



Pastoral Letter from Bishop George Elliott
to be read on Sunday, April 28, 2013

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am writing to thank all of you for the ministry we have shared together during the twelve plus years as your bishop here in York-Simcoe. I was overwhelmed last Sunday afternoon by the number of you who turned out to offer Linda and me your best wishes as I move into retirement. Greeting you all in turn brought back many memories that I will treasure as this new chapter of my life unfolds.

I want to thank the Regional Deans; John Read, Nicola Skinner, Darrell Wright, Stephen Pessah, and Maureen Hair, and Jennipher Kean, the Area Administrative Assistant, for planning Sunday's Farewell event. I also want to thank all of you who contributed to the very generous purse which the Regional Deans presented to me.

Ministry is not done alone. Together we have witnessed to the crucified, risen and ascended Jesus and have sought in word and deed to proclaim Good News in our communities. We have worshipped together, met together, prayed together, and have broken bread together, all drawing us closer into this wonderful family which is God's church.

Now a new chapter is opening up for me and for you. Please keep Peter Fenty, Bishop-elect, and his family in your prayers as he moves towards his consecration on June 22nd and the beginning of his ministry as your new Area Bishop. Peter has much to offer. I know you will be blessed in his ministry with you.

Thank you again for you love and support and prayers. May God continue to richly bless you as you journey in faith into the future God has for you and for all of humankind.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F M. George H. Elliott". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

The Right Reverend George Elliott

Area Bishop of York-Simcoe