

The Right Reverend
Riscylla Shaw

Area Bishop of Trent-Durham
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

The Incorporated Synod of
the Diocese of Toronto

965 Dundas Street West
Whitby, ON L1P 1G8
phone 905-668-1558
email rshaw@toronto.anglican.ca
www.toronto.anglican.ca

Pastoral Letter to the People of the Peterborough Covenant Churches
to be read aloud:

Christ the King Sunday, November 26, 2017

Dear friends in Christ, grace to you and peace this day.

I continue to give thanks and pray for each and all of you, with hope and trust that the love of Jesus will draw you together in steadfastness and faith.

We are on a journey together in this process of amalgamation and visioning for our churches here in Peterborough. We know from experiences in our lives that changes in our life together take a long time, and that they are never straight-forward.

As we come into Advent, we are reminded of the call to action:

“Prepare in the wilderness, a way for our Lord!”

We are all working to prepare a way ahead.

Some of you have been able to see the vision that we cast for a way to worship together and do ministries beyond the four walls of a particular building.

This vision is a prophetic call to further the missional ministries of Christ in the city, uninhibited by the wear and tear of the current aging building structures that continue to burden us with debt beyond our means.

Some of you have rejected this vision that we cast for a way to worship together and do ministries beyond the four walls of a particular building.

We are continuing to move forward, and we are going to have further conversations with you about how you can cast your collective vision for ministry both in response to the unsustainability of current ways, and in anticipation of being the body of Christ for the city together.

It takes great courage, humility and respect to come towards a vision together, and it is hard to see it. More than survive, we are called to imagine together how we can thrive. I encourage you as we are being invited to step into the future in faith, with love for our God and for our community.

Pray without ceasing. Continue to uphold your clergy and parish leaders in prayer, with care and respect. This is a time of transition and anxiety for all of us. Let us all pray in word and deed for the congregations of St Barnabas and St John the Evangelist, as they enter the implementation phase of amalgamation.

In understanding where we are at, and in the spirit of helping us to get to where we need to be, there will be an information session with our Anglican Diocesan Staff who will come to Peterborough to talk about how to implement **property** and **finance** changes.

This will be on **Monday December 18, 2017 from 11:00 am – 1:00pm**. We will bring as much information as possible in handout-form as well as verbal form, so that it is widely share-able. It will be the first of several meetings of this sort.

There will be many more opportunities to ask questions and get information.

God is calling us to be a vibrant Lutheran-Anglican presence in Peterborough.

Let us respond with love to this call to thrive together and to ‘see with the eyes of our hearts’ – from our Ephesians reading this morning. We don’t always know what “thriving” will look like – there are so many possibilities. Just as people in past generations have done, we are being called upon to consider our legacy.

Let us imagine together:

who & what & how do we want to be Jesus-shaped people in Peterborough?

You continue to be on my heart and mind, and in God’s heart, as you live and work and play.

In peace, I remain ~

+*Riscylla*

Area Bishop of Trent-Durham

Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Toronto

MISSION: To worship God and proclaim Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and to embody—in word and action—God’s reconciling love, justice, compassion and liberation—through which knowledge of God’s reign is extended.