



The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

Anglican Church of Canada

The Right Reverend Michael A. Bird, Bishop

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2017

Bishop Michael Bird to end ministry as Bishop of Niagara in 2018

HAMILTON, ONTARIO – The Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Niagara, the Right Reverend Michael Bird, has announced his intention to conclude his ministry as diocesan bishop, effective June 1, 2018. The bishop plans to take up a new, yet-to-be-announced ministry position with the diocese of Ottawa.

“Together, we have embraced so many exciting opportunities, we have faced and met a number of daunting challenges, and above all we have remained steadfast in our calling as God’s people. This time has been marked by a decade full of faith and vision, courage and hope, change and innovation.”

In an open letter to the diocese, Bishop Bird said that the decision, made after months of prayerful discernment, was a difficult one as being diocesan bishop was among the greatest privileges of his life.

As the eleventh Bishop of Niagara, Bishop Bird has borne witness to God’s transformational and inclusive love. He led the diocese to create a new vision for its ministry that includes a focus on prophetic social justice-making, life-changing worship, and leadership development. Bishop Bird is a strong and progressive voice within the Anglican Church of Canada on issues related to the inclusion of members of the LGBTQ2 community, the alleviation and eradication of poverty, the truth and reconciliation process with Indigenous peoples, and the global refugee crisis.

At its next meeting in October, the governing body of the diocese will begin the electoral planning process by selecting a seven-person oversight committee known as the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee. It is expected that an electoral synod will happen in the first quarter of 2018.

The mission of the Anglican Diocese of Niagara is to follow Christ passionately while ensuring the growth of healthy, spiritually vibrant, justice-seeking faith communities. Its ninety parishes serve people in Hamilton and Guelph, the regions of Niagara and Halton, as well as Wellington, Haldimand and Dufferin counties.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Bishop's Letter to the Clergy and People of the Diocese

<https://niagaraanglican.ca/news/a-message-to-the-clergy-and-people-of-the-diocese-of-niagara>

A Brief Biography of The Right Reverend Michael Bird

Bishop Michael Bird was born and raised in Oakville, Ontario, where he attended St. Aidan's Anglican Church. He is married to Susan Bird and they have three adult children: Michael Jr., Matthew and Sarah. The bishop holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Toronto, a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity College in the University of Toronto as well as a Doctor of Divinity degree (*honoris causa*).

MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS:

- 1984 Deacon-in-charge and then Rector The Parish of Burin, Diocese of Central Newfoundland.
- 1987 Priest Assistant St. George's Church, St. Catharines.
- 1989 Rector St. Paul's Church, Dunnville and the Dunn Parish.
- 1994 Rector St. Cuthbert's Church, Oakville.
- 1998 Rector St. Luke's Church, Burlington.
- 2007 Elected Coadjutor Bishop of Niagara on September 30.
- 2008 Enthroned as Eleventh Bishop of Niagara on March 2

Diocesan Canon 2.1 – The Election of Bishops

<https://niagaraanglican.ca/uploads/documents/2015/04/book-of-canons-2016.pdf>

Provincial Canon III – The Election and Resignation of Bishops

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ead6ee_2fceb09ea3046ca992af2cf606af0c1.pdf