

# 160th Regular Session of Synod

November 25-27, 2021

**CONVENING CIRCULAR**  
**OTHER REPORTS TO SYNOD**

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## Anglican Church Women (ACW)

The purpose of the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women is to be a focus for Christian community among all Anglican Women, affirming their gifts and encouraging their ministries through fellowship, worship and service.

In 1966, by resolution of General Synod and with the agreement of all involved, Anglican Church Women was formed by the amalgamation of the four existing women's ministries: the Mother's Union, the Chancel Guild, the Church Year and the Women's Auxiliary. On November 22, 1967 the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women was legally incorporated in the Province of Ontario, undertaking to carry forward the aims and programs of all four founding ministries.

Today, the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women is an umbrella organization which assists, informs and encourages the Parish Women's Groups. Through the combined efforts of these Parish Groups, we are able to 'love our neighbor' by giving financial assistance to various projects. Through the Diocesan ACW newsletter: ideas are shared, Prayer Links for the quarter listed, messages from the Chaplain written to ponder, Parish A.C.W. activities highlighted, Social Concerns and Action projects discussed. The Board of Directors meet monthly (this past year by Zoom) to share ideas, discuss financial decisions and report on what is happening with the Parish women around the Diocese. Most of the work in the Parishes involves learning about the needs of our 'neighbours', service to our 'neighbours' or raising funds to help our 'neighbours'.

Some Anglican Church Women choose to meet in formal Groups known as "the A.C.W.". These groups allow for more intentional involvement. They provide fellowship and support for their members as well as structure for encouraging their members' ministry and spiritual growth. They are as varied as their members. The number of meetings/events per year, the number of groups, the time the groups meet, the type of activities they wish to be involved in, are all decided by the gifts, needs and interests of the women in their church.

At the Diocesan level "Loving Thy Neighbour" is basic to our work as listed here:

- Council of the North – supporting the work of the Council of the North through a major donation.



- Theological Student Bursaries – providing to assistance to women theological students.
- Lay Ministry/Vocational Deacons Bursaries – providing assistance to women pursuing training in Lay Ministry or for the Vocational Diaconate.
- Missionary Appeals – providing assistance to women who are participating in a mission event usually outside of Canada (three in 2021).
- Threshold Ministries – (formerly Church Army) helping their work and continuing support on behalf of the founding Chancel Guild commitment.
- Chancel training and information – sharing knowledge pertaining to Chancels and Sanctuaries of our churches and chapels.
- Memorial Book – providing a permanent remembrance for any A.C.W member who has died.
- Ecclesiastical Needleworkers – providing working space and support for the group of women who meet every Monday to create and sell altar clothes and small linens as well as custom, hand embroidered vestments and hangings. They also repair and remount old hangings and vestments.
- Social Concern and Action Special Projects – facilitating increased awareness of social issues in our communities, our areas, the nation and the world. Each year, each Area chooses an organization to receive our Special Project financial support in keeping with the Social Justice theme, voted on by the members at the AGM. Many groups invite speakers to address them about various social issues in their communities. The theme for 2020-2021 was the Housing Crisis: Affordable Housing & Homelessness. The organizations receiving support in 2020/21 are: Home Horizon Collingwood, 360 Kids, Homeward Bound Peterborough, Dr Roz Healing Place and Youth Without Shelter
- Newsletter – publishing a newsletter three times a year. The newsletter is sent to every parish in the Diocese earmarked for the

women's groups. Many women choose to have their own personal subscription.

- Ecumenical work – being involved with various ecumenical activities in our Diocese such as World Day of Prayer Services, Catholic Women's League AGM, WICC.
- Interfaith work – working with members of other faith communities, primarily around children and women's issues.

Diocesan A.C.W. is funded mainly by donations from Parish Anglican Church Women Groups, most of which money is designated for Council of the North, Special Projects, Bursaries etc. These donations are supplemented by the sale of public relations items such as A.C.W. pins, chancel pins, newsletter subscriptions, memorial book inscriptions, P.A.L subscriptions and individual donations. The work of the Ecclesiastical Needleworkers and investment income cover the office expenses.

The 2020 Annual General Meeting, which was quickly changed to Zoom format, was planned by Trent Durham Area. The theme was "Hope". Due to the new format and steep learning curve, there was no worship or guest speaker at this AGM. After Bishop Peter Fenty brought greetings on behalf of the College of Bishops, we were able to say our early farewells and to say thank you to him for his many years of dedicated service.

The 2021 Annual General Meeting was once again by Zoom with the theme "Challenge to Move Forward". Bishop Riscylla Shaw brought greetings from the College of Bishops. We were pleased to have the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls bring greetings from the National Church and discuss with us of some of the issues facing the Anglican Church of Canada today.

The National Conference for the Diocesan Presidents of Anglican Church Women was cancelled in 2020 but we look forward to a Zoom Conference in October 2021. We receive newsletters from several Diocese which keep us informed of the ministry of women across Canada.



We extend our sincere thank you to all who support us through donations, encouragement and prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Enid Corbett, MA, ODT  
President, Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women

## **The Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation**

### **Introduction**

Incorporated in 1999, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation (ADTF), exists to provide financial support to the Diocese of Toronto or any parish of the Diocese. It is the key charitable arm of the Diocese of Toronto tasked with raising legacy and endowment funds for the Episcopacy, FaithWorks, diocesan parishes, and the wider needs of the church community.

### **Mission**

The Foundation resources the Diocese of Toronto and local parishes as they plant and grow bold strategic initiatives for the future of God's Church.

### **Supporting Objectives**

- To perpetually support the Bishop of Toronto in proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
- To invest in new and emerging ministries
- To invite gifts of encouragement as demonstrated by the early Church (Acts 4: 36-37)

### **Funds**

The Foundation retains assets of over \$14,000,000. In the last 5 years, nearly \$2,000,000 has been distributed. The Foundation currently provides financial assistance through the following funds and endowments:

- Anglican Community Development Fund



- Clergy and Theological Student Endowment
- John Strachan Trust to Fund the Office of the Bishop of Toronto
- The Archbishop Colin R. Johnson Fund for Clergy and Lay Education
- FaithWorks Endowment
- Canon Robert L. Falby Memorial Endowment for Aboriginal Ministry
- Most Rev. Fred Hiltz Scholarship
- Douglas C. Cowling Bursary in Liturgical Music
- W. Alex and Shirley Johnson Memorial Endowment (for St. John, East Orangeville)
- Howland Estate
- Canon Shea Fund

The ADTF invests its assets with two independent investment management firms: RBC Phillips, Hager & North Investment Counsel and Burgundy Asset Management.

### **Distributions**

The Foundation made the following distributions totaling \$552,475 for 2021:  
Board Members

<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
Anglican Diocese of Toronto Fund – Theological Education	\$25,300	To assist with theological education bursaries
Anglican Community Development Fund	\$2,300	Designated to children’s ministry in “at-risk” neighborhood (St. Bart’s, Regent Park Breakfast Ministry)
FaithWorks Endowment	\$67,250	Allocation to FaithWorks
Howland Estate	\$17,600	To assist clergy at the discretion of the Bishop
Shea Fund	\$4,275	To assist clergy at the discretion of the Bishop
Samuel Chamberlain Fund	\$10,750	For FaithWorks ministries in the City of Toronto



Office of the Bishop of Toronto	\$377,000	Includes remuneration, expenses, and office costs (budgeted contribution)
Anglican Diocese of Toronto Fund	\$5,780	Travel grant for Lambeth 2022
Canon Falby Endowment for Aboriginal Ministry	\$21,700	Subsidy for cleric in Aboriginal Ministry
Douglas C. Cowling Bursary*	0	To a Parish Director of Music in the Diocese of Toronto
The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz* Scholarship	0	To assist with expenses in attending St. George College in Jerusalem
Alex & Shirley Jackson Memorial Endowment	\$1,020	Annual payment for operations of St. John, East Orangeville
The Archbishop Colin R. Johnson Fund for Clergy and Lay Education	\$19,500	Leigh Silcox (\$2,000) and Lay Education at discretion of the College of Bishops (\$17,500).

\*Allocation withheld due to pandemic

### Board Members

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of five (5) clergy and six (6) laity who are active members of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. These include:

Mr. John Whincup (Chair)  
 Mr. Stu Hutcheson ODT (Treasurer)  
 Ms. Leslie Hadju ODT (Secretary)  
 The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil  
 The Reverend Adrienne Clement  
 The Reverend Molly Finlay  
 Ms. Mary Pember, ODT  
 The Rev. Shelley Pollard  
 Mr. Ryan Ramsden ODT  
 The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson  
 Mr. Stephen Rodaway ODT  
 Ms. Gail Smith

Staff support is provided by:



Mr. Peter Misiaszek, CFRE (Assistant Secretary)  
Ms. Patricia D'Souza, (Assistant Treasurer)

## **Bishop's Committees**

### **Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries**

'Love Thy Neighbour.' In reflecting on these words with the Galatians, Paul writes, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." To the Corinthians, he writes, "Let all that you do be done in love."

The charter for our committee begins by quoting Paul's letter to the Romans, "'We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another'" The work of healing ministries cannot be separated from Christ's love through whom we live well together.

Healing ministries are rooted in love and relationship. Our loving, and loved, relationship with God, calls us to love each other and all creation. From God's whole and complete love, healing arises.

Healing is a loving and active word. Involving mind, body and spirit. Each intertwine and weave together in our lives to support whole health. Sometimes the Spirit needs to carry mind and body. Healing work has a foundation that is spiritual, Spirit-filled in the trusted embrace of God, to bring healthy hope, peace, and joy. Sometimes the body is hurt or unwell and healing ministries bring presence and prayer, and the supports for care, recovery and wholeness, into the world of healthcare. Sometimes the mind is hurt or exhausted or lonely and the work of healing is active listening, accompaniment and seeking God together.

In late 2019 the newly formed and reshaped Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries came to be. We now have representation on the committee from various branches of healing ministries. The Healing ministries represented on the Committee currently include, lay and ordained health-care chaplains,



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faith community (parish) nurses, lay anointers, lay pastoral visitors, and seniors' ministry. The Committee provides for the coordination and collaboration of the Healing Ministries of the Diocese. We are a resource for the communities and people of the Diocese and also promote the networking of resources. We support, develop, coordinate and presents educational material, events and retreats. The Committee is responsible for the ongoing support of Anglicans in our diocese engaged in the healing ministries, through education, training and fellowship. We would be very pleased to hear from you with your questions and about your ideas and needs.

Our work is done in love. The following is ongoing or completed:

- Two Facebook pages have been created. One for Healing Ministries in general and another particularly for Seniors' Ministry. Both are public pages and a Facebook Account is not required. Search for @Ministries2 and @perennials1 on Facebook.
- A five part video series in the fall of 2020 was completed, that included a worship service with a homily from Bishop Peter Fenty, a presentation by the Rev. Don Downer on Healing/Caring for God's Creation, a presentation by committee member the Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger on Praying with the Healing Miracles of Jesus, and presentation on Parish Nursing by Nancy Truscott and Cheryle Pollock. This is available on our Healing Ministries Facebook page.
- The Rev. Canon Jo Davies works on the team coordinating and developing the guidelines for our diocese during the pandemic alongside answering the weekly questions about Covid-19 guidelines and protocols.
- A video conversation, facilitated by Cynthia Majewski with the Rev. Maria Nightingale, Laurie Robertson, and the Rev. Canon Jo Davies, was recently completed, Learning from the Pandemic, Care for Seniors. It is available to see on our Seniors' Ministry Facebook page.
- Pamphlets have begun or are completed on each of the ministries of the committee.
- Restructuring and redeveloping the diocesan education for Lay Pastoral Ministry is ongoing and a priority.

