

Curriculum Vitae

Rodney Wallace BrantFrancis
13 June 1967

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I am a deeply committed servant leader who finds great fulfillment in helping others grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. It is one of my greatest joys to help those around me find their full purpose in who the Creator has made them to be. I am a practical and logical thinker who gives thorough attention to detail, a dependable self-starter, organized and efficient.

Commissioning / Ordination Information:

Church Army Commissioning as a professional Lay Evangelist: May 1, 1994, Trinity East, Diocese of Toronto - The Right Reverend Malcolm Harding, Episcopal Visitor and Bishop of Brandon.

Diaconal Ordination: September 7, 2006, All Saints Anglican Church, Tyendinaga Ontario - Diocese of Moosonee - The Most Reverend Caleb J. Lawrence.

Priestly Ordination: August 6, 2007, Christ the King Roman Catholic Cathedral Moosonee Ontario - Diocese of Moosonee - The Most Reverend Caleb J. Lawrence.

Employment Information:

Parish Incumbent The Anglican Parish of Tyendinaga ~ All Saints Church and Christ Church His Majesty's Chapel Royal of the Mohawk, Diocese of Ontario since October, 2006. In addition to the usual duties of a parish incumbency there has been, in this parish, an enormous amount of work done in the wider community, the diocese and beyond around healing and reconciliation. Several sharing and learning circles have been conducted, there have been a number of opportunities within the diocese of Ontario and the Diocese of Toronto to talk about the work of reconciliation and the way forward for Indigenous Anglicans in the life of the Anglican Church of Canada. Locally, a lot of time, effort and resources have gone into building relationships with community leadership, the Longhouse (traditional spiritual practice) community, the language revitalization and cultural restoration leaders and many families and individuals who are very distant and far removed from Christianity and the Church. Additionally, in this parish a highly valued online ministry was established in 2020 and has operated faithfully since that time.

Parish Incumbent St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Cree Nation of Wemindji - Diocese of Moosonee - August 12, 2006 until October 30, 2016. Duties included but were not limited to ... pastoral care for all ages, pastoral counseling, monthly communion services at the Elders' Centre, Home Communion for shut-ins, baptism, confirmation and marriage preparation, all liturgical preparation including altar guild duties, funeral preparations including helping families choose the casket and order flowers, casketing of remains, funeral bulletin preparation, children's ministry including work with the community afterschool program, overseeing the worship life of the parish including special events and programs for the Christian Festivals, it is important note here that the worship life of that parish was most often conducted in two languages Cree and English. Therefore, in choosing hymns and preparing worship events multiple prayer and hymn books as well as both Cree and English translations of the scriptures were used. Administrative duties included preparation for and conduct of Select Vestry Meetings and Annual General Meetings – this includes the typing and keeping of the minute books for these meetings, church cleaning from time to time, the Select Vestry in Wemindji in the last few years of my time there conducted its business during a supper meeting – Lisa and I always prepare the meal for those meetings, community events and prayers whenever called upon including the opening and dedication of the Elder's Centre, Band Office, Health Clinic, Grocery Store and many other facilities. Leading prayers and ceremony to cleanse the site where the old clinic was located. Many house blessings. Conducting the swearing in ceremony for Chief and Council. It is important to note that many of these ceremonies have no set liturgy available through the church, so I have had to develop multiple liturgies over the years which fit the situation at hand.

February 2005 - August 2006 Church Army Evangelist in Charge/Parish Incumbent St. Paul's Anglican Church, Kashechewan, Ontario - Diocese of Moosonee.

August 1996 - July 2002 Church Army Evangelist in Charge/Parish Incumbent St. James Anglican Church, Saint John New Brunswick - Diocese of Fredericton.

August 1995 - August 1996 Interim Pastor the Anglican Parish of Westfield - a three-point suburban/rural parish in the Diocese of Fredericton.

September 1994 - August 1995 Interim Pastor the Anglican Parish of Kent – a three point rural parish in the Diocese of Fredericton.

May 1994 - August 1994 Port Chaplain the Port of Saint John, New Brunswick and Overseer Anglican Centre Hospital Hostel, Saint John, New Brunswick. Port Chaplain Duties included visiting crews while onboard their ships, operating the mission house, advocacy work for the some of the sailors who came to port, transporting sailors to from different points of interest in the city. Hostel duties included maintaining the facility, guest care, pastoral counseling, some patient and family transport to and from appointments and other duties as required.

