



DIOCESE OF KOOTENAY
The Anglican Church of Canada

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The Most Rev. Lynne E. McNaughton, *Bishop*

June 28, 2022

Subject: Revised Sexual Misconduct Policy

Dear People of the Diocese of Kootenay,

Our baptismal vows include commitments to strive for justice among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being. These vows are a response to the immense love of God shown to us in Christ and a way of honouring the Creator of all life, in whose image all are made.

Part of our responsibility as a Church is creating safe communities that embody that respect. For several decades now we have required all clergy, lay leaders and volunteers to adhere to Safe Church Standards, including complying with a Sexual Misconduct Policy. Attached you will find the newly revised Sexual Misconduct Policy. You will need to read this policy and submit a signed acknowledgement (appendix G) to the Diocesan office stating that you have received, understood, and are responsible to act according to the relationship of trust you hold in ministry.

Diocesan Council has carefully reviewed and approved these revisions. You will know that in this particular time in the life of the Church and the world, it is more necessary than ever that we keep to the highest standards for fostering and maintaining safe communities through education and training for the prevention of sexual misconduct and of adhering to clear, fair process for making complaints and dealing with misconduct.

The Synod Office and Diocesan Council have committed to reviewing this policy on an annual basis and to revise as needed so as to continue to reflect best practices. The work of creating a climate of safety for all belongs to each of us in our parishes or worshipping communities, in all of our interactions. I am particularly aware of our need for ongoing work in dismantling racism, educating ourselves about trauma-informed response to complaints, and creating safety for LGBTQ2S+ people. As the Primate wrote in her recent letter regarding Pride month: “Although there have been affirmations of LGBTQ2S+ people in our church through General Synod and its resolutions (for example, General Synod 1995, Act 57; General Synod 2004, Act 37), we have work to do in their realization in the hearts and minds of parishioners in every place.”

I pray that this policy will be one practical tool for creating a community that genuinely reflects Jesus' kingdom vision where all are respected and included. Thank you for your commitment to this work.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Lynne McNaughton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynne McNaughton
Bishop of Kootenay