- The committee continues to support and connect with healthcare Chaplains who are Anglican (lay and ordained).
- Cheryle Pollock and Nancy Truscott, the Faith Community nurses on our committee, created the brochure, Reducing Risk of Infection During Worship and Liturgical Practice.

We are delighted to write that Bishop Riscylla Shaw is our new link bishop. We are very grateful to Bishop Peter Fenty for the wisdom, humour and presence he shared with us these past years.

Our committee members are, The Rev. Canon Jo Davies (chair), The Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger, Greg Lane, Cheryle Pollock, Nancy Truscott, The Rev. Theadore Hunt, The Rev. Grace Caldwell, Cynthia Majewski, and The Rev. Matthew McMillan.

May all that we are begin and end with the love of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Davies +

## Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministries

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* John 13:35 NRSV

### **Background**

This is the seventh year since the Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministry was created. Its mandate arises from the 2011 report Being Multicultural, Becoming Intercultural. In addition to monthly meetings, where members share information, report on activities and plan, the Committee has been engaged in promoting racial equity in the Diocese through educational programming and advocacy.



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The Committee wishes to begin by expressing gratitude to the College of Bishops for its support for and attention to our mandate, which has clearly become even more urgent in light of recent events, such as the George Floyd tragedy, the recovery of unmarked children's graves at Residential Schools and increased anti-Asian hate due to the global pandemic.

### **Current**

The theme of the 160th Session of Synod is "Love thy Neighbour." Jesus called us to love our neighbours as ourselves and declared that a hallmark of Christian discipleship was mutual love. This love is made visible among us when barriers between cultures and races are brought down, and all members of our Church experience inclusion, representation and are empowered for full participation and belonging. Here are some ways in which our work has advanced that goal:

- ABAR Training - Beginning with the College of Bishops and Diocesan staff, mandatory Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism Training has begun in earnest in our Diocese and is continuing this fall with training for clergy and members of Diocesan Council. The training will be rolled out to parishes beginning in early 2021.
- Our Committee was invited to draft the Diocesan Social Justice Vestry Motion for 2021, which we did with the assistance and expertise of Elin Goulden, Diocesan Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant. This motion invited parishes to commit to anti-racism as individuals and as communities and provided them with resources to help them do so. The motion highlighted anti-Black racism as a particular form of racism that we are called to recognize and dismantle, along with every other form of racism, with a focus on a new awareness of the racism that is present in all of our institutions, including our beloved Church. The motion was passed by the vast majority of parishes, with many parishes taking the opportunity to reach out to our Committee for resources, speakers and more (see below).
- In April of 2021, several of our Bishops, including our Diocesan Bishop, Andrew Asbil, attended the White Privilege Conference, which



was virtual this year. This conference has been seen as a challenging, life-changing encounter for those of us who have attended. We received very positive feedback from the Bishops in terms of the complex challenges the conference presented for them.

- Our Committee has contributed expertise and resources to support the College of Bishops with policy recommendations for incidents such as local hate crimes or racial incidents at the parish, committee, clergy and staff level.
- We were invited to join in “Listening Sessions” developed by Bernadette Arthur of Co:Culture Collective. Bernadette used these sessions to help develop the curriculum for the Diocesan ABAR training. These sessions raised serious issues from the lives of both clergy and parishioners in our Diocese, whose experiences have often left them feeling excluded, while white allies were kept on the fringe and not taken seriously. We place great hope in mandatory ABAR training: that it will begin to untangle these complex experiences so that we can all understand more deeply the effects of our words, decisions and actions.
- Our members have been invited to speak to parishes at Sunday services to address issues of racism within ourselves and within our church communities. These invitations continue and have included St. Augustine of Canterbury, St. John’s Chinese Church, Willowdale, St. Mary Magdalene and St. John the Baptist, Norway.

### **Looking Ahead**

This year, the committee will be taking part in strategic planning alongside the ABAR pods, as well as turning its attention towards the more difficult sections of our foundational report: the treatment of cultural congregations and racialized clergy. The Diocese has committed to a reporting process similar to the one used under its Sexual Misconduct Protocol (SMP) to support racialized clergy and congregations. The committee will be making recommendations on what that process should look like.



The committee has strongly advocated for the collection of disaggregated race-based data to examine the Diocese's hiring and remuneration practices. Together with the Diversity Officer, we hope to see movement in this area shortly.

Submitted faithfully,

Christina Yu, co-Chair, Andre Lyn, co-Chair, The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, The Rev. Adrienne Clements, The Rev. Canon Maurice Francois, The Rev. Leonard Leader, The Rev. Susanne McKim, Donna Scantlebury, Lance Wilson, ODT.

## Bishop's Youth Ministry Committee

Current Members: The Rev. Brian Suggs, Chair; Amy de Sousa, York-Simcoe Area Coordinator; Sarah Layman, York-Simcoe Area Coordinator; Cormac Culkeen, Trent-Durham Area Coordinator; Ian Physick, York-Scarborough Area Coordinator; Jillian Ruch, York-Scarborough Area Coordinator (ended Sept 30, 2021); Constance Kendall, Area Coordinator for York-Credit Valley; Densie Byard, The Rev. Andrew Colman, Michelle Clouter, and Tammy Bussey.

### Committee Update

Much has changed for all of us in the Diocese since our last Synod and that includes the Bishop's Youth Ministry Committee (BYMC). Although Synod only met in 2019, it feels so very long ago that we were all gathered in one, large room and able to have conversations face-to-face while indoors and mask-less! We fondly recall at our table, asking you to support our youth to be able to attend CLAY by purchasing hay bales on our game board and then some of you paying to have those bales in other Episcopal areas mowed down so that your area would win. What good fun! Despite all the changes and the ups and downs we've all experienced, we have continually seen God at work in the youth leaders and also in the lives of the youth throughout the Diocese and we are thankful that youth ministry is continuing to thrive.



Our committee has seen the departure of Jillian Ruch as our chair (Feb. 2021), as she was accepted as a Postulant in the Diocese. We are thankful for Jillian's leadership and the gifts she shared with us all. She has been succeeded by The Rev. Brian Suggs. We are looking forward to Rev. Brian's skills of collaboration and leadership in this new era of the BYMC. Brian brings with him his experience of being an area youth ministry coordinator prior to his ordination. We also saw the departure of the York-Simcoe coordinator, Nancy Hannah, who brought a passion for social justice to the committee. We wish her well in her new career in Orillia. We gained two new coordinators, Amy and Sarah, and we are blessed by their passion and skills in the role. We also said goodbye to the York-Credit Valley Coordinator, Ali, as she was also accepted as a Postulant in the Diocese and is now in the role of Lay Pastoral Associate. Connie has since taken over the role in late August 2021 and we are grateful to have her on the committee as well with her knowledge that she brings to the area.

Since 2019, we've made a few strategic decisions about the ministry and work God has called us to do in the Diocese. We used the initial stages of the lockdown to hold strategic meetings about what we as the committee are striving for, who we are serving and how each activity that we put energy into leans on those two answers. We discerned that we are primarily striving to support clergy/youth leaders, both educationally and in their practical, day-to-day ministry. The only specifically youth focused event remaining in our calendar is the Diocesan Youth Retreat, but we see that this still ties into providing a space for youth leaders to network, which helps to sustain them throughout the year as they feel less isolated in their ministry settings.

Our main source of support for the youth leaders throughout the year comes in the form of our Area Coordinators and the Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program (YMAP). York Simcoe expanded their Area Coordinator position to become two positions, one for the north of the area and one for the south. This was modelled after the York-Scarborough split role which divides up the deaneries for support from a particular coordinator. We find that the coordinators are being used in many different ways: support; resources;





networking; and by the clergy when discerning how to develop their youth ministry roles in their parishes. We are always available as consultants and we welcome all of these conversations with you!

The events that have been on our calendar (albeit mainly virtually since 2019) are: Theology Day; Clergy Consultations; Re:Charge Youth Retreat; and SPARK! Youth Leaders Retreat. Along with these diocesan wide events, there are also some area specific events which are enjoyed by many. We continue to work alongside the College of Bishops and having a specific 'link' Bishop that works with the committee to assist in continuing to grow our ministry. This has been helpful. We are grateful that all of our Bishops are always supportive, they volunteer to come and speak at our events, they pray with our leaders or are happy to simply greet people with a friendly smile.

Until February 2021, we were blessed to have Bishop Jenny as our 'link' Bishop for three years and we are grateful for her energy, ideas, and strategic leadership. Bishop Riscylla has stepped into the role and we are excited to be working alongside her and to have her support. We have appreciated the College's commitment to increase our funding for the Re:Charge retreat, for the YMAP program and for offering to support those who had planned to attend CLAY in person.

### **YMAP**

The Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program (YMAP) is meant to equip and prepare potential leaders for a youth ministry position in the Diocese of Toronto. This year there was an expansion of leadership to allow for more YMAP participants. YMAP continues to be led by Cormac Culkeen and Ali McIntosh. In the last two years there have been 8 apprentices. We are excited that the word about this amazing program is getting out to the churches and that there continues to be an uptake in inquiries and follow-through with apprentices. This program normally runs from October to June and includes: mentoring, training, fellowship and lots of opportunities to network and build relationships in the Diocese.



## **CLAY**

We were saddened that covid took the wind out of our sails to get to Calgary, however we are endeavoring as a committee to aid churches in sending youth and leaders to CLAY 2022, held in Waterloo. This will be a great opportunity to try to get as many youth to this event as possible as no airfare will be required! This event is attended by about 400-500 youth and leaders from across the country. What an experience they could have together! Looking forward to working towards our goal of sending at least 10 youth (50 is our hope though!) to this event.

## **Love Thy Neighbour**

As followers of Jesus and as a committee of the Diocese of Toronto, we are committed to loving our neighbour. We see that there are many opportunities for us to continue practicing and teaching this commandment of our Lord in the work we do with the youth leaders and the youth of our Diocese. We see that loving our neighbour is one way we honour God with our lives and it is key as we seek, with God's help, to live out our baptismal promises and to showing those around us that our faith in Jesus is real.

In Faithful Service,

Jillian Ruch, chair (ending February 2021)

The Rev. Brian Suggs, chair (current)

## **Designated Ministries**

### **Church of South India**

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Amos' challenged the children of Israel by a powerful sentence "prepare to meet your God". This message recorded in Amos 4: 12b. It is very meaningful in our lives too. Ask yourself why we live in this world? We do not own what



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we thought was ours in this world. Then why we live? Here is the significance of this call through Amos.

The covid19 virus has kept us away from many things for the past year. Covid19 is not a punishment but it is the result of the evil works of human being. We realized that this disease is God's warning. So we must turn to God. We must prepare for Jesus' second coming. We must wait for the coming of Jesus in the clouds. He prepared our own place in heaven.

