

Cover Letter

Dear friends of the Search Committee,

It is a surreal experience to be writing this letter to you, a reality with which I am still prayerfully grappling. Subjecting oneself to such scrutiny, especially with the objective of our episcopal search in mind, is certainly a daunting matter. However, knowing the faces and hearts around your table calms my spirit, as I know without a doubt that all of you are deeply engaged in prayerful discernment over this matter, seeking God's will and God's will alone, by the grace, comfort, and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud everyone who had a hand in creating the magnificent work that is our Diocesan Profile. It contains a breadth and depth that accentuates the beauty and love embedded in the fabric of our diocese without denying the realities that face us. Anyone who has sensed a call to lead us, and subsequently used the product of your prayerful labours, will surely have felt further drawn towards us.

Thank you for your time and attention considering my curriculum vitae, written response, and the video I have submitted for your consideration. I am praying for you constantly.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad" followed by a small cross symbol.

The Reverend Chad D. McCharles OSBCn

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(redacted for privacy)

Summary of Qualifications

- Experienced rector of program sized, multi-staff urban parishes, as well as multi-point rural parishes, with a love and passion for ministering to all.
- Areas of renewal in these parishes during my tenures include: increase in membership and finances; programs in outreach; child and adult formation; missional initiatives; worship; building restoration and new construction; capital campaigning; servant leadership modelling and engagement from parishioners.
- Excellent spiritual formation in the Anglican tradition, with an emphasis on Anglican Benedictine spirituality (commitment to surrender one's life to God, keeping peace in the Christian community, and regarding every task as prayerful), with a background in a wide range of liturgical and denominational environments.
- Established collaborative working models that facilitate, encourage, discerns with, raises up, and equips others for service and leadership within the Church.
- Demonstrated ability to bring diverse individuals together in a spirit of friendship and respect without sacrificing identity or integrity. Areas of initiative include: programs for isolated seniors, children, and youth; cross-generational faith formation; visitation to all parishioners, especially the distanced, sick, and shut-in; mission and outreach (both locally and abroad); capital improvements; hospitality; ecumenical and inter-faith/inter-denominational partnerships.
- Effective, engaging, and lively preacher with the ability to bring to life Holy Scripture in a way that is challenging, faith building, and connects the dominant secular narrative to the master narrative of the Good News of God in Christ.
- Many years' experience owning and operating the family farm and bakery – fields that require much of the same hard work, dedication, organizational, and leadership skills as does leadership in the Church.

Transferrable Skills

- Skilled group facilitator/chairperson.
- Gifted spiritual counsellor and mentor to all ages.
- Facility with print and web design.
- Inherently good sense of space design (particularly liturgical) and functionality.
- Extensive experience with multiple social media platforms.
- Good singing voice capable of leading a congregation with or without accompaniment.
- Engaging speaker and teacher of the faith.
- Proficient in writing.

- Dignified and competent liturgical style that conveys a welcoming warmth and encourages participation, with a graciousness that affirms all worshipping styles as holy.
- Very personable with an ability to connect deeply and communicate with people of all ages.
- A commitment to living life faithfully and humbly, with a special dedication to hospitality and the love and acceptance of others.

Education

2023 | Course: Being Intercultural Church, Moderated Panel learning model
Prairie to Pine Regional Council, Winnipeg, Manitoba

2023 | Course: Living Reconciliation, The Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Winnipeg, Manitoba

2022 | Course: Stewardship -Called to be the Church, The United Church of Canada Distance education

2022 | Course: Indigenous Spirituality & Community Engagement, Sandy Bay First Nation

2020 | Course: United Church of Canada Polity and Practice, Prairie to Pine Regional Council, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

2020 | Course: School bus driving and licensing, Beautiful Plains School Division & The Province of Manitoba, Neepawa & Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

2020 | Education Module: Anglican Benedictine Spirituality, Ancient Modern Futures, Anglican Benedictine Federation, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

2019 | Mission School (five modules), The Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia & PEI, Nova Scotia, Canada

2018 | Course: Facilitating the Blanket and Mapping exercises, The Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, Nova Scotia, The Anglican Church of Canada,

2018 | Course: Spirituality of Death and Dying, The ELCIC White Point, Nova Scotia, Canada

2016 | Vital & Healthy Parishes Leadership Unit, The Anglican Church of Canada,

Winnipeg Manitoba, Canada

2015 | Course: Pilgrim Year -Lectionary & Christian Calendar, Canadian Mennonite University
Winnipeg Manitoba, Canada

2013 | Leadership & Youth Theology Program (Ask & Imagine), Huron University College & Seminary
London Ontario, Canada

2009 | Clinical Pastoral Education Certificate (CPE), University of Winnipeg (BRHC campus), Brandon
Manitoba, Canada

2008 | Degree in Applied Theology (Magna cum laude),
St. John's College & Seminary, University of Manitoba, Canada

