



# The Diocese of Huron

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Venerable Amanda Longmoore  
Western Territorial Archdeacon

March 22, 2025

Dear All Saints', St. Bart's, and CDM leadership,

I'm writing to follow up on our meeting on Monday, March 17th, and let you know of our next steps and timeline.

At that meeting we had some good conversation about our current buildings and started to get a better sense of parish finances. I think the discussion was helpful, and the information prepared gave us a picture of the pros and cons of the buildings that we're considering.

At the end of our meeting we were in a position where we were "stuck", and we decided by consensus (100% agreement from those at the meeting) to ask the bishop to help us by deciding which building would be best as the location for an amalgamated parish in Sarnia. As moving into a new space is not the wish of the leadership group, the options are the current Canon Davis and All Saints' properties.

I updated Bishop Todd immediately after our meeting, and met with him on Thursday afternoon (Mar 20). He is very willing to help as we have asked; I will put our request in writing in the next few days to make it official. The bishop has access to diocesan information including financial and vestry reports, as well as the feedback you provided at our last meeting and his previous meetings with our group. This will help guide him in coming to a decision.

Knowing that our leadership group and parishioners are tired of a worship schedule with rotating locations, and hearing your desire to make a decision and move forward in a timely manner, Bishop Todd and I have put together a timeline for next steps.

The current worship rotation is scheduled to the end of March, and the next 2 weeks will unfold as planned (Mar 23, Mar 30).

**On Sunday, April 6th, we will have one combined worship service at 10:30 am at All Saints'. There will be no 8:00 am service that week, as we would like everyone to worship together that morning. Bishop Todd will be with us to celebrate; I will be with you as well and the bishop has asked me to preach.**

**Following worship, all 3 parishes will hold a Special Vestry meeting. We will begin with time together as a group with Bishop Todd, where he will both share his decision about which building would be used for worship going forward, and the wording for our vestry motion as a result of that decision. We will have time for questions for clarification, and then each parish will be given the same motion for voting. Parishes will break off separately for the vote and to receive the results of their vote by parish, and then everyone will gather back again as a group to share results.**

A Special Vestry meeting is a single-issue meeting, so the motion will be designed as a yes / no vote, either in favour or opposed to the proposal to join together and worship in the building chosen by the bishop (Canon Davis or All Saints').

The **requirements for eligibility to vote** at a Special Vestry meeting are the same as our annual Vestry meetings:

*"... baptized members of such Parish who have reached 16 years of age and who for at least three months during the preceding 12 months of the date of the relevant Vestry meeting have been identifiably involved with such Parish with regular worship, fellowship and financial support to that Parish....  
.... There shall be no participation by proxy at any annual or special meetings of Vestry."*

*- Diocese of Huron: Canon 18, Section 1*

Any Vestry meeting requires notice of the meeting to be announced in worship for 3 successive weeks. This means that our Special Vestry meeting **needs to be announced in worship on March 23, March 30, and April 6.** Please feel free to share this letter to help explain the meeting's purpose, process, timing, and eligibility to vote.

We are journeying through the season of Lent, which is often a time of wandering and discerning as we move toward the Resurrection. I realize that for many of you who have been involved in this conversation, some for decades, it's felt like a long Lenten journey in many ways. I continue to hold you all in prayer as we take this next step together. Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine!

With thanksgiving for your faithfulness in this work,