It is really grateful that so many members have begun to study the Bible as per the sermon on January 1, 2020. God has helped all of us to overcome the crises caused by Covid19. There are those who have gone through various tragic situations. God strengthened us all there. Worship was conducted through social media. Our prayer group leaders, Mr. Abraham P George, Mr. Christy Abraham and Mrs. Daisy Mathai were working sincerely to continue our area prayers.

God helped us to study the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel as part of our Bible study of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Sunday school, Youth Movement, Women's Fellowship, Men's Fellowship, Choir, Mission, PR and Malayala Lokam functioned beautifully. Our church members attended our chain prayer conducted by women 's fellowship and men fellowship. I appreciate those who work behind the prayer.

Under the leadership of Mr. Zac Santhosh Koshy Vice President Mr. Daniel Thomas church secretary and Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel Treasurer, the church was maintained by the hard work of the board members. The supervision given to our congregation by our Bishops The Most. Rev Thomas K Oommen, Rt Rev Jenny Andison and New Bishop The Rt Rev Dr Sabu K Cherian were meaningful. Thirumenis could support all our ministries.

Our parish gave farewell to Bishop Thomas K. Oommen. Thirumeni's intervention in the crisis of our Church was courageous and glorious. CSI



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Church Toronto gratefully remembers his care and love. Bishop Thomas K. Oommen leads a retirement life at home.

Bishop Jenny Andison becomes Rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church. She is going to step down from her position as area Bishop. Her leadership was helpful and favourable to us. Her absence is a loss to us. On behalf of our church I wish all the best to her.

We express congratulations and prayers to Rt. Rev. Dr. Sabu K Cherian, the new Bishop of the Diocese of Madhya Kerala. Thirumeni was the treasurer of the Diocese and he was working with us in the fellowship of CSI Churches in North America.

Intercessory prayer is conducted continuously through social media. The virtual convention was held to coincide with the thirty-fourth anniversary of our church. Rev Shubin Varghese, CSI Church Australia. Rev. Joby Joy Avanakkadan, CSI church Hudson Valley, Br. Sabu Variyapuram, India, Rt Rev Dr. John Perumbalath Anglican Church ENGLAND were the preachers. Special worships of all the organizations were held regularly on the respective Sundays.

I consider it a blessing from God that \$ 35,000 more has been spent on charitable activities from our church this year. In that 29000 we send to the poor people in India. Many mission fields, churches and the sick people, especially those who faced economic crisis were helped. Mission director Mrs. Daisy Mathai's hard work needs to be highlighted here. I remember with gratitude that we were able to deliver this aid through the Madhya Kerala Diocese of CSI.

This year's Harvest Festival was held online. The church people actively participated. Thanks to everyone. Christmas carols were also held virtually during the lockdown. Bishop Jenny Andison delivered the Christmas message. I appreciate choir members, Director Mr. Chris George and Master



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Mr. Daniel Thomas. Special thanks to Mr. Jeffin Mathews and Mr. Jijo Varghese.

Our church participated in Ecumenical quiz program, Christmas Carol service and convention. Thank you everyone. We conducted CSI North American Council prayer and our choir participated National choir Christmas video.

When the lockdown began, Mrs Elizabeth Varghese helped us to conduct the tele-conference worship service. Then 'Go to meeting', YouTube and Facebook were arranged by a team led by Mr. Varghese V John. The new website, church logo, camera, sound system and computer system were designed by the PR team. Mr. Suby Mathews, Mr. Daniel Thomas, Dr. Nibu Varguise and Mr. Zac Santhosh Koshy sponsored some of these equipments for the quick arrangements. Expresses our church's love for all who have worked to meet the needs of the church.

In addition to the above people, the names of those who helped with sermons in the worship are mentioned below: Arch Deacon Sam Thomas, V. Rev T.J. John, Rev. Jacob Thomas, Mr. Chris Moothedom, Mr. Samuel Anselm Samuel, Mrs. Stepha Anil, Mr. Joshua Moothedom, Mr. Hans Thomas to deliver the message and thank God for using them. Thank you for your contributions.

Through baptism Ezra David Sam entered the primary membership of the church. God bless Ezra and his future.

This year 20 more new members joined in our church. The prayers and cooperation of all of you are the basis for the survival of our church. Everyone is remembered in prayer. May God bless you all. Thanks be to God who has cared for all of us over the past year.

May God bless you all.

Rev Anish M George Padickamannil  
Presbyter-in-Charge



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CSI Church Toronto

## Incorporated Ministry in Flemington Park

COVID-19 threw everything out of balance for a short time at FPM. Like everyone else, and all ministries, we were uncertain as to next steps at first, but God saw us through it and provided some wonderful opportunities for growth and connection.

Our drop-in centre still remains closed, which for the community of Flemington Park is one more loss in the fight for food security. Our daily lunches and snack program halted but we switched it up to delivery. Instead of providing hot meals each day or our community meals each month, we deliver hampers to our most vulnerable residents and have provided meals generously supplied to us from local restaurants and other groups looking to lend a hand amid the crisis.

The Common Table, our farm and market project, continues to thrive. Our staff has grown and the yield we produce each year continues to grow as well! In the summer of 2021, we planted a pollinator garden and have left space for a labyrinth to be installed late this year or early 2022. With COVID so prevalent in the area and trying to maintain protocols and social distancing, for the seasons of 2020 and 2021, our produce was distributed in partnership with the Flemington Health Centre and FoodShare TO at the Angela James Arena. We managed to distribute over 10,000lbs of healthy produce to our local families and keep them as well as staff and volunteers safe.

In addition to addressing the food insecurity in the area, FPM has also focussed on social isolation and the mental well being of local residents. Of course, COVID made this more difficult and exacerbated the isolation issue. We moved many of our programs to online: cooking classes, exercise, English classes, and the Woman's Group, all continued throughout the pandemic. We also made personal phone calls and did our best to stay in touch with our most vulnerable neighbours.



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FPM continues to support and provide oversight at the community gardens on behalf of the city. We have established a steering committee of local gardeners and have improved the quality of the garden area with the help of a grant from The Big Carrot. The area is so well established and taken care of now, the city is no longer considering shutting it down. Bravo to the committee and the staff of FPM!

One COVID specific program we ran this past year was the delivery of care packages. With monies provided to us through a COVID relief grant, we made care packages filled with items such as shampoo, soap, moisturizer, multivitamins, toothpaste, art and writing supplies, healthy snacks, a grow-your-own tomato kit, protein shakes, and a note letting the recipient know that we care for them and are thinking of them. All of this was packaged in a reusable storage container. We delivered over 500 care packages, and it was a joy to see the smiles at delivery.

I have been the ED for 5 years at FPM. It has been challenging but overall, beautiful. It has been a privilege and a blessing to see God at work in and through the staff and volunteers. My heart is full, and I have so many wonderful memories of our work. FPM is primed for the next step. I am sure that the new ED will take this ministry even farther, and I am eager to see how far God will take them.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Beverley Williams

## St. Joseph's Anglican Church

### **Preamble**

Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy, the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ. We have learnt to trust in God's leadings in these harsh and uncertain times and hope to see His glory in the end.

### **Period under review**



2019/2021 has been a very turbulent period for the world and the church has not been spared the harsh hurt of COVID-19. St Joseph's was hit so hard but it also helped us review our operations and worship life. There have been many changing scenes for this parish and we hope to emerge brighter and better after the COVID storm.

1. The Ghanaian Anglican Church, during this period under review changed her name, officially, to St. Joseph's Anglican Church, Toronto with the Diocese and government. We are however yet to ceremonially outdoor St. Joseph's.
2. We also moved from our location at 1796 Lawrence Avenue West (former St David's) into a new space at 1428 Royal York Rd (St. Matthias Anglican Church, Royal York Rd).
3. We also have an honorary assisting priest in the person of Rev. Canon Leonard Abbah (who is also the founding priest of the church).

The Lay leaders (Wardens) of the church included the following:

### **2019-2021**

Warden: Joyce Aggrey

Warden: Jemima Mingle

### **2021-**

Warden: Emmanuel Dwomoh

Warden: Kristo Agobre

Treasurers: Lily Agyarko and Kwesi Amo Jnr

### **Church life**

Due to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic with it attendant protocols attendance to church (chapel) was restricted to only the priest, 1 of 3 other preacher(s) and a 2 member media team (from the priest's household).



However, viewership on the various online portals including 2 Facebook, 1 Youtube and sometimes redistributed on WhatsApp soared to include congregants from around the world. Active participants at certain periods during the peak of the pandemic reached 200 persons with later viewers reaching 600 and sometimes beyond on all our various portals.

We took advantage of the benefits platforms like Facebook, Zoom and YouTube offers to reach out to a much wider audience than our regular congregation, we even have an entire church in New York joining us in worship (since the start of the pandemic).

We would continue to employ social media to embark on the following:

- a. Advertise and execute our Online Services (Bible Studies, Prayer Meetings and Teaching Services)
- b. Raise funds for the church; advertising the church's e-transfer accounts.
- c. Helping the elderly install Online Platforms (Zoom, Skype etc) and teach them how to use the platforms for their benefit. This is to help everyone including the elderly population to join teaching and prayer services online.
- d. Enhance the Online ministry by investing time, personnel, money and technology into it. This would help improve on membership and would eventually boost giving's.

All liturgical activities have been held remotely or with limited attendance whenever some percentage of congregants were allowed to join in services.

Births – 3

Bereavements – 1 (lost to COVID-19)

### **Spiritual growth and pastoral care**

All services are held online:

- Wednesday Teaching Services (FELLOWSHIP TIME with Fr. K. K.)
- Thursday Prayer Meetings (ARENA OF PRAYER)
- Friday Bible Studies via Zoom on all Social Media platform
- Sunday Thematic Divine Services

- Weekly phone calls are made to members by priests and wardens to check up on them and their families and also to help facilitate parishioner's pastoral care needs; where necessary.

### **Challenges**

Our biggest challenge throughout the period has been our finances. Since we did not meet in person, many congregants did not contribute as they should; even though we have tried several approaches to encourage them to give. We pray and believe that this situation would improve when we get the opportunity to meet in-person.

### **Conclusion**

We have a big dream as a ministry of God in the Diocese of Toronto, and we believe that our God is bigger and able to help us achieve this dream(s) while we surmount the challenges we face. God is still in charge; we shall make it.

## **Educational Institutions**

### **Trinity College**

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the Diocese of Toronto,

It is my great privilege to offer this report to the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto on behalf of Trinity College. As the fifth year of my tenure as Dean of Divinity begins, the Faculty of Divinity continues to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic as nimbly and responsibly as possible. I celebrate the successes that our students have achieved this past year despite the interruptions and inconveniences that this situation has thrown at them.

### **Highlights from the past academic year (2020-21)**

#### **Trinity by Zoom**

Although the Fall semester began with some in-person classes and chapel worship, these soon had to be moved to online only sessions due to the public

health situation. Classes and chapel worship remained online-only throughout the Winter and Summer sessions.

### **Ecumenical Hospitality**

In September, the faculty of Divinity hosted the Toronto School of Theology's "Agape" ecumenical service. The service gathered 120 people from across TST and was conducted online. The Most Rev'd Mark MacDonald preached, and members of Black Anglicans of Canada contributed to the planning process.

