The Most Reverend Robert Wm. Duncan

Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church in North America
Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh

Robert William Duncan, the Bishop of Pittsburgh and Archbishop for the Anglican Church in North America, was born at Fort Dix, N.J., in 1948.

The 18th priest (and second bishop) to be ordained from Christ Church in nearby Bordentown, Duncan was valedictorian of the Bordentown Military Institute in 1966. He graduated with honors from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1970 and from the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in New York in 1973. He also undertook advanced research in Scottish history at Edinburgh University in 1972-73, and engaged periods of sabbatical study in 1987 and 2003.

Duncan was ordained a deacon in 1972 and a priest later that year. He served the Chapel of the Intercession in New York City; Christ Church in Edinburgh, Scotland; and Grace Church in Merchantville, N.J., during his first years in holy orders. He was assistant dean of General Seminary from 1974-78, Episcopal chaplain of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1978-82, and rector of Saint Thomas’s Parish in Newark, Delaware, from 1982-92.

In 1992, he became canon to the ordinary – similar to a chief of staff – for Bishop Alden Hathaway in Pittsburgh. In 1995, Duncan was nominated from the floor and elected bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

He has devoted himself to mission and evangelism throughout his ministry, with a special passion for reaching adolescents and young adults. He is a champion of the poor and dispossessed of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, encouraging creative urban church-planting. Elected Archbishop of the Anglican Church in North America in June of 2009, he electrified the investiture service with a call to plant one thousand churches (Anglican 1000) in five years.

Duncan served on the Programme Committee of the Network for Anglicans in Mission and Evangelism, an agency created at the 1998 Lambeth Conference. In 2004, he was a driving force in the creation of the Anglican Relief and Development Fund, a multi-million dollar enterprise for which he continues to serve as president.

First known beyond Pittsburgh for his role in mission and for years of labor to draw together the Anglican Church in North America, “Archbishop Bob” has proven to be an extraordinary leader at a critical moment in Church history. Archbishop Duncan serves as a primate on the Primates Council of the GAFCON/FCA movement and has led the Anglican Church in North America to recognition as “a faithful expression of Anglicanism” and as “gospel partner” with the majority of Provinces of the global Anglican Communion.

Archbishop Duncan married Nara Dewar on August 16, 1969. They are a dynamic team. They share a love of gardening, travel, hospitality and music. They have one married daughter, Louise Elizabeth, and two grandchildren.