

Warden's Message

THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” Jeremiah 29:11

The times they are a changin'! True as much today as when Bob Dylan first wrote the song. This past spring Diocesan Synod approved a resolution to modify Canon 27 for a new name “Licensed Lay Minister.” This issue of the Diakonia will look at this metamorphosis.



One of the people instrumental in guiding our Association through this transition is our outgoing President, Mr. David Harrison. I would like to thank him personally for his wisdom and level-headed leadership. Replacing him is Marilyn Massie Clarke. We welcome her leadership and wish her God's continual blessing as she takes over the top job. Moving into the Vice Presiden-

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cy is Matthew Miller, former Archdeaconry Representative for the Chebucto region. Sherry Smith has been elected to replace him in that role on the Executive. We especially like to thank Shirley Williams who has faithfully served as President, Past President, and member of the Board of Standards for a long time as well as Billie Myers for her many years as Archdeaconry Rep for Dartmouth. We have been – and are - truly blessed.

Yes, the times they are a changin'.

Now to each of you and to all who minister at our churches and who live lives of faithful witness: ‘May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.’

Yours in Christ,
Archdeacon Tom Henderson
Warden, Diocesan Lay Ministers

Note: Additional information from Archdeacon Tom pertaining to the name change can be found on page 5.

President's Message

“Greetings and Welcome”

Elisabeth Andrews, a fitness instructor in Bloomington, Indiana, used to get anxious before every class and worry that she would forget her routine. She writes: "Then one day, when the class was especially packed, we were doing a stretch with our arms in the air and I loudly told everyone over the microphone to 'Keep your head between your ears'. Everyone laughed so hard, including me, and it turned out that a lot of people felt more comfortable asking questions after I had shown my imperfection. As a result I was able to be a better leader and connect with my class."

Linda Formichelli from the Renegade Writer blog;

<https://writetodone.com/5-ways-to-draw-readers-into-your-articles/>

Too true! Too true! Many of us feel much more comfortable in an environment where imperfection is greeted with understanding and we are welcomed in spite of our inadequacies. We experience less anxiety when we know what to expect. Change, whether perceived as positive or negative, challenges us and this year has indeed been an interesting year full of challenge. It is especially true as an affirmation of our evolving role now reflected in our name change to Licensed Lay Ministers. My own thoughts when I learned of the proposed change were “... but I don’t want



to be a minister! I'm very happy as a Reader! As a Reader I know who I am". It wasn't until I understood "Licensed Lay Minister" is a reflection of the unquestionable fact that throughout our diocese our role now encompasses so very much more than "just" reading. This change requires reconciliation, so to speak, of what we were in the past with what we are in the present. That realization made me truly sit up and think! I would be interested in knowing your thoughts.

Moving forward, I'm excited about our upcoming 2019 Fall Conference, September 13th to 15th. It will be held again at the Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre, 67 Reid Road, Stanley Bridge, PEI, C0A 1E0. It is a wonderful, tranquil spot. The topic for our speakers, Kevin Mason, a retired Social Worker and Cheryl Thompson, RN and Social Worker, will be "Grief" - dealing with grief & losses. The reality of loss is something that becomes increasingly relevant as we age and as we are called to deal with it more and more, not only personally, but also in our ministry.

I send my heartfelt thanks to David Harrison, our immediate past President, for having extended his term an extra year. Please join me in welcoming Matthew Miller our new Vice President and Webmaster. We are indeed fortunate to be surrounded by so many talented and committed people. My hope as President is to serve the Executive, the Board of Standards and our community of Licensed Lay Ministers to the best of my ability and, throughout my term, to gain their support and respect.

Wishing you all many blessings and much happiness,

Marilyn Massie-Clarke - President

Vice-President's Message

An Interesting Journey So Far...

It has been an interesting two years, First we, as lay readers, voted to change our name to Licensed Lay Ministers. Bishop Ron Cutler encouraged this name change because the role of the lay

reader has changed. Originally we just read the scripture. Now, we continue to read scripture, as well as assist the minister with services, Lead prayer services, preach, perform funeral services and emergency services for baptisms. We pray beside the congregation, not on the behalf of the congregation .I am paraphrasing, of course, from one of the informative videos found on the old Lay Readers' website. Because we as Licensed Lay Ministers needed to get approval from the diocese for the name change, we had to wait a year for the decision. As we waited, the Board of Standards worked very hard to update Canon 27, Constitution and By-Laws and the Handbook of Standards and Regulations, plus the Executive had to deal with the current issues of the Association.