### **Task Force on Anti-Black Racism**

In the fall semester, Trinity College established a task force that surveyed issues of racism and inclusion in all areas of the College, including the Faculty of Divinity. The findings and recommendations of the final report is available at: <https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/discover/news/task-force/>

### **Some new courses launched at Trinity in the academic year included:**

- Holy Scripture and the Church
- Models of Mission for a Post-Christian Context
- Race, Theology, and Diversity: Theological Challenges and Opportunities
- Sacrament and Liturgy Theological Resources for the Contemporary Church
- Truth and Reconciliation in Canadian Anglicanism

### **Public Events**

Trinity Divinity was pleased to host the following public events during the academic year:

- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry – The Larkin Stuart Lecture – 12 November, 2020
- "Hope and the Reality of Interdependence" (C. Brittain) – 24 November 2020
- Divinity Associates Conference: "Anglicanism Online: Covidtide and beyond" - 26 May, 2021



## **Convocation**

In May 2021, the Faculty celebrated an online convocation, with 13 students receiving Master's degrees (awarded conjointly with the University of Toronto). We were also delighted to award an honorary doctorate to the Most Rev'd Mark MacDonald, and to recognize the Most Rev'd Colin Johnson with an Honorary Fellowship. Several students elected to delay their graduation and complete their programs over the summer, as they adjusted to the demands of study under pandemic lockdown conditions.

## **Donation to Endow Church Management training**

Through a generous donation from Donna Hayley, the Faculty of Divinity will now be able to build upon the success of its course "Congregational Administration Nuts and Bolts." Look for new courses and continuing education opportunities in church management and leadership in the coming months.

## **Lilly Grant Funding**

In June, the Faculty was awarded a "Pathways to Tomorrow" (Phase One) grant by the Lilly Endowment in the amount of \$50,000 (USD) to undertake curriculum review and renewal in the areas of field education, Creation Care and sustainability, recruitment, and focused certificate programs. The Faculty has applied for a Phase Two grant and awaits learning of the result in December 2021.

## **Looking ahead to the 2021-2020 academic year**

**New courses** that will be on offer include:

- God and Creation: Christian Theology I
- Living in the Spirit: Christian Theology II
- Sacred Art and the Pasion Narrative
- Theology and Power

## **Building Project**

Trinity will soon break ground on a new residence building project, which will include new social and teaching space, will almost double our residential capacity, and even includes an urban garden on the roof. The building of the [“Lawson Centre for Sustainability”](#) will begin construction in the late fall and is scheduled to be completed in 2024.

**Living Trinity campaign** <https://livingtrinity.ca/>

The Living Trinity Campaign aims to attract \$40 million in new funding will not only support the new residence and academic building that will beautifully complement our historic campus and transform the student experience but will also ensure much-needed strategic investments in our students and our academic programming. As the Faculty of Divinity continues to renew its curriculum to support more innovative and missional theological training, we hope you might consider supporting us financially as well as spiritually,

I trust that this brief summary of activities in the Faculty of Divinity provides you with an indication of the vibrant and engaged faith that is at work at Trinity College. We remain grateful to the many graduates, friends and parishes who offer us financial support each year. With such help, and with your ongoing prayer support, we trust that the Spirit will continue to deepen our growth in Christ.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Brittain  
Dean of Divinity & Margaret E. Fleck Professor of Anglican Studies  
[chris.brittain@utoronto.ca](mailto:chris.brittain@utoronto.ca)  
416-978-7750

## Wycliffe College

*I planted the seed, and Apollos watered it; but God made it grow’*



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*(1 Corinthians 3.6)*

Although it has an archaic feel to it, the word ‘seminary’ is suitable for a theological college. Drawn from the Late Middle English word meaning ‘seed plot’, it bears the notions of planting, nurture, growth, rootedness, reproduction, and formation. These describe our aims in cultivating lifelong disciple-makers, formed in community, and informed by Bible-centred teaching. However, in the past eighteen months the achievement of these goals has been seriously challenged by the pandemic.

On 13 March 2020, the University of Toronto made the decision to suspend face-to-face teaching, and then, three days later, they moved to close university buildings. The Wycliffe faculty and staff rose to the challenge in a remarkable way. Planning was underway in anticipation of the announcements by the university and the Province, and we were well-poised to deliver our courses remotely through the end of term. All residential students who could leave did so, and protocols were developed to ensure the safety of the twenty-five or so who remained. The staff and faculty quickly adjusted to doing work from home, and meetings were held online through the media of Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Following diocesan guidelines, we continued to offer spiritual support to our community through the broadcast of our Chapel Daily Office, and we sustained these through both summers. Throughout this period, the College suffered a considerable shortfall in finances because of our nearly-empty building, but the generosity of our donors and the performance of our investments has greatly mitigated our loss. I am pleased to report that a special appeal for students in need elicited more than \$40,000 from concerned supporters.

And yet, in spite of these challenges, Fall 2020 brought the largest enrolment in recent memory. Drawing students from over 20 countries, from China to Switzerland to Israel, we had 87 incoming students. We were also pleased to see 43 cross our virtual podium to receive their degrees this past May. With 270 students in total, we are the largest of the seven TST colleges and the largest Anglican theological college in North America. We were pleased to



bestow honorary doctorates on two college graduates, Bishop Annie Ittoshat and Bishop Stephen Leung, along with Dr Mouneer Anis, Primate of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Next year, d.v., we look forward to conferring an honorary doctorate on The Rt Rev. Matthias Der, a graduate of the College and son of this diocese, who is now the Bishop of Hong Kong. These global connections are becoming a larger part of our profile as we deepen our educational partnership with the dioceses of Singapore and Sabah.

Since the last Synod, three faculty have fully or partially retired: The Rev. Dr Ann Jervis, Dr Tom Power, and The Rev. Dr Glen Taylor. We have taken on two new faculty to replace them and in anticipation of further retirements. Dr Stephen Chester is our Lord and Lady Coggan Chair in New Testament, and Dr Justin Stratis, is our new Professor of Systematic Theology. Professor Chester hails from the UK and the USA. His doctoral research was in St Paul's theology of conversion. Initially ordained in the Presbyterian Church, he has credentials to preach in the Covenant Church. His most recent book, *Reading Paul with the Reformers: Reconciling Old and New Perspectives* (2017), was selected by Christianity Today as the best book in Biblical Studies in 2018. An American who has been teaching in the UK for the past ten years, Professor Stratis is the author of *God's Being Toward Fellowship: Schleiermacher, Barth, and the Meaning of 'God is Love'* (2019). He carries on a trajectory at Wycliffe that dates as far back as Professors Oliver O'Donovan and the late John Webster, whose student he was. At the same time, Justin brings a fresh approach to contemporary theology with interests in, among other things, Theology and Race, Romanticism, and Hip Hop music.

In other faculty news, The Rev. Dr. Alan Hayes, Bishops Frederick and Heber Wilkinson Professor of Church History, received the 2021 Nelson R. Burr Prize, awarded by the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church for the most outstanding article in the journal, *Anglican and Episcopal History*. Wycliffe College Professor Emeritus of Evangelism, John Bowen, was honoured as a recipient of a 2021 Lambeth Award - the Alphege Award for Evangelism and



Witness. We were also sorry to receive the news of the death of Professor Emeritus Richard Longenecker.

The restrictions on gathering have not prevented us from coming together online as a learning community outside of classes. Our annual Anglican-Foundation-supported Preaching Day had 125 registered and featured a conversation between Professor Stephen Chester and Professor Klyne Snodgrass, perhaps the world's leading expert on biblical parables. Our academic colloquia brought together an average of 130 from around the globe to discuss methods of interpreting the Bible, and the future of biblical commentaries. Online venues have actually enabled us to engage a wider audience on issues facing our church and culture. We have had significant conversations on the Residential Schools, Indigenous understandings of the Land, the importance of Black History for the life and witness of the church, and the dynamics of racial reconciliation. The College Board itself has sought to respond to these issues through the establishment of committees on racism and sexual misconduct, and the development of policies and statements on these matters. Our sexual misconduct training is being enhanced through the addition of university workshops to the one diocesan one we host yearly, and we hope to be part of a TST initiative to analyse diversity programing and controls in the college.

This October, we look forward to a virtual visit from an accreditation team from the Association of Theological Schools. This quality assurance event happens every ten years and comes on the heels of a positive review of the TST in a process required by the University of Toronto and the Province of Ontario. We were please, through our ATS association, to receive a \$50,000 USD 'Pathways for Tomorrow' grant from the Lilly Foundation which we will use to assess our work in formation, especially in these days of online learning. We also received a \$15,000 USD grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science for a proposal to engage science and technology in theological education.





We look forward to the next term where nearly all of our classes will be available both remotely and in-person (what we call 'hybrid'), and we expect that the in-person component will involve 40% of our student body.

We give thanks for the prayers and support of many in the Diocese of Toronto. Please continue to pray that we might be both faithful and bold in the proclamation of God's reconciling love in Jesus Christ in these challenging times.

The Rt Rev. Dr Stephen Andrews  
Principal and Helliwell Professor of Biblical Interpretation

## Episcopal Areas

### Trent-Durham

*"Keep the joy of loving God in your heart and share this joy with all you meet especially your family. Be holy – let us pray." ~ Mother Teresa.*

Across our Trent-Durham area, we acknowledge that we worship, pray, play and live in the territory of the Anishinabek (ᐱᐢᐸᐢᐢᐢᐢᐢᐢᐢ), Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Huron-Wendat, and Williams Treaty (1923), Treaty 20, the Odawa, the Mohawk, Robinson-Huron Treaty.

We have been heart-broken by the death of our beloved Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones from Covid-19, in March of 2021. We continue to hold his wife Bonnie in prayer. We have lost others to Covid, and to natural causes over this period between Synods, and we lift them each up to the loving arms of God. We pray for you who are grieving, and ask God for gentle mercy to nourish you this day. The time will come, soon and very soon, when we can find ourselves together again to celebrate these lives well lived, well loved.

In spite of significant challenges in this Global Pandemic since March 2020, we have been the hands and feet of Christ in our communities in many and various ways – thanks be to God! As an Area, our priorities for 2021 are



Ministry Development and Parish Partnerships /Regionalization innovations. There is a continued emphasis on the work of Reconciliation, Recovery & Mental Health, and Radical Inclusion that we brought forward for 2019 and 2020. We are home to some significant extra-parochial ministries, such as the Migrant Worker's Ministry with the Rev Augusto Nunez, Youth Ministry Training, Education For Ministry (EFM) groups, the vibrant community engagement at St Matthew & St Aidan's Buckhorn, Christ Memorial in Oshawa, St Thomas in Millbrook, the Parish of Minden-Kinmount -- and many more seed ministries that feed people, clothe people, and nurture people's spirits through play, commitment and ministry of presence, including Chaplains to retired Clergy and Spouses.

