

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson - Biography



The Most Rev. **Colin Johnson** is the part-time Assistant Bishop of Niagara (appointed September 1, 2022) and an Honorary Assistant at St. James Cathedral, Toronto. He retired as Archbishop of Toronto at the end of 2018. The proud grandfather of three young granddaughters, he is relearning the second verses of old nursery rhymes, amongst his other reading and catching up on Netflix series he missed while working.

Ordained deacon 46 years ago and priest the following year in the Diocese of Toronto, he served at St Simon's Bloor St, Georgina (Sutton and Sibbald Point), and Holy Trinity, Ajax. He was executive assistant to Archbishop Finlay from 1992 and Archdeacon of York soon after, until his election as a Bishop Suffragan of Toronto in 2003. He was appointed Area Bishop of Trent-Durham and elected the following year as the 11th Bishop of Toronto. He was installed in 2009 as Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, and as part of those responsibilities, he became concurrently the 10th Bishop of Moosonee from 2013 until his retirement. Since then, (retirement - phase 1), he acted as Commissary of the Bishop of Ontario (Kingston) during the bishop's leave, and as Episcopal Administrator of the Diocese of Huron (London).

Raised in the United Church in small town Southwestern Ontario, Colin was led to the Anglican Church by a friend (who never attended again!) while at university. He earned degrees in math and economics from Western and divinity from Trinity. He was awarded honorary degrees by Wycliffe, Trinity, Huron and Renison Colleges and was recently elected an Honorary Fellow of Trinity College.

Colin has extensive national and international experience. He chaired the Theological Education for the Anglican Communion (TEAC2) commission. He was a member of both the Council of General Synod (2008–2013) and the National Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. He was elected episcopal Visitor of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine and of the Ontario chapter of the Society of Catholic Priests (SCP). For eight years, he adjudicated press complaints as a member of the Ontario Press Council.

He founded and convened the Bishops in Dialogue consultation to build understanding and respect among diverse leaders within the Anglican Communion, for which he was awarded the Cross of St. Augustine by the Archbishop of Canterbury. He currently coaches and mentors new bishops and is a board and faculty member of the Episcopal Church's College for Bishops. He continues to lead conferences, retreats and workshops in Canada, US and Hong Kong. He has particular interest in issues of leadership in challenging times, biblical interpretation, liturgy and prayer, missional strategy, safe church policy, and organizational change.

Colin has been married for 47 years to Ellen, a retired primary teacher and an active member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). He even occasionally takes minutes for their Monthly Meeting for business and chairs their finance committee. He loves to cook and travel, only one of which he does much these days. He looks forward to retirement – phase 2 – eventually.