Taking on the creation of a new website for the Licensed Lay Ministers' Association has been an interesting experience. The discovery of what was on the old website has been AMAZING. I have found books, videos and documents; and explanations of topics in a shortened and easy to follow format – topics which Father Mark has been trying to explain to me for a while. I have found these explanations very important and informative. (Father Mark, who is now Reverend Captain Mark, has been a very inspirational guide, even though, some days we don't understand one another. We are both very forgetful.) It is my hope that the smaller version of the website is easier to understand and navigate. It was only my excavation of the old website that I was able to find such gems to add to the new website. (It really did feel like an excavation.) The new website won't be up and running for a few months but the changeover should be seamless once we have a new web address.



When I first agreed to become the Area Representative for the Chebucto Region, I did not expect the adventure that would take place. Since then I have been at the beautiful St. James Church in Kentville; travelled to Prince Edward Island for the 2018 Fall Conference and to Cape Breton Island in June for the 2019 Annual General Meeting. Even more unexpected, I was elected Vice President of the Licensed Lay Ministers' Association. (Thankfully I found someone to take my place as the Area Repre-

sentative for the Chebucto Region.) It has been an interesting journey of learning, with even more discovery on the horizon. If anyone has any questions for the website, or for the Association please let me know. I will try to answer to the best of my ability and if I can't answer, I will most likely pass it on to someone with more knowledge.

Matthew Miller - Vice President

Warden's Message

LICENCED LAY MINISTER – ANOTHER NAME FOR WHAT YOU DO

*"A rose by any other name would **smell as sweet**"*

William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*

The English language, through the Church, imported the word, "Minister" directly from Latin meaning "servant." It's application for the work of church lies in Jesus's own words to his disciples after he washed their feet on Maundy Thursday: *'Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.'* John 13:16

These echo a similar message in the Gospel of Matthew: *'Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many'* Matthew 20:26-28
Our role as Disciples of Christ is to serve.

We each became a "minister" through the waters of baptism when we were brought into fellowship with Christ and into the communion of his disciples.



What does it now mean to be a **Licensed Lay Minister** in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, now that the Diocese has moved, similar to other places, to adopt this new title to reflect the widening role of the older office of Lay Reader?

A resolution was passed at the May meeting of Diocesan Synod to change the name of Lay Reader to Licensed Lay Minister. Since this affects the diocesan canon the change is now official and legal. The rationale for the change was outlined in the convening circular for Synod:

The Diocesan Lay Reader's Executive and Board of Standards introduced, with episcopal support, a resolution and discussion to change the name of 'Lay Reader' to 'Licensed Lay Minister' to the wider membership at its 2017 Annual Meeting, Christ Church, Dartmouth. This was in keeping with the current trend in the Church of England to refer to its body of lay readers as lay ministers and the recent adoption of a name change in the Diocese of Kootenay. Other places that have adopted this change are the Anglican Church of Australia, the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, and the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa. Particularly, the name change reflects the widening role of lay readers to do much more than read in church, to take on leadership in administration, mission, homiletics, teaching, and other gifts of ministry. The future role is likely to expand further as the church seeks ways to uphold parish life and reach beyond our doors to the world. These are ministries that already engage the laity, but the office of licensed lay minister would consolidate a set range of activities into a recognizable position, one defined by a standardized syllabus of training, a code of conduct and duties, all under the licensed authority of the rector and bishop. A change of name to 'Licensed Lay Minister' would be a more accurate description of the role played by the current title of lay reader which, in regards to the work being carried out, is confusing and misleading. The resolution was passed at the 2017 Annual General Meeting and was adopted officially, under the Association's Constitution and By-laws, after a second vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Kentville.

The discussion at Synod was very fruitful and respectful. A concern was raised over the impact this may have on other licensed lay ministries within a parish, such as parish visitors or Eucharistic ministers. Another indicated that in jurisdictions where the change has been made, a great deal of attention is paid to the training of Lay Ministers. It was suggested we follow suit. Yet others sought vigilance around accountability especially to the

rector and the bishop; hence the need for the adjective “Licensed” in the name.

The motion passed Synod but not unanimously. Several abstentions also were recorded.

It must be stressed that the change of name does not affect the authority or status of the office. **Licensed Lay Ministers** can only do as much and as little as Lay Readers have done before.