Of particular note this year:

- All Saints Peterborough ~ "we went from talking and praying about food security to transforming over 200 people's lives per week by feeding them, no strings attached"
- St Luke's Peterborough and St John's, Port Hope's fantastic community gardens which engaged many, showing very practical love for neighbour, addressing food security and environmental sustainability
- Church of the Ascension Port Perry – whose Orange Shirt display in front of the church caught the attentions of passers-by and the congregation alike, recognising and honouring the revelations of unmarked graves of children from Indian Residential Schools
- broad parish educational engagement initiatives with anti-racism & anti-bias training and reconciliation work through studying texts, guest speakers and programmes
- various churches have collaborated together to create shared services (for example, St Matthew's Oshawa & St George Memorial in Oshawa did a great job of this), book studies, church school and catechesis

Many clergy & lay leaders (all of us, really) are feeling overwhelmed and fatigued with Covid challenges, and we are entering a time of "fourth wave" when we will again and still be required to maintain physical distances,



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masking and restrained gatherings. There have been, notably, numerous admirable outcomes as a result of the pandemic constraints, including successful online Vestries, particularly meaningful connections made by the Rev Augusto Nunez with the Migrant Worker populations, ecumenical & interfaith collaborations built and connections strengthened, the compassion, care, concern and resources that went into making sure parishioners were able to isolate and yet be connected to family, neighbours and community through a wide variety of means. Now it feels as though local community outreach in a variety of authentic and live-giving forms has become embedded in parish life. Many parishes have used the down time to undertake renovations, repairs and upgrades

We are grateful to God for:

- ✘ the support, commitment and facilitation of the Diocesan Staff
- ✘ our tremendously talented lay-people, in the Area and across the Diocese, including Diocesan Volunteers and our lay-leadership in parishes
- ✘ our cherished clergy who pour their hearts into their ministries and communities
- ✘ our acting Area Commissary the Rev Canon Anthony Jemmott;
- ✘ the faithful labours of our Regional Deans, the Rev Gloria Master (Peterborough Deanery) who is also our Area Liturgical Officer, the Rev Canon Ted McCollum (Victoria-Haliburton Deanery), the Rev Jesse Parker (Durham- Northumberland Deanery) and the Rev Canon Ruthanne Ward (Oshawa Deanery)
- ✘ the Area Council members who work together to build capacity and fund ministries in the Area and beyond
- ✘ the engaging ministry of Cormac Culkeen as our Area Youth Co-ordinator
- ✘ the office support in Trent Durham ~ we wish Mary Taccone well as she left to a full-time employment that had long been a dream with the school board, and we are grateful for support of both Arleane Ralph (York Credit Valley) & Jenn Kean (York-Simcoe) as they continue with



supporting both York Simcoe and York Credit Valley, adding Trent Durham in to the mix in this time of Diocesan transition.

There is an abundance of God's grace active in the actions and hearts of the people of God in this Diocese. We continue to be in a time of transition in Trent-Durham, in which we as communities of faith are going forward together in that faith, working to discern how God is leading us to "be church" in this new day and age.

Some of us are being called to collaborate in new physical realities, that the Gospel may prosper and flourish in our communities where the people gather and the traffic flows – facing the costs of change and growth all around us.

Some of us are newly energized by our faith in outward-looking, broader-community building initiatives and ministries.

Some of us do a few things, and do them really well.

All of us are seeking to find what God wants, discerning the Spirit's leading in this time of new opportunities to be the church in our world.

May you continue in the strength of Christ, who knows our hearts.

Respectfully submitted,

+Riscylla Shaw ~ Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Toronto

Area Bishop of Trent-Durham, Nottawasaga, Tecumseth & North Peel Deaneries

## York-Credit Valley

Our episcopal area is blessed with some 45 parishes and missions in the western part of the Diocese of Toronto. York-Credit Valley is an incredibly diverse area and includes many linguistically and culturally-specific communities, comprised of individuals and families who have come to the GTA from various parts of the world. It has been my delight to walk alongside this Area since March of this year as the overseeing bishop. I have worked specifically with the Mississauga Deanery, while Bishop Asbil is caring for the Parkdale-West Toronto Parkdale and Etobicoke-Humber Deaneries, and Bishop Shaw has oversight of the North Peel Deanery. It has been a joy to



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collaborate with them as we minister with the clergy and people of York-Credit Valley.

When we last met for Diocesan Synod in the Fall of 2019, none of us could have known that a global pandemic was on our doorstep. Prior to the arrival of the pandemic, a number of Area-wide programs were offered to the clergy and people of York-Credit Valley. These included an Evangelism and Children/Youth Ministry Taskforce Brunch and Learn on the theme of “Baptism and Formation of Faith” in the Fall of 2019, a Youth Retreat in March 2020, and a Lenten series on the Apostles’ Creed.

The declaration of the global pandemic that same month suspended in-person worship across our Diocese. Parishes were forced to pivot quickly, relying on remote options for church through online platforms and increased use of technology. Across York-Credit Valley, parishes collaborated with each other to offer worship, education and outreach in unprecedented circumstances. These included clergy pandemic response meetings in each of the four deaneries, pandemic-related workshops in stewardship, liturgy, discipleship and Christian education, and an online clergy retreat in the Fall of 2020.

In addition to the pandemic, there have been several other developments in the life of our Diocese since our last Synod. Among the more significant changes has been the restructuring of episcopal leadership following the retirement of Bishop Peter Fenty and the return to parish ministry of Bishop Jenny Andison. Here in York-Credit Valley, we had several wonderful opportunities to say thank you and farewell to Bishop Jenny as she concluded four years of ministry as the Area Bishop. Clergy and lay leaders gathered online in February of this year to express thanks, share stories and present gifts. We wish Jenny well at St. Paul’s, Bloor Street and give thanks for the ways our Diocese has been blessed by her ministry.

The transition in episcopal ministry has meant that the three remaining bishops have taken on increased oversight of parishes and ministries across the Diocese. My responsibilities for the five deaneries of York-Scarborough have been broadened to include two deaneries in York-Simcoe (Holland and Huronia) and one deanery in York-Credit Valley (Mississauga). I am also the link bishop with the York- Credit Valley Area Council. Moving from 60 parishes to over 90 has been challenging, and I am so grateful to the eight Regional Deans with whom I work closely, and the many clergy and lay



leaders with whom I minister across the Diocese, who have helped to carry the increased load.

Last year, I was honoured to serve on the Episcopal Leadership Working Group in the midst of this transition. Our task was to offer some models for episcopal leadership in our Diocese, and we delivered our report to Bishop Andrew in February of this year. We look forward to seeing what will come of this process in the coming months and years.

At the beginning of this year, Bishop Andrew also asked me to serve as the Diversity Officer for the Diocese. Since then, I have been working closely with the Hamilton-based firm, Co: Culture Collective, to bring anti-bias and anti-racism training to the Diocese. By the time our Synod meets this November, all bishops, chancellors, synod office staff and most clergy will have been through the training. The parish roll-out will begin in the new year. Please support this important work. I believe it will help to transform our Diocese in the ways of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.

In the course of my episcopal ministry over the past two years, no two days have been alike. In addition to Sunday morning parish visits, I have enjoyed presiding at the ordination of several new priests, celebrating new ministries, marking parish anniversaries, and supporting emerging expressions of Church. Since the beginning of my ministry in York-Credit Valley in March, I have also spent many hours visiting parishes by Zoom for worship, prayer, Bible Study, Parish Selection Committee meetings, visioning sessions, pastoral care and conflict management. I am encouraged by the wonderfully creative, Gospel-based ministry taking place across the Area, and I look forward to continuing to work with lay leaders and clergy to build on the good work that is already taking place.

As I reflect on my new ministry with the clergy and people of York-Credit Valley, I am so grateful for Arleane Ralph, who holds the Area office together. She has been a rock in the midst of the transitions in the Diocese and has a deep and genuine care for the clergy and people of the Area. She is also incredibly bright and competent. If she doesn't have the answers at her fingertips (and she usually does!), she will find them quickly.

I have also been grateful for the work of our York-Credit Valley Regional Deans: the Reverend Patrick McManus (Etobicoke-Humber), the Reverend Canon Philip Hobson (Parkdale-West Toronto), the Reverend Susan Climo (Mississauga), and the Reverend Chris Dow and the Reverend Julie Meakin



(North Peel). We were also well served by our Area Liturgical Consultant, Area Council members, curacy supervisors, taskforce chairs and coaches.

I am grateful to the Reverend Canon Jim Woolley who ministers as Chaplain to the Retired Clergy of York-Credit Valley, Deacon Claudette Taylor who is our Area Social Justice and Advocacy Coordinator, and Ali McIntosh has done a superb job leading and coordinating youth ministry in the Area over the past few years. We said farewell to Ali in the spring of 2020 as she takes on new roles as a postulant for ordination in our Diocese, and we have recently welcomed Connie Kendall, ODT as the new Coordinator of the Children and Youth Ministry for York-Credit-Valley.

We are blessed with an incredible team of clergy, lay leaders, parish staff, synod office staff, churchwardens, chancellors, consultants and diocesan volunteers. Every time I visit a parish or ministry across this Diocese, I am inspired by the faithfulness of the people of God, and their commitment to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their own local context. The Church in our Area is making a real and positive difference in many ways, and I am very proud to help lead, support and encourage this Gospel work.

As we gather for our Synod under the theme *"Love Thy Neighbour"*, please pray for the work of the Church in our Area, our Diocese, and our worldwide Anglican Communion.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Respectfully submitted,



The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson  
Suffragan Bishop

## York-Scarborough

It continues to be an immense honour and privilege to serve as a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Toronto, including responsibility for the episcopal

area of York-Scarborough. This area includes about 60 parishes, missions, community ministries and school chaplaincies from Avenue Road in the west to the Scarborough-Pickering border in the east, and from Lake Ontario in the south to Steeles Avenue in the north. Linguistically, York-Scarborough is blessed with congregations that are Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese, Tamil, Filipino, Spanish and English. York-Scarborough is the smallest geographical area, but more than one-third of Anglicans in the Diocese of Toronto live and worship here in York-Scarborough. The clergy and laity of the area come from all around the world, and I am delighted to serve such a diverse and multicultural area.

When we last met for Diocesan Synod in November 2019, none of us could have known that we were on the cusp of a global pandemic that would arrive within a few months. Since March 2020, that pandemic has informed and influenced everything we have done as a Church. Needless to say, this has been a very difficult time in our Church, community life, and wider society. Many of us have known loved ones who have suffered with COVID-19. Some have become critically ill. Some have died. We have been kept out of our church buildings for long stretches of time, and many have suffered from loneliness, depression, addiction and loss of employment. We have been separated from loved ones and interacted with each other from a distance, and through masks.

But even in the midst of these challenges, the Church of God has been resilient. Almost overnight, many parishes figured out how to move from reliance on their buildings for most forms of ministry to a familiarity with remote church and online platforms. Outreach ministries across the Diocese continued unabated throughout the pandemic. People found ways to stay in touch by Zoom, by phone, by pressing hands and hearts together on opposite sides of a glass window. The mission of God's Church moved forward in creative and experimental ways. We are not through this pandemic yet, but we have learned things that will help us to be a more nimble and effective Church moving forward.





There have been a number of other developments in the life of our Diocese since our last Synod. You will undoubtedly hear about some of them when we meet in November. Among the more significant changes has been the restructuring of episcopal leadership following the retirement of Bishop Peter Fenty and the return to parish ministry of Bishop Jenny Andison. This has meant that my responsibilities for the five deaneries of York-Scarborough have been broadened to also include two deaneries in York-Simcoe (Holland and Huronia) and one deanery in York-Credit Valley (Mississauga). I am also the link bishop with the York-Credit Valley Area Council. Moving from 60 parishes to over 90 has not been easy, and I am so grateful to the eight Regional Deans with whom I work closely, and the many clergy and lay leaders with whom I minister across the Diocese. I was honoured to serve on the Episcopal Leadership Working Group in the midst of this transition. Our task was to offer some models for episcopal leadership in our Diocese, and we delivered our report to Bishop Andrew in February of this year.

