

September 19, 2023

Dear Clergy and Wardens,

This past summer at General Synod the National Church authorized *Pastoral Liturgies for Journeys of Gender Transition and Affirmation*. These services ([Pastoral-Liturgies-for-Gender-Transition-and-Affirmation-07.23.pdf](https://www.bccan.org/anglican.ca/Pastoral-Liturgies-for-Gender-Transition-and-Affirmation-07.23.pdf) ([anglican.ca](https://www.bccan.org/anglican.ca))) are an important pastoral service and public witness as we live into our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of every human being. These liturgies have already been used in our diocese to affirm members of our church who are undergoing gender transition.

We write today as it has come to our attention that as a symptom of the rise of radical anti-trans rhetoric there are going to be 'anti-trans' protests in many cities and municipalities this coming Wednesday. These protests are based in fear and ignorance and will claim to be 'protecting' children. Please do not be fooled by this language. Children need love and acceptance and the last thing they need is perfect strangers to be passing judgment on their gender identity and expression as well as their medical care.

Please do what you can to reach out to the +LGBTQ2S+ folk in your parishes and in your community and to stand in solidarity with them as children of God both this week and in the weeks and months to come. Please find ways for your parish to be a visible presence of safety, acceptance, and solidarity with all God's people, regardless of race, class, or gender.

Yours Faithfully,



Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee,

The Ven. Clara Plamondon, The Ven. Elizabeth Northcott, The Ven. Alastair Singh-McCollum, The Ven. Craig Hiebert, The Ven. Lon Towstego, The Ven. Eric Partridge, and Canon Dr. Brendon Neilson