Moreover, this in no way undermines or diminishes other ministries in the church. You are still under the authority of an ordained liturgical officer whether that person is the rector of a parish, priest-in-charge, or the bishop. With respect to the wider work of the laity, each of us ought to be supportive and respectful of all ministries since we are all called to build one another up in the body of Christ.

Documentation has been updated. At the Annual General Meeting held at Camp Bretondean on the Mira River a week after Synod, the Lay Reader’s Handbook and the Association’s By-Laws and Constitution were redacted to reflect the name change. Henceforth the Association will refer to the Licensed Lay Minister’s Handbook and the By-Laws and the Constitution of the Diocesan Licensed Lay Ministers’ Association. Everything else has stayed the same. Association certificates along with licenses and documents by the Diocese have been redacted too.

Check the Handbook if you have any questions about your role, vestments, or duties.

It was pointed out and emphasized at the 2019 AGM that the acronym L.L.M. is the well-established designation for those in the legal profession who have Masters of Law. Therefore, to avoid confusion, *the use of the LLM abbreviation is **strongly discouraged*** among our membership. Please refer to one another by the full title, **Licensed Lay Ministers**.

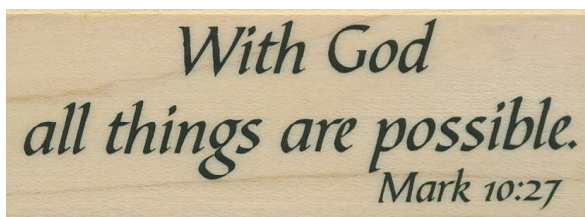
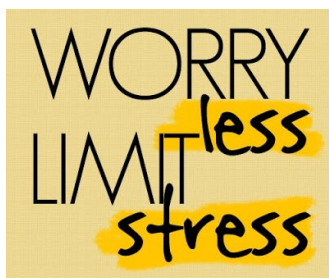
Please note, too, that the actual license for a Licensed Lay Minister is issued by the bishop after someone is trained in a parish for a period of up to two years. Since the title “licensed” does not ap-

ply to those in training it is appropriate to refer to such a candidate as a **Commissioned Lay Minister-in-Training**.

It will take a while for everyone to get up to speed on the name change. Nomenclature is hardwired into us. I suspect the title of Lay Reader will still roll off the tongue as readily as Licensed Lay Minister and the two terms will be used interchangeably, at least for the foreseeable future. Bear in mind there are people around who say occasionally C of E (Church of England) even though that name was officially changed to the Anglican Church of Canada close to sixty years ago. Old habits die hard. The Anglican dioceses in Newfoundland have, for many years, used the title Licensed Lay Ministers. They have the advantage of being a half-hour ahead of everyone else on this practice. Be patient.

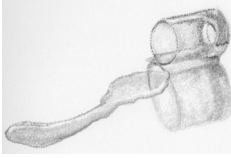
Now without further adieu, “Go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.” Be the best servant you can be. Be the best “Minister” you can be. Be the best “**Licensed Lay Minister**” you can be. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Archdeacon Thomas W. Henderson
Warden, Diocesan Licensed Lay Ministers’ Association



WHAT WE REALLY NEED

“Increase our faith” Luke 17:5-10



A nurse's aide was in a hospital room one day when a patient knocked over a cup of water spilling it on the floor. The patient, afraid he might slip on the water if he got out of bed, asked the nurse's aide to mop it up. The patient didn't know it, but the hospital policy stated that small spills were the responsibility of the nurse's aide, while large spills were the responsibility of the hospital's housekeeping staff.

The nurse's aide decided that the spill was a large one and called housekeeping. Housekeeping arrived and declared the spill a small one. An argument followed over who had responsibility for the spill. The patient listened for a time then took the pitcher of water from his night stand and poured the whole thing on the floor. “Is that a big enough puddle for you to decide who cleans it up?”

We have this need to quantify things. Are my resources big enough to get the job done? Is the office space large enough? The disciples in today's lesson issue one of life's most perennial concerns, “Increase my faith!”



Why is it when challenges come before us we feel our faith is inadequate for the task? Perhaps it is because the human condition looks like a sieve when it comes to faith. We leak. We ooze. Faith drains from us in any number of ways - sin; routine; distractions; fatigue; boredom; most of all, faith fades through the demands of daily living.

The point Luke tries to make is that disciples need outside help if they want to live the life Jesus calls them to live. If faith were an “inside job” – if it could be generated by their own strength – then the disciples never would have asked Jesus to increase it for them. They simply would have turned on the faith faucet and let it fill them up.

