

## **REPORT OF THE MISSION STRATEGY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The task of the Mission Strategy and Planning Committee is to provide advice to the Bishop and Synod Council, management staff and parishes on strategic issues and planning for the future. In this year we bid farewell to the Venerable Marion Vincett as staff support to our committee and welcomed the Venerable Michael Patterson and Andy Kalbfleisch. We have also benefited by planning participation from our new Bishop Michael and his vision for the work of the committee. More will be said about this later in the report.

This past year we have worked with many parishes and projects. Notable among them were the following:

- The Mission of All Saints Niagara Falls, after a long process of discernment this Mission was discontinued by Synod Council on the recommendation of the committee and the Diocesan Administrator.
- On a brighter note, All Saints, Hamilton, which had been looking for new possibilities for their ministry in downtown Hamilton, has just entered into a joint venture with Options for Homes. Under the terms of this arrangement the parish will sell the property to Options for Homes to develop affordable condominium housing and retain worship and programme facilities within the new high rise building that is being developed. This project is an example of a parish looking to the future in strategic and creative ways. This project was championed and facilitated by the Venerable Marion Vincett and the committee with the strong support of the Corporation and people of All Saints, Hamilton.
- Other creative projects are underway at St. Luke's, Palermo as they look to sell and redevelop property in partnership with the diocese and other parties.
- St. John's, Burlington is creating new visibility and revenue opportunities by leasing government forest land adjacent to the property and creating St. John's Wood, a park and possible "festival" venue. This is in addition to tackling the accessibility issues of an historic church building.
- St. Aidan's, Oakville is working to develop a project in cooperation with community partners, St. Jude's, Oakville and the diocese. Called the Lindisfarne Project, it is an extension of the social justice and community outreach of the parish.

In these and many other projects, the committee works with the parishes to bring reasonable proposals to Synod Council.

The committee continues to monitor and work with the leaders of the newly amalgamated parishes and reflect on what we can learn as a diocese from their challenges and successes. Many parishes need to develop ministry plans for their specific parish context. The committee responds to requests to lead parish planning days. These consulting events are designed in collaboration with local parishes and may include elements such as history reviews, appreciative inquiry, demographic and physical and programme resources reviews. While most mission is local, the committee is also beginning to look at regional mission opportunities and facilitating conversations among parishes around common opportunities. We continue to encourage and support ministry experiments such as the Hamilton Mountain Ministry and seek to foster partnerships between parishes such as St. Aidan's and St. Jude's, Oakville to enable new ministry.

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Bishop Michael brings to the committee a passion for excellence in ministry and the committee is working with Canon Marni Nancekivell, Director of Transitional Ministries and Fresh Start to develop a Ministry Covenanting Process. This process would help parishes to prepare for new incumbent ministry by responding to questions about their ministry context and developing strategic directions for parish mission. These goals and objectives would form the basis of a ministry plan for the new incumbent and parish leaders. In this way a new partnership in ministry could be created between the Bishop and Synod, and the local parish leadership from the start of a new incumbency. Other issues that the committee continues to study are Church Planting and Fresh Expressions.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones, Chair

The Venerable Dr. Richard Jones, Chair  
Bishop Michael Bird  
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