

Theological Education Commission

Date: March 2, 2015

The Rt. Rev'd Donald Phillips
Diocese of Rupert's Land

Dr. Chris Trott
St. John's College at the University of Manitoba

Dear Chris and Bishop Don:

It is my pleasure respectfully to provide you with the enclosed copy of the draft Theological Education Commission Report. This report was prepared at the request of the Bishop of Rupert's Land and the Warden of St. John's College at the University of Manitoba. The report was prepared in accordance with the mandates set out by the Diocese and the College and intends to provide resources, advice and recommendations for the future of theological education and formation in the diocese of Rupert's Land. Further, it is the aim of the report to provide a vision for the role of St. John's College as an Anglican institution and a resource to the diocese.

The foremost counsel of the report is that the Diocese and the College work together deliberately and creatively to serve the Church and to impact the life of the University of Manitoba. The report also urges St. John's College to honour its history and to enter into intense dialogue with indigenous leaders of the Church in this country to support their vision.

The commission proposes two primary instruments to foster a collaborative and creative relationship between the diocese and St. John's College in order to generate a robust theological climate. First we recommend the establishment of a joint Council for Theological Education composed of laity, clergy, indigenous leaders, college fellows, and professional theologians. Second, we propose the development of a Formation Program Coordinator/Mentor position in the diocese.

If these proposals are to bear fruit in our diocese they will require the concerted effort of our Bishop, the Warden of St. John's College, and many other leaders in this diocese. Immediate action is recommended by the commission, specifically in the inauguration of a working group mandated to propose a set of expectations and resources for ministry formation to Diocesan Council by December 2015.

It was a great honour to serve on this commission. The members of this group (listed in the executive summary of the report) were hardworking, creative, and wise. It is our intent to recommend initiatives that are practical and effective for leading this diocese towards a long-term vision. I thank you for the opportunity to serve the Church in this way.

In Christ,

Kirsten Pinto Gfroerer (MA., MRes.)

Facilitator of the Theological Education Commission