

Bishop  
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## **THE DIOCESE OF QU'APPELLE** *Anglican Church of Canada*

October 3, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, grace and peace be with you.

Today is an historic day, a holy day. Diocesan Council fell silent as we acknowledged the Lord in our midst. The vote by Council was unanimous in its advice and consent to the bishop that five Regina parishes, united in purpose and vision, become one parish. One council member after the meeting was prayerfully led to Psalm 150 and shared with me words of appropriate praise. Indeed, *'let everything that has breath praise the Lord'*. Praise be to the Lord, because throughout this journey we have witnessed similar moments of divine blessing for which we are deeply moved, humbled and thankful.

All of you, in the five congregations, know that this is not a coming together simply to manage decline. Rather, this is a holy call, upon a holy people, to birth in our midst a new church. A vibrant, discipling and inclusive church that cares for all. At this defining moment I pray we will all contribute, whatever we can, to nurture this fledgling new church into life.

Together you have already shown great commitment, fortitude and grace for which you are to be commended, especially the many who have been part of the working groups, prayer teams, renewal team, ministerial and steering group. God bless you all. Your efforts have not been in vain for, with God's help, they have led to this moment.

The days ahead will have their challenges, but take courage. God believes in you and has called you for such a time as this. As one who knows too well the pain of leaving church families, and my own family, to move to where God was calling, I would ask that together you find ways to acknowledge the separation from where you have been, celebrate what has been and then, turn with excitement to where God is calling you.

On October 7 I will meet with those tasked to bring leadership to the new parish and will share, from the five names submitted to me, the name of your new parish. For a little while longer you will be one parish with five congregations until the time you become one parish congregation. Until then, important decisions on buildings will need to be made so I urge you to remain vigilant in prayer, trusting in God, and mindful of the call of God upon you.

Please know that many in our diocese celebrate this news with you and will continue to pray for you.

God bless you all

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Rob Hardwick". The signature is written in a cursive style.

+ Rob Hardwick

The Sentence, Collect Prayer and Offertory Prayer for tomorrow, Proper 27, are most appropriate:

**Sentence:** I chose you and appointed you, says the Lord, that you should go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.  
*John 15:16*

Collect: Almighty God, you have built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Offertory Prayer: God of truth, receive all we offer you this day. Make us worthy servants, strong to follow in the pattern of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen