



## Peterborough Amalgamation Conversation with Bishop Shaw

Oct 1 & 2, 2017

- 1. We in the Peterborough Anglican and Lutheran churches have been going through a process of conversation, consultation and communication around amalgamation of resources, as the ways we continue to do church are not sustainable:** attendance patterns have changed, our communities have changed, the make-up of Peterborough has changed dramatically since the days when we had 7 Anglican churches and a Lutheran church here.
  - Bishop Linda Nichols, the former Area Anglican Bishop, invited you to begin the process of consultation 4 years ago – consultation to re-vision how we can be the church sustainably together here in this city. Since then you have been meeting faithfully and consistently. Bishop Michael Pryse has also invited Christ Lutheran congregation to participate in these consultations and conversations.
- 2. Since then, I've prayed and consulted widely, and a new vision has emerged, that is about our future together here in this city – as faithful Christians, Anglicans & Lutherans living and worshipping and being in healthy community, here together.**

I see us going, in the immediate future, down to ONE building – St John the Evangelist – with several thriving congregations of Lutherans & Anglicans together:

- some in the current configurations of traditional services at St John's.
  - then might we consider a second congregation – starting-up a new missional congregation – who will intentionally go through the process of shaping, strengthening and visioning to do something new together? This could be a supported, strategic, start-up missional congregation in the south-west corner of Peterborough, where there is a growing population and strategic economic developments.
  - This proposal has the full support and encouragement of the leadership in both the Anglican and Lutheran contexts: Archbishop Colin Johnson of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, Bishop Riscylla Shaw of Anglican Diocese's Trent-Durham Area, and Bishop Michael Pryse of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.
- 3. I am inviting you to step into a new role, like our spiritual foremothers and forefathers. Do we have the imagination and desire to come together as one parish and have the vision to create a second?**
    - This will require a resiliency, and elasticity on all our parts – it will be a multi-year undertaking for the building of a new church community - with design, process, city permissions.
    - In the community of St John's, it will require staffing and building-use flexibility, and a whole lot of compassion, understanding, patience and willingness to forgive and reconcile, to work together and to walk together.
  - 4. This is about us and our discerning together where to go from here.** We are a new generation in a new age, a new century, with different needs and changing demographics. Our church must now reflect our society in 21st century Peterborough.
    - We need to go where the people are. That, in fact, is what our ancestors in faith did here: there were burgeoning communities and thriving businesses back in the day, where each of our churches were built.
    - Let's look together – with new eyes for mission – and go together where the people are going to be!

*Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.*

*Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.*