Before we can delve deeper into the issue of faith, we need to remind ourselves that there is a difference between what we need

and what we think we need. It's important to be able to tell one from the other. The disciples seemed clear about what they needed. "Increase our faith!" they demanded.

What do we need? Some needs are obvious. We need food to eat, clean water to drink, and some protection from heat and cold. We need sleep, some of us more than others. Other needs are less tangible, but no less real, like friendships, relationships in which we are affirmed. We need a way in which to see ourselves and our world which give us meaning and purpose – spiritual needs.

We think we know what we need. As we look around us, our needs seem so apparent. But what do we really need to live as Christian people, the sort of people Jesus was talking to? Just look at our church. In some cases the building is older and more costly to maintain. We need to provide meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth to our children and young adults. We need to care for our elderly members. We need to spread the word to our community, which has changed over the years. But it all costs money; it's expensive. There is increased pressure on the budget dollar. And so, thinking that we know what we need, we pray for an increase. O Lord, increase the size of our city. Increase the number of young adults coming to our church. Increase our giving. O God, spare us Lord, the pain of hard decisions.

What do we need to live the Christian life? What do we need to grow the church? What do we really need? Here we get back to that word "Faith". Faith for Jesus was radical trust in Abba, personal and intimate – in all things and for all things. It was marked by a wholehearted willingness to trust the Presence in every dimension of life – at home, at play, at work, anywhere and everywhere, in things great and small.



It's not great faith we need; it's faith in a great God.

When our children were small, they would, with complete trust place their hands in our hands, assured they would be led safely across the street. Because of the intimacy of our relationship, our children, were able to trust in us for all things.

For those who place themselves in this kind of position – who yield their deepest selves to Abba – all things are possible. We

need not quantify our faith, for faith is always a gift from God. May the faith that God has given us free us to rely on His awesome power already working in and through us. Amen.

*Taken from the Anglican Digest
(a publication of the Episcopal Church, Arkansas) Easter 2005*

[God] comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:4

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.

Psalms 51:1

The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:17

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.

Matthew 6:6

Praise the Lord; praise God our savior! For each day he carries us in his arms.

Psalms 68:19



From the Editor's Desk

Well, another issue of the Diakonia is ready to flow into your hands! Thanks to a number of people for providing us with content. This is the 16th issue I have been privileged to produce as your Editor. And, as always, I thank my husband, Victor, for his expertise with layout and emailing set up. I pray that the content of this issue will help you understand the new change in our title to Licensed Lay Minister. And, these are just some of my thoughts on the Association's new name and our new title.....

Life comes with very few guarantees, but one of those is that things are always going to change. As individuals in our ministry or as an organization, we must continue to evolve if we are to grow in the ministry to which God has called us. The future looks bright for us in this ministry!

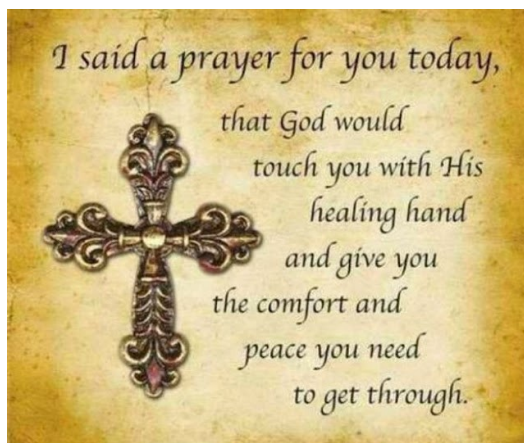
Changing the name of our Association and the name of our lay ministry to Licensed Lay Minister is a way to hopefully reflect the changing role of those who carry out this calling. It is our prayer that there will be a better understanding of the role we are filling as part of the ministry team in our parishes. How exciting is that?

Sometimes, response to change is driven by nostalgia or a fear of losing the history of the title or the work of the association. It is our plan to continue to be aware of the history of our Association, paying respect to the work of the lay readers who led the Association in the past, but moving forward with enthusiasm and excitement for the unfolding of God's new plan for our ministry.

Any time there is change, emotions are involved; we need to be gentle and caring with those who, at this time, are not in favour of the change to Licensed Lay Minister. Remember always that God has called us to "love our neighbours as ourselves".

I look forward to renewing acquaintances as we gather for the Fall Conference in PEI in September. Until then may you continue to be blessed as you meet God in those you call “neighbour” and those you encounter in your ministry.

