

Meeting regularly with newly-ordained clergy (in person or electronically) to offer support, guidance and nurture as they grow into their new ministries as Deacons and Priests.

*Co-Facilitator, Bishop's School, Diocese of Central Newfoundland, June 2016*

*Topic: Reading Scripture in Preparation for Preaching.*

Invited by Bishop David Torraville and the Rev'd Dr. Joanne Mercer to share leadership for this training event for lay leaders and those preparing for ordination.

*Student Intern (full-time), Parish of St. Peter's, Upper Gullies, NL, September to December, 1999*

With the Rector, sharing in all aspects of Parish life and ministry.

*Youth Leader, St. Thomas' Anglican Church, St. John's, NL, January to May, 1999*

Using contemporary media and resources to encourage youth to talk about faith and life.

*Volunteer (Community Ministry Placement), Iris Kirby House (a shelter for abused women and their children), St. John's, NL, September to December 1998*

Learning, listening and providing pastoral support to women experiencing abuse.

*Student Chaplain, IWK/Grace Health Centre for Women, Children, and Families, Halifax, N.S., April to July, 1998 (Supervised Clinical Pastoral Education unit)*

Learning how to minister sensitively in an ecumenical, interfaith hospital environment and to pray and be present with families of children or infants who were sick or dying.

*Student Ministry Assistant, St. Martin's Cathedral, Gander, NL, September, 1997 to June, 1998*

With a clergy team, sharing in all aspects of the Cathedral's life and ministry.

*St. Thomas' Anglican Church, St. John's, NL, 1994 to 1996*

Serving as a member of the Vestry (1995 to 1996) and Volunteer Ministries Committee (1994 to 1996), a Youth Leader (1994 to 1996), and a singer in an evening worship band (1994 to 1996).

*Sunday School Co-ordinator and Teacher, Anglican Church of St. Peter and St. John, Baddeck, N.S., 1991 to 1992*

Launching a Sunday School program and equipping parent volunteers to teach.

**F. Other Previous Significant Employment:** *(For each position, describe position and give beginning and ending dates.)*

*Manager of College Relations, Cabot College, St. John's, NL, 1995 to 1996*

*(laid off after community colleges were restructured into one province-wide system)*

Providing counsel, policy advice and media training to senior management; managing internal and external communications, special events and media relations; writing, editing and managing publications; managing a budget, suppliers and staff.

*Public Relations Officer, Grace General Hospital, St. John's, NL 1994 to 1995*

*(laid off after hospitals were restructured into one regional hospital authority)*

Providing counsel to senior management; media relations; managing internal communications and special events; developing policies; planning, writing and editing publications.

*Public Relations Specialist, Women's Policy Office, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's, NL, 1993 to 1994 (maternity leave replacement)*

Designing programs to increase awareness of women's issues; co-ordinating publications/public displays; writing speaking notes and statements for Government Ministers and the Premier.

*Director of Public Relations, University College of Cape Breton, Sydney, N.S., 1992 to 1993 (moved to Newfoundland)*

Providing counsel to senior management; writing, editing and managing publications; managing internal communications, media relations and special events; co-ordinating community consultations for a strategic planning process; managing a departmental budget and three staff.

*Marketing and Public Relations Co-ordinator, Cape Breton Island Parks, Environment Canada, Baddeck, N.S., 1990 to 1992*

Developing an annual marketing and public relations plan; chairing an Island-wide Marketing Committee; developing co-operative projects with public/private sector partners.

*Public Relations Officer, Technical University of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N.S., 1989 to 1990*

Research, writing and layout for University publications; providing counsel to the University community; managing media relations, internal communications and special events.

*Communications Consultant (freelance), Halifax, N.S., 1988 to 1989*

Writing, editing, special events planning and media relations for a range of clients.

**G. 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, International.)*

**Community/other**

*Member, Quiet Garden at Kent Lodge Advisory Committee, Wolfville, N.S., 2017 to present*

Offering guidance and support so this contemplative prayer space can be used for environmental activities, quiet days and other events by the wider community.

*Women of Wolfville (local women's theatre collective), Wolfville, N.S., 2015 & 2017 to present*

Performing in a series of musical, dance and spoken word pieces to raise money for charities

*Vice-President, Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council, 2017 to present (member since 2009):*

Offering leadership to the Christian churches and member organizations in our area who work together to respond to human need and offer shared opportunities for education and worship.

