



# The Diocese of Huron

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Todd Townshend  
Bishop of Huron

January 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

I give thanks to God for you and pray for you every day, and wish you every blessing as you prepare for your annual meetings of Vestry.

It is an uncertain time, to say the least. Many continue to feel anxious about the future—and we should, in some ways. At the same time, our Christian faith compels us to center our lives in Christ and to live and act according to the way of his kingdom and his reign. This reign is real—and it is not out somewhere out in the future. It is now. This means that there will be a necessary weeping, confession, and acts of resistance until the fullness of time.

We also know this: God the Creator of the universe has a great dream, a plan, a design for the whole creation. It is the reconciliation of all things in Christ. This is the sure “end”, or outcome, of all that is. Our individual and communal speech and acts, done in faith, are signs to the world of this great truth, above all truths. Thanks be to God.

The primary work of an annual church meeting is to build up the witnessing work of the church for the sake of the world around us. Our constant goal is to deeply understand what being church is, and needs to be, for this time and place. It is time to assess the resources you have and the mission in which you participate.

Our Diocesan Plan is entitled “Turning to Grace” because that is what we do. In everything, we turn to God, find grace, and recognize that “it” is more than we need, more that we asked for, or even imagined. I encourage you to find ways in which your life together is aligned to the elements of this promise and/or to be challenged by it. I pray that you will continue to find hope, peace, strength, and encouragement in the face of Christ our Lord.

I am not just thanking God for you and praying for you, I am cheering for you. The world needs what we do—and you have been faithfully doing ministry in your community for a long time. May the Holy Spirit deliver you from all that draws you from the love of God, may the Holy Spirit fill you with the divine, life-giving Spirit, and may the Holy Spirit send you into the world in witness to the love of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Peace in Christ,

**The Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend**  
Bishop of Huron