



DIOCESE OF KOOTENAY
The Anglican Church of Canada

#201 – 380 Leathead Road
Kelowna, BC V1X 2H8

Bishop's Policy 2.1.5
2013 Licensed Lay Ministry

778-478-8310 ph
778-478-8314 fax
admin@kootenay.info

The Most. Rev. John E. Privett, *Archbishop*

PENTECOST 2013

Pastoral Letter to the Diocese of Kootenay

*“ Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and
renew the face of the earth.”*

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

As we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, I am grateful for the many ways that Spirit is evident in our life together as a diocese. There is a deep commitment to Christ and his Church that is found in our offering of worship week by week, there is a compassionate concern for those in need that is made concrete in numerous ministries of feeding, housing and clothing throughout the diocese. There is a love for one another made tangible in the quality of congregational life and in your support of the Diocesan Family Budget. The Holy Spirit continues to give life and new direction to the Church in Kootenay.

For several years the Archbishop's Committee on Ministry has worked diligently to develop new structures and supports for various ministries across the Diocese. We now have in place programs and policies for Locally Trained Priests, Deacons and Licensed Lay Ministers. Members of the committee represent the diverse geography of the diocese and each of the different ministries. I believe that their work has been guided by the Spirit. I also believe that they have laid the foundation for an exciting and attainable future for ministry in Kootenay. As the context and the shape of our congregations change in the coming years, the leadership of Locally Trained Priests, Deacons and Licensed Lay Ministries in partnership with seminary trained stipendiary priests will increase in importance.

We are now introducing the new structure for Licensed Lay Ministries. The purpose of the program is to provide support and education for a deeply valued ministry; to provide an opportunity for Licensed Lay Ministers to meet with others beyond their own congregation to build supportive relationships, and to facilitate the transfer of Lay Ministers to a new congregation when they move to another community. We will continue to learn and develop our programs and processes over the coming months and years.

Attached to this Pastoral Letter is a copy of the new policies for Licensed Lay Ministries. The transition to our new pattern of education and licensing will take place over two years. What this means is that the only immediate change is that current Lay Ministers of Word and Sacrament will now be called Licensed Lay Ministers. All current licenses will continue until 2015 when they will expire. As Licensed Lay Ministers take one of the weekend educational events over the next two years, their license will be renewed with the new designations. It is my hope that the opportunities for fellowship and learning will support and strengthen our dedicated and hardworking Lay Ministers and also encourage others who might feel called to this ministry in our Church. Further detailed information about those educational opportunities will be made available over the next few months.

I know there may be questions about the future shape of ministry in Kootenay and as I visit parishes in the coming year I look forward to hearing your thoughts and questions personally.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John", with a small cross symbol above the first letter.

John E Privett