*Member, Refugee Support Group-Wolfville Area* October, 2015 to present

Assisting this ecumenical, inter-faith committee in coordinating the settlement of three Syrian refugee families in Wolfville, and providing ongoing support and guidance.

*Member, Pastoral Care Advisory Committee, Valley Regional Hospital, 2010 to 2012*

Offering support to the full-time hospital chaplain and assisting with educational events.

*Volunteer, Friendly Feeding Line, Shelburne County, 2005 to 2009*

Providing telephone support for breastfeeding moms.

*Board Member, The Little People's Place (local daycare), Shelburne, N.S., 2006 to 2007*

*Board Member, South Shore Family Resource Association, 2005 to 2007*

*Member, St. John's & Area ecumenical Jubilee Initiatives Committee, St. John's, NL, 2000 to 2001*

*Member, Fall Gathering (Orientation) Committee, Queen's College, St. John's, NL, 1997 to 2000*

### **Regional**

*Archdeacon of the Valley Region 2014 to 2017*

*Director, St. Anne's Junior Camp (ages 9-12), Valley Region, 2010 to 2014*

*Archdeacon of the South Shore 2006 to 2009*

*Regional Dean & Co-Chair, Regional Council, Southwest Nova 2003 to 2006*

### **Diocesan** (Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island unless otherwise noted)

*Member, Advisory Committee, Continuing Education for the Newly-Ordained*

November 2019 to present

*Coordinator, Synod Worship (with Parish and Regional support) January to May 2019*

*Diocesan Youth Conference 2015 to 2019 (served as Cabin Leader, Member of the Care Team, and Chaplain/Worship Coordinator)*

*Chair, Synod Worship Committee, January to May 2013*

*Member, Youth and Family Ministries Fund Development Task Force, 2014*

*Member, Youth and Family Ministries VSST, 2012 to 2014*

*Assistant Spiritual Advisor, Women's Cursillo Weekend, Kentville, N.S., 2011*

*Member, Poverty Justice Camp Planning Committee, 2008 to 2009*

*Member, Prayer Team, Women's Cursillo Weekend, Sydney, N.S., 2007*

*Member, Communications Task Group, 2006 to 2008*

*Member, Spiritual Team, Teens Encounter Christ, 2007*

*Member, Parish Relations Committee, 2006*

*Member, Social Justice Committee, 2001 to 2003*

*Co-ordinator, Lift High the Cross, Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, 2000 to 2001 (a year-long program of evangelism and outreach throughout the Diocese)*

*Member, Diocesan Youth Council, Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, 1998 to 2000*

*Chaplain, Junior Girls' Camp, Diocese of Central Newfoundland, summer, 1998 and 1999*

### **Provincial (Province of Canada)**

*Delegate, Provincial Synod (elected at 2019 Diocesan Synod – date of Provincial Synod TBA)*

*Delegate, Provincial Synod, Gander, NL, September, 2009*

### **National**

*Delegate, and Facilitator, Neighbourhood Group Discussions on Changing the Marriage Canon, General Synod, Toronto, Ont., June 2016*

*Reporter/Recorder, Small Group Discussions on the Blessing of Same-Sex Marriage, General Synod, Halifax, N.S., June 2010*

*Delegate and Home Group (Bible Study) Leader, General Synod, Winnipeg, MN, June 2007*

*Newsletter Editor and Member, National Planning Committee, Canadian Theological Students' Conference, 1999 to 2000*

- H. In light of the document, ***'General Qualifications and Requirements for the Bishop of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island'***, prepared by the Episcopal Search Committee and approved by Diocesan Council, discuss how you see yourself fulfilling the role, as described, of Diocesan Bishop. (*Response length, maximum 1000 words*)

Three themes emerge regarding the work and ministry of Diocesan Bishop and how I see myself fulfilling that role: Shepherd, Steward and Sage.

### **Shepherd**

The Bishop's crozier, modeled after a shepherd's crook, symbolizes the Bishop's role as chief pastor or shepherd, one who nourishes, supports, encourages, challenges and inspires. I've tried to model those qualities throughout my ministry, lay and ordained. I value people. I like people. I'm curious about people - what motivates them, what inspires them, and how I can help them become more of what God calls them to be.

