

A Covenant in Ministry among the Clergy and Laity of the  
Anglican Churches of Pictou County (A.C.P.C.)

PREAMBLE

God has created and redeemed us through his Son, Jesus Christ, in order that we might be a new humanity in union with him. A covenant is a sign of God's faithfulness to us, and our commitment, by grace, to love and serve him faithfully all our days. God's covenant is shown first with the rainbow in a renewed world with Noah and his family (Genesis 9: 13).

Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist as a sign of his new covenant (Luke 22: 20), which is a central act of our worship in loving response to him, in the loving community of his Church.

Our ministerial priesthood, lay and ordained, is within the covenant of Christ and his people. This covenant is intended to show the principles and boundaries of our common ministry.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCHES OF PICTOU COUNTY

The Anglican Churches of Pictou County (A.C.P.C.) currently pastorally embraces the Parishes of Christ Church with St. Alban's, Stellarton, St. James', Pictou, and St. Bees', Westville. The population within the parishes' boundaries is comprised of people of various ages, interests, and traditions, most of whom live in or near the heart of industrial Pictou County.

This covenant affirms such documents as the Episcopal Guidelines for Healthy Parish Life, and the Constitution, Canons and Guidelines of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, as well as the A.C.P.C. Vision Statement.

*"Serve one another with whatever each of you has received." (1 Peter 4: 10b).*

As we continue with a team ministry under the leadership of the Rector, the Rev. Darlene Jewers, assisted by the Honorary Assistant, the Rev. Bill White, we reaffirm our desire to know God, love God, live God, share God with each other and the world we are called to reach and to serve; and to continue to focus on developing healthy churches and ultimately a healthier Confederation.

We affirm that the Anglican Churches of Pictou County is called to continue our journey together with a resolve to embrace opportunities for change and the re-orientation of our lives in faithfulness to the Risen Lord, Jesus.

We agree that the provisions of Appendix I shall apply to, and are incorporated by reference in this Covenant.

We commit ourselves to review our performance within the Covenant, and to review this Covenant under the oversight of our Archdeacon formally on a biannual basis.

We, the undersigned, being wardens of the parishes of Christ Church with St. Alban's, Stellarton, St. James', Pictou, and St. Bees', Westville; the undersigned, being the Chair of the Anglican Churches of Pictou County; and the undersigned clergy, being a properly ordained and licensed priest of the Anglican Church of Canada, make a covenant with each other that we shall:

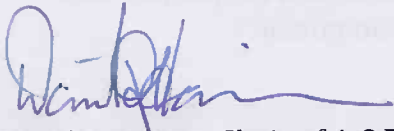
1. Confer with and support each other in Christ within all the work of ministry affecting the Anglican Churches of Pictou County and the wider church, and those whom we can touch with Christ's love presently outside the church;
2. Unite in maintaining pastoral contact with all parishioners of the Anglican Churches of Pictou County.

Together, and on behalf of the Anglican Churches of Pictou County Council; the member Parishes and Parish Family, we make this Covenant commitment on this 19 day of NOVEMBER 2019

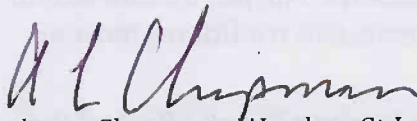


Archdeacon Sue Channen

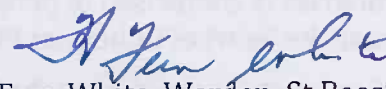
The Rev Darlene Jewers, Rector, ACPC



David Harrison, Chair of A.C.P.C



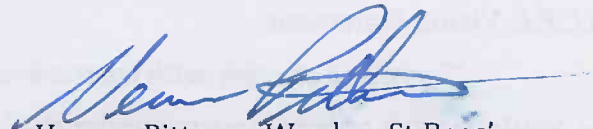
Anthony Chapman, Warden, St James'



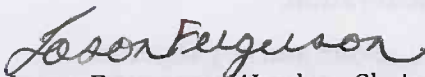
Fern White, Warden, St Bees'



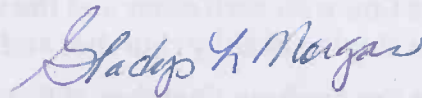
Deborah Beck, Warden, St James'



Vernon Pittman, Warden, St Bees'