In the area of York-Scarborough, there have been many positive developments over the past two years, notwithstanding the limitations and pressures of the pandemic. Youth ministry has continued to flourish under the wonderful leadership of our two Area Youth Coordinators, Jillian Ruch and Ian Physick. As a postulant for our ordination in our Diocese, Jillian is now stepping back from her role in youth ministry, and we look forward to the outcome of the search for her replacement.

Throughout the pandemic, the need for outreach services has never been greater, and our own Anglican ministries have kept going when others have had to close. Within York-Scarborough, the outreach programs at St. James' Cathedral, the Church of the Holy Trinity, the Church of the Redeemer, All Saints' Church Community Centre and the Flemingdon Park Ministry come immediately to mind because they serve such high-need neighbourhoods, though I know that many other parishes across our episcopal area have continued to offer programs to assist the poor, the homeless and the marginally-housed.



Some parishes have made strides toward reconfiguration and regionalized ministry over the past two years. I think especially of the three parishes in Central Scarborough - St. Peter, St. Ninian and St. John the Divine. They voted almost unanimously in favour of amalgamation last spring. This consolidation of resources will provide a much stronger foothold to reimagine Anglican ministry in this part of the city.

2021 was also a year for the biannual Diocesan Clergy Conference, and York-Scarborough was tasked with organizing the event. This was our first ever virtual clergy conference, and we were blessed by the wisdom of our guest speaker, Susan Beaumont, who spoke about leading in a liminal season. Our organizing committee of Regional Deans, synod office staff and volunteers did a fantastic job in adapting this event for a pandemic audience.

At the beginning of this year, Bishop Andrew asked me to serve as the Diversity Officer for the Diocese. Since then, I have been working closely with the Hamilton-based firm, Co: Culture Collective, to bring anti-bias and anti-racism training to the Diocese. By the time our Synod meets in November, all bishops, chancellors, synod office staff and most clergy will have been through the training. The parish roll-out will begin in the new year. Please support this important work. I believe it will help to transform our Diocese in the ways of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.

In the course of my episcopal ministry over the past two years, no two days have been alike. In addition to Sunday mornings, I have enjoyed presiding at ordinations of deacons and priests, celebrating new ministries, marking parish anniversaries, and supporting emerging expressions of Church. I have also spent many hours visiting parishes by Zoom for worship, prayer, Bible Study, Parish Selection Committee meetings, visioning sessions, pastoral care and conflict management. I am encouraged by the wonderfully creative, Gospel-based ministry taking place across the area, and I look forward to continuing to work with lay leaders and clergy to build on the good work that is already taking place.



As I reflect on my ministry, one of the people for whom I am most grateful is my assistant, Sue Willoughby. Sue has been invaluable in keeping the Area office running smoothly, even though she has done it remotely for the past 18 months. She is on the frontline of communications and scheduling in my office, and is able to answer many questions before they ever reach my desk or inbox.

I have also been grateful for the work of our York-Scarborough Regional Deans over the past two years: the Reverend Ian LaFleur (Eglinton, 2019-2020), the Reverend Pamela Rayment (Eglinton, 2021), the Reverend Greg Carpenter (Scarborough) the Reverend Sherman Hesselgrave (St. James, 2019-2020), the Reverend Canon Geoff Sangwine (St. James, 2020-2021), the Reverend Shelley McVea (Toronto East), the Reverend Lisa Newland (York Mills, 2019-2020) and the Reverend Nick Morkel (York Mills, 2020-2021). We were also well served by our York-Scarborough liturgical officers, Area Council members, curacy supervisors and coaches. I am also grateful to the Reverend Heather Gwynne-Timothy, who joyfully ministers as the Chaplain to the Retired Clergy of York-Scarborough.

We are blessed with an incredible team of clergy, lay leaders, parish staff, synod office staff, churchwardens, chancellors, consultants and diocesan volunteers. Every time I visit a parish or community ministry, I am inspired by the faithfulness of the people of God, and their commitment to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their own local context. The Church in York-Scarborough is making a real and positive difference in many ways, and I am very proud to help lead, support and encourage this Gospel work.

As we gather for our Synod under the theme “Love Thy Neighbour”, please pray for the work of the Church in York-Scarborough, the Diocese, and beyond.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



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Respectfully submitted,

The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson  
Suffragan Bishop

## York-Simcoe

Our beloved Bishop Peter Fenty has retired! On November 30, 2020, after seven years as the deeply dedicated, wise, inspiring and hard-working Area Bishop of York-Simcoe. The Area hosted a wonderful farewell on Zoom attended by over 120 colleagues, family, and friends. We received video messages from our Primate - the Most Reverend Linda Nicholls, our Ontario Metropolitan - the Most Reverend Anne Germond, a very special sung tribute from retired Bishop George Elliott plus many more. After serving the Diocese so faithfully we wish him a long, healthy and restful retirement.

The York-Simcoe Episcopal Area is made up of 54 congregations and 45 parishes which covers York Region, Simcoe County, and a sliver of Dufferin/Gray County. There are currently 29 full-time priests, 14 part-time priests, and 7 deacons as well as 41 retired clergy and 13 clergy widows living in York-Simcoe. The Area is split into 5 deaneries; Holland, Huronia, Nottawasaga, Tecumseth and York-Central.

While York-Simcoe includes some of the fastest growing communities in Ontario along its southern border which include Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Unionville, and King and farther north in the cities of Barrie, Orillia, and Collingwood, there are some rural areas that are experiencing significant decline resulting in loss of membership in those parishes. These present both opportunities as well as challenges for the mission and ministry of the Episcopal area. There is a creativity exhibited by some of these parishes that attests to their commitment to the baptismal ministry to which they are called.



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In this time of Global Pandemic, with the Novel-Coronavirus Covid 19, we have observed an acceleration in fragility for some parishes, who now are being invited urged to courageously explore other ways of being church including mergers, amalgamations and regionalizations ~ keeping in mind the biblical model of stronger together. It is encouraging to see how parishes continue to face with courage the need to consider alternate ways of exercising their ministry and work with others in discerning what that is or could look like. In 2019 the congregation of St. James, Lisle made the difficult decision to close and on May 12 Bishop Fenty presided over the deconsecration. We are indebted to the Rev. Jim Wilcox their Priest-in-charge for nine years who served them faithfully until the closure.

It is a blessing to find clergy who are willing and able to serve Christ in the more rural areas of the Diocese. In many ways we have been relying on retired clergy to undertake these rewarding ministries, and would like to open the opportunity to more clergy who are looking for a gem of a living experience, in the fresh air and open vistas of the rural Ontario landscape. Interim ministry is also a growing prospect for newly retired clergy who find a dynamic use for their multifold gifts in shorter-term placements, still serving God in those life-long vocational habits. This is your welcome-mat ~ come to York Simcoe!

Following Bishop Peter's retirement, to ensure that the Area was well looked after Bishop Andrew Asbil divided Episcopal oversight between himself looking after York-Central Deanery, Bishop Riscylla Shaw taking on Tecumseth and Nottawasaga Deaneries, and Bishop Kevin Robertson looking after Holland and Huronia Deaneries.

Bishop Shaw along with Chair, Canon Darrell Wright ensure that the Area Council continues to encourage the living out of it's vision, "To Encourage Healthy, Missional Parishes" by focusing on being missional, supporting accessibility, encouraging collaborative ministry, encouraging social justice & advocacy ministries and area governance & finances." Approximately 75% of the annual budget continues to go towards a wide range of Ministry



Development Grants. Through these grants we help support the Lay Pastor of Mandarin ministry at St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges, livestreaming of both English and Mandarin services at St. Philip on-the-Hill, Unionville, the transition of interim ministry at the Parish of Lloydtown following the death of their Incumbent, the Rev. Sheilagh Ashworth and upgrades at St. James, Orillia for their Youth Ministry program.

We continue to be strong supporters of the important summer chaplaincy ministry at Sibbald Point Provincial Park, which is operated out of the Parish of Georgina. In 2019 a grant of \$7,500 was provide for their ministry development and in 2020 we were able to give \$10,800 to help with the needed upgrades to the program in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines.

Anglican Chaplaincies are very crucial in the life of our area, and they consist of Holy Trinity School, an Anglican affiliated school in Richmond Hill; Markham/Stouffville Hospital; and L'Arche Daybreak in Richmond Hill. There is also a strong Anglican presence in the Military Chaplains who serve at Base Borden in Angus.

Since our last report we have been well served by our Area Youth Coordinator, Nancy Hannah. In March 2020 she resigned to take on an exciting and important new role at Orillia's Sharing Place. We place on record our sincere thanks for her faithful and exemplary leadership and assure her and her family of our prayers and good wishes in her new role.

Recognising the size of York-Simcoe, we had been transitioning the position of Area Youth Coordinator from one to two coordinators and had been looking to hire a second person when Nancy left. We were most appreciative when Amy de Sousa came on board early and then officially accepted the appointment in May. Amy who is the Family Pastor at St. Philips-on-the-Hill, Unionville jumped in with both feet. Starting a new job can be difficult but starting one during COVID is stressful. Amy skillfully moved to an online format and created a very successful Sunday School program via Zoom that was accessed by children in York-Simcoe as well as from other areas in the



diocese. In November 2020 she was joined by Sarah Layman. Sarah who is the Youth Leader at St. Joseph of Nazareth has oversight of Huronia, Nottawasaga and Tecumseth deaneries and Amy will look after Holland and York-Central deaneries. Together they have done wonderful work in York-Simcoe, and we look forward to what they have in store for us going forward.

For the last 5 years the Council has funded a Vacation Bible School (VBS) Program, which assists smaller parishes fund the summer program. A part of the program provides funds to send Area Youth members to Crosstalk Ministry in Montreal for training and a summer job. This program has been successful but has been on hold since 2020. The Council hopes that it will start back up in the future and the experience gained through this process will be used as a template so that we will be able to engage and inspire smaller churches who do not have enough resources on their own to provide a VBS program.

It was with sadness and hope for their life with Christ that we bade farewell to the following faithful and long-serving clergy who lived and worked in York-Simcoe; Rev. Sid Maddock (Nov. 27, 2019), Rev. Earl Gerber (Feb. 28, 2020), Rev. Canon Jeremy Van Lane (Mar. 4, 2020), Rev. Canon Tom Crawford (May 4, 2020), Rev. Sheilagh Ashworth, (June 28, 2020), Rev. Canon Francis Lightbourne (July 5, 2020), and Rev. Robert Sinclair (Oct. 20, 2020). May they rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.

We are most grateful for the leadership and ministry of our clergy and lay people, including Churchwardens. Our parishes are fortunate to have dedicated persons who take on the mantle of leadership in their parishes and with the pastoral care, encouragement, and support of their clergy.

Deep gratitude to our Regional Deans: York-Central - the Rev. Mark Stacey / Holland - the Rev. Erin Martin / Huronia - the Rev. Canon John Anderson / Nottawasaga - the Rev. Douglas Michael / Tecumseth - the Rev. Canon Darrell Wright; and much praise and gratitude to our Office administrator -



extraordinaire, Jennipher Kean, who has been a steady and supportive presence for all in this time of transition and pandemic. Thanks be to God!

