

23 December, 2020

Dear Dr. Henry & Minister Dix,

We are faith leaders from across British Columbia and from multiple denominations within the province. We wanted to publicly reach out to show our deep respect and appreciation for you, your staff and all those in leadership in this most challenging time. We fully support the work you have done throughout 2020 and appreciate your calm, considerate guidance and wisdom as you work to keep us all safe.

As faith leaders we have worked hard to keep our communities safe and connected in many imaginative ways. Some of us have remained online throughout this pandemic while others have followed clearly laid out protocols for in-person worship gatherings and events in the summer and early fall. Each of us, along with our leadership, has prayerfully made decisions that we felt best cared for our congregations. Throughout all of these decisions it has been incredibly helpful to have strong guidance from the provincial health officer, the BC CDC and the provincial government. None of us have served in ministry through a global pandemic before and we look to experts to help us through these times. Your work has been invaluable to us.

We have been deeply disappointed in the multiple times that the voices of a particular group of faith leaders have been spotlighted and amplified publicly criticizing your work and your mandates. As you are already aware, those voices do not speak for all of us. We want to publicly reiterate our gratitude and support for your work.

We are deeply grateful that you have, from the beginning, taken time to be in conversation with faith leaders and have spoken publicly many times in support of the work we are doing. We are looking forward to working with Dr. Robert Daum to continue those conversations.

Thank you for your hard work. We continue to hold each of you, your staff, our government, BC's front line workers and all impacted by COVID-19 in our prayers.

In peace and gratitude,

Rev. Aneeta Saroop
Pastor, Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, Vancouver

Rev. Kristen Steele
Pastor, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Langley

Rev. Dr. Gregory Mohr,
Bishop, BC Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Rev. Vida Jaugelis
Interim Pastor, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, District of North Vancouver

Rev. Kathy Martin
Assistant to the Bishop, BC Synod, ELCIC

Andrew Stephens-Rennie
Missioner, Valhalla Parish (comprising St. Stephen's Anglican Church New Denver and St. David's Anglican Church, Castlegar)

Rev. Kelly Duncan
Rector, Parish of St George, Fort Langley

Rev. David Taylor,
Rector, St Dunstan's Anglican Church, Aldergrove

Rev. Lyndon Sayers
Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria

Rev Andrew Halladay
Vicar, St Andrew's Anglican Church, Langley

Rev Brenda Nestegaard Paul
Pastor, Trinity Anglican + Lutheran Church, Port Alberni

Reverend Brian J. Heinrich
Vicar, Saints Aidan & Bartholomew Anglican Parish, Gibsons

Rev. Erik Bjorgan
Pastor, Deo Lutheran Church, Salmon Arm

Rev. Curtis Aguirre
Pastor, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Penticton

Rev. Terry Richardson
Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Nanaimo

Rev. Diana Edis
Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert

Rev. David Hunter
Pastor, Peace Lutheran Congregation, Vernon

Rev. Jennifer Wilson
Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Delta

Rev. Matthew Senf
Interim Pastor, Oakridge Lutheran Church, Vancouver

Rev. Katrina Vigen
Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Vancouver

Rev. Patricia Giannelia
Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Kelowna

Rev. Carolina Glauster
Pastor, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, North Vancouver

Rev. John Caswell Boyd
Pastor, St. George's Anglican Parish, Kamloops

Rev. Eric Krushel
Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Coquitlam

Rev. Christoph Reiners
Pastor, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Richmond

Rev. Peter Hanson
Pastor, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Surrey

Rev. Lyle McKenzie
Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria

Rev. Thomas Keeley
Pastor, Dunbar Lutheran, Vancouver, and Benediction Lutheran, Delta

Rev. Fleming Blishen
Pastor, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Prince George

Rev. Patrick Blaney
Regional Dean of North Vancouver and Rector of St. John's Anglican Church North Vancouver

Rev. Marlys Moen
Pastor, Mount Zion Lutheran Church, New Westminster

Rev. Jane Gingrich
Pastor, Hills of Peace Lutheran Church, Kamloops

Rev. Roland Ziprick,
Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Maple Ridge

The Rev. Peggy Trendell-Jensen
Deacon, St. Clement's Anglican Church, North Vancouver

Rev. Hardo Ermisch,
Pastor, St. Marks Lutheran, Vancouver

Rev. Brian Krushel
Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Kelowna

Rev Robin Jacobson
Minister, Trinity United Church, Vernon, BC

The Rev Canon Chris Harwood-Jones
All Saints Anglican Church, Vernon BC