

Question 1: Describe your understanding of the Bishop Ordinary's ministry.

The Bishop Ordinary's primary role is to be a pastor to the AMO chaplains and laity across Canada and their families. It is crucial for the bishop to seek regular contact with the chaplains and laity as a source of spiritual counsel and support. As a chaplain, I appreciated the pastoral care I received from the bishop. As Bishop Ordinary, I would welcome chaplains and lay people reaching out to me. The Bishop Ordinary visits Anglican communities across the CAF to worship with them and make personal connections. The Bishop Ordinary carries the stories of the AMO to the national Church.

The Bishop Ordinary connects the chaplains of the Ordinariate to the national Church to provide support and accountability, ensuring that chaplains function in accordance with the traditions and policies of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC). The Bishop Ordinary is a member of the House of Bishops (HoB). That means this individual can represent the work of the chaplains to the HoB and promote recruitment from across Canada, being mindful that most dioceses in the ACC are short of priests. The Bishop Ordinary is part of the Primate's staff and, as such, the two work closely together. Building the Bishop Ordinary Trust is an important focus for the Bishop Ordinary to ensure the long-term viability of this ministry.

The Bishop Ordinary is a member of the ICCMC, representing the interests of the AMO chaplains and advocating for them among the representatives of the other faith groups. This includes working with committee members to identify the standards by which new chaplains will be accepted into the branch.

The Bishop Ordinary chairs the Bishop's Council where questions and concerns pertaining to AMO chaplains and laity are discussed and planning is done.

Question 2: Jeannine Friesen -Describe your Christian Faith.

Prayer and worship are central to my life; both corporate and private. I use various forms of the Daily Offices to pray. I incorporate other spiritual practices such as Lectio Divina into my life. I find photography to be an enriching spiritual practice. An important part of my prayer life involves intercessions for others. A prayer list helps me remember names and needs. I believe prayer opens a pathway to God. I partake of the Eucharist at least once per week. It is where I get my spiritual sustenance and a reminder that I am part of the Body of Christ.

Following Christ's example, I believe I am called to be a servant wherever that may be. One of the last things Jesus did was to wash his disciples' feet. That is a clear message that Christian leaders should care for their congregations, and everyone they encounter, with the same humility and sense of servanthood.

I believe Jesus is my Lord and Saviour. I try to follow Jesus' example in the way I live my life and relate to others. When I fail to meet that goal, I am certain of His love for me and His forgiveness.

I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and holds everything necessary for salvation. I am forever amazed by how I can read passages I've read many times over my life and still find new insights. The Bible must be studied with the best scholarship available and interpreted by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I believe the Bible describes a God who loves us, and all of creation, more than we can possibly fathom.

Question 3: What would be most important for you when supporting Chaplains stationed at bases across Canada and deployed internationally in areas of conflict?

I will (and already do) hold chaplains in my daily prayers.

As a chaplain, I received support from the Bishop Ordinary when dealing with a complicated, stressful situation. Just the fact that he called me and listened was enough to remind me that he was with me in spirit and cared about me. I understand the demands chaplains experience, and I would seek to support them by being as present as I can be in whatever they are dealing with. I would visit bases to connect personally when possible. I will set up a schedule to call each chaplain, Reserve and Regular Force, on a rotating basis.

I know that chaplain families also need pastoral care. I will reach out to family members as well, if/when that is desired and helpful. I've experienced chaplains and other members of the military (including the CDS!) taking advantage of opportunities to connect with my children and I know how much it meant to them and to me.

When chaplains are deployed, I would continue to maintain contact by whatever means are possible. If I had the opportunity to visit in theatre, I would. I would expect to be informed when any AMO chaplain is being deployed so I could speak to them during the lead up to the deployment.

When supporting chaplains at home and abroad, I would be mindful of their self-care and be interested in knowing that they are maintaining their spiritual wellbeing. I would ask about their families. I would want to know what they are doing to maintain their physical fitness as I always found that was key to feeling my best whether at home or when deployed.

Question 4: Jeannine Friesen - How would you connect with and support AMO laity across Canada?

Visiting bases in person would be my preferred way of connecting to and supporting AMO laity. I would like to work with the local AMO chaplains to create opportunities to worship and socialize with the AMO community. I would also draw on their knowledge to arrange opportunities to speak with anyone wishing to meet with the Bishop Ordinary.

I would aim to connect with each person by phone, email, or whatever is the best method of communication, as time permits. A priority would be to be in contact with lay members who are deployed and I would request to be informed when that is happening. During deployments, I would aim to maintain contact with their families, if desired. As with the chaplains, I would like members of the AMO laity to have the ability to contact me if they wish.

I would like to experiment with using Zoom to gather AMO laity across Canada for opportunities to hold Bible Study or to discuss matters of interest to them.

I would work with Padre Bridgewater to discuss the ways he finds useful in connecting with the laity of the AMO. I'm also interested in discussing what the laity might find helpful in terms of their relationship with the Bishop Ordinary.

Question 5: Jeannine Friesen - How would your ecumenical, interfaith and intercultural experiences inform your ministry as Bishop Ordinary?

As a chaplain I worked with chaplains and military members from other Christian denominations and faith groups. These were formative experiences.

A more recent example of my work in this area occurred last Good Friday when my parish, St Columba, Tofino, organized a Way of the Cross through the town. This event gathered diverse Christian communities on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Local Christians witnessed publicly to the holiness of the day and shared reflections on each station of the Cross. We finished with a lunch of soup and bread at the Roman Catholic church. Though there are things on which we do not agree, this ecumenical event was a time to meet to mark a holy day we share in common and to break bread together.

I was Priest in Charge at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, during the early days of the Gaza-Israel conflict. I worked with the board of the Victoria Multifaith Society (VMS) to organize "Listening Circles". Groups of forty people, ten from each of the Abrahamic faiths, were invited to meet at the cathedral for food and to build community. Each evening, a speaker from a different faith spoke about their perspective on the conflict. We broke into small groups for discussion. The Circles continue today as a way of bringing different faiths together. My work with the VMS led me to join the board and to become its Secretary. As a result, I work regularly with people from a diverse range of faiths which I find stimulating and rewarding.

Bringing people of different beliefs together promotes understanding and respect. As Bishop Ordinary I would encourage all members of the AMO to find opportunities to meet with others from different faith groups. I would also continue to seek those opportunities for myself.

Question 6: Jeannine Friesen - What is important about the Bishop Ordinary's role as the Anglican Church of Canada representative on the Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy?

As the Anglican representative on the ICCMC, the Bishop Ordinary has a responsibility to represent the interests of the AMO chaplains and to be their voice at the table. The ICCMC is the body responsible for endorsing chaplains to serve in the CAF. The Bishop Ordinary is accountable for the endorsement of Anglican chaplains, indicating to the military that these people have the backing of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) and that they are suitable candidates for service.

The Bishop Ordinary's role on the ICCMC includes representing the perspective and policies of the ACC. The role also includes travelling to conferences across the country to speak on behalf of the ICCMC and to answer questions arising from the committee's work.

On the ICCMC, The Bishop Ordinary is involved in discussing issues such as endorsement standards for an increasingly broad range of faith groups. This includes topics such as determining what educational requirements are necessary for a chaplain. While the Master of Divinity was the standard when the Chaplaincy was Christian, this is not a reasonable expectation for a multifaith Chaplaincy Service.

As a member of the ICCMC, the Bishop Ordinary would be involved in discussing other issues like identifying a system of accountability for incoming chaplains. These are conversations I would welcome were I to be the Bishop Ordinary.