



THE BISHOP OF TORONTO APPOINTS MICHELLE JONES AS ASSISTANT CURATE TO CHRIST CHURCH (BRAMPTON)

As announced at our services on March 3, 2019, we are delighted to announce that Michelle Jones has been appointed Assistant Curate of Christ Church (Brampton) beginning May 6, 2019 on a half-time basis. Michelle graduated from the M. Div. Programme at Trinity College (University of Toronto) last May and has been with us at Christ Church for her final student placement since January of this year. Over the last few months, we and the congregation have had the opportunity to get to know Michelle and we are sure that you join us in concluding that she will be a good fit for Christ Church. As with the appointment of our last Curate, Jeff Nowers, we understand that many of you might have a few questions about what this appointment means for Christ Church ~ we did!

WHAT IS AN ASSISTANT CURATE?

An Assistant Curate is much like an intern that has all the functional abilities of a Deacon (Michelle will be ordained to the Diaconate on May 5th at St. James Cathedral) and later as a Priest. Typically, a Deacon is ordained to the Priesthood within a year of becoming a Deacon. Assistant Curates typically come with a minimum of 2 university degrees, years of field training while at theological college, summer internships and clinical pastoral education. A curacy placement is 2 years in duration after ordination.

HOW WILL A CURATE HELP CHRIST CHURCH?

The short answer is in many ways. In terms of average Sunday attendance, Christ Church is among the largest in the Diocese of Toronto ~ we rank among the 14 churches that have an average Sunday attendance of 200 or more. Seven of these churches are located outside of Toronto in the 905 area code. With that comes all the demands across our ministry areas, in particular Discipleship Development, Liturgy & Worship, Outreach & Service, Pastoral Care and in our overall parish life. Functionally, another staff person is essential. Brampton is the 9th largest city in Canada and with one of the largest population growths in Canada. Michelle will actively (*remembering she is with us half-time*), participate in many of our established areas of ministry but will also bring her own gifts to further enhance our life at Christ Church. Together, we have a wonderful ministry field to explore both within and outside the walls.

HOW CAN WE AFFORD A CURATE?

The costs for the 2-year Curacy program are shared between the local parish and the Diocese of Toronto. It is no secret that the retention of a Curate continues to represent a stretch goal for Christ Church. As your Wardens, we have the responsibility to be prudent with our financial resources as good Christian stewards. Michelle's desire to work half-time was a gift that made us look at the opportunity very seriously and realize that the stretch is quite doable. We are also grateful for those who have made gifts to the Future Ministry Fund. The Christ Church share will come from both General Offerings and the Future Ministry Fund.

WHAT WAS THE PROCESS?

Each year the Diocese of Toronto places approximately 8 Curates throughout the Diocese. The placement is coordinated through the Bishop of Toronto's office who introduces potential Curates to perspective parishes. Parishes meet with the candidates while the candidates also meet with other parishes ~ it is truly about finding the right fit for both the Curate and the Parish. The Corporation unanimously agreed that Michelle would be a great asset to Christ Church.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Michelle's start date with Christ Church will be May 6, 2019 which will give her ample time and exposure over the summer months to be involved in our planning for F2020 and the fall launch of programming.

We hope that you are as excited as we are Michelle's appointment to Christ Church and the mutual blessings that we are about to receive.

Byron Gilmore
Rector

Jonathan Tyner
Rector's Warden

Sonia Sobers
People's Warden

Shumaila Desrochers
Deputy Rector's Warden

Stephen Nilam
Deputy People's Warden