

A Message to the Church in the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land

Greetings in the name of the risen and ascended Lord, whose return in glory we await.

We, the Bishops of the Province of Rupert's Land returned from the Lambeth Conference, profoundly moved by our encounter with the other bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion and deeply committed to our continuing life together.

As we and the other bishops at Lambeth sought to discern God's call to us, we discussed many painful and complex issues on which we had deep and intense differences. Yet these differences were surpassed by the unity we discovered as we worshiped, prayed and studied the Scriptures together. One of those issues on which we sought God's guidance was the blessing of same gender unions.

A significant majority of the bishops gathered at Lambeth requested that as part of our discernment process the moratoria proposed in the Windsor report continue to be honoured.

These moratoria mean that all bishops are asked to refrain from

1. Authorizing rites for the public blessing of same gender unions
2. Participating in the consecration of a bishop openly engaged in a same gender relationship
3. Engaging in cross-border pastoral interventions

Our Primate, The Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, has requested that we enter into a time of 'gracious restraint' by honouring these moratoria.

We, the bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land, give thanks for the courageous and pastorally sensitive leadership of our Primate. We commit ourselves individually and collectively to honour the moratoria. We do so with the clear understanding that in so doing we are not in any way prejudging the results of the discernment process.

Having committed ourselves to entering into the time of 'gracious restraint' requested by the Lambeth Conference, the Archbishop of Canterbury and our Primate, we call upon all those who consider themselves members of the Anglican Communion to honour this request. We especially call upon those bishops from outside of our Province who have chosen to interfere in our dioceses to immediately cease their activities. We call on all individuals within our Province who have aligned themselves with outside groups to return to their parish family and enter into open and respectful dialogue with us about how their concerns can be addressed and their gifts utilized more fully in the proclamation of the Gospel and the building up of the Kingdom of God.

May the Holy Spirit fill your hearts and lives with joy as you prepare for the season of Advent when we anticipate the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus as Saviour of the world and await his return in glory as the Judge of that same world.

The Bishops of the Dioceses of

The Arctic

Athabasca

Brandon

Calgary

Edmonton

Keewatin

Qu'Appelle

Rupert's Land

Saskatoon

Note: There are currently no bishops in the Diocese of Saskatchewan