

Diversity Policy



Policy Statement

The principle of what might be called “representative diversity” is important and should guide the formation of Synod and of all parish, area and diocesan councils, boards and committees. According to this principle, the composition of these groups should reflect the diversity of the people on whose behalf they are acting with regard to ethnic diversity, gender balance and age.

Approved by Synod, 2001

Background

The Diocese of Toronto is committed to ministry that reflects our cultural diversity through strategies that will foster understanding across cultures, create mutual respect, and build a strong sense of shared community.

Diversity ministry is the embodiment of our vision to recognize the value of diversity in building communities of hope and compassion as expressed in Ephesians 2:19 “So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”

St. Paul describes the community of Christ followers as the Body of Christ; each person in the community is a component on the Body of Christ, and each, an essential part of the Body. St. Paul illustrates the different spiritual gifts and goes on to say that whatever ethnicity or social status we are all baptized in one body. Because of the diversity of its members working cooperatively, the body as a whole is able to function.

Prayer for Diversity

Together let us pray and celebrate the wonder of our diversity in the unity of faith.

God of the nations, you call us to share in the life and ministry of your Church. Enable us, though different in colour, customs and heritage, to celebrate our oneness in you and the shared inheritance of your Kingdom. Prosper our work as we endeavour to build bridges of love, understanding and cooperation, that, transformed and renewed by your Holy Spirit, we will be no longer strangers to one another, but together, as members of your household, always give you glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

No Longer Strangers Conference 1995, Composed by the Rev. Canon Stephen Fields