

The Anglican Church of Canada



L'Église anglicane du Canada

Office of the Primate

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April 20, 2021

Archbishop Suheil Dawani  
The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem  
By e-mail

Dear Archbishop Suheil,

It is with a mixture of sadness and joy that we write to offer congratulations on the occasion of your retirement. Your friendship with the Anglican Church of Canada has been a gift to our church over many years and especially since your diocese became one of our global partners in 2007. You and your wife, Shafeeqa, have extended hospitality to so many Canadians over the years beginning with your invitation to Archbishop Fred Hiltz to 'come and see the living stones'. That has led to other opportunities to meet Episcopalian Palestinians and know more about the ministries of the Diocese across Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, exercised under challenging circumstances.

Through your invitation and leadership we now have the Canadian Companions of Jerusalem with more than 150 Canadian parishes, dioceses, groups and individuals with a heart for the people and ministries of your diocese. We celebrate Jerusalem Sunday annually on the seventh Sunday of Easter to raise awareness of our partnership. Financial offerings and prayers of Canadians support the medical ministries including Penman Clinic, Jerusalem Princess Basma Hospital and Al Ahli Arab Hospital.

The Diocese of Ottawa has a longstanding companion diocese connection with you and your diocese which we look forward to continuing under the new bishops in both dioceses, Bishop Shane Parker and Bishop Hossam Naoum.


We celebrate the times you and Shafeeqa were able to visit Canada as guests of the Companions of Jerusalem, the Diocese of Ottawa and the General Synod to raise awareness of the needs and concerns of Anglicans in the Holy Land and share your commitment to interfaith relations, peace and justice for all and your passionate commitment to health care and education for those most vulnerable.

It had been my hope to visit with you, Shafeeqa and Bishop Nauom in January 2021 but the pandemic has postponed that opportunity to a future date. However I do recall other opportunities to be with you, particularly your wonderful hospitality at the Cathedral for the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission in 2019 and the Primate's Meeting in 2020. Thank you.

Although we are sad to see you leave a ministry you have loved and served so well we also are filled with joy for you and Shafeeqa as you enter a time of well-earned rest and opportunities to serve God in new ways. You have exemplified the qualities of Christian leadership, always seeking justice and peace and acting with generous compassion and grace.

Please know that the prayers of the Anglican Church of Canada are with you in this transition – with deep gratitude for your ministry, your sharing with us in the gospel of Jesus Christ and your witness to God’s peace and justice for all.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Nicholls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls,  
Archbishop and Primate