

January 15, 2017.

To: The churchwardens and parishioners of the Anglican Churches of Quinte West.

Dear Friends,

This past Sunday, January 8th, your Incumbent, Rev. Steve Timpson informed me by way of email that he was resigning his position as Incumbent of the Anglican Churches of Quinte West and voluntarily relinquishing his exercise of ministry as a priest within the Anglican Church of Canada. His resignation was effective immediately and I understand that his decision was communicated to some of the congregations of the parish during Sunday liturgy.

I had the opportunity to meet with Steve this past Tuesday wherein we discussed his decision and the course of action he proposes to follow. While I do not agree with the course he has undertaken and am disappointed that he felt the need to relinquish his exercise of ministry within the Anglican Church, nevertheless I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to Steve for his service at both the parish and diocesan levels of our diocese over the years. I pray that the Spirit of the Living God will attend both Steve and Marilou as well as their family as they continue to discern the leading of the Spirit in their lives.

My attention is now focused on the next steps to support your parish and leadership as we move into a period of transition. I am deeply thankful for the diligence and care of your wardens and your priest associate Rev. Ada Clifton. We have met a number of times over this week together with the Diocesan Executive Officer, Mr. Alex Pierson, Territorial Archdeacon Ven. Charles Morris and Archdeacon of Ministry and Program Ven. Wayne Varley.

I am pleased to announce that effective today I am appointing Bishop Peter Mason to serve as Interim Priest in Charge of the Anglican Churches of Quinte West. Bishop Peter is well known to the members of your parish and brings a wealth of skill, a deep faithfulness and commitment to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ which will assist you in addressing the issues facing your shared ministry. Bishop Peter has served in the recent past as Interim Priest in Charge of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Picton and prior to that at Christ Church Belleville. He and his wife Carmen live in Wellington and I know that you will warmly welcome them into your ministry together. Rev. Ada will continue to serve as your priest associate and I am deeply confident that, together with your lay leadership, your ministry needs will be well and truly served.

I want to also express my thanks and appreciation to the members of the congregations who took time to attend the "town hall" meeting on Thursday, January 5th. I know that this meeting was difficult for many and the financial issues facing ACQW became wound up with challenges expressed regarding the delivery of ministry and leadership decisions within ACQW. I want to assure you that the financial matters were not the cause of Rev. Steve's departure. It is apparent that his decision to leave was taken some months ago, related to matters of conscience he faced regarding decisions taken at the National Church level affecting proposed changes to the Marriage Canon in Canada.

Please be assured that as together we move into this time of transition, you will be kept regularly informed of the steps being planned and undertaken. You will be held in my daily prayers as we move through this time of transition, committing our future into God's keeping. The Holy One who has promised to be the lamp for our feet and the light for our path has also promised to make His ways known to us and in that assurance we move forward in faith and hope.

Yours in Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Bishop Michael

Dear Fellow and Faithful Members of Saint George's Church

As most of you have heard, the Rev. Steve Timpson, Incumbent of the Anglican Churches of Quinte West, on Sunday, January 8, announced his resignation from our parish and from the Anglican Church of Canada. His reason given was tied to disagreement with the Anglican Church's changing policy and practices with regard to same gender relationships.

As your wardens and thereby your corporate representatives, we were like you, very much taken aback on Sunday by Steve Timpson's resignation. We have since learned that in fact he had been in planning for some time and that his mind was made up many months ago to leave our church. As Wardens, the three of us are of course extremely disappointed that while our parish members were faithfully supporting him in a year that has challenged us financially, his complete allegiance was clearly not with our parish life. That being said, we move on at Saint George's firmly believing that while this is a painful short term setback, there are already strong signs that this will only strengthen our strong resolve to continue to move forward, grow in our faith and in our loving support of one another. It is as well, a blessing that the Bishop and the Diocesan Executive Officer have reassured us that our parish continues to have their full support and that we are being kept in their daily prayers. We are thrilled as well that the Bishop has arranged to have Bishop (Retired) Peter Mason as our Interim Priest in Charge of the ACQW. Peter will help guide us through uncharted waters with his steady hand on the tiller and this alone is a great comfort to all of us. We are also blessed to have Rev Ada Clifton as Associate and Canon Thora Rowe as an Honorary Assistant. It is most important fellow members that we continue to hold fast to our pledged allegiance to the Anglican Church of Canada and all the good things that flow out from that loyalty and faithfulness.

Fellow members, it is most important that we continue to hold fast our commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ, and that we live faithfully within the fellowship of our parish, the Diocese of Ontario, and the Anglican Church of Canada. Let us give thanks for God's blessings that flow from that loyalty and faithfulness.

In Christ,

Your Wardens

Gerry, Heather & John

A Message from Bishop Peter Mason,

My dear friends,

I was pleased to welcome members of the congregation to St. George's on Sunday, January 22; I am pleased to be with you and look forward to our worship together.

As some of you may remember I was the Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario from 1992-2002. My wife Carmen and I live in Wellington, in Prince Edward County.

I have been deeply saddened by the events leading up to the decision of the Rev. Steve Timpson to resign from The Anglican Churches of Quinte West and the Anglican Church of Canada. I know there is a wide range of thoughts and feelings among our parish. I hope to be with you through this time of transition and renewal.

I anticipate being with you most Sundays as well as for two days each week, generally Mondays and Wednesdays, and will try to keep my office door open those afternoons. Please feel welcome to drop in for a chat. In addition you can contact me at home in Wellington at 613-399-5828 or by email at peterandcarmen2@gmail.com.

I am grateful for the welcome I have received from the Rev. Ada Clifton, the Parish staff and other leaders.

Finally let us remain faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ, join together for worship and pray for one another in a spirit of love, patience, and hope.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Peter Mason
Interim Pastor