



The Anglican Diocese of Western Newfoundland

Strategic Plan 2010 - 2015

Taking Care of God's Business

Corner Brook, NL Canada



The Diocesan Crest of Western Newfoundland



The Crest retains some of the features of the original Diocese of Newfoundland - the mitre at the top symbolizing the Bishopric; the Paschal Lamb, symbolic of Christ, and in the lower left the Church Coat of Arms.

Added to make a distinctively Western Newfoundland Seal were the Pitcher Plant, official flower of the province, and a sailing yacht, the LAVROCK - a vessel donated for the bishop's use by Rev. J. J. Curling [for whom Curling, NL is named]. The LAVROCK was used to carry the Ministry to the then many isolated communities in the parishes and missions of Newfoundland and Labrador. The vessel was used for 37 years. It sank in the outer Bay of Islands while still in missionary service.

Bishop's Message

The Gospel of Luke Ch.1 verses 68-79 are familiar to us. In Morning Prayer it is known as the *Benedictus*; we also call it the *Song of Zechariah*. In this passage God is praised for sending Jesus among us and we are told in plain detail what God's mission is about:

- he has visited and redeemed his people,
- he has raised up for us a Saviour,
- he would save us from our enemies,
- he promised to remember God's holy covenant,
- he swore to worship God without fear,
- he gave his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins,
- he will shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and
- he will guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Five Marks of Mission, as defined by the Anglican Communion, are rooted in this and similar passages of scripture. The Five Marks of Mission have helped shape what we as a diocese are called to be. At our Diocesan Synod in April 2010 we defined our mission in this Strategic Plan which we like to refer to as "Taking Care of God's Business", a phrase coined by Archdeacon Michael Pollesel (General Secretary of The Anglican Church of Canada).

A Strategic Plan in itself can be a matter of words just as a church can be just another religious institution. Christianity is not just a religion. Christianity is meant to go beyond "talking the talk" to transforming ourselves, our communities and our environment to create conditions where wholeness of life may be enjoyed. "We cannot claim to have a mission but we can be the mission; the mission that goes out from God. Mission is God's way of loving and saving the world so it is never our invention or choice." Bishops at the Lambeth Conference of 1998 and 2008 affirmed that statement.

To give this plan a heart we have to be a church marked by a unity around the presence of the incarnate, crucified and risen Christ who is among us; the Christ whom we worship, serve and proclaim as Lord. Jesus, the One sent by God, draws us to himself, breathes the Holy Spirit upon us and sends us out again and again in His name.

May this framework be a means by which our spiritual life, at its deepest level, is shaped by the God of Mission.

Yours in the service of Christ's church,

The Rt. Rev. Percy David Coffin

August 2010

Foreword

The Diocesan Strategic Plan, *Draw Your Church Together, O Lord*, served us from 2004-2009 focussing on seven areas of ministry: Communication, Youth Ministry, Faith Development, Resource Management/Stewardship, Outreach, Conversation on Human Sexuality, Evangelism. During 2009, a number of clergy and laity, deanery and diocesan events, Task Group and Synod Executive meetings were held for the purpose of reviewing, renewing, and revising the Plan to take us on another five year journey. The six particular areas of this plan - Christian Education, Communication, Stewardship, Outreach, Youth, and Evangelism and Renewal - have been identified as focal points for our ministry together under the theme - *Taking Care of God's Business*.

This new plan was approved and adopted at our Diocesan Synod 2010. It is our hope that, as parishes develop or revise their own strategic plans, the areas of ministry identified here will be included in parish plans as together we work for the building up of the body of Christ in this place.

1 Peter: 2.5 says: "like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." We are living and moving by the grace of God and so we entrust this ministry to God that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit to do the will of our Creator.

The Anglican Diocese of Western Newfoundland

Vision:

A vibrant faith community,
rooted and grounded in Christ,
committed to loving and serving
God and the world,
guided by the Holy Spirit.

Mission:

to worship and serve God
by following Christ,
using and sharing
the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



Christian Education

Goal: to provide programs and opportunities for learning

Objectives:

1. to offer opportunities and resources for various types of Christian education programming for laity and clergy; *eg. Church Growth, Vestry Enrichment, Pastoral Visitor workshops*



2. to use Diocesan policies and guidelines as tools for unity and growth



3. to work cooperatively with all Diocesan Committees involved in programming



4. to use the Diocesan Preparation programs as tools for church growth

5. to investigate Sunday School programs and provide resource information and/or training as necessary; *eg. Godly Play, One Room Sunday School, Whole People of God, Seasons of the Spirit*



Communication

Goal: to develop and deliver a system of effective and efficient communication

Objectives:

1. to enhance communication within the Diocese
2. to provide information on available resources and training
3. to communicate using various types of media; eg. website, newsletter, newspapers, etc.
4. to continue to dialogue on human sexuality



Evangelism And Renewal

Goal: to promote the importance of evangelism, faith development and church growth

Objectives:

1. to provide training in evangelism and church growth techniques
2. to monitor and foster the use of “Christian basics” programs; eg. *Alpha*, *Youth Alpha*, *Christianity 101*, *Power House of Prayer Workshop*
3. to use the Diocesan Preparation programs as tools for evangelism
4. to monitor and foster other opportunities for evangelism; eg. *Cursillo*, *Teens Encounter Christ*, *Church Growth Workshop*
5. to provide resources for missions, workshops and other training events



Mission and Outreach

Goal: to further the mission of the Church with special emphasis on the following Marks of Mission:

1. to respond to human need by loving service;
2. to seek to transform unjust structures of society; and,
3. to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth



Objectives:

1. to create a greater awareness of the Marks of Mission as set out by the Anglican Consultative Council
2. to promote and engage in local and global outreach programs *such as Food Banks, School Breakfast programs, PWRDF*
3. to promote and engage in local and global advocacy issues through groups *such as Women's Centres, Health Care, KAIROS, NL Sealer's Association*
4. to raise awareness of the Partners in Mission/ Eco-Justice Committee of the National Church
5. to promote fair trade and environmentally friendly practices



Stewardship

Goal: to teach and practice a holistic understanding of stewardship

Objectives:

1. to develop and implement a stewardship education process
2. to teach proportional giving of time, talent and treasure as a response to what God has given us
3. to evaluate infrastructure to ensure effective and efficient usage
4. to continue funding the Congregational Development/ Stewardship Education staff position and to build a resource materials data base



Youth

Goal: to facilitate, support and enable youth ministry

Objectives:

1. to train lay leaders to do youth ministry;
eg. revised Confirmation program
2. to identify and provide appropriate resources for youth ministry
3. to revisit the Teens Encounter Christ program and evaluate its usefulness as a resource for this time
4. to explore the possibility of annual deanery youth conferences with resources from the Diocese

