

Hello Parishioners of the Laamb,

September 14, 2021

I hope you had a good summer being able to reconnect with family and friends in a safe way. I know that things are starting to reopen more but we still need to be cautious, safe and move slowly as we begin to restart some things in our lives.

At our PPC meeting this past week on September 8, we decided to reopen in-person worship on October 3rd. I know we had talked about reopening on September 12 from the Bishop's recommendation, but our churches were not ready to reopen which became evident by our discussions at PPC and the decision we made together. Our local Archdeacon granted us an extension to the September 12<sup>th</sup> reopening in-person worship. This will give our churches time to prepare our buildings so that we can all be safe and follow the health authorities' restrictions. So please start talking about preparing your churches for resuming in-person worship at your council meetings. It was also suggested at PPC to outline the ways we are working on keeping our people safe at these in-person worship Sundays (or should it be services?). We will do this by talking about ways we are working on being safe each Sunday at each of our on-line worship services until October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The other information that our Anglican Bishop Todd sent to us and this was reviewed agreed to by our Lutheran Bishop Michael. Bishop Michael is asking people in leadership positions to ensure that they have their two vaccines or refrain from participating in those leadership positions.

Bishop Todd's letter stated:

“As Christians, we welcome all in the name of Christ and so the diocese will not be requiring vaccinations for all persons attending worship. However, those in ministry leadership positions have been entrusted with responsibilities which include protection of the vulnerable. For this reason, the following people will now be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to serve in the Diocese of Huron during this pandemic.

All clergy who are presently in an appointment, interims, those who function as honorary assistants and who do supply. All Licensed Lay Readers. All liturgical leaders including, but

not limited to, organists and choir directors, choristers, musicians, lectors, intercessors, Eucharistic administrators, wardens, greeters and servers over 12 years of age. All Sunday School teachers and youth leaders. All pastoral visitors.

To continue in these roles, all persons must have received their first dose of vaccine by September 30th and the second no later than October 31st.

Each parish will maintain a record of the lay persons in these roles with an indication that they have provided proof of vaccination. A trusted person in the parish is to be assigned to visually check each person's vaccination confirmation and record the name of each person and the date of their second vaccination.

Those who are medically unable to be vaccinated must obtain a written doctor's note exempting them from this vaccination requirement. They will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken less than 72 hours before the time they are scheduled to serve in their ministry role. Stipendiary clergy to whom this applies will be required to send to Jennifer proof of a negative COVID-19 test twice weekly. Those who have a Human Rights exemption from being vaccinated for COVID-19 are to contact Archdeacon Tanya Phibbs at [tphibbs@huron.anglican.ca](mailto:tphibbs@huron.anglican.ca)

All diocesan staff will also be required to be vaccinated by these deadlines. While we encourage the parishes to require this of any parish staff that are not in the categories above, that is a decision of the wardens to make as they are the employers.

Some people may feel that this policy goes too far, some will think it does not go far enough. I pray that it will strike a faithful and safe balance while we continue to gather and serve in this time. Please offer one another grace if there are disagreements, keeping each other in prayer and Christian love.

Yours in Christ, +Todd

The Right Reverend Todd Townshend

Bishop of Huron.

When I contacted our Lutheran Bishop Michael, he asked me to tell our whole church family that he stands firm with Bishop Todd with regards to all the above information and he will be available for any of our Lutheran parishioners who want to talk more about these measures which are there to keep everyone safe.

On another matter many of you may have heard about the announcement of my retirement on June 5, 2022. I am announcing my retirement in

advance because I want to do all the work of having a clergy person in place before I leave or two to three weeks after I leave. Our Bishops are in agreement with this and will work at allowing this to happen.

Please know that for Lore and I leaving a parish is one of our most difficult challenges because we have become part of your family. It will be difficult for Lore and I. I am 63 and have served for 35 years in the church. Lore has followed me throughout my ministry and I would like to follow Lore on her dreams and visions for the future of our lives together. Please pray for us and our LAAMB family as we move forward in this new way.

Finally, another very important part of anything we do is our prayers. As we move forward, let us continue to pray vigilantly for the people on the front lines of this pandemic. Those who are allowing us to continue to get the essential things we need and to stay safe while doing it. Let us also pray for those who are not doing well, those who have lost loved ones, our students/teachers and everyone in our educational systems going back to school and those who are fighting for justice to be able to live freely like everyone else. Our prayers are important because we believe that our Lord is with us throughout our lives. Let us look for the new opportunities that present themselves to us so that the good news of our Lord's Kingdom can shine through even the most challenging situations in our lives. Jesus always led by example trying to see the light in every situation. Let us do the same.

Until we meet again. Stay safe, follow the restrictions and may we all help others in our local neighborhoods whenever we can. May God's many blessings go with you so that you can share them with others.  
Yours in the ministry we share,

*Pastor Perry*