Educational Information:

Church Army College of Evangelism Toronto, Ontario three full years of education and practical ministry training - September 1991 through April 1994. Training included two semesters each year during the first two years with a summer

practicum. Also included during the semesters, along with classroom work and study, were mid-week and weekend ministry placements. Those placements were usually at two different locations during each semester – for example during one semester I served at the Toronto West Detention Centre and at St. Bede's Parish in Scarborough. My third year of training included course work and study and a ten-month ministry placement. During my third year of training I took courses at Trinity Episcopal School of Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

It is important to note here that before my ordination in the Diocese of Moosonee I had to write a "Priests' Exam" as was the practice in the diocese at that time. Additionally, I met with the principal, at the time, of Wycliffe College who reviewed my academics and practical ministry training and ascertained that my Church Army course work contained everything required for a Bachelor of Theology.

Community College, Gander Newfoundland – September 1985 through June 1986
Centennial Central High School, Victoria Cove Newfoundland - June 1985 grade 12 graduation

Pre-Ordination Employment Information:

Commission Salesman selling furniture and appliances. Also retail sales in Jewelry along with Goldsmith work

Deanery and Diocesan Roles and Responsibilities ~ Moosonee:

June 2005 – September 2016 Member of the Diocesan Executive Council
June 2008 – September 2016 Regional Dean of James Bay
June 2008 – September 2016 Member of Diocesan Finance and Property
June of 2011 I was installed a Canon of the Cathedral of St. Matthew
Additionally, I was a member of the Bishop's Advisory Group, Co-chair of the Diocesan Visioning Task Group, Chair of the Canon and Policy review task group, member of the Education grants task group and member of the Ecclesiastical court.

In the **Diocese of Fredericton**, I served on the Diocesan Council for two terms, on the Diocesan Executive for one term and as Clerk for the Deanery Clericus of Saint John for several years.

Involvement in the wider Church:

Member of the Primate's Commission since 2024
Member of the Jubilee Commission since 2024
Sacred Circle/ACIP Finance Committee Chairperson since 2024
Member of ACIP "Anglican Council of Indigenous People" since 2023
Member of General Synod - Diocese of Moosonee - July 2016.
Member of Provincial Synod - Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario - October 2009 to November 2015.
July 2008 - delegate to the international Safe Churches gathering in Woking, England.
Member of Sacred Circle since 2006

Member of General Synod - 2001 to 2004 - Diocese of Fredericton.

Member of Provincial Synod - Ecclesiastical Province of Canada - 1997 to 2000 - Diocese of Fredericton.

Continuing Education/Ministry Development:

Attendance at many clergy days, conferences, seminars and workshops covering a wide range of topics such as children's and youth ministry, prayer, Christian leadership development, church growth and renewal, suicide awareness and prevention, physician assisted dying, etc.

Wider Community Involvement:

Member Crisis Intervention Team - Kashechewan, Ontario. From time to time, I have served as a board member and volunteer at the Community Food Basket, Saint John, NB. Chaplain to the Turnbull Nursing Home. Duty Chaplain to the Saint John Regional and St. Joseph's Hospitals. Board member and Volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages - Mennonite Central Committee. Member of Saint John District Ministerial Association. Clerk to the Saint John Uptown Ministerial Association. Volunteer at Anglican House Bookroom. Camp Chaplain at Camp Medley and Tangier Deanery Camp and for several years was involved, in various roles, with TEC "Teens encounter Christ".

Other areas of interest: concern for and interest in the Aboriginal Anglican Church especially considering the ongoing discussions and work towards the establishment of a full and equal partnership between The Anglican Church of Canada and The Indigenous Anglican Church of Canada. The ongoing social and economic crisis facing many of my Aboriginal brothers and sisters. Reconciliation and healing within the Aboriginal context. Church renewal, mission and evangelism that engages society in a way that has life transforming impacts on the communities in which we live and work - reestablishing the church in the community. The development and use of creative models of liturgy and worship.

Hobbies or recreations: Reading, cooking, story gathering and telling.

