

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## CHAPTER OF DEACONS

On behalf of the Chapter of Deacons, I wish to acknowledge and thank Bishop Logan for his support of the diaconate in the Diocese during his time as Diocesan Bishop. We have many good memories. We remember fondly retreat for postulants and deacons which he and Marica hosted us in their home. We are excited to be working with Bishop Anna and are grateful for her interest in and passion for the diaconate.

- The Rev. SuSan Gurd Jensen was ordained deacon September 2019
- Rev. Lyn Cawthra., Rev. Heather Cutten, Rev. Wally Eamer, Rev. David Fitzsimmons, Rev. Canon Nancy Ford, Rev. SuSan Gurd Jensen, and Rev. Marg Meisner are members of Chapter. The Rev. Julia Bradshaw is a new honorary member
- The Rev. Patrick Sibley has accepted an appointment out of the diocese effective April 30, 2021
- The Rev. Canon Dolly Beaumont fully retired from her informal chaplaincy of the Chapter in 2020.
- Dr. M. Jane Clelland and Marion Edmundson are diaconal postulants of the Diocese.
- There continue to be people actively discerning a vocation to the diaconate. It is affirming to see people exploring this unique call to service and advocacy.
- Rev. Canon Nancy Ford continues as President of Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada. She was made a companion to the Centre for Christian studies in March 2019. CCS is a national theological school grounded in the tradition of diakonia and has a long history of educating and forming deacons. Rev. Wally Eamer and Rev. David Fitzsimmons both serve on different committees at the centre.
- October 2020 saw the Chapter and postulants engage in a virtual continuing education course offered by Rev. Bruce Bryant Scott on the historic, cultural and theological influences on Anglican ethos and kenotic theology. It was excellent and it is hoped he will offer it again for all interested clergy and laity. Through him we had the opportunity to meet a Church of England Deacon living on Crete. She has since been adopted by the Chapter and joins us for all of our Zoom meetings.

Prior to the pandemic the Deacons were engaged with multiple ministries. These included but were not limited to: relationships with indigenous communities in the Diocese, environmental awareness building, pilgrimage, substance use, addiction and recovery, housing, LBGT2+ advocacy, BIPOC awareness, food security, hospice and community engagement. The pandemic has meant that many of those ministries have ceased or been radically diminished. This current reality has been difficult for everyone. Deacons across the country have mourned the loss of their work and felt helpless in their concern for those made more vulnerable by the virus. However, many have found creative ways to be present to the communities they serve. This has resulted in fresh baking or groceries left on doorsteps, telephone or Zoom support for the isolated or those needing support, making kits for safe consumption sites, education to support those who are dying, providing a virtual voice of advocacy for housing, supporting recovery, making connections, education, and listening for new opportunities to bring the gospel message of compassion. Effectively this has served to turn the virtual world into diaconal opportunities. One global example is that World Diaconia (International organization of deacons) awarded 15 grants around the world. One of those grants was awarded in Greater Victoria to support an addiction recovery program in January of 2021. The seed money has attracted other fund which support several more groups virtual and hybrid. The groups are in high demand. We have been changed through the pandemic. The resilience and creativity demonstrated by deacons is a hopeful sign of things to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Canon Nancy E. Ford