Jason Ferguson, Warden, Christ Church with St. Alban's



Gladys Morgan, Interim Warden, Christ Church with St. Alban's

## Appendix I

### MINISTRY, ORDAINED AND LAY, WITHIN A.C.P.C.

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).*

1. By virtue of our baptism, we are all called to share in the ministry of the Church of God. In the A.C.P.C., there are specific ministries led by the Rector, the Honorary Assistant, and the Licensed Lay Ministers. These ministries are described below and support the ministry of all the baptized.
2. The ministry of a priest is described within the ordination service as the work of a "pastor, priest and teacher", which includes "to proclaim by word and example the gospel of Jesus Christ, to fashion life in accordance with its precepts, to pronounce God's blessing, to preside at the administration of holy baptism, and at the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform other ministrations."
3. The office of Rector is a particular calling which is specifically responsible for providing primary leadership and oversight, undertaking the necessary administrative and communication responsibilities, liaison with the wider Church, and overseeing and sharing in the provision of pastoral care, liturgical leadership, teaching, and other ministries. In accordance with ordination vows and the expectation of our Diocese, the Rector is to participate in Diocesan life by attending Clericus and Regional Council and serving in those Diocesan positions as requested by the Office of the Bishop.
4. In the A.C.P.C., the Rector, the Honorary Assistant, and Licensed Lay Ministers generally officiate at worship services, exercise a teaching ministry, provide pastoral care and spiritual nurture, serving the local Church within the Diocese and the universal Church, according to their gifts, talents, time, abilities and energy, as servants of Jesus Christ, throughout the A.C.P.C.
5. The Rector, the Honorary Assistant, the Licensed Lay Ministers and the Chair of A.C.P.C. Council work together as a team under the leadership of the Rector to oversee the ministry of pastoral and spiritual care throughout the A.C.P.C. Subteams may be created as necessary (e.g. for particular parishes or events).
6. The Honorary Assistant shall work according to the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 5 of the Bishop's Policy on Clergy assisting in Parishes (Policy 1.1.16).
7. Licensed Lay Ministers and all lay people have a calling to contribute to the ministry of the Church of Christ. These particular ministries include administrative work, pastoral care, teaching, worship, evangelism, mission, and outreach, and other ministries, according to our talents, gifts, time and energy. Together we support those who are undergoing a process of ministry discernment.
8. To coordinate the forgoing:
  - a. The Rector and Licensed Lay Ministers of A.C.P.C. will meet quarterly.
  - b. The Rector, the Chair of A.C.P.C. and the wardens of the three parishes will meet monthly.

## PASTORAL CARE

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3 [N.I.V.]).*

*Pastoral Care:* Together we are called to bring God's love and compassion to others, to reaffirm and support each other. We accept and welcome our members, visitors and strangers into the life of our local churches. We will follow the loving way of Jesus Christ through hearing and responding to the needs of individuals in our community.

As clergy, we understand ourselves to be pastors, working together with the Licensed Lay Ministers and other laity within A.C.P.C. We affirm the importance of pastoral ministry. This ministry seeks to identify and to serve the needs of A.C.P.C. and the wider community. Among other things, this includes home communions, hospital and homes for special care visitation, home visitation as necessary; provision for pastoral care; counselling; identifying pastoral needs; outreach for social needs; demonstrating God's love; evangelism, self-care, and sharing pastoral needs within the team when appropriate. We identify the need for more pastoral care ministry which will be achieved through the Rector making visitation and pastoral care a priority of her ministry and through the identifying and training of the appropriate laity in compliance with the Diocese SafeR Church Policy.

To coordinate this work:

1. An A.C.P.C. Scheduling Committee comprised of the Rector and the wardens of the three parishes shall coordinate the worship services in all parishes (dates, times, and whether clergy or Licensed Lay Ministers officiate), incorporating the services at the nursing homes and retirement residences within A.C.P.C.; and
2. The Rector and the Licensed Lay Ministers of each parish will ensure that all the services in the parish, including those in the local nursing homes and retirement residences, are covered.

*Fellowship:* We will foster our fellowship as communion with other believers in order to encourage everyone's walk with the Lord. It is the love of Christ that can unite people from diverse backgrounds. We will continue to develop relationships and provide social opportunities which build and strengthen our communities.

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

*"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; worship the Lord in holy splendour" (Psalm 29.2).*

The A.C.P.C. Spiritual Development Committee's mandate is: To further the growth and development of the children, youth, adults and seniors of A.C.P.C, by continually exploring the meaningfulness of prayer, worship, study and outreach in our lives, and then to put all this into practice. The A.C.P.C. Spiritual Development Committee will meet bi-monthly with the Rector.

*Worship:* The Rector has the overall responsibility for the oversight of the liturgy of the Church, under the authority of the bishop. The clergy work with the Spiritual Development Committee, Licensed Lay Ministers, musicians, and other laity for the greater glory of God, and for building up the Church. Our congregations will continue worshipping together at special times in the life of our Anglican community.

We encourage the exploration of a variety of liturgies and music. Our intention is to strive for excellence in worship, with the help of God. This includes contemporary liturgies and music as well as traditional styles. We will teach the purpose of worship.

