



NOMINEE'S BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL
The Diocese of The Arctic
Episcopal Search Committee
For the Election of a Bishop

Full Name: Rev. Victor Johnson

Ordination Year: Deacon: 1999 Priest: 1999

1. The nature of the office of a Bishop of the Diocese of The Arctic will sometimes require that Bishop, when elected, to be away from their home location for prolonged periods. Will this present a problem for you or your family?

Yes No

Explain: In my ministerial work in India and here in Canada I have travelled extensively and had to be separated from my

This has been difficult but because of a good marriage and a strong family we have built good systems of regular

communication, mutual prayer and encouragement. God has helped us to trust and support each other.

Therefore I believe this will not pose a threat to my family and be too stressful for us.

2. A Bishop of the Diocese of The Arctic is expected to reside in the Diocese. Will this present a problem for you or your family?

Yes No

Explain: I do intend to reside in the Diocese to which I am elected because it is natural and I want to

live with the people who I serve. It is not a problem for us.

3. Please list all languages and dialects which you currently write, speak, understand, or any combination thereof:

I am able to write, speak and understand English and Hindi, Tamil, Marathi of Indian languages.

I am familiar with the Inuktitut language and while I was at Salluit, I began to learn the language and quickly learnt to lead the liturgy and take the services in Inuktitut.

4. Of course one would seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit on such a matter, but assuming that you were elected as a Bishop of the Diocese of The Arctic, what would you envision as to the length of your tenure?

Comments:

Once elected to serve as a Bishop I envision serving the Diocese of the Arctic for a minimum of seven to ten years.

The responsibilities of a Bishop are such that I would invest in language learning, knowing my people well and engaging with the realities of life in this region which require travel and incarnational ministries.

This would require time and therefore God being my helper I plan to stay for as long as God wants me to serve in this area.

This cannot be a short term engagement.

5. History of education prior to ordination (*please include all diplomas, certificates, and or degrees earned*):

B.Com Mumbai Diocese

B. D Serampore University

Diploma in Theology Union Biblical Seminary

Diploma in Church Management, University of Birmingham

Diploma in Anglican Communion Studies; CEFACS Birmingham

6. Other Continuing Education:

Received Computer Training from the Institution of the National Church in India.

8. Other church experience (eg. Diocesan, Provincial, national committees, administration, other denominations, etc.):

- I have been a member of the Diocesan Executive Committee, Provincial Synod, Council of General Synod (CoGS) and General Synod.
- Also on the Panel as a Member appointed by Archbishop Greg Kerr Wilson, Metropolitan, Province of the Northern Lights for the election of the Bishop of Saskatchewan in 2024.
- I have been a Board Member of the Bombay YMCA for many years and have been actively involved in the ministry of the institution for more than three decades.
- I have the experience of serving the prominent Diocese in the Church of North India, New Delhi. I have served in the various Boards of the Mumbai Diocese and also of the CNI Synod.
- I have been actively involved in the ecumenical dimensions of the Church in India, being exposed to the various dimensions of ministry both in the urban and rural areas.
- It had been a great experience to serve the Mumbai Diocese in the cross cultural context of ministry in multi-lingual and multi-ethnic congregations.
- I have served in the Finance Committee of the Diocese of Mumbai and on the Stewardship Committee of the National Church.
- Actively involved in understanding, learning and practising Anglicanism. I was part of the exchange program of the Anglican Communion 'INDABA' in Manchester, England.
- Stewardship has been my area of interest and equipping people to be good stewards for the Lord has been my passion.
- I am exposed to the World Church in India, UK, the Middle East and now in Canada.

9. Other experience (eg. volunteer work, community service work, etc.):

- Involved in the Vacation Bible School with my wife for more than two Decades.
- As the Diocesan Secretary, I was involved in various community service, addressing matters of concern, creating awareness about various issues of the family and society. Worked closely with WORLD VISION along with my wife in various ministries of the organisation.
- I have been instrumental to mobilise the children, Youth, Men and Women, Elderly of the Diocese and working with other like-minded bodies and para- church organisations. Closely associated with the functioning of Orphanages (Boys and Girls) and Elderly Homes in India.