To review the work of your Episcopal Search Committee and provide reaction to your profiles is no easy task. I have read both documents multiple times and know quite well the hours and hours of conversation, listening, prayer and writing that has gone into this work. The committee members and folks from across the Diocese of Moosonee are to be commended for their efforts in putting these profiles together. I to have spent many hours praying and thinking about what you have written and what my response should be. Please be aware that these few words will in no way be a fulsome or adequate response to all your efforts and for that I apologize. In order to do justice in responding to your excellent work we would need several days and many hours of conversation, prayer and discernment together so that I can know your heart and you mine for the Mission, Ministry and People of the Diocese of Moosonee. All that being said, I will now do my best, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to provide you a response to your profiles.

Diocese of Moosonee Diocesan Profile Response

Lisa and I made our first trip together to the Diocese of Moosonee in October of 2004. We arrived in Schumacher late on a Tuesday evening after making the drive from Saint John, New Brunswick. Archbishop Lawrence was working late in the Synod office that night and was surprised by our arrival because he wasn't expecting us until the following day. Arrangements were hastily made for our accommodation, and we went to get settled in our hotel. The next day was spent listening and learning more fully about the Diocese of Moosonee and most specifically about the community of Kashechewan where we were going to the following day. Lisa and I arrived in Kashechewan on Thursday afternoon and began the longest interview ever in the history of parish ministry. From Thursday evening until Monday afternoon ... a service was conducted each evening with lots of singing and a sermon, after church meetings and visits in the rectory apartment, lots of conversations and lots of listening, an interment of a still born child filled Saturday afternoon, a Cree service on Sunday morning and another sermon, Sunday school in the afternoon and finally on Sunday evening after the service while everyone gathered for tea again in the rectory apartment came the question which would bring the months of prayer, the days of travel and all the events of that long interview weekend together. From the late George Wesley "Why have you travelled so far to visit us?" Lisa and I shared with those present our answer to George's question and what the Holy Spirit had been revealing to us over many months. Everyone listened intently and when we'd finished speaking George replied, "I understood every word you said and I know why you're here."

I share this story with you because it is an integral part of our relationship with the Diocese of Moosonee and really is the beginning of our journey in that part of God's vineyard. We arrived in Kashechewan on February 1st, 2005, in response to God's call and the Holy Spirit's leading. Neither of us knew then that we would spend 11 ½ wonderful years getting to know the people, the land, the struggles, the joys, the hurts

and the healings of the Diocese of Moosonee. Neither did we comprehend the impact that those years would have upon us and our ongoing ministry formation.

As I read and reread your diocesan profile several times, I travelled in memory to many of the parishes which Lisa and I had the privilege to visit over the years. I could hear once again the voices lifted in song and prayer as people from across the diocese gathered in Great Chapter, for Synod and for other celebrations and times of encouragement and learning. Your profile helped to remind me of some of the great strengths of The Diocese of Moosonee ... **FAITH** ... no matter how big the challenge you keep trusting that God is in the situation and will work all things out for His glory and the building up of His people across Moosonee. **FAMILY** ... the people of Moosonee stick together. You may pray differently, sing differently and speak different languages but you stick together. Through good times and bad times, through laughter and tears, when the option was to separate or stay together and enter a season without a diocesan Bishop you choose to stay together because it was said time and time again "we are family ... we stick together." **FLEXIBILITY** ... one of the strengths of the people of Moosonee is the ability to adapt ... changing seasons, demographics, financial realities, ministry and mission needs have all changed drastically in the past twenty years. However, as your diocesan profile reminds me ... drastic times call for drastic measures. When the people of Moosonee made the decision to become a "Mission Area" of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario under the episcopal leadership of the Metropolitan that was earth shaking stuff in the life of the wider Canadian Anglican church. The financial challenges of the diocese at that time were not unique to Moosonee – many other dioceses were and continue to be in financial crisis. However, Moosonee said this is a drastic situation and we need to take drastic measures. The decision made in that season of life has made possible this new season that you are now entering into and with the Holy Spirit's guidance and God's provision will make possible many new seasons to come. The strength of Moosonee is seen in the people of its parishes and has continued to grow and adapt in the ever changing scenes of life in their communities ... some have stepped up and offered themselves for ministry, some have begun to enter into training programs through the Bishop Thomas Corston School of Ministry, some have recognized the issues of food insecurity in their communities and have stepped up with food and fellowship, the deep roots of residential school have begun to show ever more clearly and tangible acts of reconciliation such as your "Quilts for Survivors" partnership has been birthed. Flexibility and adaptability have always been and continue to be one of Moosonee's strengths.

