

# Diocese of Moosonee Mission Action Plan

## Guide for Use

### ***Diocesan Vision Statement:***

*The Diocese of Moosonee .... Called by God to Live and Proclaim the Gospel*

### **The Goal:**

That every Anglican be rooted in scripture and prayer; regular in worship, outreaching in compassion and ready to share their faith.

We pray the outcome will be:

- \* to have every Anglican rooted in scripture and prayer,
- \* to have every Anglican regular in worship,
- \* to have every Anglican reaching out in compassion, and
- \* to have every Anglican ready to share his or her faith

so that the Diocese of Moosonee will be effectively responding to God's call to live and proclaim the gospel and to share in God's mission to reconcile the world to himself through love.

As part of the Anglican Church, our Diocese's goals or objectives are rooted in Scripture, reason, tradition and divine inspiration as illustrated in Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 28:16-20, Romans 12:1-2 and 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9.

### **Some steps which may assist Parish Leaders in using the Mission Action Plan:**

#### **Outcome No. 1: to have every Anglican rooted in scripture and prayer**

*Every Parish is encouraged to:*

- a) strive to teach and promote a discipline of prayer amongst all its people, starting with those in positions of leadership, such as Lay Readers, Wardens, Vestry members, etc.;
- b) encourage small groups such as Bible studies, prayer groups, etc.;
- c) gather resources on prayer, both print & on-line
- d) collect accurate information and make a Parish List, which could also be shared with the Diocese

#### **Support that the diocese will offer which may assist Parish Leaders:**

- a) use Deanery and Diocesan gatherings to further develop a commitment to study, prayer, and training, both through teaching and experiential opportunities;
- b) gather resources on prayer, both print & on-line, the names and sources of which could be shared with the whole Diocese on the website;
- c) maintain connection with the "Anglican Fellowship of Prayer" ensuring information is distributed to parishes;
- d) Offer opportunities and financial assistance for theological education

#### **Outcome No. 2: to have every Anglican regular in worship**

*Every Parish is encouraged to:*

- a) provide easily accessible, up to date information to the larger community advertising Service times and contact information for clergy or other parish leadership;
- b) welcoming people to attend services and participate in efforts such as Back to Church Sunday;
- c) engage as many people as possible in facilitating worship living out the meaning of liturgy "the work of the people". Train readers/lectors, greeters, youth servers, hospitality hosts, etc.
- d) find innovative and relevant ways of reaching out beyond the Church building doors.

**Support that the diocese will offer which may assist Parish Leaders:**

- a) Use Deanery and Diocesan gatherings as opportunities to demonstrate various forms of worship, to provide Christian formation and to explore relationship evangelism;
- b) Post information, links and resources on the website for easy parish access, sharing updates on broader Anglican Communion ministry i.e. “Marks of Mission Initiatives” “Back to Church Sunday”, “Christmas Starts with Christ” “Messy Church”;
- c) Post current website information on parish location, contact persons, times of services

**Outcome No. 3: to have every Anglican reaching out in compassion**

*Every Parish is encouraged to:*

- a) make note of those on its Parish List who need regular pastoral or sacramental visits and keep the List up to date;
- b) provide prayer resources to shut-ins and those on the margins of the Parish - eg. Anglican Fellowship of Prayer resources;
- c) keep a list of community social services to which people may be referred when needed;
- d) regularly make available to parishioners information on Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, the Anglican Foundation, and the Council of the North and other tools for reaching beyond Parish boundaries.

**Support that the diocese will offer which may assist Parish Leaders:**

- a) Schedule a Diocesan wide Outreach Sunday to encourage all parishes to focus on outreach ministry beyond its building's boundaries. For example, Parishes might commit to an act of loving kindness and share the results of their work with their communities;
- b) Promote Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, the Anglican Foundation, and the Council of the North at the diocesan level through diocesan representatives who network with these agencies and their contact people;
- c) Provide Safe Church screening process for parish volunteers ministering to the vulnerable.

**Outcome No. 4: to have every Anglican ready to share his or her faith**

*Every Parish is encouraged to:*

- a) talk about ways in which the Parish is already welcoming to newcomers and look for more ways to welcome others to the Parish;
- b) practice ways of being inviting through daily conversations with people met in daily life;
- c) be mindful of inviting friends, family and neighbours to join you for Church events such as suppers, Memorial Services, studies, children's programs - this is relationship evangelism;
- d) actively engage in programs for children and youth, such as Sunday School, a youth group or Messy Church, identifying and discerning existing parish youth connections to build upon. Parishes are encouraged to make use of the *Youth Ministry FYI* which is produced monthly by the Youth Co-ordinator, The Rev. Lisa BrantFrancis.

**Support that the diocese will offer which may assist Parish Leaders:**

- a) Train facilitators who can come into parishes to lead training events for parish volunteers who will carry on various ministries within their parish;
- b) Use Deanery and Diocesan events to reaffirm the commitment to evangelism...to live the Vision Statement: to live and proclaim the Gospel.

*The Healthy Churches' Handbook* written by Robert Warren, is recommended in the diocesan Mission Action Plan as a resource for parish leaders and lists seven marks of a healthy church (see page vii).

According to the book, the Marks of a Healthy Church are:

1. Energized by faith
2. Outward-looking focus
3. Seeks to find out what God wants
4. Faces the cost of change and growth
5. Operates as a community
6. Makes room for all
7. Does a few things and does them well.

A careful review of these “*Marks of a Healthy Church*” could be helpful to a parish. These indicators, used together with the Marks of Mission, can produce a framework from which the Moosonee Mission Action Plan can be built upon. The ultimate purpose of the Moosonee MAP is to reveal to us what God is already doing and equipping and enabling us to join in.

As each parish begins to study the various ways to use the Mission Action Plan, they should first identify the objectives then list ways of achieving the objectives, short term and long term. Lastly they should determine how an assessment of the progress will be accomplished. Were all the goals met? What happened that distracted or impeded the process? What were the blessings that came out of the process?