

Responses to the Primate's Call Letter: Bishop Ordinary Nomination

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Please respond to the following in writing with a limit of 300 words for each question:

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

My understanding of the Bishop Ordinary's ministry is rooted in a vision that combines pastoral care, sacramental leadership with outreach in serving the Anglican Military Ordinariate (AMO).

Supporting AMO chaplains and their families and Anglican Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and their families is the core work of the Bishop Ordinary. Because of the geographic dispersion of the CAF, this requires an intentional presence through both in-person visits during exercises and base engagements, and regular virtual check-ins. Building relationships with diocesan bishops and parish clergy ensures chaplains and their families are spiritually supported wherever they are posted, in order that they feel known and valued.

Liturgical and sacramental leadership is an especially important work of the Bishop Ordinary. The Bishop Ordinary participates actively in ordinations, clergy gatherings, and worship across within CAF settings and at wider Church and other interfaith times. Engagement in chaplain Regional Exercises, national meetings, and parishes provides opportunities to preside and preach but also to share the story of the AMO. Participating in Sunday liturgies on bases and in parishes CAF Anglicans worship during travel is a practical way for the AMO story to be told.

Participation in the Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy (ICCMC) is another core work of the Bishop Ordinary. This work is collaborative within the ICCMC's pluralistic work and ensures Anglican perspectives are represented and the chaplaincy as a whole is recruiting the right candidates.

Finally, a renewed focus on fundraising by relationship building and telling the story of the work of Anglican chaplains will strengthen resources available for chaplains and laity so that the AMO's mission can remain both effective and sustainable.

2. Describe your Christian faith.

My Christian faith is grounded in a lifelong commitment to spiritual growth, grounded in a Scriptural imagination and a passion for sharing the Gospel of Christ. I have consistently sought opportunities for spiritual formation, both for my own maturity and to be with others in their spiritual pilgrimages. This reflects my belief that the Christian life is one of ongoing growth in grace and transforming relationship with God.

Scripture plays a foundational role in shaping my imagination and understanding of life and what it means to be whole in God – reconciled with God, the word, my neighbour and within myself. The Scripture's images and the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ guide in how I interpret the world, discern God's presence, and communicate the life of grace offered in Christ. This grounding enables me to engage diverse audiences clearly and meaningfully across military, academic, parish, and public contexts.

My experience as a parish rector and military chaplain has formed my faith in helping me integrate pastoral care with leadership and organizational responsibility – they way I have been called to live out my Christian life.

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

My primary priority in supporting chaplains across Canada and in international deployments is fostering a strong sense of connection within a dispersed and demanding ministry. By recognizing the challenges of our community, this approach can learn from other dispersed Christian communities—eg. Anglican Benedictine and Franciscan traditions, and the Nazareth Community—which have been able to develop a sense of belonging and identity. In connecting with AMO chaplains I would emphasize intentional communication with consistent and frequent engagement.

Practically speaking, this support includes regular in-person presence at times of Regional Chaplain Exercises, base engagements and any opportunities to visit deployed members. Being present with one another is a time to provide pastoral care and see firsthand the unique pressures chaplains face. At other times, consistent connecting virtually—through Teams meetings, phone calls, and online formation—maintains connection, encouragement, and support when in person is not possible.

It is also important that chaplains have relevant resources to support others and be supported themselves. National and diocesan resources, and other resources developed by the AMO, can be used for to support chaplains with pastoral, liturgical, and other tools appropriate to their context, whether in Canada or deployed.

For me, the goal is to work toward ensuring every chaplain feels supported and connected both spiritually and relationally.

4. How would you connect and support AMO laity across Canada?

Connecting and supporting AMO laity across Canada requires intentional collaboration, a commitment to using technology, and being sensitive to the realities of military life. Because many Canadian Armed Forces members are posted to locations without regular access to Anglican worship, fostering connection and belonging is necessary in supportive their spiritual lives.

Key to this is building connections with diocesan bishops and local parish priests, especially those near bases and other training centres. By this, the Bishop Ordinary can promote the spiritual needs of Anglican military members and help parishes better understand the unique challenges, including frequent moves from postings, deployments, and an often transient lifestyle which effects their sense of community.

With this is helping CAF members and their families establish stable spiritual homes in the midst of frequent moves. This involves working with bishops and rectors to identify welcoming parishes, be willing to make introductions, and ensure military families feel recognized and valued in local parishes.

Along with this, virtual meetings and ministries can provide an opportunity to strengthen connections regardless of where a member and their family is posted. Building on the ministry the AMO currently offers online, programs during Advent and Lent, and virtual "quiet days", are ways the AMO can further its support to CAF Anglicans.

The goal is to create a network of spiritual care that is not dependent on geography, so that AMO laity can feel connected, supported, and able to grow their faith wherever they are posted.

5. How would your ecumenical, interfaith and intercultural experiences inform your ministry as Bishop Ordinary?

My ecumenical, interfaith, and cultural experiences would shape my ministry as Bishop Ordinary by being open and respectful, secure in my Anglican identity, in a diverse context. Since my university years, active involvement in ecumenical settings has shaped my appreciation for the breadth of Christian and other traditions while being rooted in the Anglican tradition.

Relationships with people of other faiths, particularly within Muslim and Hindu friends, have further deepened this perspective. These encounters have strengthened my appreciation of other religious traditions, while also reinforcing my own commitment to the Anglican tradition. It makes sense to me that genuine interfaith engagement comes first and foremost from a secure faith that can be shared respectfully.

My international and cross-cultural experiences have also been an important part of shaping my spiritual life. Ministry in Honduras, Afghanistan as a deployed chaplain, Cyprus, the United States, and within the Church of England has exposed me to the Anglican Communion and other traditions in their cultural settings. And engaging in ministry in Canadian dioceses, parishes, chapels, cathedrals, universities, and theological institutions has made me appreciate and welcome the place of many expressions of Anglican spirituality in Canada.

Through these experiences I have developed a cultural sensitivity, adaptability, and a great awareness of the global Church. As Bishop Ordinary, this would guide my leadership within the interfaith framework of the Canadian Armed Forces, including participation in bodies such as the ICCMC. I would aim to represent Anglican chaplains while building respectful relationships across traditions.

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

The role of the Bishop Ordinary on the Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy (ICCMC) requires advocacy in a national and interfaith context. The ICCMC advises the Government of Canada on the spiritual and religious needs of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, reviews applications to the Royal Canadian Chaplain

Service and advises, when asked, on spiritual policies in the CAF. The Bishop Ordinary ensures that the perspectives and needs of Anglican members and chaplains are represented and considered.

Theologically, I understand this role is grounded in the Anglican commitment to human dignity, rooted in the belief that all people are created in the image of God, understood particularly in the incarnational life of Jesus Christ. This conviction has practical implications: when policies or practices risk undermining dignity, the Bishop Ordinary must be prepared to advocate clearly, not only for Anglicans but for the well-being of all service members.

The role also includes safeguarding the spiritual welfare of Anglican members, ensuring access to meaningful ministry, and promoting environments characterized by respect, inclusion, and integrity. At the same time, it requires active collaboration with representatives of other faith traditions, contributing to a shared commitment to holistic care within a diverse military community.

The Bishop Ordinary's role is one of faithful representation and principled leadership, helping to shape compassionate, just, and effective chaplaincy in Canada's military.