



BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF OTTAWA

June 25, 2020

Christ Church Cathedral Churchwardens
414 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 0B2

Dear Friends,

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please arrange to have this letter shared in your parish on or before Sunday, June 28, 2020.

It is my pleasure to announce that I have appointed the Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff to be Dean of Ottawa and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, effective September 1, 2020. This appointment has been made with the unanimous support of your wardens and members of Synod, and I am very grateful to them, and to Archdeacon Pat Johnston for her excellent leadership of the Cathedral in this interim period.

Canon Beth studied psychology at the University of Ottawa and achieved a Master of Divinity degree from the Vancouver School of Theology. She was ordained in the Diocese of Kelowna in 1993 where she served as the assistant priest (vicar) at the Cathedral Church of St. Michael and All Angels until 2001. She subsequently worked for several years in a publishing house, before moving to New Zealand in 2004 to serve as a children, youth and family educator for the Diocese of Dunedin. After postgraduate studies in Social and Community Work, she was employed for several years as a youth justice social worker for Aotearoa/New Zealand Child, Youth and Family Services. Beth returned to Canada in 2010 to become the Chaplain at Ashbury College in Ottawa, and, since 2013, has served as the incumbent of the Parish of St. John's Elgin Street.

Beth is a highly regarded senior priest, and her candidacy for this appointment was strongly endorsed by international, national and local references, who consistently mentioned her exceptional abilities as a leader, pastor, liturgist and preacher. Apart from her many gifts for ministry, and the experience she has gained from serving in different parts of the world, Beth was raised in a farming family near Shawville, Quebec, and her down-to-earth personality and warm, fun-loving nature has endeared her to colleagues, parishioners and friends across our diocese.

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I believe the Holy Spirit has guided the Church to call Beth to serve as Dean and Rector of our Cathedral at this time; and that she, in turn, feels genuinely called to this ministry among us. I know you will warmly welcome her into the vibrant life and ministry of the cathedral community. Along with Canon Hilary Murray, Canon Doug Richards, excellent musical and administrative staff, and dozens of gifted lay people, our Cathedral will continue to glorify God with strength and joy.

With my love and kindest blessings to you all,

Yours in Christ,



The Rt. Rev. Shane A.D. Parker
Bishop of Ottawa

SADP/hnp

Copy: The Rev. Canon Beth Bretzlaff
The Ven. Pat Johnston
The Ven. Linda Hill
Territorial Archdeacons
Director of Community Ministries
Director of Financial Ministry

Director of Human Resources
Director of Stewardship Development
Diocesan Payroll
Crosstalk
Diocesan Archives