

The Diocese of Moosonee

Anglican Church of Canada



"... called by God to Live and Proclaim the Gospel."

Mission Action Plan

A Path to Renovate the Church

"The vision I have of the Anglican Church:

... is of a people who come together to worship God and proclaim Jesus Christ and who are transformed by His presence." - Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop of Moosonee

Mission Prayers

Draw your Church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving him in the mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love on every continent and island. Amen.

Eternal God, giver of life and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With thanks to the MAPs of the Diocese of Qu'Appelle & Montreal and information shared by many Dioceses at the 2014 Vital Healthy Parishes Conference.

In partnership with Anglicans around the world, our Mission Action Plan is guided by the Marks of Mission.

To proclaim the Good News of the kingdom
To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers
To respond to human need by loving service
To seek to transform the unjust structures of society
To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Rooted in our Anglican identity and heritage, these are core activities of the church yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The Goal:

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

What is mission? What is our mission?

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Mission is finding out what God is doing and joining in. It is not the church of God that has a mission in the world but *the God of Mission* who has a church in the world.

Our world is changing rapidly in confusing and discontinuous ways. People generally no longer look to the church as they once did. Making a significant impact on our neighbours and neighbourhoods is a constant challenge. Yet God is always sending us out into the world.

The key to missional living is having eyes and ears for what God is up to and then joining in.

Through this Mission Action Plan, we recommit ourselves to inspired, able leadership; healthy, sustainable parishes and community ministries; effective communications; and transparent governance and management.

We reaffirm the value of diversity and varying cultures within the Diocese of Moosonee. We continue to develop ministry that speaks to the realities of our peoples, our multi-culturism, our various languages and ages and our Indigenous heritage.

Motivated by ministry rather than maintenance, we embrace the courage we need to reach out, to take risks and to make difficult decisions for the sake of God's mission.

Jesus answered them, '... Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. [John 12.23-26]

An Equipping Church (Ephesians 4:7-16)

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Leaders, both lay and clergy are called to study and train for mission and ministry. Diocesan programs need to focus on offering these topics.

A Generous Church (2 Corinthians 9:6-12)

- provides resources for stewardship and financial development
- encourages payment of fair share requests to ensure no short-fall occurs at Diocesan, Provincial and National levels

Outreaching, Ecumenical and Missionary Church (Luke 10:1-9)

- < encourage new ministries & Fresh Expression initiatives
- < invite Resource Persons to share mission insights with us through podcasts and distance learning
- < work with ecumenical friends – further companion links in missional ways
- < encourage & strengthen our Christian presence across our Diocese

Books/Resources:

Becoming a Contagious Christian By: Bill Hybels, Mark Mittelberg
Zondervan, 1996

Healthy Churches Handbook By: Robert Warren, Church House Publishing, 2012

The Path:

- create regional leadership to aid congregational development
- cultivate discipleship in every congregation
- actively encourage Cursillo, Alpha and other discipleship programs; and
- use the four pillars to assist healthy congregational life:

• FAITH GROUPS WORSHIP OUTREACH EVANGELISM

Mission Words

Gather Transform Send Invite Worship Stewardship Study
Life in Community Service Wider Church Family Evangelism

Four Initiatives

Healthy Parish Leadership
Stewardship
Fresh Expressions
Ecumenical Partnership or Links

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Strategy to turn around decline:

1. Use proven innovative methods to reach newer and younger communities for the Church. "Fresh Expressions Canada" freshexpressions.ca continues to be the singularly most proven method for reaching the un-churched in North America. Examples: Pub Churches, Café Church, Messy Church, Clothing Stores and Feed my Sheep initiatives.

Renovations

A Healthy Church: A call to wellness in the Christian Life. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

'Healthy' living is functioning within God's intention and purpose. Health is a result of balance. A healthy diocese has a balance of strategies, policies and structures to promote wellness in the body of Christ.

An Enabling Church (1 Corinthians 12:1-8)

- develop or find and use: missional support structures and resources to aid the mission and ministry of the Diocese
- equip parishes for mission, providing stewardship education and support
- care for parish leaders: clergy and lay
- use tools such as: Spiritual Vestries which intentionally includes prayer, Bible study and sharing, mobilizing Vestry to be Gospel Centered as they make decisions on ministry. The increased spiritual life of Vestry will flow out to an increased spiritual life in the parish.
- Really Celebrate on Sundays - be joy-filled!

Rooting our Plan in Mission

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Four Scriptures what are helpful as we seek to engage in God's Mission in the World:

1. **The Great Commandment** reminds us that by God's design we are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" and "love your neighbour as yourself" (Mk, 12:29-31; Mt. 22:34-40; Lk. 10:25-28).

2. **The Great Commission** reminds us that living out that love is, in part, bringing others into the knowledge and healing grace of the love that we have known through Jesus: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (In Mark, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation"), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:47-48).

3. **The Great Transformation** comes from Saint Paul, who says, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom.12:1-2). To be transformed in our thinking through prayer that we may discern what is the will of God.

4. **The Great Purpose.** The fourth passage speaks of unity and proclamation based on testimony (evangelism). We are to be "living stones", to be "built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:4-5,9).

Missional Transformation Process

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- * Missional transformation occurs when genuine innovation comes from among the people.
- * The Spirit of God is among the people of God, so God's future is among God's people.
- * Leaders have a pivotal role to play in introducing ideas and providing support for the people of God as they find new courage to break out of their routines.
- * Transformation will generate a lot of energy and hope. It comes best as together we practice new ways of thinking. It is to change our focus, to have a mindset that we are to be together in mission.
- * We are to be built together in order to proclaim God's love and saving grace to the world. The primary task we have as the Church is to move from the mindset of maintenance to that of mission.

'A Church Without Walls' (adapted excerpt from -Church of Scotland)

Thoughts to help us find our way:

1. From church focus to Christ focus: Follow Jesus and see what church forms around him.
2. From faith as security to faith as risk: Looking for new courage to break out of old routine.
3. From settled church to church as a movement: Go where people are, rather than waiting for people to come.
4. From a culture of guilt to a culture of grace: Freedom for people to love and be loved while not counting the cost: Value relationship.

The Role of the Diocese

The role of the Diocese is to equip and enable the work of mission and ministry for both congregations and individual members of the Church in the Diocese of Moosonee, allowing all to experience Faith as a risk, not as a means of security. Leadership and tools to help congregations prepare for readiness for revitalization are to be provided by the Diocese. The key word is readiness. Individual congregations need to enact a plan to reach different populations in their communities.

Important things to keep in mind:

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1. Tasks and goals must be grounded in the purpose and mission of God, made known to us in Jesus Christ. The question is not "what do we want" but "what does God want of us."
2. We are to be attentive to the reality that God is already at work in our congregations, in our personal lives and in the world. We will need to be attentive to what God is doing so that we may join in with the work already begun.
3. We will need to keep in mind that all the members of all of our congregations and parishes are members of the Diocese and collectively carry out its ministry into the world beyond our various doors.
4. It is important to keep in mind that we are not simply pursuing institutional survival, not bolstering membership to have enough givers and doers to keep things going: "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake., and for the sake of the Gospel will save it" (Mk 8:35)

We are to be living stones, "built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Pt 2:4-5,9).

The Four Pillars

These are key areas for every Parish which will shape the kind of enabling and equipping that we will do together:

- Small Faith Group Ministry
- Living, Engaging and Enriching Worship
- Outreach
- Evangelism

There is a spiritual hunger which we have the resources to feed.