

November 1, 2024

Dear friends,

I am excited to work together with Bishop Anna and the Diocese to increase the support and resources available to clergy, lay leaders, and churches as we navigate community life and the disputes that inevitably arise. Community life is complex, and we are committed to embrace approaches that not only resolve conflicts, but foster healing and reconciliation.

Our Anglican tradition emphasizes the importance of community and relationships. When disputes arise—whether among church members, clergy, or between the congregation and its leadership—it can create significant discord. The role I seek to embody as Canon is to guide these disputes toward resolution while promoting a culture of forgiveness and understanding.

The heart of this work is reconciliation. Restorative conflict resolution emphasizes healing the harm caused by conflict. This approach invites all parties involved to engage in dialogue, share their perspectives, and work collaboratively towards a resolution that acknowledges the impact of the dispute on the community.

My role is multifaceted and I can help in a variety of ways: providing a confidential listening space as you seek to get a handle on what is going on, helping you organize your thinking and determining potential early interventions, equipping people with communication skills training, helping facilitate conversations where I can assist in creating a safe space where individuals can express their feelings and concerns, or offering mediation services for full blown conflicts. If you are feeling overwhelmed, reach out and we can schedule time together to talk things over. You can reach me by email at canonlisa@bc.anglican.ca.

This role is modeled on the way of Jesus and focuses on the values that underpin our faith—compassion, forgiveness, and love. As we together commit to these principals, we live into our collective goal of restoration rather than division. Miscommunication and mistakes are an inevitable part of being in community, but curiosity, forgiveness, healing, and joy are also the hallmarks of healthy communities prioritize this work. Our joint commitment to a culture of accountability and mutual respect is hard but good work.

Sincerely,



Canon Lisa Alexander