

1. What would be your top priority as bishop for the Diocese of Western Newfoundland (Labrador Straits) over the first year of your episcopacy?

If called to serve as bishop in the Diocese of Western Newfoundland, my primary focus in the first year would be to lead the Diocese in a season of reconciliation, spiritual renewal, and reorientation toward our shared life in Christ.

I come with deep respect for the faithfulness that already exists across the diocese. At the same time, I am aware that there are places where relationships have been strained, where there is fatigue, and where trust needs to be gently rebuilt. Such seasons, while difficult, are not without grace. They present an invitation to listen to one another, and to the Spirit and into communion through the reconciling love of God.

My first commitment would be to pastoral presence. I would spend time across the Diocese, listening deeply to clergy and laity, creating space for honest and gracious conversations. My hope would be to listen to people's stories: both their joy, their concerns, and their hope for the church. Healing begins with truth spoken in clarity and with a renewed commitment to walk together.

Healing and reconciliation begins not with programs, but with presence. It grows where there is humility, patience, and a willingness to hear one another deeply. It is about intentionally coming together to create a more positive culture that is characterized by prayer, integrity, trust, mutual care, and community. It is about fostering spaces where leadership is available and difficult conversations can respectfully take place in the spirit of grace. Reconciliation is about moving towards a practical and visible sense of whom God has created us to be.

At the same time, I would journey with the Diocese into a shared rhythm of common prayer, scripture and sacramental life, trusting that true unity is not achieved by strategy alone, but is a gift of the Holy Spirit. As Anglicans, we are formed by our common worship, it is here that we are continually shaped into the likeness of Christ and reconciled to one another.

Our first year will not be driven by quick solutions, but by faithful discernment. Reconciliation is not simply a quick fix to conflict, it is the cultivation of an honest Diocesan culture marked by prayer, reciprocal responsibility, and clarity. It is about rediscovering our shared vocation and renewing trust in one another. From that foundation, we will continue to grow in unity, committed to living, and teaching the gospel.

The priority in the first year would be to lay a strong spiritual and relational foundation upon which the Diocese can move forward united in purpose, renewed in faith, and confident in its witness to the Gospel.

2. Our constitution requires a strategic plan for the diocese. What would be the main components of your plan for the diocese?

As we listen and discern together, I would lead the diocese in the development of a strategic plan grounded in prayer, discernment, and synodical collaboration, reflecting our Anglican commitment to shared governance and common mission. I envision a framework shaped by five interrelated areas of our common life.

1. Spiritual Renewal and Discipleship.

We have faced significant decline in recent years. In such circumstances, we can easily be preoccupied with survival, upkeep, and institutional anxiety. We can lose sight of the spiritual life that provides the church with its direction and strength.

At the heart of renewal is a renewed commitment to Jesus Christ. Before we are an institution, we are the Body of Christ. This priority would deepen our life of Word and Sacrament, encourage intentional discipleship, and equip all the baptized to participate in God's mission. The goal is not mere sustainability, but spiritual vitality.

2. Reconciliation, Inclusion and Belonging.

Walking alongside all humanity with dignity and respect where people feel seen and valued, not as guests but equally important members of our shared faith community is an important component of our existence as a diocese. We must be intentional about cultivating a culture of grace, dignity, and belonging. This includes ongoing work of reconciliation, creating spaces where historically marginalized groups including our indigenous siblings, racialized communities, LGBTQS+ community, and others are heard, and given opportunities to actively participate in our common life. The Church must reflect the wideness of God's grace.

3. Stewardship and Sustainability.

Wise and faithful utilization of resources: financial, environmental and physical, is key to the strategic plan. Faithful stewardship requires courage and clarity. This priority would address the responsible use of financial and physical resources, including difficult but necessary conversations about property, ministry models, and long-term sustainability. Our goal is to align our resources with our mission, not simply preserve structures.

4. Leadership Support.

Healthy leadership is essential. Leadership support for both clergy and lay leaders across the diocese is fundamental in laying the framework of our shared ministry. I would prioritize pastoral care, formation, continuous education, and support of clergy, alongside the training and empowerment of lay leaders. A collaborative model of ministry rooted in baptismal identity will enable parishes to flourish even in changing circumstances.

5. Mission and Community.

We are called to be sent into the world. Our strategic plan must lead us outward. This priority would encourage parishes to discern their local context and respond with creative, relational, and visible expressions of the Gospel. Mission and Community help parishes ask questions like, “Who is our neighbour? What are their needs? How can we help? This includes strengthening partnerships, fostering outreach, and embracing new forms of ministry where needed.

Together, these priorities offer not simply a plan, but a renewed sense of purpose, not as imposed directions, but as a shared response to what we hear God calling us to be and to do. We are called not to retreat, but to move forward in faith trusting that God is already at work in our communities.

3. As a bishop, it would be your responsibility to further pre-existing relationships and develop new ones for the Diocese of Western Newfoundland. How would you work to build relationships with various groups and their leaderships both within our Diocese and across the wider church?

The ministry of a bishop is deeply relational. I would seek to nurture relationships through presence, open communication, and collaboration. I believe that trust is built over time through consistency, care, and honesty.

Within the diocese, I would prioritize:

- Strong pastoral relationships with clergy and parishes, offering encouragement, care, and opportunities for collegial support.
- Collaborative engagement with lay leadership, affirming the ministry of all the baptized.
- Clear and transparent communication, fostering trust and shared accountability.

I would also cultivate a diocesan culture where we celebrate faithfully, address challenges honestly, and pray consistently for one another. These practices strengthen our common life and deepen our resilience.

Beyond the diocese, I would continue to actively, and visibly engage with the Ecclesiastical Province, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the wider Anglican Communion, ensuring that this diocese both contributes to and benefits from the broader life of the Church.

Ecumenical and community relationships are equally essential. I would seek to strengthen partnerships with other Christian traditions, Indigenous communities, and local organizations, recognizing that our witness is most credible when it is collaborative and outward-looking.

I believe the bishop is called not only to maintain relationships, but to expand them with vision and courage opening new pathways for mission, learning, and shared ministry.

Ultimately, relationship-building is about fostering a diocese where people are known, valued, and connected in Christ. It is through these relationships that we become a more faithful, unified, and mission-oriented Church deeply rooted locally and fully engaged in God's global mission.

Conclusion.

I believe that God is not finished with the Church. Even in times of uncertainty, the Spirit continues to call us forward. If called to this ministry, I would seek to lead with gentleness and courage, grounded in prayer, attentive to people, and hopeful in Christ. Together, I trust that we can grow into a deeper unity, a renewed faithfulness, and a more visible witness to the love of God in the world.