ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

INTRODUCTION

"Social media" refers to interactive forms of electronic communication that facilitate the creation and sharing of information or ideas via online communities and networks. This policy does not apply to private social media use, anonymous or pseudonymous public communication, or using personal social media accounts or other electronic communications tools to communicate privately.

It is never acceptable for confidential information to be shared without permission via social media or any other form of insecure communication.

1. PARISH/MINISTRY/SYNOD OFFICE WEBSITES, BLOGS AND SOCIAL NETWORKING ACCOUNTS

The diocese encourages parishes and ministries to produce social media sites as educational, informational, and evangelization tools.

Diocesan and parish social media sites must not be used for:

1. conducting outside/personal business
2. defaming the character of any individual or institution
3. discrediting the diocese or our partners
4. disclosing any confidential information related to the diocese

2. LOGOS/TRADEMARKS

No one may use diocesan trademarks or logos on their personal social media sites in any way that suggests or implies approval, endorsement or oversight by the diocese.

3. DOMAIN REGISTRATION AND POSTING ON WEBSITE

The diocese retains ownership of parish websites and makes necessary payments for domain registration and hosting *[MB: I do not know if we make payments for hosting of domains such as GoDaddy or BareMetal]*, as required. Parishes will be responsible for writing and posting content to their websites. All content posted on a parish website must be first approved by a warden or the incumbent.

4. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Church personnel may not post or distribute any personal identifiable information, including photos and/or videos, of any person under the age of 19 or a person whose capacity to give consent is diminished without verifiable consent of a parent or guardian or other person responsible for that individual.

5. WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH USING SOCIAL MEDIA OR OTHER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

- For official ministry communication to anyone under the age of 19, there must be at least two adults with administrative rights for each social media account.
- Personal social media accounts may not be used for ministry communication.

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- The primary purpose of such communication shall be for providing information related to a ministry or event and not for socialization or other personal interaction. Counseling of children through electronic methods, such as social media, is not permitted.
- Adults must not be in electronic communication with children or youth unless a parent/guardian has authorized such communication.
- When using a ministry social media account, adults must not initiate “friend” requests with children but may accept “friend” requests from children who are involved in the particular ministry.
- When children or youth form their own personal social media sites, adults may not join these groups, nor have access to these sites.
- Other than emergency situations or to communicate time-sensitive information related to the ministry or ministry-related event, communication with children or youth via other electronic communications must be undertaken between 8am and 6pm.
- Church personnel will not participate in online “chatting” with children or youth.