



February 13, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you receive the news that Bishop Mathes will be leaving as our bishop this June, we want to offer a word about the transition. I have been in conversation with the bishop about this possibility for a few weeks and I am in communication with our chancellor and Bishop Clay Matthews, director of the Office of Pastoral Care, who assists dioceses in transition on behalf of the presiding bishop.

We are in a very good place. We have a superlative staff. We have plenty of time, over four months, before Bishop Mathes leaves. We have great support from the wider church. And we are in a strong position as a diocese. We will be able to continue the important work that we are doing and meet challenges that may come our way.

Once the bishop officially resigns jurisdiction, the standing committee will become the ecclesiastical authority, take over all the authority and responsibilities of the bishop, excepting those reserved for a bishop (i.e. ordinations and confirmation). We may, in some manner, employ the services of a retired bishop.

From a congregational perspective, the work of the diocese will move forward without pause. We assure you that the transition is in good hands. As we work to formalize the transition plan, we will keep you informed of developments. By the end of this month, there will be a bishop's transition page added to our website for your use. In these next weeks and months, we invite you to join us in celebrating Bishop Mathes' ministry for these past twelve years as we send him off to do Christ's ministry in a different place.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Mainwaring".

The Rev. Dr. Simon Mainwaring  
President of the Standing Committee