



## The Anglican Parish of Toronto

### Office Parish Council

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Rector  
Fr Ian Howarth

REDACTED  
REDACTED

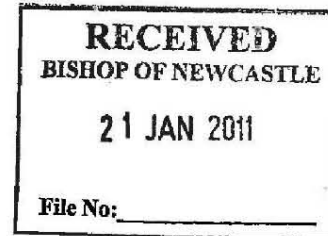
Parish Secretary  
Allan Taylor

REDACTED

*Copy sent to the  
for information*

17th January 2011

Mr G. Spring  
Chair of The Professional Standards Committee  
Anglican Diocese of Newcastle  
P.O. Box 817  
NEWCASTLE N.S.W. 2300



Dear Mr Spring,

I refer to the letter forwarded to you by the Rector of the Parish, Fr Ian Howarth, on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010, a copy of which is attached.

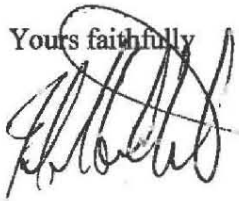
The substance of the letter had been made known to the members of the Toronto Parish Congregation at the services following the posting of the letter. Subsequent to this many of the parishioners voiced very strong support for the action taken by Fr Ian, and at that time there was a suggestion that the Parish Council should consider what, if any, follow-up action should be taken.

The Parish Council convened on 2nd January 2011 to consider the referenced letter. The members of the Parish Council voiced strong support for the leadership shown by Fr Ian in writing, as his letter expressed views that many in the congregation felt needed to be aired. The members of the Parish Council also reported that no member of the congregation had expressed any disagreement with the position expressed in the letter. At that meeting a formal motion was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should write to advise you of its full support for the position taken By Fr Ian Howarth regarding the matters that he raised in the referenced letter.

In advising you of this position the Parish Council wishes it noted that all members were troubled by the way that the Ordinances setting up the Professional Standards Committee have been interpreted and handled in the cases specifically raised in the referenced letter. To this end the Parish Council will be calling on the Diocesan Council to review the subject Ordinance so that The Professional Standards Committee acts solely as an Advisory Body and not as an Ecclesiastical Court or Tribunal. The Parish Council is strongly of the view that the Professional Standards Committee should not have revealed publicly its findings particularly in the context that the allegations were dismissed by police investigations. If the Committee concluded that the matter violated ecclesiastical orders or Church ethics then findings should be a matter for the attention of the Church through our Bishop. The Parish Council is

therefore of the view that findings should more appropriately be forwarded to the Bishop for final decision and action, and only then if in the public interest should the findings, decisions and actions be made public.

Yours faithfully



John Hulbert  
Rector's Warden  
By Direction of Parish Council

Attachment: Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010 from Fr Ian Howarth to Addressee

c.c.

X The Right Reverend Dr Brian Farran (Bishop of the Diocese),  
Mr Michael Elliott (Director and Professional Standards), and  
All Parish Councillors.