



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA

Anglican Church of Canada

November 10, 2023

**TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HAMILTON
TO BE READ AT ALL SERVICES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023**

Dear friends,

I am writing to announce that the Reverend Dr. Leonel Abaroa-Boloña has accepted my offer to serve as rector of Church of the Ascension, Hamilton, beginning December 1, 2023.

As such, I am pleased to commend to you the Reverend Dr. John Stephenson to serve as Interim Priest-in-Charge, on a part-time time basis (16 hours per week) for the month of December.

Like Leonel, John has been appointed to:

- assume all of the duties and responsibilities normally carried by the rector, including providing for the conduct of worship services and pastoral care for individuals as requested, including being available for urgent pastoral care needs, funerals and weddings,
- be present at all meetings at which the rector would normally attend, and which can be accommodated in the time available, and
- such other tasks as assigned.

I would like to take this moment to commend Leonel for his ministry with you over the last year, alongside the guiding leadership and support of your wardens. I know you will pray for him as he takes up his new charge and offer your own thanks for his service to St. John's.

In the coming weeks, I hope to be in a position to share an update about your search for a rector. For now, may God's richest blessings be with you all during this time of transition.

Sincerely,

Bishop of Niagara

cc: The Reverend Dr. John Stephenson
The Reverend Dr. Leonel Abaroa-Boloña
The Churchwardens
The Venerable Terry DeForest, Archdeacon of Hamilton-Haldimand
The Reverend Canon Bahman Kalantari, Regional Dean of Hamilton-Haldimand
Diocesan Staff

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