Respectfully submitted by  
The Right Reverend Riscylla Shaw

York-Simcoe Area Council  
September 2021

## **FaithWorks Ministry Partners**

### **All Saints Church-Community Centre**

*Thank you.* Thank you to FaithWorks donors and parishes, Diocesan staff, individual supporters, community partners, All Saints volunteers, and All Saints staff. Thank you for praying for and giving to the saints, as the Galatians and Corinthians gave to the saints in Jerusalem. By loving your neighbours in Toronto's Downtown East, you have helped meet the needs of some of the City's most vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When COVID-19 first hit, most Toronto community centres shuttered their drop-ins. We did not. The All Saints' drop-in was one of a handful that remained operational. As a result, we immediately saw a dramatic increase in our community's need for healthy food. We also saw an opportunity to work for the good of all. Before the pandemic, we served approximately 80-150 meals indoors. We are now serving meals both in our drop-in and outside in our parking lot, which has increased our average weekday meal number to 150-200. Our faithful volunteers have helped us meet this increased demand, as have several community partners.

Because of COVID-19 protocols, we made some operational changes at All Saints. As already mentioned, we distribute most meals outside. To allow for physical distancing, we capped our drop-in capacity at 25-30, reserving the



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space for community members who are unhoused. We hired extra staff for cleaning, screening, and security.

We were able to make these changes because of your support. We are very grateful to our donors and to the Diocese for the Jubilee. We are thankful for emergency funds and in-kind support from community partners. And we are glad that years of careful stewardship allowed us to save our own resources for such a time as this.

Adapting our drop-in program to remain open during the pandemic significantly increased our costs, both financial and psychological. While COVID-19 brought unprecedented opportunities for collaboration with community partners, that collaboration has significantly increased the workload of All Saints' management. While All Saints' staff continue to do the work of the Spirit, they are tired. And while the All Saints' drop-in received emergency support from foundations, charitable organizations and governments, many of those funding streams have ended. Meanwhile, the pandemic and its effects are still life-threatening realities in marginalized communities like those around All Saints.

The disproportionate impact of the pandemic continues to be felt in the Dundas and Sherbourne neighbourhood. The return to "normal" for most members of this neighbourhood is a life of deep poverty. Their needs continue to be exacerbated by the pandemic, especially the needs of those who are struggling with isolation and addiction. An unprecedented number of people in our neighbourhood have died in the past 18+ months: some from the poisoned drug supply, and some from the effects of isolation. We continue to learn of new and unexpected deaths almost every week. This summer, our community members began writing the names of the dead on our church doors.

These deaths and the pandemic itself have highlighted the urgent need for safe housing. People without homes cannot "shelter in place," as public health protocols recommend. Many homeless shelters are not constructed in ways



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that allow physical distancing. As a result, the area around All Saints has seen an increase in people who are “street homeless,” sleeping outside in tents or on public transit. People on the street need showers, laundry facilities, and more: necessities that All Saints is not set up to provide.

Given this urgent need for safe housing, All Saints is discerning, with help from the Diocese, how we can best use the land around our church building to further our mission of sharing in God’s love with those most in need. We are particularly grateful to Diocesan volunteer Susan Abell and to the Diocese for their help in this discernment.

At the time of writing, All Saints hopes to conduct a feasibility/redevelopment options study to discern the best and highest ministry use for the site and to determine which financial modelling would provide the necessary funds and a sustainable way forward to advance joint Diocesan and All Saints missions, service to the community, and City of Toronto policy and programs. The land around our church building is another opportunity to work for the good of all.

While the pandemic has made it challenging to plan for the future, All Saints is committed to the goals of its 2019 strategic plan, which include managing our resources and property strategically (see above) and becoming more financially self-sustaining. To meet that second goal, the Diocese has assisted us in hiring a part-time Fundraising Manager. We are happy to welcome Paige Souter, postulant and the former Manager of Annual Giving for the Diocese, into that role.

More than ever, All Saints is relying on your gifts to provide life-saving support to people in need. Thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure: we appreciate them more than we can say. Thank you for sowing in the Spirit, and taking the opportunity to work for the good of all. And thank you for helping us share in God’s love at Dundas and Sherbourne. You are helping us and our community bear our burdens. Please keep us in your prayers.



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In Christ,

The Rev'd Dr. Alison Falby  
Priest-Director  
All Saints Church-Community Centre

## Anglican United Refugee Alliance (AURA)

AURA is a Canadian charitable organization; our mission is to provide support and expertise to groups involved in refugee sponsorship and resettlement. These are extraordinary and challenging times, but the work of AURA continues throughout the Diocese because “Love thy neighbour” is the embodiment of refugee sponsorship.

Refugee sponsors get involved in sponsorship because they want to support refugees and welcome them as new neighbours to their communities. As we look back at a year when the world was turned upside down with COVID, we find that “doing good for others” far outweighed the circumstances. As a result, AURA was able to continue providing services to our constituent groups as they creatively stayed connected with the refugees they sponsored.

Being restricted in movement outside the home “bubble” gave many of us a taste of what refugees experience regularly – the limiting factors of circumstances beyond one’s control. This love translated into increased partnerships, and a stronger foundation for the post-COVID future. Travel restrictions have caused fewer arrivals throughout the pandemic, yet AURA has continued to develop cases and will submit more sponsor referred refugee applications this year than ever before despite these turbulent times.

### **Communications**

With the AURA offices closed, and in a period of no physical contact, we changed how we communicate. To our surprise, we found the shift to virtual enabled more effective communication in some areas. “Zoom” became our solution for staff work, sponsor groups, Board meetings, and committee



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work. We were able to communicate more efficiently with out-of-towners and groups as sponsors became more accustomed to the technology. AURA had already been communicating with refugees around the world virtually for years.

These times have been particularly hard for refugees and newcomers themselves. AURA coordinated additional online meetings with refugees and their sponsors. Sponsorship groups were able to “Zoom” with their sponsored refugee families and get closer. AURA and diocesan representatives launched a new online initiative – the **Diocesan Refugee Network**. Its objective is to provide a forum to share information and increase communication among the many refugee committees within the Diocese.

### **Events**

Bishop Andrew Asbil designated Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2021, as Refugee Sunday in the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. This was also the first Sunday after Pentecost, the time when the early Church first awakened to its calling to be a place of welcome for all nations. Refugee Sunday will become an annual reminder of how our welcome transforms the world.

AURA marked June 20th, World Refugee Day, with guest Hassan Al Kontar. Hassan, also known as the “Man @ the Airport”, was the Syrian refugee stranded in the Kuala Lumpur airport from March 2018 until his arrest in October 2018. He shared his story with the world through social media and he shared his experiences and thoughts on the ongoing refugee crisis with us to commemorate the important day. Hassan provided all of us with an inspirational living example to love our neighbour.

Our major fundraiser, the Ride for Refuge, adopted a COVID friendly format. One of the many teams taking part was led by Ahmed, a former AURA sponsored refugee. Ahmed is so thankful for the opportunities granted to him through sponsorship and he decided to raise money for AURA to help other refugees and future neighbours.



## Board

The work of AURA could not be accomplished without our volunteer Board of directors, giving their time to do as Paul writes, “Let all that you do be done in love.” We said goodbye to Kirk Merrett and Qoomail Dewji, who served AURA for 10 and 5 years, respectively. We are especially grateful to Kirk for his leadership as Board Chair. Board Members truly exemplify Paul’s writing as they continue volunteering their time, skills and energy. We would also like to acknowledge the tremendous work done by all AURA’s volunteers. They are a core group of unsung heroes – from events, to weekly administrative assistance, to reviewing applications - their work is so valuable.

As we write our report, we see that the strength and success of AURA lies in our partnerships. Whether it is with an increasing number of former refugees themselves, the variety of sponsorship groups across the Diocese, the parishes in donor and fund-raising support, our major donors, inter-faith partnerships, and a wide network of refugee supporters who practice “loving their neighbour” every day.

We take this opportunity to thank Bishop Andrew Asbil and his wife Mary Asbil for their continued advice and support, Elin Goulden for coordinating our work with the Diocese, and FaithWorks for their invaluable financial support.

As we look to the future, we are excited about welcoming the hundreds of refugees with applications currently in process, supporting Afghan refugees in particular, and the possibilities to do more together. “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

## The Dam

An extra day or week off is a gift for a student. Yet as March Break of 2020 spilled into more days off school, the gift quickly turned into a challenge for



youth. Many youth were isolated in unhealthy home situations as the restrictions have families on edge. One youth shared in the midst of the year “I find that I am unmotivated to do anything and now with the quarantine, my health is starting to fall apart (physical and mental), home life sucks, no connection.”

Relationships and connection are the foundation of our 26 years working with youth in Mississauga. We know how to love well in a drop-in full of youth. Loving well from a distance is the challenge. The last year has seen us focus our mandate into journeying with youth through the twists and turns of the unknown. Programming has been offered virtually when not permitted to gather safely in person. We have been reaching out and providing a safe reprieve for youth through physically distant walks outside, dropping off care packages, and phone and video chats to connect.

This past year over 380 unique youth were served with over 7,700 program activities. While positive in the midst of a pandemic, these numbers represent a 41% decrease in unique core youth and a 66% decrease in youth visits from the previous year. Online programming is definitely not ideal for connecting with teenagers. Yet there have been sweet, life changing moments of reaching youth who would never have walked into our drop-ins due to social anxiety or geographic distance. There will now always be an element of online programming that will continue even as in-person programs slowly become the norm again.

We are thankful for the extra time during the pandemic to journey as a ministry in anti-black racism and systemic discrimination. For the youth we serve, a majority self-identify with populations deemed the most vulnerable; 77% identify as BIPOC, 35% were born outside of Canada, and 33% identify as LGBTQ+.

The youth give the best report, as written below.

*“I love The Dam because it has helped me open my mind to life. It focuses on realistic aspects of life and exists to genuinely help people and provide a*



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*platform where youth can offer help too. The Dam just lets me enjoy life more with their countless variety of activities and the bonds and relationships I've made and the experiences I've had and the free food that you guys offer. This makes it accessible to anyone at any time whether they need it or not at the moment. People do not even realize that they need help or how The Dam can positively help them and people. I will support any place that helps people. A great organization! I am so glad I had the privilege of going to The Dam, I wouldn't change a thing! So many youth need The Dam in their life. We need more Dams in the world! Also the staff are all awesome!"*

## Inn From the Cold

*'Love Thy Neighbour.' In reflecting on these words with the Galatians, Paul writes, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." To the Corinthians, he writes, "Let all that you do be done in love."*

A lot has happened since our last report in June 2019. The world has been transformed and deeply affected by the pandemic. Despite the challenges that the pandemic has brought, Inn From the Cold has forged ahead on its goals and has launched new innovative programming that is changing lives. The pandemic has also had silver linings that are in keeping with your theme this year, 'love thy neighbour'.

IFTC continues to focus on changing lives by providing the tools, support and philosophy necessary to transition people from social isolation and homelessness to social inclusion and housing. We continue to expand on our continuum of services and programs that allow us to partner with our clients on their journeys out of homelessness. We've added two new programs since our last report which I will outline in this report. Our emergency shelter continued but was forced to reduce numbers from 36 to 25 this season due to IPAC considerations. We did experience one outbreak in February 2021, involving two unrelated Covid-19 cases, but we were equipped to prevent spread and successfully cared for our staff, volunteers and clients. Our



emergency shelter became a 24/7 program to keep our clients cohorted and safe. We opened satellite drop-by's to ensure that our clients who sleep rough and our clients that are housed, had a place to go to ease social isolation and to ensure basic needs and housing stability.