Yours in the fellowship of Licensed Lay Ministers
Victoria Henrikson



Why Then So Much Suffering

(This is an excerpt from the book “And what if Love were the strongest ...Biblical stories for our times of searching and of hope”, an in particular from the Chapter on Why Then So Much Suffering - By Author: Bernard Menard, O.M.I.; printed with permission.)

Fredy Kunz, Son of Charity, left us with this testimony:

Christ didn't come to explain suffering. He filled it with his presence. And when, through love, you are present to the suffering of a sick person, of a prisoner, of a victim of rape or prostitution, of someone hungry, you become a sign that this person is loved by God - A sign of hope showing that the resurrection is at work today.



Suffering and death do not carry in themselves their full meaning: meaning is always to be found in Life. Every man and woman must find this meaning for them-

selves. Surely the experience and wisdom of those who have had similar experiences before us can help; but, in a certain way, each being is always alone in this struggle and this waiting for a light to shine from within.

Is this what faith is all about? A seed that bursts out in an obscure place and which, by instinct, reaches out toward the light to germinate, to form a stem, a flower, the a ripe fruit? We only know what's in the seed when it undergoes this rupture and these transformations.

How do I react to the heavy blows that come my way or to those that hit the people around me? Do I usually take it all in without flinching? Do I withdraw or close myself in silence? Do I blame others, the system, religion, the police, fate (of course it had to happen to me), or again others? Do I look for the treasure hidden in every event? Do I talk about this with others? Do I listen inside, in a long, fruitful silence?

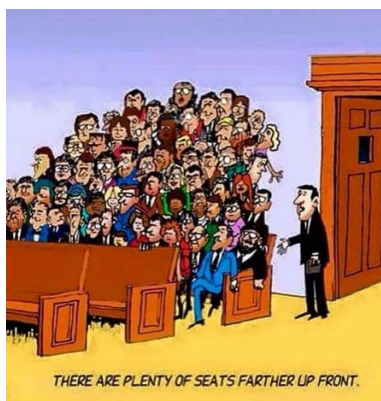
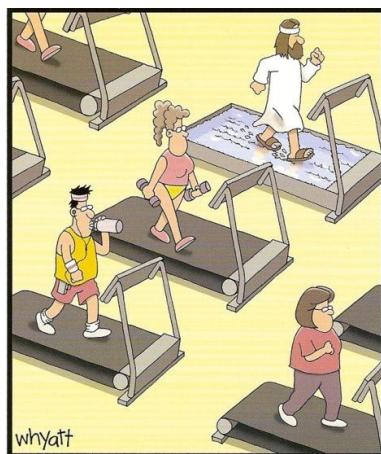
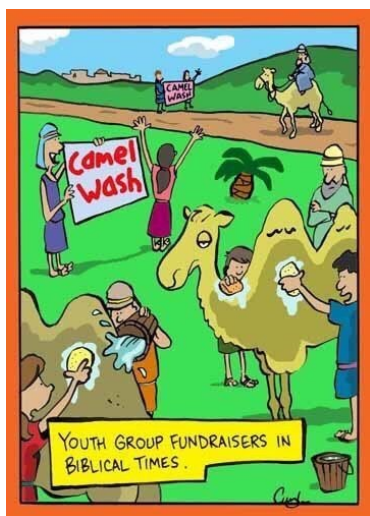
You have seen, oh my God, evil and suffering. You notice and you take them into your hand. Psalm 10 vs. 14

Music and the Fall Conference 2019

This is our plea for those of you who play musical instruments to bring them with you to the Fall Conference. Music and singing is such an important part of Christian gatherings and this Conference is no different. Music brings us so much joy and provides us with an opportunity to praise our God. Your offering would be a blessing in our midst. We will provide some snacks to enjoy as we spend some social time together.

Our thanks to those who have shared their music ministry with us over the past number of years. You have been a blessing to the Association.

*And now for a little
humour ...*



The Intersection of Love

*Though He was crucified in weakness,
yet He lives by the power of God.*

2 Corinthians 13:4 NKJV



The cross. Can you turn any direction without seeing one: perched atop a chapel,. Carved into a graveyard headstone. Engraved in a ring or suspended on a chain. The cross is the universal symbol of Christianity. An off choice, don't you think? Strange that tool of torture would come to embody a movement of hope. The symbols of other faiths are more upbeat: the six-pointed star of David, the crescent moon of Islam, a lotus blossom for Buddhism. Yet a cross for Christianity: An instrument of execution?...

