

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Stewardship and Financial Development continued parish education with visits to parish councils, stewardship committees and corporations throughout the year. The proven five part Stewardship plan which consists of year-round stewardship, use of the narrative budget, long range parish planning, using the diocesan Pre-Authorized Payment plan and gift planning was presented and promoted during the visits to parishes, in sermons and in articles in the on-line and printed Niagara Anglican.

A new addition to the Stewardship toolbox was created this year. An Income Averaging template and worksheet was made available on the Stewardship section of the diocesan website for downloading. The worksheet is an Excel spreadsheet which compares current income with the previous three years income and creates several charts that can be used by a parish in presentations, bulletins, newsletters and narrative budgets to tell the good news of their current position. The template gives an explanation of how to use the worksheet. By changing the labels on the chart the worksheet could also be used to compare current monthly attendance figures with the previous three years attendance. Any data requiring a comparison to historic data could be entered.

A major study using on-line vestry reports and PAP monthly reports was completed and showed that the average annual gift by individuals in the diocese had increased by over 27% to \$954 from the \$750 reported several years ago. The average annual gift by individuals in the diocese using PAP was calculated as \$1,425.

In addition, the study created reports for each parish showing their average giving and PAP average and rankings compared with other parishes in the diocese. An explanation of the report and suggestions on how to use the data was included with each parish report. Summary reports were created for the Regional Archdeacons. After it was available parish data was used in presentations and sermons during parish visits.

This study showed a number of things, not the least of which is that there are a lot of generous givers in Niagara. It also shows that there is plenty of scope for broadening our base of support. It shows that parishes using the proven five part Stewardship program have giving levels above those parishes that don't, and it shows the advantages to a parish from promoting the use of the diocesan Pre-Authorized Payment plan. Now that the initial legwork has been done, the study should be repeated on a yearly or bi-annual basis.

Association with other Anglican Diocesan Stewardship Directors and our friends in the Lutheran church continues with membership in the Ontario Stewardship Network.

One area that needs further development is the area of gift planning. A revision to the "Planting Mustard Seeds" gift planning document needs to be put into motion. Staff education continued with the attendance of Archdeacon Lynne Corfield and Bob McKinnell, Diocesan Treasurer, at a number of workshops at the Canadian Association of Gift Planners annual meeting and conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Carl Sneyd
Director of Stewardship and Financial Development