**A Viability Study for parishes before proposing major repairs**

**or renovations to their Buildings**

The purpose of this study is to assist each parish to prayerfully consider their long-term call to local mission, and implications of that call to mission and ministry as it presently exists in the community in which you worship, and live.

According to the Gospel of John, when Jesus began his ministry, Andrew and another follower of John asked Jesus where he lived and by implication where his ministry took place. Jesus replied “come and see”. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus told the rich young man that the Son of Man had no place to lay his head. Both these statements imply a different type and style of ministry, but ministry none- the- less. As Jesus began He had a home but as his ministry grew and developed his mission also had to adapt to the new demands. There have been and continue to be times when the Christian mission and experience in and to the world had to adapt to the new demands and needs of God’s mission. In the Canadian context that has meant changes from circuit clergy with local lay readers leading local faith communities, to single-community clergy with no lay readers, to clergy with two or more different but adjacent communities, to locally raised clergy, with many steps in between. God’s mission calls us to proclaim the Gospel in ways that meet the local needs and looks to meet the needs of the future.

This means we must hold in tension who we presently are, what we currently do in our community and what we are called to be and do in the foreseeable future. Please take time to prayerfully consider the following contextual questions.

**God calls us to make disciples of all the world.**

What does your parish mission and ministry look like in the present context and what will it look like in the next 5 years?

What difference do you make to the larger community?

If your parish was not there would your broader community notice? Why or why not?

**God calls us to worship in communion with others.**

What is the average age of the present congregation?

What is the average attendance for your major service each week?

According to the latest census how many self identifying Anglicans live in the local area? What are the number of “no religious affiliation”?

**God calls us to mission and ministry in community**

How is God calling you to reach out to the non-active but self identifying Anglicans? How are you answering that call, both, in ways you are presently reaching out and in ways you have not yet managed?

How are you inviting the non-churched to experience Christ in their lives?

How has the congregation experienced Hope in your mission and ministry?

**The early Christian community modeled a responsible sharing of time, talent and riches, such that resources were not spent in unconsidered or automatic ways but that the ministry of the Gospel was lived.**

How is your sacred space used in the mission of the Gospel and will be used in the next 5 years?

How many hours per week is the building in use for mission, ministry and worship?

What does an Engineer or Contractor report on the overall health and safety of the building?

What are the total operating costs of the building? What impact will the renovations have on this? How will this be sustained over five years? Ten years?

**Jesus called the rich young man to sell all he had and follow him.**

If Jesus was calling you to sell all you had ie. the church building are there alternatives to the current building available in the wider community to gather for worship, education, fellowship, and outreach?

What ministries would you spend the repair/renovation money on? How would you determine your missional priorities?

In what ways is this building an asset and in what ways is it an impediment for your ministry and mission? List the pros and cons,

After prayerful deliberation, what is the considered opinion of the committee/community, to the question “How do you feel Jesus is calling you to invest your resources of time, money and energy?”