*"But to each one of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's ' (Ephesians 4: 7).*

*Christian Education and Formation:* The clergy with the laity support opportunities for Christian education, including Sunday School, Bible study, Education for Ministry, and on-going lay training, and through preaching and teaching.

We commit ourselves to providing prayer, support, and encouragement to each other, to the clergy and all lay leadership. We will provide opportunities to teach and to learn the Christian faith, and to equip and nurture our people to live as Christians in the world, such as MORE Mission Schools, Vital Church Maritimes, and Licensed Lay Ministers' Conferences. We encourage participation in ecumenical Christian education events.

*"...For building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Ephesians 4: 12b- 13).*

*Discipleship:* We need to learn and grow in faith. We will seek to provide programs to assist our members as they journey in their faith. Lay people are encouraged to participate and to lead, according to their gifts, with the assistance of the Rector. All are to undertake to model discipleship in their own lives, and to contribute to opportunities for discipleship within A.C.P.C., according to our gifts and time. With love, we will hold one another accountable for our further growth and sanctification.

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35-36).*

*Outreach and Mission:* We share our gifts within our churches, and in the community and the world, sharing with God and returning to him what he has given to us. As one expression of outreach, and as we accept life in Christ through baptism, we are called to share the Gospel in thought, word and deed. We will continue to celebrate the Good News in witness and service.

#### STEWARDSHIP, PROPERTY & ADMINISTRATION

*" Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries" (I Cor. 4: 1).*

*Stewardship:* We will exercise good stewardship so that adequate support, staffing, and facilities will continue to be in place for the provision of ministry within A.C.P.C. We will provide for the proper maintenance of our respective and common church properties.

*"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (1 Corinthians 9: 7)*

*Financial resources:* We covenant to support everyone in the exercise of responsible stewardship, including financial stewardship. To support the ministry of the Church, we covenant to support the proper financial management of the churches within A.C.P.C, and to communicate the financial status promptly and appropriately to the congregations and Synod Office.

*Communication:* We will improve our reporting to the congregations by the Rector and by parish representatives including a written monthly summary to councils of the Rector's work and reports by other laity.

*Healthy Churches, Healthy A.C.P.C.:* We affirm our desire to develop healthy congregations and, consequently, a healthy A.C.P.C.:

- (a) We will seek to know who we are before God;
- (b) We will strive to discern what we collectively and individually are called to do;
- (c) We will strive to provide the resources and leadership necessary to carry out our calling, our vision;
- (d) We will be open to experiencing the power and energy of the Gospel in our worship and our life together;
- (e) We will strive to ensure that the activities of each congregation and our joint ministry within A.C.P.C. make discernible differences in individual lives and in the larger world around us.

#### BEYOND A.C.P.C.

In accordance with the expectations of the diocese, we (clergy and laity) will participate in Regional Council and other diocesan, regional and ecumenical events such as the Pictou County Council of Churches. In the event that clergy are unable to attend, laity are encouraged to represent our congregations where possible and if invited. On the direction of the Bishop, the Rector is not required to attend local ministerials or participate in ecumenical events, but may attend as her schedule permits.

#### Appendix II

Mission Statement: As the Anglican Churches of Pictou County our mission is: "To Honour Christ."

Vision Statement: The Anglican Churches of Pictou County "As we move forward together"

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3: 16)*

Because all people matter to God, all people should matter to us. It will be the ministry of the people of the Anglican Churches of Pictou County to provide opportunities for others to hear and to share in the good news, in as many ways and means as possible and to help them to respond in faith.

This ministry will see those who are committed to Jesus Christ put their faith into action. They will live their faith in the community, working together within the Anglican faith to encourage greater fellowship through retreats, Bible study, Alpha programs, special services, church choirs, Men's Choir, Ministries for our youth (Baptism, Sunday School, Life in the Eucharist, Confirmation, Servers, Youth Groups), Pastoral and Eucharistic Ministries, social outreach, and other congregational initiatives all in mutual support of

each other so that we may grow in love and fellowship, joining together to build God's kingdom in this place. Because we believe that others will hear God's Word presented clearly and creatively in an atmosphere of acceptance, this ministry will see friends bringing friends to share in corporate worship. This ministry will also be dedicated to encouraging former members to return to worship in the Anglican faith, by sharing our enthusiasm, and providing encouragement to others at the workplace, at home, or in any public place. We intend to learn to pray regularly, frequently, and with confidence. We desire that the Holy Spirit will fill all our hearts with a desire and conviction to achieve those things which can make the Anglican Churches of Pictou County living and growing, each congregation being a necessary part of the wider body, and presenting a positive example to the broader community, because people's lives have been changed by God's grace. This ministry envisions a network of healthy church congregations, meeting regularly, and joining together for special occasions, committed to the love of God, and the love of each other. AMEN.

The Vision Statement can be summarized by remembering "M.O.P." — Ministry, Outreach, and Prayer.