



The Anglican Church of Canada /
L'Eglise anglicane du Canada

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is a joy to greet you as you gather in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia for your 2017 Conference. What a lovely theme within which to pray and learn and break bread and renew yourselves for the ministry entrusted to you – “The Light of Christ Shines”.

I rejoice in the restoration of The Diaconate as the distinct order of ministry that it historically is. I marvel at the multiple ways in which it is lived out – in the liturgy and at the community supper; on the streets among the homeless; in hospitals, shelters and prisons; in welcoming and accompanying refugees settling into a new life in Canada; in building networks with local, provincial and federal governments, other churches and social agencies dedicated to a welfare that is good and right and just for all. I acknowledge with much appreciation your abiding commitment to “interpret to the Church the needs, concerns and hopes of the world”.

In all these ministries you are holding the Christ light for so many. You honour their dignity and rights as human beings. You feed them and free them from those who would abuse, oppress or enslave them. You clothe and comfort them. You visit them and you advocate for them. Yours is truly a ministry of turning people's darkness to light, their despair to hope.

Thank you for all you do enabling our beloved Church to live out its call to serve God's mission in the world.

I pray your gathering is blessed by the hovering and leading of the Holy Spirit and that you will go home refreshed for every good work to which the Lord continues to call you.

In His Love,

I am,

Sincerely yours,

Fred J. Hiltz
Archbishop and Primate