You are people of deep and abiding faith who's sense of family and ability to be flexible in an ever-changing world has served you well through many generations and will continue to do so in the years to come. The face of Moosonee will continue to change with every passing year. What Moosonee looked like when Lisa and I attended our first diocesan Synod at Northern College in South Porcupine in June of 2005 and what it looks like today are very different. However, we are not called to be people who spend our time looking backwards but we are called by the Creator to always look ahead ...

new opportunities, new challenges, new moves of the Holy Spirit, new experiences of God's presence and power in our lives. All these and many others are wrapped up in the hopes, prayers and work expressed in your Diocesan Profile. May God continue to move amongst you, guide you and speak clearly to you so that you may remember where you have come from, what you have come through and that you may continue to steadfastly move forward in the calling that God has for you in the years ahead.

Diocese of Moosonee Ministry Profile Response

Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with clever speech, but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress people with Christ himself. *Ignatius of Antioch*

As with your Diocesan Profile I have read through your Ministry Profile many times. I have sought the leading of the Holy Spirit and have offered up many prayers in seeking to respond to this well constructed and insightful document in a way that helps you all know me somewhat better. Lisa and I spent many weeks in prayer, listening and discernment before ever agreeing to allow my name to stand for nomination. To allow one's name to stand for nomination with the possibility of being elected ... called to ... the role of Bishop in the Church of God is no small task and one not to be taken lightly. I, like Ignatius of old, do not seek to impress you with clever speech or particular ideas but to share at every opportunity and in every way possible the greatness of Jesus Christ ... what he has done in and through my life and what he is able to do in the lives of every person who is willing to listen to the voice of God and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Your profile speaks of the Bishop as Shepherd ... while the imagery and understanding of shepherding may be far removed from life in Moosonee especially on the coast of James Bay the thoughts and feelings that arise through this imagery are understandable to us all. Jesus, our good shepherd, devoted his life to the care, protection and provision of and for his sheep. It always amazes me – no matter how many times I read it – the Good Shepherd knows each sheep by name and calls them out. Anyone who is called to the ministry and mission of being a Bishop can only shepherd the people in their care to the degree that they are connected to and shepherded by Jesus, the true shepherd of our souls. My calling as a shepherd to God's people has only been effective as I have drawn closer to Jesus and grown in my

relationship with him. I am far from being a completed work in the hands of God but I do know that God who began his kingdom work in me will continue to shape me more completely into the image of Jesus as I continue to trust in Him and seek His will and purpose for my life day by day. The Diocese of Moosonee does indeed need a Bishop who will shepherd God's people well and that ability to shepherd well comes out of the relationship that your Bishop will have with the Good Shepherd through life's journey.

Your Ministry Profile goes on to speak of **your Bishop as “a spirited presider, preacher, and teacher”** I am where I am today because many individuals through the years have engaged me in the worship, preaching and teaching of Christ as lived out through God's church. Those experiences of engaging worship, preaching and teaching have been transformative in my journey with Jesus. Worship, preaching and teaching must always be engaging and life giving ... it must always make the participants want to return at the next opportunity ... be that to Sunday service, mid-week bible study, Thursday fellowship or at whatever time and in whatever way the message of God's transforming love through Jesus Christ is proclaimed in word and deed. This, however, is not limited to the church assembled but is also the calling of the church dispersed. Our daily lives, as the people of God, must be acts of worship and the proclamation of God's Word wherever we may be and to whomever we may be speaking. Others are drawn to Jesus not by our use of eloquent words and pithy sermons but by the presence of Jesus in us and the power of the Holy Spirit flowing out from us. May your Bishop be one that always presents Jesus to people in a such a way that transforms lives and grows God's kingdom across the Diocese of Moosonee. May the Holy Spirit empower and direct your Bishop so that God's church may be nurtured and grow in every heart, home and community across all 560,000 square kilometers of your beautiful diocese.

