

## **A Pastoral Letter from the NIAB and Bishops of Brandon and Keewatin**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ!

As we have noted before the Diocesan Council of Keewatin and the Executive Council of Brandon had both unanimously passed the following resolution:

*THAT this Council endorse in principle the proposal to create an Episcopal District in Northern Manitoba and authorize the Bishop of Keewatin, in co-operation with the Bishop of Brandon, to implement a consultation process in the communities affected to determine the feasibility of this project.*

Pursuing that goal, there was a gathering at Church of the Redeemer, Opaskweyak Cree Nation October 5-6, 2007 and a follow up meeting in Winnipeg on December 15, 2007. These continued the work and process that many of you have been involved in the recent past. In Winnipeg the group reviewed a further edition of a concept paper that was presented at Redeemer. We attach that paper with this mailing for your review. It includes, additions from both the Redeemer and Winnipeg consultations. This will help prepare us for our next meeting, detailed below, as well as give members of our communities a better feel for what is ahead.

We are in agreement with the direction the consultations are taking. We believe that we are all ready to come together, as was proposed in October, for a two-day meeting to make a more concrete draft proposal available for the Keewatin Synod in February. We will be able to further review and refine the proposal at another meeting later this spring, looking towards the Brandon Synod in October of 2008 and Rupert's Land Synod in 2009. We are hopeful that funding will be available to help this through the Healing Fund.

We hereby invite every community with an Anglican presence to send two delegates to a gathering at St. James' Church, Thompson from 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 25, 2008 until 3:00p.m. Sunday, January 27, 2008. We will share Eucharist with St. James' on Sunday morning. We have some travel funding available through the office of Indigenous Ministries and information will be available for that at the meeting.

As your Bishops, we are fully supporting this process and we strongly urge you to fully participate in this exciting new step on our journey in the Lord.

**+David:Keewatin**

**+James:Brandon**

**+Mark:NIAB**