10. Areas of personal interest, study or leisure:

- My areas of interest are: travel, meeting people and building friendships.
- I like to learn new languages and understand different cultures.
- I love music and enjoy learning new songs.
- I am interested in homiletics and love to develop new methods of preaching and teaching.
- My passion is to teach and preach from the Holy Word and share God's blessings with others.
- Counselling is an interest and I would love to update and upgrade my skills in this area of ministry.

11. Please briefly describe your growth in faith and ministry and how it has led you to accept this nomination.

India is a country known for its religious faith "Bhakti or spirituality "and its religious tolerance and faith. I was born into a Christian family which was devout and God fearing. The faith and devotion of my grandmother, my aunt and my parents had a profound effect on my spiritual formation. Regular family prayers and Bible reading were encouraged at home. I grew in my faith and it was a living faith in terms of my relationship with God through our Lord Jesus. This call of God grew steadily and even after my secular studies and employment. I felt compelled to serve God in the life and witness of the church.

I was sent to theological college at Union Biblical Seminary in Pune India and I continued to grow in my knowledge and experience of the Church and God's Kingdom. I was ordained to be a Priest in the diocese of Mumbai where God helped my wife and I to serve as pastors warden of an orphanage and then I was called to serve as an administrative assistant to my Bishop and then to be the diocesan secretary. These experiences of pastoring, serving the diocese and the national church developed in me a desire to work for the health and mission of the local church. I was given the opportunity to study in the UK and travel to the Middle East and later to Canada all of which have helped me to appreciate the unity of the Church in the context of its diversity.

Coming to the Arctic has taught me to love its people and learn about their culture and history. I felt the need to study the ir language and engage with their problems and issues. God loves the people of this region and has been developing great love in me. When the Bishop informed us that we were to elect three Suffragan Bishops. Some friends in the diocese called me and suggested that I should consider this call to service. I was not considering this until several people suggested it and so my wife and I prayed and discussed it. We had just moved from Salluit to Inuvik and we were getting used to this new place. We are very happy with where we are. Yet I felt the prompting of the Spirit to consider this and to make myself available for this ministry. Slowly as we prayed clergy and lay people encouraged me and so as an act of obedience to the one who calls I said here I am. Send me, use me and teach me to do your will. We have surrendered ourselves to the work of God.

I am willing to serve where ever the Lord sends me.

12. What do you consider to be the role of a Suffragan or Regional Bishop of the Diocese of The Arctic:

The office of Bishop is a leadership role whose duties and responsibilities are clearly enumerated in the prayer book and the constitution of the Anglican Church, which is a Global Communion. It is a spiritual office that is meant to work under the leadership of the diocesan Bishop in defending the faith, teaching the scripture and striving for the mission and unity of the church. This role is a supportive role in enabling and assisting the Bishop in his role of oversight.

It has a pastoral and priestly component in working for the cure and care of souls in the episcopal region. It has a sacramental dimension in ensuring the integrity of the sacrament of Baptism and the Eucharist is done in an orderly manner. It has a didactic role as a teacher of the faith. Bishops are called to guard the faith from all falsehood and error so the preaching and teaching of the Bible as the supreme authority of the Church is a holy duty of the Bishop. A Bishop is a leader and encourager of the people of God to be engaged actively with others in the mission of the church in all its wholeness. I see myself working under the leadership of the outcomes of the Diocese of the Arctic. Diocesan Bishop in all things lawful and assisting the church in achieving the vision, values and outcomes of the Diocese of the Arctic.

13. What are the most important features to you from your response to question 12?

An extension of the Episcopal role of oversight in the region. To be an ambassador and an advocate for the gospel. To assist the Diocesan Bishop and share the gift of oversight. To encourage, teach and guide God's people in the task of evangelism and mission.

To defend the faith from false doctrines and to uphold the faith of the church with integrity and generosity.