2004-2006 | General BA studies, Brandon University, Brandon
Manitoba, Canada

2002 | Industrial Baker Apprenticeship program, Red River Institute, Winnipeg
Manitoba, Canada

2001 | High school Diploma (Honours), Shoal Lake Collegiate,
Shoal Lake Manitoba, Canada

Professional & Clerical Experience

2022 - present | **Regional Dean**, the Parkland Deanery, The
Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2020 - present | **Legion Chaplain**, The Neepawa Legion Branch #23 Neepawa,
Manitoba, Canada

2020 - present | **Diocesan Executive Council Member**, The
Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2020 - present | **Team Chaplain**, Neepawa Titans Junior 'A' Hockey team,
Hockey Ministries International

2019 - present | **Rector**, Neepawa United- Anglican Shared Ministry, Neepawa, Manitoba
The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2017 – 2019 | **Executive Secretary of Synod**, The Diocese of Nova Scotia & PEI,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Anglican Church of Canada

2017 – 2019 | **Lecturer – The Liturgies of Holy Week**, Atlantic School of Theology,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Anglican Church of Canada

2017 – 2020 | **Committee Member -Canons & Constitutions Committee**, the
Diocese of Nova Scotia & P.E.I., Halifax, Nova Scotia, Anglican Church of Canada

2017 – 2019 | **Chairperson -Synod Arrangements Committee**, The Diocese of Nova Scotia & P.E.I.,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Anglican Church of Canada

2016 – 2020 | **Rector**, The Anglican Parish of St. James', Mahone Bay,
The Diocese of Nova Scotia & P.E.I., Anglican Church of Canada

2016 – 2016 | **Rector**, The Anglican Parish of South Parkland, Dauphin/McCreary/Gilbert
Plains/Grandview, The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2016 – 2017 | **General Synod Member**, representing the Diocese of Brandon,
Toronto Ontario, Anglican Church of Canada

2013 – 2016 | **Rector**, The Anglican Parish of St. George's, Brandon, The
Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2012 – 2014 | **Chairperson -Diocesan Spiritual Renewal Task Force**,
The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2010 – 2016 | **Chairperson -Crophorne Clergy Cottage Committee**,
The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2009 – 2013 | **Regional Dean**, the Parkland Deanery, The
Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2009 – 2013 | **Chairperson -Neepawa & Area Ministerial**,
Neepawa Manitoba, Canada 2008 – 2020 | **Teens Encounter**
Christ Core Team Member,

The Diocese of Brandon and the Diocese of Nova Scotia & PEI, Anglican Church of Canada

2008 – 2016 | **Teen Camp Chaplain**, the Anglican Memorial Camp, The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2008 – 2013 | **Rector**, The Anglican Parish of Prairie Mountain, Neepawa/Minnedosa/Gladstone/Bethany/Kelwood, The Diocese of Brandon,

2009 – 2013 | **Chairperson**, the Anglican Memorial Camp Committee, Diocesan Executive Council, The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2007 – 2008 | **Curate**, St. Stephen's Parish, Winnipeg, The Diocese of Rupert's Land, Anglican Church of Canada

2007 – 2007 | **Administrator**, the Anglican Memorial Camp, The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2006 – 2008 | **Sub-Deacon**, St. Michael & All Angels Anglo-catholic Parish, The Diocese of Rupert's Land, Anglican Church of Canada

2006 – 2007 | **Student Minister**, St. Margaret's Parish, The Diocese of Rupert's Land, Anglican Church of Canada

2000 – 2006 | **Head Baker / Owner / Operator**, Prairie Grain Bakery, Brandon Manitoba, Canada

1983 – 2000 | **Farm Hand / Labourer**, Purdy's Meadowview Stock Farm, Shoal Lake Manitoba, Canada

Ordinations & Clerical Appointments

2021 | Prior of St. Joseph's Anglican Benedictine Canon Community, St. James' Anglican Parish, Neepawa, The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2019 | Prior of St. Patrick's Anglican Benedictine Canon Community, St. James' Anglican Church, Mahone Bay, The Diocese of Nova Scotia & PEI, Anglican Church of Canada

2019 | Professed temporary vows as an Anglican Benedictine (OSBCn), the Community of St. Patrick, Anglican Church of Canada

2016 | Domestic Chaplain of the Bishop of Brandon, The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2015 | Member of the 2015 Episcopal Search Committee & Clerical Secretary to Synod,
The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2014 | Benedictine Novitiate (OSBCN), Sts. James & John, The
Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2010 | Chairperson of Bishop's Charge Committee, 45th
Synod of The Diocese of Brandon

2008 | Ordination to the Holy Priesthood by the Rt. Rev'd James D. Njegovan,
St. Matthew's Cathedral, The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

2008 | Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate by the Rt. Rev'd James D. Njegovan, St.
Matthew's Cathedral, The Diocese of Brandon, Anglican Church of Canada

