

A Motion for Approval in Principle

From 2001 to 2014 the combined average Sunday attendance of the five Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran parishes in the City of Peterborough has declined from 1,000 to 500; a reduction of 50% in 14 years while over the same period, financial givings have not kept pace with increased costs. Consequently, the decline in congregations and increased costs experienced by all, means that all five parishes will become financially unsustainable.

At an all parishes meeting held in November 2015, Bishop Linda Nicholls established a Commission made up of members from all five parishes and tasked them to review the current assets, resources, mission and ministry of the five congregations and to propose options for reconfiguration that will best use these resources for the purposes of Lutheran/Anglican ministry in the City of Peterborough while retaining the shared and unique Lutheran and Anglican identities and worship.

WHEREAS Bishop Nicholls challenged the Commission to be bold with the faith that God will lead us towards building a new vision for growing the Church in Peterborough, the Commission presented their recommended option to all parishes in their Final Report of October 19, 2016.

BE IT SO MOVED that the Option as recommended by the Bishop's Commission in their *Final Report of Options for the Best Use of the Resources to Support the Mission and Ministry of the Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran Church in the City of Peterborough* of October 19, 2016 to reduce the current five parishes of All Saints Anglican, Christ Evangelical Lutheran, St John the Evangelist Anglican, St Barnabas Anglican and St Luke's Anglican to two parishes, each with a new name, two governance structures, worshipping at two locations be approved in Principle;

AND that the Anglican Bishop of Toronto and the Eastern Synod Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), establish an Assessment Commission made up of two Anglican clergy and two Anglican lay members of Synod nominated by the Anglican Bishop of Toronto plus one Evangelical Lutheran member nominated by the ELCIC Eastern Synod Bishop to evaluate and assess each parish facility, programs and ministries and recommend which two parishes are best suited to implement the recommended option and report their findings/recommendations by May 31, 2017 to the Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran bishops;

AND on approval from the Bishops and their respective governing councils by June 30, 2017, implementation to begin in September 2017.

AND that this process proceeds in accordance with following Timetable:

January 29, 30, February 4 and 5, 2017

- *Open House/information sessions to be held by each parish to review the October 19, 2016 Final Report, receive and discuss the Motion of Approval in Principle.*

February 12, 2017

- *Special Vestries to be held in all parishes to Vote on the Motion for Approval in Principle*

Early March, 2017

- *Anglican Area and ELCIC Eastern Synod Bishops to establish Assessment Commission*

May 31, 2017

- Assessment Commission to report their recommendations to the Anglican Area and ELCIC Eastern Synod Bishops for their review and approval.
- Copies of the Assessment Commission's report to be distributed to all parishes

June 30, 2017

- Anglican Diocese of Toronto and ELCIC Eastern Synod governing councils to approve the Bishop's and Assessment Commission's recommendations

September 2017

- Implementation process begins