A shepherd protects and guards the faith and unity of the Church and is a bridge between people and perspectives and theologies and differences, one who maintains unity in the midst of diversity. As a lifelong Anglican I deeply value the broad spectrum of theology and worship our Church represents and I would do my best to sustain that. I love our liturgy and sacraments; they nourish and strengthen me. I see myself, and others have seen me, as a bridge-builder.

Like Jesus "the good shepherd," whose voice the sheep know and trust, our Bishop must know the clergy, people and parishes of the Diocese deeply to be heard and trusted as a faithful leader who hears their voices. In various parish experiences and my Public Relations work I've been involved in visioning processes designed to hear the voices of parishioners, community members and leaders, and to get to know our communities better. I'm a careful and prayerful listener. I'm a good critical thinker. I've been told I work well with people from other denominations and faiths and those who hold different perspectives. I'm not afraid to lean in when conversations are difficult and there is fear and anxiety, or even conflict.

I know there is anxiety in our Diocese about the future shape of ministry, the future of our sacred buildings, and the future of the institutional church. We need to talk about this openly. In each parish I've served I've begun by visiting, asking questions, listening, and then responding so that people know they have been heard. As your Bishop I would hope to have a listening tour of the Diocese over time to hear people's concerns and hopes so that, with the support of our Diocesan staff and resources, we can respond faithfully and effectively. Parish ministry and previous work have given me opportunities to work and minister in diverse contexts with people from all socio-economic levels and ages to build community, collegiality and trust.

A Bishop is also an encourager. The shepherd's crook prods the sheep when necessary. Our Bishop pays attention to changing contexts and circumstances and listens to where the Spirit is

calling the church in this time. I've encouraged parishes to do this hard work and we've emerged healthier, stronger and more deeply connected to God, one another and our community.

While the Bishop is a shepherd, and a shepherd of shepherds (diocesan clergy), the Bishop is not THE Shepherd. That title belongs to Christ alone. Being grounded spiritually in prayer and discernment is crucial in any ministry, as our call comes from God and is sustained by God. Spending time with family and friends, and engaging in practices that sustain good health, are also critical. An unhealthy shepherd cannot guide and lead effectively. My life is grounded in prayer and ongoing study. I have a loving and supportive family and community who call me back to healthy practices when life gets too busy or stressful.

### **Steward**

Given the sheer number of committees and meetings that our Bishop is expected to serve on or attend, a clear sense of stewardship is crucial if our Bishop is to be faithful in living out this call and vocation, while moving us into a more missional mindset and responding to the Marks of Mission. Our Bishop must effectively mobilize staff, resources and time, and not only delegate tasks, but empower others with responsibility to act. That means drawing on others' strengths, encouraging collaboration and offering mutual support. It means affirming and equipping clergy and lay leaders so that they feel prepared for the changing nature of ministry, rather than fearful and discouraged. This is the way I lead and I believe I can engender that in others.

As your Bishop I would also seek to learn from our time of quarantine, so that we can be more faithful stewards of the many resources that God has entrusted to us.

### **Sage**

A bishop is called to be wise. There are many voices and priorities clamouring for attention. Our Bishop needs discernment to determine where resources are most needed, and what kind of church God is giving birth to in our time. Our Bishop needs creativity and imagination to help us draw from the rich resources of the church and the world; to recognize the ways that people are encountering the sacred beyond the walls of our buildings. Our Bishop can help us reflect this abundance and grace. A wise bishop also recognizes that they don't have all the answers and, in humility, seeks the wisdom of others. I've worked hard to live out this kind of hopeful and courageous and collaborative leadership in parish ministry and believe I have gifts that our Diocese needs.

Finally, our Bishop needs to be a person of hope. How can our worship and buildings be places where people experience hope? And how can we witness to that hope outside of our buildings, especially in times of violence and isolation and fear? This requires an ability to help people think theologically about the struggles of our time and how God is present in the midst of them. Our Bishop needs to know and trust the story of God's hope for the world. I am deeply grounded in Scripture, which is a constant source of challenge and hope, and I bring this to my preaching and teaching and leading and witness. I am hopeful about the future of the church.

- I. Would you be willing to participate, either in person or by video-conference, in a question and answer period to meet with members of Synod prior to the Electoral Synod? **Yes**