

Frequently Asked Questions

The Administrator of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

Who is the Administrator of the Diocese?

On August 6, 2025, the Diocesan Council appointed the Right Reverend Michael Bird as the Administrator of the Diocese. His mandate came into effect on September 21, 2025, ensuring the effective governance and continuity of leadership within the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa during this period of transition without an elected bishop for our diocese. Bishop Michael is a retired Bishop of the Diocese of Niagara (2008-2018) and has been resident in our Diocese since 2018. His biography can be found [here](#).

Bishop Michael's term as Administrator of the Diocese ends upon the installation of the next Bishop of Ottawa. This means that Bishop Michael will be the Administrator throughout the episcopal election process, the election day being February 28, 2026, and will remain in office until the ceremony of installation and consecration of the new Bishop, which is scheduled to take place at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa on May 9, 2026.

What is the Administrator of the Diocese?

The Administrator is an individual appointed by Diocesan Council, pursuant to Canon 2.17, to exercise the duties and responsibilities of the Bishop of Ottawa in the event of a "vacancy in the See" caused by, among other things, the resignation of the Bishop.

Under the Canons, the Administrator has "all the powers of the Bishop of the Diocese". In other words, while the Administrator is not the Bishop of Ottawa, he can exercise all the rights and function conferred on the Bishop under the *Canons, Bylaws and Regulations of the Diocese of Ottawa*.

How does the work of a Diocesan Administrator differ from that of a Diocesan Bishop?

Most of the authority and the responsibilities of a Diocesan Bishop are conferred upon the Administrator so that the ongoing day to day work of our diocese can continue without interruption. As a rule, the Administrator would not authorize any new policies, administer the sacrament of ordination or institute any changes to the overall direction of our work in particular ministries. Decisions of this kind will generally be left to the incoming bishop. Our retired bishops, Bishop John Chapman and Bishop Peter Coffin, have graciously agreed to cover any confirmations that were scheduled during this interim period.

Why is there an Administrator of the Diocese?

When Archbishop Shane was elected Primate of Canada on June 26, 2025, he was required to resign as Bishop of Ottawa within 90 days his election. Archbishop Shane resigned as Bishop of Ottawa on September 20, 2025, thus creating a vacancy in the See.

On August 6, 2025, in anticipation of Archbishop Shane's resignation, the Diocesan Council appointed the Bishop Michael as Administrator of the Diocese to take effect on September 21, 2025.