

Church House. If you are unsure if your congregation is in arrears, wish to discuss a payment plan, or have any related questions, do not hesitate to contact our diocesan comptroller, Eloah Roberge (eroberge@quebec.anglican.ca or 418 692 3858).

Insurance

Insurance premiums are a significant and growing financial burden for congregations. If you've been shopping around for insurance of your own, you'll likely know that getting a reduction in premiums is not easy. It is even more of a challenge for us, since very few insurance companies are interested in insuring churches. Nevertheless, the diocese has been exploring options with another possible insurer, who we hope may be able to provide some relief in the cost of premiums, if not immediately, then in the mid- to long-term future. In the meantime, **we are renewing our policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance for one more year**, the invoices for which your congregation should be receiving in the coming weeks.

Deanery Councils

Deanery councils are an important means of bringing together congregations in the same geographic region for information and resource sharing, fellowship and encouragement. To ensure that no communities are left out, it is essential that each congregation have a designated lay representative to sit on the deanery council. If a lay member of your parish served as a member of the diocesan Synod last fall, that person is automatically your congregation's representative to the deanery council. However, **if no lay member of your congregation served as a member of Synod, one needs to be chosen at your annual vestry meeting and their name and contact information forwarded to Church House.** More information about the roles and responsibilities of deanery councils can be found in Canon 11 in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Quebec, which can be found online at quebec.anglican.ca/resources/governance-synod-and-policies.

Discipleship formation

At the Lambeth Conference in 2022, the bishops of the Anglican Communion recommitted our churches to a “season of intentional discipleship.” This means making a more concerted effort to help those already a part of our church deepen their Christian understanding, commitment, and engagement. As a part of that effort, **our canon theologian, the Rev. Jeffrey Metcalfe, will be offering a series of online teaching sessions about what it means to live out our baptism.** Everyone—baptized or not—is welcome to participate. The sessions begin in February. For more information and to sign up, contact Canon Metcalfe at jmetcalfe@quebec.anglican.ca.

Anglican Foundation of Canada

Many congregations, ministries, and individuals in the Diocese of Quebec have benefitted from the generous financial support of the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC), totalling more than \$200,000 since 2010. To help ensure that we are also supporters of the AFC, Diocesan Council is implementing a new policy requiring that **congregations wishing to apply for an Anglican Foundation grant or loan must be up-to-date members of the AFC, otherwise their applications will not be considered by Diocesan Council.** An annual membership contribution can be as little as \$100, but I would encourage your congregation to be generous in supporting this ministry of the whole church which has supported us so generously for decades. Memberships can be purchased online at anglicanfoundation.org/membership or by mailing a cheque to 80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2. Stephen Kohner (skohner@quebec.anglican.ca) is our diocesan ambassador for the Anglican Foundation and can help answer any questions about prospective applications.

PWRDF/Alongside Hope

Another valued ministry of the whole Anglican Church of Canada is the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), which is in the process of adopting a new name: Alongside Hope. While its name is changing, its long-standing mission of working toward a truly just, healthy and peaceful world remains the same. Last year alone, your contributions to PWRDF/Alongside Hope helped provide more than \$4 million in support to development projects and humanitarian relief in 32 countries. As in past years, I again encourage your congregation to make at least one annual contribution to PWRDF/Alongside Hope as an expression of our Christian obligation to share out of our abundance with those in need. Donations can be made online at pwrdf.org/give-today or by cheque to the same postal address as the Anglican Foundation of Canada. Along with a new name, **we've also got a new diocesan representative for PWRDF/Alongside Hope.** Stephanie Fernandes (sfernandes@quebec.anglican.ca) is a parishioner at St. Michael's in Quebec City and is looking forward to promoting Alongside Hope's good works. Don't hesitate to contact her if you'd like to find out more about how your congregation can learn more about this vital ministry of our whole church.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

Sexual assault, sexual harassment, or sexual abuse of any kind, whether involving an adult, adolescent, or child, by or to any staff person, contract employee, or volunteer in the church, will not be tolerated. The diocese's Policy on Sexual Misconduct is available online at quebec.anglican.ca/resources. **To report an incident of sexual misconduct, contact the Designated Officer of Synod, Stephen Kohner (skohner@quebec.anglican.ca) or use the form provided on the website.** The policy's external assessor is Mary Wells, a social worker and the Anglican Church of Canada's representative to the Anglican Communion's Safe Church Commission. This policy, most recently revised in 2023, continues to be a

work in progress, and feedback is welcome. Comments may be directed to the chair of the diocesan Safe Church Working Group, Mary Thaler (marythaler2@gmail.com).

Staff transition

Sean Otto concluded his work at Church House as operations coordinator in December so that he could take up a full-time teaching opportunity in the new year. While Sean will no longer be a member of the diocesan staff, I am glad that he will carry on as our diocesan registrar. In that role he will continue to be available to assist with enquiries about things like parish registers, marriage licenses, property deeds, and orphaned cemeteries. He can continue to be reached about such matters at sotto@quebec.anglican.ca. However, **Sean's departure as operations coordinator means that we are once again short staffed at Church House, and so we ask for your patience during this time of transition.**

'Nothing we do is complete'

No annual vestry letter can contain everything a bishop may want to express to the congregations he serves—or as a beloved prayer puts it, “Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.” I nevertheless pray that as your congregation gathers to reflect on the year past and the year to come, you may do so with equal measures of faith, hope, and love, catching glimpses of God's kingdom—which is both in our midst and still lying beyond us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Myers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B" and "M".

The Rt. Rev. Bruce Myers