

A ministry of the whole church by the whole church



Lent 2: Stepping out in faith

Abram stepped out in faith when God called him. Many Council of the North dioceses have difficulty recruiting priests and, in some cases, paying a full stipend. Open to the Spirit's leading, Council dioceses are stepping out in faith and responding to this challenge with new and creative ideas. One response has been the development of the Ministry of Presence model in which the Diocese of Yukon invites people, either lay or ordained, who have their own source of income to commit to a year or more of providing pastoral care to a northern parish. Housing and a modest stipend are provided.

Bishop Larry Robertson (Yukon) says: "This is an opportunity and there are an awful lot of people who come to the end of their career and say 'I'm not ready, I still have much to give to God.'... The reality is, especially in our cities, there are many trained people who are retired but are not ready to roll over. And it gives them an opportunity to minister in a different atmosphere, to a different culture."

Prayer:

"God of Abraham, we ask that you will help us to hear your Spirit calling us to step out in faith. We thank you for the faithful ministry of Anglican clergy and laypeople in northern Canada. Please give them strength in their ministry, and comfort and fellowship when they feel isolated or lonely. We pray also that we may respond in faith to support northern ministry, whether by going, by giving, or by praying. In your name, Amen."

Council of the North

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