## The Diocese of Moosonee

"Season of Discernment"



# A Guide for Parish Discussions – "Reimagining the Diocese"

#### Preamble:

This guide is intended to set out a framework for a group facilitator to lead a discussion to have participants share their stories; tell where they see the Diocese has been; share where it currently stands and what the vision of the Diocese can. This comes from a call by Archbishop Anne Germond for a "Season of Discernment. This can take place through prayerful and thoughtful discussion by members of the Select Vestry as well as members of the parishes to help reimagine what future of the Diocese of Moosonee and its parishes can be. The facilitator is advised to have one person as a recorder to take notes on the discussion.

#### **Open with Prayer**

An opening in prayer is the standard as we gather and here, we offer and suggest this prayer.

#### Let us pray...

Heavenly Father, you gave your people the Holy Spirit to lead and guide them. In this season of discernment guide us by your Spirit that we may faithfully follow the calling to live and proclaim the Gospel. Grant that in our discussion today our hearts may so be open to you and to one another that we may together walk in the way of that peace which passes all understanding. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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#### A Bible Study

Have three readings from the Bible - John 14: 15-17, 25-27 & 6:13.

After each reading ask the following:

In the context of re-imagining the Diocese....

First Reading:

What words, ideas, sentences stand out for you in this reading.

Second Reading:

What is Jesus saying to you in this reading?

**Third Reading** 

What is Jesus calling you to do in this reading?

#### Parish/ Diocesan Structure (Optional)

Spend a few minutes with the group to have them talk about how their parish is structured and its relationship with the Diocese.

## Group Sharing on the Diocese: "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

- 1. Take a few minutes and share your past personal and parish that stand out with the Diocese.
  - a. Why do these stand out for you?
- 2. What are some of the things that you value in the Church today & that you would like to hold onto?
- 3. Have one of the participants read the following scriptural verse....

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. (Joel2:28)

Have the participants take a few moments of quite time to ponder what the Diocese can be tomorrow ...then share their dreams and visions with the group.

### Group Discussion on the Strategic / Episcopal) Model

Review with the group the handout entitled "Questionnaires to our Strategic Model".

Encourage open and healthy discussion and while paying special attention special that

- > all understand each of the options
- that the views and opinions of participants are respected

At the end of the review have each person complete the questionnaire and add comments and return them to the facilitator.

#### **What Happens Next**

Thank the group for their participation and that their comments, insights are valuable as we move ahead. Advise them that the notes collect will be share with the Committee along with all other parish discussion. A draft report will be prepared by Archbishop Fred Hiltz for the Diocesan Discernment Group for review. Once finalized a Diocesan Gathering will take place to present the final report. Timing on the Diocesan gathering will be subject to the status of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

## **Closing Prayer**

End with a closing prayer. The following is suggested....

"The Lord said, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to that place that I have prepared". (Exodus 23:20)

Let us pray.

Creator GOD of all, we thank you for the work and witness of those who have gathered here today and who have enriched the conversation with their thoughts and with their holy listening.

Bless and preserve our diocese of Moosonee at this time of transition. Day by day, guide us and make clear to us what is needed; a clear vision of that to which you are now calling us.

By your Holy Spirt be present with us as we continue our pilgrimage, that we may travel as one with the One who is the way, the truth and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

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## John 14: 15-17, 25-27 & 6: 13.

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. <sup>25</sup> "All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.