



Episcopal Office, Diocese of Ottawa
Anglican Church of Canada

Bureau épiscopal, Diocèse d'Ottawa
L'Eglise anglicane du Canada

The Right Reverend John H. Chapman
Bishop of Ottawa

Son Excellence Monseigneur John H. Chapman
Évêque d'Ottawa

*With God's grace, the mission of our ministries
is to enable people to know Jesus Christ,
to live and share the good news,
to grow in faith, and to serve God's world.*

September 10, 2019

A Statement from the Rt. Rev. John H Chapman Regarding his Retirement

It is with mixed emotions that I am announcing my intention to retire as Diocesan Bishop of Ottawa effective April 30, 2020.

In April of next year I will have reached the age of 66 years, recovered successfully from some health challenges, and I will have completed 42 years of ordained ministry. For the past 13 years I have had the honour of serving as the Diocesan Bishop of Ottawa.

God has been gracious to me allowing me to serve our Church in such various ways including parish ministry in the Diocese of Huron, as a faculty member and Dean of Theology at Huron University College, and most recently as Bishop of the Diocese of Ottawa. What a blessed vocational life I have enjoyed!

Now is time for me to step down from "titled" responsibilities or appointments and make myself available to the Church in a less formal manner, though I pray as vital as I am able. I would like to allow the Diocese to move forward with the energy and vision a new Bishop and leader will provide as he or she begins work. The new Bishop will inherit a diocese that is open, creative, inclusive, deeply committed to Jesus, and blessed with talented clergy and lay leadership.

It is the right time. Much of the work outlined by our last many Synods, and The Embracing God's Future Roadmap has either been completed, implemented, or is well under way. We as a diocese are moving into a time of readiness for yet another full and comprehensive analysis of the mission God is calling our beloved diocese to embrace over the next 10 years. New and fresh episcopal eyes will be essential.

My timing also allows the opportunity for Ottawa's new Bishop to attend the Lambeth Conference in July 2020. This is a critical experience for a new Bishop. I had the pleasure shortly after my election to attend Lambeth 2008. I had the invaluable opportunity to "feel" and understand the fullness of our Communion and to meet global colleagues. Its impact upon my episcopacy was profound.

While I have served in many positions in our Church, holding a variety of responsibilities, I will say to you with a confident voice, there has been no position, no call from God that I have enjoyed more than serving the Diocese of Ottawa as its Bishop. These 13 years have been a time of joy, satisfaction, pleasure, agonizing at times, and deeply challenging, yet always a time that brought me closer to God and closer to God's people. It has been my honour and I only pray that giving the diocese my best has been sufficient for these times in our Church.

I thank God for the support, trust, love and prayers that I have received over these past years. My prayers will continue to be with the people of the Diocese of Ottawa as they begin the process of selecting a new Bishop and leader.

May God bless the Diocese of Ottawa. I remain,

Yours in the faith of Christ,

The Rt. Rev. John H. Chapman
Bishop of Ottawa

JHC/hnp

Important Dates Established by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Ontario, the Most Rev. Anne Germond:

April 30, 2020

Bishop John Retires

March 14, 2020

Episcopal Election

May 31, 2020 (Feast of Pentecost)

Ordination, Consecration and Enthronement of the new Bishop of Ottawa