



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

October 30, 2020

TO THE CLERGY, WARDENS, AND TREASURERS OF THE DIOCESE

Dear friends,

Just over a month ago, I had occasion to write to you about Diocesan Mission and Ministry (DM&M) contributions, shortly after our parishes began re-opening for public worship. At that time, I expressed my expectation that parishes will, to the best of their ability, make contributions for the months in which the DM&M was not invoiced, recognizing the value and importance of these gifts to our common ministry.

Well, I am so pleased to say that the generosity in response to this appeal has been wonderful. In the last few weeks, so many parishes sent along some or all of their usual Diocesan Mission and Ministry (DM&M) assessments for these six months, to the tune of nearly \$660,000 so far. Thank-you more than I can say.

The generous and sacrificial financial gifts joyfully shared enable us to be a Christian community in ways that strengthen the ministry of our parishes while furthering God's mission in and beyond our diocese. This is a distinct charism of being Anglican, and one by which we have benefitted from in so many ways in these last months; our shared Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy application being just one example.

Still, I know that the pandemic has affected finances in ways that are rather unique to each parish. As I indicated I would in my last letter, I have worked with our archdeacons and synod council to develop a supportive and pastoral process to connect with each parish about how they are navigating the pandemic. This check-in will include a conversation about what a parish expects to contribute for the months where DM&M was not invoiced.

These conversations will begin with your regional archdeacon in November. For parishes who believe they may not be able to contribute the amount of DM&M originally budgeted, despite their best efforts, I would ask that they work collaboratively with their archdeacon to set a new mutually agreeable goal, one that is both fair and aspirational.

In this process, we will also seek to wrap around diocesan resources to proactively support parishes who may be especially struggling at this time, as we expect the pandemic to continue well into 2021. Gillian Doucet Campbell, our Director of Stewardship and Development, and Canon Christyn Perkons, our Director of Congregational Support and Development may be part of this conversation.

My hope is that you will find these conversations to be encouraging and supportive. I trust that all parishes will fully and earnestly participate in them, mindful that our Diocesan Mission and Ministry contributions have an impact on our Gospel witness that extends well beyond any one parish.

I remain so deeply grateful for your faithful leadership to the community you serve. Please be assured of my abiding prayers for you and the many ways we are seeking to be the face and hands of Christ at this time.

Sincerely,

Bishop of Niagara