



Report to the 2017 Synod of the Diocese of Christ our Hope, ACNA

Ben Bowman

Director of Operations

As Director of Operations, my responsibilities include overseeing diocesan administrative systems, human resources, diocesan events, the diocesan finances and budget (with our Treasurer), as well as assisting the Bishops and the diocesan staff. In addition, I assist Canon for Leadership Development, Art Going, with credentialing and ordination matters. Finally, I also serve as the diocesan Secretary, keeping the minutes of the Diocesan Council meetings and assisting them in the implementation and communication of their decisions.

Some of the highlights from 2017 include attending all three Regional Retreats, reconnecting old friends and making new ones, and witnessing the good work that is happening in our churches throughout our diocese, as well as attending and participating in the ACNA Provincial Assembly and Council.

Here are a few projects and areas of my work in which we've made significant progress this year:

- **HR and Diocesan Policies:** we are developing a variety of important policies, both internal and external, from an Employee Handbook, to Travel Expenses, Cash Handling, Protection of Children, and various other policies.
- **Bookkeeping:** we have outsourced our bookkeeping to a professional service, providing us with much improved books.
- **Administrative Assistant:** in August we hired Nina Jass as our part-time Administrative Assistant. Her role assisting me and Bp. Steve has already proven to be extremely helpful!
- **Database:** we've laid the groundwork for our online database and collected all the necessary information. We will be opening the database soon for all clergy to create their own account and begin to use it.
- **Liaising:** a big part of my work could be described as liaising. Between the office of the diocese and our clergy, between Canon Art Going and our ordinands, between our Bishops and our Rectors and parishes, etc. In this regard, we have achieved a greater and consistent centralization of this kind of communication.

As a diocese, we are still very much on a steep learning curve. We are undergoing much change, and much of that change translates into specific tasks for all of us. Whether it's turning in certain reports by certain deadlines, attending certain meetings, or canonical compliance, we are all being faced with a somewhat different way of doing life together as a diocese.



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As Director of Operations, it is my charge to uphold the decisions and standards held out by our Constitution and Canons, our Diocesan Council, and Bishop Steve Breedlove, and to “translate” those decisions and standards into systems and action items that we can all understand and with which we can comply. In doing so, it is my goal to make these processes as straightforward, simple, and efficient as possible.

As with anything else, we hope and anticipate that we will learn, grow, and improve upon ourselves.

It is my sincere desire to serve our diocese with increasing professionalism, putting in place systems and structures that truly help the mission of the church by resourcing and facilitating the ability of the local church to participate fully in the life of the diocese.

I am deeply grateful to God for the opportunity and privilege it is to serve him and our diocese in this way.

In Christ,
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