

Bishop
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THE DIOCESE OF QU'APPELLE *Anglican Church of Canada*

February 2, 2021

Dear friends in Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

Though I have not formally written to the Metropolitan, after much prayer and discernment, on Saturday January 30, I gave diocesan council advance notice of my intention to retire, on or around my 65th birthday which is July 6, 2021.

This decision is not taken lightly for it remains a great honour and privilege to serve you as bishop. Age, family, and my own fatigue are factors of course, but I am also aware of our particular diocesan and worldwide situation. As vaccines begin to be rolled out, and the pandemic, God willing, becomes more manageable by the summer/fall of this year, you will require a bishop to help nurture, steer, and guide through the changes that will be lived out and built upon. I have peace with God that I am not to be that person. So, instead of waiting a year, or more, God being my helper, I am intending to step aside in June or July this year to give opportunity for the 13th Bishop of Qu'Appelle to shape a new vision; call the next diocesan synod; be present at the upcoming provincial and general synods; and attend the Lambeth Conference next year.

As much as I have ever discerned the will of God, this seems right. My vision is that a new bishop is already being called to come alongside and take the helm. God has this. And we know we can trust God. Giving this intention well in advance of my actual retirement day, and with diocesan council and Metropolitan approval, it allows for the possibility for a new bishop to come alongside sooner rather than later, if that is the will of Diocesan Council.

I have dearly loved my time in this great diocese, with all of you. A new future now awaits. Until then, by the grace of God, I will continue to lead faithfully, complete the race before me, and remain committed to pray daily for you and the Diocese I love, way beyond my leaving.

Our post retirement plans, subject to the sale of our house, are to move to the UK in the fall. Not being able to be close to my sister or to truly get to know our grandchildren these past 12 years has been a great sacrifice. It is time they get to know Lorraine and me, and it's time to build further the bonds of love we have for one another, whilst serving the Lord in a land of His choosing.

God bless you all for your companionship in the Gospel and God bless especially the prayerful discernment and decisions that will be asked of you and diocesan council in the weeks ahead.

In the words of the Lord, "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9).

As always, I remain yours in Christ Jesus, our great Saviour and Lord.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ R. Hardwick". The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Rt. Revd. Rob Hardwick.
Diocese of Qu'Appelle.