



BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF OTTAWA

October 12, 2022

Statement from Bishop Shane Concerning the Fire at St. Luke's Church in Ottawa

On Tuesday, October 11, 2022 fire broke out in the east transept of St. Luke's Church on Somerset Street West in Ottawa, causing major and extensive damage to the sanctuary and nave, and widespread water damage in the basement area where St. Luke's Table operates. Fortunately, no one was injured; unfortunately, the building cannot be used by the congregation or the day program any time soon.

This is especially sad for the congregation of St. Luke's, as they will be celebrating their 150th anniversary on October 16, including 100 years in the building itself. Bishop John Chapman, who has been providing pastoral leadership to the congregation in a period of intentional discernment, quickly arranged for them to meet on Sundays in the Chapel of All Saints Westboro until the way forward becomes clear.

St. Luke's Table will be temporarily accommodated at a sister location, The Well, in the Church of St. John the Evangelist on Somerset Street West, and its staff will adjust their operations in order to continue serving participants to the greatest extent possible.

The congregation and day program are receiving significant support from Ascension House staff as major property, financial, and insurance issues are addressed. At this time there is no call for further support, but prayers and expressions of care and thoughtful solidarity would be most welcome by members of the St. Luke's congregation and the staff and participants at St. Luke's Table.