Speaking Engagements & Special Achievements

- September 2023 - Keynote speaker for the Ecumenical Shared Ministry Implementation Committee for Miniota/Rivers/Birtle/Shoal Lake United and Anglican Churches Miniota, Manitoba, Canada.
- May 2023 - Keynote speaker and retreat leader for the Diocese of Brandon's Women's Retreat Minnedosa, Manitoba, Canada.
- August 2022 - Keynote speaker for the Ecumenical Shared Ministry Implementation Committee for Winnipeg-West United, Anglican, and Lutheran Churches in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
- 2020 to present -Successfully led and navigated the creation of the Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry, bridging the denominational, liturgical, governance, and social differences between the two congregations, with a special emphasis on the strength of our commonalities as our bridge to unity in Christ.
- November 2019 - Keynote speaker for Dartmouth Regional Christian Men's Conference Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

- September 2019 -Retreat leader for the Annapolis Deanery regional retreat Wolfville Nova Scotia, Canada.

- June 2019 - Retreat leader for the Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island Clergy Conference held at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Retreat Centre, Prince Edward Island.

- November 2018 -Group presenter for Vital Healthy Parishes Maritimes Conference Truro Nova Scotia, Canada.

- May 2018 -Facilitator and speaker for Ecumenical Retreat & Conference Martin's River, Nova Scotia.

- 2018 to 2023 -The Creation of two Benedictine Canon Communities, St. Patrick's of Mahone Bay, and St. Joseph the Worker of Neepawa.

- 2017 to 2020 -Engaged in an intentional, thorough visitation program as the rector of Mahone Bay, tripling the number of people regularly attending Sunday worship.

- 2017 to 2019 -Served as the youngest person to ever hold the office of the Executive Secretary of Synod for the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, organizing a synod electorate larger than that of General Synod.

- September 2017 -Keynote speaker for Anglican Church Woman in the Maritimes, South Shore Deanery, the Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island.

- 2013-2016 -Helped to create and lead the Dragon Slayers Youth Group, with a focus on missional initiatives and the spiritual formation of youth.

- September 2015 -Keynote speaker and retreat leader for the Anglican Church Woman's Retreat, Clear Lake Anglican Church Camp, The Diocese of Brandon.

Addendum

I have included this addition to my curriculum vitae to paint for you a less formal portrait of who I am by sharing the brush strokes that colour my faith, passions, interests, choices, discernments, and my daytoday, to give you a broader understanding of the framework that holds the canvass of my life.

Interests

- Faith in Jesus Christ and a focus on family are core values that define and shape who I am and what I do. My very being is rooted in these two tenets of my life.
- Connecting with, getting to know, and building relationships with people of all ages is something that I have always thoroughly enjoyed, and is a core value/strength of my ministry.
- History has always been of great interest to me, including family, local, indigenous, national, and global histories.

- I feel strongly about ecumenism and finding new ways to bring the branches of our Christian family together.
- Architecture, particularly medieval, gothic, and Victorian designs spark a sense of awe and wonder within me through its ability to draw the human eye, mind, and heart toward grander realms, and ultimately, God.
- Creating sacred space, including physical, spiritual, and relational, is one of my passions. From this I have developed a keen eye for designing, reorienting, and making spaces work in the best possible way, for maximum efficiency and beauty, to free the mind, body, and spirit to worship the Divine.
- Campanology, especially the English style of change-ringing, has been a life-long interest of mine, resulting in countless dirty, cob-webbed climbs into old bell towers. I see church bells as a very special way to draw the hearts of God's people toward Him, and to beautify our soundscapes.
- Nature is something that has continuously regenerated and inspired my faith and life with its immeasurable wonders and beauties, which I see as an expression of the Creator's love for us.
- Hiking, walking, and exploring God's creation is something that I do on a regular basis, always coming away refreshed and renewed in spirit.
- Water has forever lured and drawn me toward its powerful, tranquil, symbolic embrace. Swimming, canoeing/kayaking, or simply sitting by the edge of a stream or lapping waves on a shore are times I count amongst my most treasured, and sacred.
- I am an avid reader and enjoy a variety of genres, including historical fiction, mystery, theology and Church history, genealogy, and local community history books.
- Liturgy has captivated and inspired my faith for as long as I can remember, with its inherent ability to transcend the here and now. Out of this I have developed a keen desire to create and lead dignified and spirit-filled liturgy that draws worshippers towards God.
- Woodworking is a hobby and skill I have taught myself over the years, and one that I have come to enjoy very much, especially given its connection to the earthly work of Jesus' hands.
- Baking wholesome, handmade, artisan bread to share with family and friends feeds my soul. I love to express my hospitality and care for others through cooking and baking.
- Music has always been a love of mine, and I enjoy many genres, including hymnody, pipe organ, baroque, classical, symphonic, pop, rock, alternative, bluegrass, Celtic, Ukrainian folk music, and modern Christian worship music. I have played the bagpipes since the age of 7, and dabble on the piano and organ by ear, and only in the absence of an audience.
- I really enjoy photography, particularly capturing pastoral prairie and forest scenes, coastal beauty, architecture, and the faces of my beloved ones.