

## **Vision Reports - Preface**

On Saturday, October 1, 2011 a large group of lay and clergy leaders from across the diocese gathered at St. Christopher's, Burlington, in an event called "Fine-tuning the Vision." It was a pivotal moment in our collective engagement with our diocesan vision. Looking back over the past couple of years (and more) of striving to proclaim, receive, interpret and engage this comprehensive vision it became apparent how many diverse ways it is being lived out. The walls of the plenary hall were covered with post-it notes each bearing testimony to how we have seen that vision being realized in parishes, communities, regions and the diocese as a whole. Sometimes we were naming and celebrating developments which seem to have resulted directly from adopting our vision. Sometimes, even when a particular development might have been emerging independently, the conviction grew in us that the vision was a Spirit-led venture, aligning us with the mission God was already enacting amongst and through us.

The following reports from each of the petals and values groups, and one from the Vision Advocate & Coordinator for Excellence in Ministry provide further testimony to the work God has been doing amongst us through creative new and strengthened ministries, evolving structures, emerging resources, prayerful and thoughtful critical review, growing clarity, and increasing engagement in living out our vision.

[Insert reports for the Generous Culture of Stewardship, Continuous Culture of Innovation, Life-changing Worship, Outstanding Leadership for Ministry, Vision Values, Vision Advocate, and Prophetic Social Justice-making here.]

## **Vision Reports – Conclusion**

The focus shifted during the October 1<sup>st</sup> "Fine-tuning the Vision" from a look back and a survey of the present, to anticipation of what is ahead. Energized by the grateful awareness of what has already been begun in us, we engaged in "petal" and "values" groupings to check our compass direction. As Bishop Michael has summarized it at pre-Synod meetings, we were looking to identify: What are we missing? To what new directions are we being called? What resources do we need to take us further? And what new marks or indicators that we are realizing our vision need to be named? Each vision (petals and values) group has considered the gifts of creativity and criticism, insight and ideas offered on October 1<sup>st</sup> and reviewed the goals and indicators which flesh out our vision. In many cases, we expect that proposed revisions will be coming to diocesan decision-making bodies (starting with the November 10, 2011 meeting of Synod Council) to discern, decide and bless new and re-affirmed directions as they come to light.

With excitement and hope

- that more and more the vision will be engaged by all of us in the diocese of Niagara;
- that more and more our life as disciples of Jesus, the Christ, will be equipped and nurtured;
- and that more and more our shared ministries to a hurting world will be renewed, strengthened and extended,

it is to living out our vision to which we return.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Canon R. Terry DeForest

Vision Advocate and Coordinator for Excellence in Ministry