



# The Standing Committee of The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

The Rev Dr John Floberg  
The Very Rev Mark Strobel  
The Rev Dn Terry Overbo

Mr. Donald Henderson  
Mr. Robert Fox  
Dr. Christie Iverson

August 31, 2019

Dear Clergy and Sr. Wardens:

The Standing Committee has signed a Letter of Agreement with Bishop Keith Whitmore. Bishop Whitmore had been the Bishop of Eau Claire and the Assisting Bishop on Georgia. He has been retired and is just completing an interim position in Connecticut at the time that we made contact with him. He begins October 1<sup>st</sup> and will be at our Diocesan Convention October 11 – 12. Two of our priests know him, Canon Weidman and Fr. Hoekstra. He ordained Fr. Hoekstra while in Eau Claire.

Bishop Whitmore is no stranger to the north and has a well-earned reputation as a bishop in the Episcopal Church. Both of those things will serve us well in the months ahead. Our Diocesan Discernment Task Force will come with recommendations of Diocesan Reorganization in July 2020 and then we will know at Convention 2020 how our work together would continue to implement the Reorganization Plan.

Our diocese is now fully engaging in our dual life – one of transition and discernment and the other of transition and ongoing life, ministry and mission of our diocese. We are calling Bishop Whitmore help us mostly with the latter of those concerns and the Rev. Thad Bennett, our diocesan consultant, to help us with the discernment.

You are now encouraged to look forward with your congregation's calendar in mind to arranging a visitation by Bishop Whitmore. What in the next several months do you want a bishop to be doing in your congregation and community? Consecration or blessing of things? Confirmation of baptized members? Celebrating the Sacraments with you?

We have designation Four Hub Cities that form quads out of our two Regions. Minot (with Cartwright, Williston, Dunseith and White Shield), Bismarck (with Dickinson, Ft. Yates, Selfridge and Cannon Ball), Jamestown (with Oakes, Valley City, Ft. Totten, Devil's Lake and Walhalla) and Fargo (with the Cathedral, St. John the Divine, St. Stephen's and Grand Forks). Canon Hal Weidman will be arranging with the bishop and you all the best dates to make a visitation. The filters used will be: proximity of places to be visited on a weeknight (Thursday) and a Sunday morning; the location of diocesan meetings and when there is a need for what a bishop can do.

As to that last part, if a congregation has a supply clergy providing services, the bishop would more likely come for a visit on the week that a supply clergy is NOT present.

On those days (Friday and Saturday) when the bishop is in the diocese, but not doing a visitation, we will plan for meetings and other venues for us to benefit from Bishop Whitmore's time with us. Please be in contact with Canon Weidman within the next week or so to advise him of your preference for the bishop's visitation. His email is [padreausig@gmail.com](mailto:padreausig@gmail.com). His phone number is: 605 390 3570.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. John Floberg  
President of the Standing Committee