



# The Cathedral Church of Saint Paul

The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

6/26/2017

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

A number of you have approached us, and other staff and leaders of the Cathedral, to ask whether there is any specific plan with regard to our response to Dean Beecham's announcement regarding early onset Parkinson's. The first thing we wish to say regarding any particular plan is that we will do everything we can to assist and support Fr Troy. As he has expressed, he is grateful for your prayers and fully expects to serve as Dean for many years in the future, a position that we and the Chapter wholeheartedly endorse.

As the result of discussions initiated prior to Fr Troy's diagnosis, we and the staff were working on shifts in ministry responsibilities that better align with the gifts the staff offer to the congregation. In accord with these conversations, it has been decided to call Deacon John Doherty to become Canon for Administration and Ministry Development. The Dean continues to oversee all operations of the Cathedral, and especially the liturgical and formational aspects of our common life. The same is true for Rebecca and Mark in continuing to provide their excellent music ministry. The Chapter has assigned external communications to an outside marketing firm. It is understood that the internal communication and networking between staff, chapter and cloisters will flow through Deacon John. John's previous assignment with finances will be shifted to a part-time bookkeeper.

God invites us to grow in grace together when facing unexpected and difficult situations. A Bishop colleague who was diagnosed with Parkinson's just two years into his episcopate (and being only a couple of years older than Fr Troy) and who was able to enjoy a decade of episcopal ministry, had this advice to offer to us as a church family.

*"First of all and above all – quiet down. It can be scary for everyone at some point. Give time and space to the Dean as he pursues treatment and sees what it can do for him. Offer time and gentleness (to him and to one another) as you all discern the reality of the situation over the long term".*

We share the Dean's gratitude for the prayerful compassion that you have shown. We are confident that the Cathedral will step up to embrace this situation, and grow deeper and stronger in our communal commitment to Jesus Christ and God's mission for us all.

In God's peace and love,

The Right Reverend Alan Scarfe

Stephanie Preusch, Senior Warden