Your Bishop as a good ambassador for Moosonee ... At this point in my response, I want to switch the order of your profile and pick up on the idea of your Bishop as a good ambassador for Moosonee. Many years ago – actually it seems like a lifetime ago now – I worked as a commission salesman for a major Canadian Department store chain. My income was based completely on whether or not I sold the products that were before me day after day. In order for me to sell those products with integrity and honesty I had to truly believe in the quality and performance of those products. There was no place for fancy sales techniques or convincing words. I had to explain how the products worked, how well they performed, how the company backed up the products that I sold and how

I believed in what I was selling and would indeed purchase them for my own home or for the homes of family and/or friends. If I didn't believe in what I was selling, then my career as a salesman would quickly come to an end because Lisa and I wouldn't have had an income. I share this story with you because it takes no work to share about ... tell the stories of ... be an ambassador for ... something that you believe in. I am an ambassador for Jesus Christ because he is my life and has made me who I am today. To be an ambassador for the people of the Diocese of Moosonee is to tell the stories of their faith, their sense of family and their flexibility in the face of changing communities and ever-increasing challenges. In the telling of those stories your ambassador must invite others to partner in the Ministry and Mission of Moosonee. My sales were only successful when my customers walked away satisfied and happy with their purchase. Moosonee's ambassador may be able to tell the stories well and with conviction but there must be a response from the hearers ... new partnerships of prayer and support must be the fruit of such work.

Your Bishop as a wise mentor in ministry ... thanks be to God for those who have mentored and continue to mentor me on this journey. Elders, priests, lay readers, family, friends, colleagues, children and many others through the years. Many good mentors have spoken into my life to challenge, encourage, question, uplift, transform and influence me for Jesus Christ and to draw me deeper into God's Kingdom. They have not always spoken words that I wanted to hear, nor have they always shared things that I willingly received with an open mind and heart at the time. However, they have always spoken in love, with grace, hope and by the leading of the Holy Spirit so that at the right time and in the right way the fruit of God's Holy Spirit could be more fully brought forth in my life and subsequently in the ministry to which God has called me. Your Bishop as a wise mentor in the ministry of all God's baptized people must always speak in love, with grace and hope by the Holy Spirit's leading so that God's people are built up and encouraged to go deeper in the things of God and the ministry of God's kingdom. I can only mentor others effectively as I am first and foremost mentored and guided by the Holy Spirit who speaks into my life and guides me into the deeper things of God's kingdom. The work of mentorship must be discerned firstly in prayer and in the study of scripture and then carried out through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Your Bishop as an able administrator ... "If you are given much, much will be required of you. If much is entrusted to you, much will be expected of you." *Luke 12:48b*
The Voice Translation

As I have indicated, quite clearly by now I hope, the calling to serve as Bishop in God's church and to God's people is a very serious matter. The Bishop is given the responsibility and work of shepherding and mentoring God's people. The responsibility of spiritual care and building up the Body of Christ are works that demand much time, effort and enormous amounts of prayer. Partnered with all of this is the responsibility and work of caring for and overseeing the physical and temporal resources of the church as well. In reflecting upon this I was drawn to the verse above which speaks to me of the role and responsibility of a Bishop as administrator. I fully believe and accept that those whom God calls God also has high expectations for. In the role of Bishop as Administrator I feel that an able administrator is one who places knowledgeable and gifted people around him or her to ensure that the work of administration is done in the best and most responsible way possible. An able administrator chooses wisely in consultation with senior leadership in the diocese individuals who have particular strengths and gifts in areas which enhance the overall life and work of the diocese. It would be wonderful if I, like St. Paul, could be all things to all people but in reality, this is not possible. Thus, together we prayerfully choose those with whom we can work well with so that the administration of our diocese is done in an exemplary way so that the huge responsibility of administering the physical and temporal things of the diocese never comes into question or under scrutiny. Ultimately, the responsibility of seeing that this is done well is your Bishop's. "To whom much is given much is required." Additionally, it falls upon the Bishop to ensure that administration at the parish level is carried out in the same way. That individuals raised up to administrative roles at the parish level have the knowledge and are provided the training and assistance that they need in order to do their jobs well.

Final thoughts ... I thank you for the huge honour of allowing my name to stand for nomination in your wonderful diocese and for the opportunity to respond to your excellent profiles. I pray that my thoughts, stories and prayers that I have shared in these few pages may help to inspire and guide you in your electoral synod so that God will raise up the individual of his choosing to this wonderful and challenging role.

May God bless you all in the days ahead,

Rod BrantFrancis