

Bishop Philip Poole, BA, M.Div, Mth, DD



Bishop Poole is a child of the rectory. His parents introduced him to prayer, stewardship, outreach, Bible study, mission, music and worship, all of which have had a considerable influence on his life. After high school, he earned a B.A with a major in music from Wilfrid Laurier University, where he was active in student politics and president of the university's choir for two years. He had planned to teach music in the public school system when a life-long calling to ordained ministry finally crystallized.

Following completion of a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity College, Bishop Poole was ordained deacon and priest for the Diocese of Toronto and served his curacy at Holy Trinity, Thornhill, before being appointed rector of

Christ Church, Stouffville. During this time, he gained a love of ministry to seniors, leading him to a Master of Theology degree from Trinity College, in which he authored a major paper, "Pastoral Care to the Institutionalized elderly."

He established York-Simcoe Ministries, an ecumenical group that trained more than 1,000 lay people to be church visitors to nursing homes. He gained a reputation as a social activist and a volunteer in the life of the community. He established "Holy Day Children's Programs," which invited school children to take a religious day away from schools to celebrate Ash Wednesday and All Saints Day.

For the next two and a half years, Bishop Poole served as chaplain at Trinity College School in Port Hope, teaching, counseling, coaching football and leading worship for 450 boys and faculty. In 1987, he accepted the appointment as rector of Trinity, Aurora, which grew into a multi-staffed parish of 850 families. Social justice, lay ministry, small groups, engaging worship, Christian education, youth ministry and strengthened lay leadership marked this vibrant Christian community. A \$4 million church was added to the 19th century historic chapel. His parish ministry was marked with an emphasis on church growth, deepening relationship to Jesus Christ, and pastoral care. In 1989, he was appointed Regional Dean of the Holland Deanery and in 1996 named a Canon of the Cathedral Church of St. James.

Bishop Poole has had significant involvement with the wider church. In the Diocese, he has served on many boards and committees, including the Archbishop's Task force on Evangelism, Stewardship, FaithWorks, Anglicans in Mission, Diocesan Camps and Diocesan Council. Provincially, he has been a member of Provincial Synod since 1991, spending many years on the Ecumenical Study Commission on Public Education. Nationally, he has been a member of General Synod since 1995, chaired the National Planned Giving Committee, served on the Board of the Primates World Relief and Development Fund and is currently a trustee of the General Synod Pension Plan and the chair of the Pension Committee.

From 2000, Bishop Poole sat on the Board of the Anglican Communion's Compass Rose Society, an organization that supports the ministry of the Archbishop of Canterbury in and through the Anglican Communion. In 2003, he was elected its President, the first Canadian

to hold that post. He stepped down from the International Board in 2013 but remains active in the Canadian Compass Rose Society.

In 2005, Bishop Poole was consecrated Bishop and serves as Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Toronto and Area Bishop of York-Credit Valley. In 2007, Trinity College awarded him a Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa). Bishop Poole has had considerable experience in fundraising and has a passion for Christian stewardship. He has traveled extensively and enjoys meeting and learning from fellow Anglicans throughout the Anglican Communion.

Bishop Poole has served chaplain to York Central Fire and on the Board of Kids4Peace. He is Episcopal Visitor to the Worker Sisters and Worker Brothers of the Holy Spirit and is an Associate of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine.

Bishop Poole is married to Karen and they have two married adult children. He enjoys music, bridge, relaxing at his family cottage in Muskoka, and is a long suffering fan of both the Toronto Argonauts and the Toronto Maple Leafs.