Why is the cross the symbol of our faith: To find the answer look no farther than the cross itself. Its design couldn't be simpler. One beam horizontal-the other vertical. One reaches out-like God's love. The other reaches up—as does God's holiness. One represents the width of his love; the other reflects the height of his holiness. The cross is the intersection. The cross is where God forgave his children without lowering his standards.

He Chose the Nails

Taken from *Grace for the Moment Volume II*
by Max Lucardo



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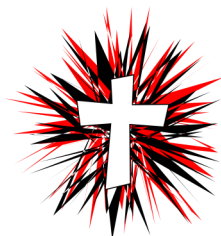
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Licensed Lay Ministers' Ribbons, Medallions and Pins



Medallions can be purchased for \$10.00 each and ribbons (blue or purple) for \$5.00 each.

NOTE: Medallions and Pins with the new title will not be available until the current supply is exhausted.

The Association also has a pin which is available for purchase at \$5.00 each.



Orders for these items can be placed through Dennis Eisan using any of the following methods:

- a) Canada Post Dennis Eisan
 1309 Main Street
 Dartmouth, NS B2Z 1B2
- b) Telephone (902) 435-6217
- c) E-mail dennislinda@ns.sympatico.ca

A small shipping fee will be added to the cost to cover mailing costs, for example, \$2.00 for mailing one medallion and ribbon.

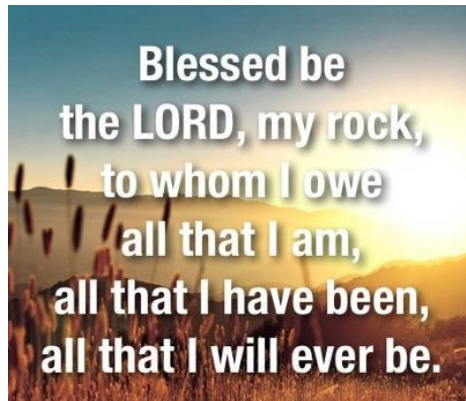
Upcoming 2020 Dates to Place on your Calendar

Spring AGM

June 6, 2020
Church of the Apostles
6670 Bayers Road
Halifax, NS B3L 2B5

Science investigates; religion interprets. Science gives man knowledge, which is power; religion gives man wisdom, which is central. Science deals mainly with facts; religion deals mainly with values The two are not rivals.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.



Licensed Lay Ministers' Prayer

Loving and eternal God, who through your Son, Jesus Christ, calls your people and sends them forth to witness and serve in your name, bless each member of the Licensed Lay Ministers' Association of this Diocese. Give us grace that we, walking in the footsteps of your Son, and being filled and strengthened by your Holy Spirit, may serve you and your Church as faithful stewards in the ministry to which we are called and, by our example, enable others to know and love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*



2019 Fall Conference Registration Form

Date: September 13—15
[Friday—Sunday]
Start Time: 7:00pm [Friday]
End Time: After lunch [Sunday]

Registration/Accommodation:

\$50 Registration fee covers meals & accommodation
[Please note there is **NO** meal provided on Friday evening.]

Please bring your Alb (or Surplice & Cassock) & Medallion;
as well as your Bible, BAS and BCP.

Location: Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre
67 Reid Road, RR#1 Stanley Bridge, PE
C0A 1E0

Emergency phone #: 902-886-2591 or 886-2799



NOTE: *Pre registration is required*

Name: _____

Address: _____

PC: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Parish: _____ Region: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

List allergies or dietary restrictions

Make your cheque payable to: **Diocesan Licensed Lay Ministers' Association**

Mail your registration form & cheque to: Wayne Hamlin
28 Overlook Road
Kentville, NS B2N 2P4

Kevin V. Mason & Cheryl A. Thompson




Biographies of 2019 Fall Conference Speakers

Cheryl A Thompson has been a Registered Nurse since 1980 and a Social Worker, MSW, since 2010. She has worked primarily in the area of Mental Health and Addictions. During her graduate studies she completed her practicum experience at a Bereavement Center. She has worked in Private Practice with individuals, couples and families since 2012. She raised her family and worked in both B.C and N.S., and presently resides near Canning.

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1. Overview of grief
2. What to expect on the grief journey
3. Grief through the ages
4. What can help
5. What isn't helpful
6. Rituals
7. Recognizing complicated grief
8. Resources



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