



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA

March 2, 2011

Dear Colleague in Ministry:

I trust that you have been receiving notices about the conference on generosity and mission, generosity@mission.god, being held on April 8 and 9 in Cambridge, ON. It is a cooperative effort between Lutherans and Anglicans, an example of our growing commitment to work together as churches in full communion.

I would strongly encourage you to consider attending on one of the days, and bringing some lay leaders with you. Every indicator we have points to the fact that financial problems are having a severe impact on congregational life and we know that there are tools and techniques which can make transformative changes in congregations.

This is not just a money crisis, it is a mission crisis. That is why I am so pleased that the conference will be dealing with the issue of generosity within the context of the church's role in advancing God's mission on earth.

The conference planning committee has made every effort to keep the cost affordable. The registration fee is only \$60.00 per person per day (including refreshments and lunch), an amount that should be within the means of most congregations. You could also consider using some of your continuing education funds to attend the event. If cost is an obstacle to the participation of you or your congregation, let me know. We can look at ways of trying to offer assistance to those congregations and parishes who would like to attend and for whom the registration fee is an impediment.

Jim Newman and Peter Wall are closely involved in the planning of this conference and I know that there will be excellent opportunities to learn. I will be present myself, and would be gratified to see you there. It would be wonderful to see this event over-subscribed. The roster of workshop leaders is still being firmed up, but I have seen some of the names and am impressed by the range of talent on offer. The presenters will be a good mix of Anglicans and Lutherans, so you will have lots of choice among familiar and new faces. The conference website is at: www.ontariostewardshipnetwork.ca/

Please discuss this with your Corporation or stewardship committee and give serious consideration to being part of the event.

Yours in generosity and mission,

The Right Reverend Michael A. Bird

Cathedral Place, 252 James St. N., Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2L3 Tel: 905-527-1316 • Fax: 905-527-1281