We continued to run our Getting Ahead in a Just Getting' By World Program and Friendship Circles. We struggled with doing these programs on-line and adapted in person sessions to ensure safety. Outcomes of these programs continued to surprise us, including increased self-esteem, confidence and awareness, the ability to contextualize experiences and the realization that they are not to blame for their pasts and situation of homelessness. Friendship Circles matches graduates of Getting Ahead with mentors from the community, building bridges and developing informal supports that go a long way to infusing a sense of community and neighbourliness that is critical in building a stronger, more resilient community.

Our Stability Now Transitional Housing Program has continued to bring about housing stability. As reported previously, our Location Committee has done an outstanding job moving us along on the path to a new location. Despite the pandemic we have moved ahead and have purchased a building site as well as successfully negotiating the conveyance of land from the Town of Newmarket. We are well poised now to seek funding to build. Several applications have been made and our capital campaign chaired by Newmarket Mayor John Taylor has launched.

We continued to offer our Friday Community Meal and expanded our provision of meals to Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to ensure food security in the community. Our 200 plus volunteers continued to support us through the last two years. Some stepped away, worried about their health, but they continued to support us in other ways. Their commitment and belief in our clients makes the Inn a special place where a sense of community that includes everyone is present. They continue to ensure quality programs in a very cost-effective way.





Our two new programs include Inn Team – an employment social enterprise and Please Come Inn, our head lease program. Inn Team was created to provide a guided and structured reintroduction to the world of work for our clients. It has been extremely effective and successful in meeting the demand for low-skilled, odd jobs in the community and has earned income for our clients that makes the difference between being housed and being homeless. Their tagline is “changing the community’s perception of homelessness one job at a time.” In its first year Inn Team paid out \$78,000 in wages to its 15 members. Please Come Inn is our new head lease program that we will be piloting in late 2021. It will allow our clients to access the private rental market more easily with IFTC taking out the head lease with landlords and subletting to our clients, ensuring rent to the landlord and support to ensure successful tenancies to our clients.

We welcomed three new board members since our last report. Jot Toor, business owner and former VP of Marketing at Staples Canada, Juli Playter, owner of Roadhouse and Rose Funeral Home and local philanthropist, and Bob Shelton, former CEO Town of Newmarket.

Finally, the silver lining. Recently I delivered a presentation to UNITAR on Social Development and Homelessness on a Global Level, Human Settlements, Resilient, Safe, and inclusive cities. I reflected on how the pandemic has brought us together. There seems to be more empathy and understanding with respect to how close we all are to losing everything. We all know people who have experienced mental health challenges, financial challenges, loss of employment or business and family breakdown due to the pandemic. Many of us turned to family and friends for support, and many turned to us to express appreciation for supporting people who had no where to turn. A recognition of how close most of are to crisis when things start to go wrong in our lives had led to a more profound sense of community and support for our neighbour’s facing homelessness. Our continuum of services and programs is having an impact and moving people from insecurity to security. It is a privilege to serve this population, building a sense of community amongst our neighbours, community members and our clients. A



sense of belonging and being valued can lead to wanting and seeking stability. In the past twelve months we saw 38 people secure permanent housing. A significant achievement during a pandemic where the rental market stagnated. We continue to celebrate this incredible achievement and strive for opportunities to allow incremental progress and to celebrate each step along the way.

Sincerely,

Ann Watson and the team at Inn From the Cold

## Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care (PAC)

Community Program for People of All Ages Living with HIV/AIDS  
or who are HIV-impacted

### **Our FaithWorks Program Mission Lines up with the Theme of the 160th Regular Session of Synod: 'Love Thy Neighbour'**

Every day, through our hospice programs, we *"love our neighbours"*: our palliative neighbours; and neighbours with an underlying life-limiting illness, or acute complications related to HIV/AIDS. While most HIV agencies in the GTA do not have Christian roots or a mission to support clients seeking a Christian perspective, the Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care (PAC) continues to be the hospice leader – where HIV community supports and Christian beliefs intersect. Although our HIV programs are available to all denominations, in our support delivery, there is *"no condemnation"*; there is no *"growing weary of doing good"*; there is no *"giving up"*; all we do is *"done in love"*; and, the name of Jesus is prayed or spoken.

### **Program Ministry Report for Synod (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021):**

In 2019/2020, as the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS were changing, so was our service delivery. We found innovative ways to address service need gaps for clients experiencing short-term, HIV health-related issues, or who had developed co-morbidity due to side effects from illness or antiviral medications. PAC continued to provide case management, personal advocacy, social service coordination, counseling, short-term volunteer visitation, and a women's peer group facilitated by a social worker. This client



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group was facing challenges around: child welfare; family tensions; food insecurity; isolation; aging in poverty (on ODSP or CPP income); accessing long-term care; fear of stigma and discrimination due to their sexuality and/or HIV status; and complications of multiple, simultaneous chronic diseases or conditions, which were often compounded by emotional stress. Partnering with local AIDS service organizations, we supported improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes while addressing emergent issues.

2020 began a challenging season. COVID-19 made it necessary to re-evaluate client service delivery through our community hospice program, especially for this vulnerable group. As you will already know, many of our hospice clients with HIV/AIDS are also managing multiple challenges related to poverty, housing, access to care and treatment, stigma, discrimination, underemployment, co-morbidity and medication fatigue. At the onset of COVID-19, we witnessed new demands for emotional and mental support for people living with HIV. Many of our past and present clients reached out to access counselling services. Some of the emergent issues identified were: fear of contracting COVID-19; food insecurity; and isolation. (People had reduced access to their local AIDS organizations, drop-in programs or other services to help manage their HIV diagnoses).

Aligned with the directives from the Ministry of Health and Toronto Public Health, we temporarily suspended face-to-face volunteer support for hospice clients; shifted to virtual supports where possible; and increased case management / social worker support to help navigate continuity of care in a changing environment.

A service gap / needs assessment and daily care team huddles helped identify: the most vulnerable clients who had no caregivers or family support; emergent needs of clients with caregivers; and new ways staff could support clients. Staff connected regularly to conduct wellness checks, confirming that clients were coping, while reducing isolation caused by provincial lock downs. Clients accustomed to weekly in-person visits from volunteers, were given the option to transition to telephone or technology-based supports, on a case-by-case basis.



Our program manager also observed new levels of client anxiety, fear, and depression. Clients who experienced depression before, now have “*extreme depression*” since COVID isolation, and are requesting additional one-on-one counselling supports. Some clients have lost their jobs due to COVID. Others have refused to work or felt unsafe working due to COVID. It adds a complicating strain – for clients living with HIV.

Based on current observations from the front line, the immediate need priority within the HIV program is to manage: 1.) the increased program delivery demands using a higher staff to volunteer ratio, 2.) being able to meet the needs of the most isolated and vulnerable palliative clients with HIV who don’t have family and informal community supports; and, 3.) being able to respond quickly as the front line identifies emerging needs of this already vulnerable group. The emotional, mental, psycho-social and spiritual care support needs for people living with HIV may well increase further as the longer-term impacts of COVID isolation and related anxieties become evident.

**Client Testimonial / Case Example:** With the stress of COVID, one client’s HIV/AIDS symptom management is worse than ever: she has been hospitalized more during this past year, than years ago when her HIV complications led to organ failure, requiring invasive medical treatments and a transplant. Last year, after her child brought the COVID virus home from school, this mom was infected and thankfully survived. Today, still unable to work, she and her palliative husband are doing their best to raise children. She testifies: “*The PAC women’s group is the only thing that keeps me going. This group and my faith. The support and prayers I receive from others who know what I am going through, what I am feeling, my fear ... knowing I can share everything, and not be judged ... that there are people who I can call on to pray with me.*” Supports she receives from our PAC HIV Program include: health and well-being check-ins, food gift certificates for family, hospital visits from PAC case manager/social worker, participation in Women’s Peer Support Group, private one-on-one counseling support, and referrals for care at a respite facility.

**“Did I tell you my 21-year-old client died of cancer?”: A Case Example as observed by Program Manager**

Our HIV program manager observes: *“Everyone assumes that people with HIV/AIDS are fine because they have access to antiviral medication, but that’s not the case for everyone.... Did I tell you my 21-year old client died of cancer?”*

In this case, the HIV diagnostician at the hospital initially mistook new symptoms for COVID. Four days after cancer was identified, the young man died.... While COVID dominates attention and HIV makes patients medically vulnerable, working on the frontlines as a social worker, case manager, counsellor and patient advocate can be heartbreaking and faith-stretching: *“You ask and pray, can this be avoided? Could the cancer have been found sooner and treated? Could we do more to help people live with HIV/AIDS?”*

**Testimonial from the Women’s Group:** *“The weekly meetings by Zoom have been a lifeline to me. In all the trauma of COVID-19, I couldn’t sleep from stress. It helped ... us coming together. It’s great to have something to hold onto and to have support.”*

Our program manager aims to meet each person’s unique needs by using a combination of tools: cognitive behavioural therapy, narrative therapy, facilitated relationship mediation, group or individual counselling, referrals for medical respite, plus a faith-based perspective depending on the client. Looking forward, she speaks life and affirmation, with an abundance of faith that outreach, education, advocacy, and hospice care supports will continue to meet this group and others at their place of need. We all appreciate the generous resources and prayers through **FaithWorks**. God bless you for your support.

*For additional information, please contact: [jenniferk@philipazizcentre.ca](mailto:jenniferk@philipazizcentre.ca).*

## Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund

Two years ago, we celebrated PWRDF’s 60th anniversary of responding to the needs of vulnerable people on behalf of Anglicans in Canada. Our story begins in 1958 in Springhill, N.S. when a bump in a coal mine caused a



collapse. As people from across Canada were moved to offer their financial support, the Church quickly realized the need for an organization or a fund to support people during times of crisis. Today we support partners and projects in more than 30 countries all over the world, including Canada. PWRDF's international development work supports communities becoming stronger, more resilient and self-reliant. We partner with local organizations working to:

- improve health with access to quality medical care and clean water
- increase food security by adapting to climate change
- ensure a strong future for girls and women through education and gender empowerment

Our work also includes responding to humanitarian crises with emergency relief and longer-term support.

That support includes funding and staff expertise, but most importantly, that support includes you, Anglicans across Canada. Whether you're praying in the pews, worshipping online or praising God in private reflection) your prayers and accompaniment are understood and appreciated.

Our clients *"understand that PWRDF's support comes from people, people who actually care about them. Where their government and homeland offer only fear and death, the people of PWRDF offer love, kindness and friendship. ... It helps the refugees feel valuable, which in turn helps us to reduce addiction."* – DARE (Drug & Alcohol Recovery and Education), working in refugee camps along the Thai Burmese border (above)

### **The year in review**

Throughout the pandemic, PWRDF has been responding to the needs of vulnerable people all over the world as they cope with COVID-19. We responded to an ACT Alliance appeal, supported Partners In Health in Haiti and other countries, made grants to partners in Bangladesh, Haiti, Kenya, South Sudan and more. Here at home we supported HelpAge Canada address the needs of isolated seniors. We gave \$10,000 to the Diocese of Edmonton



to enhance its outreach in making healthcare and social services accessible to Indigenous women.

Global Affairs Canada extended our All Mothers and Children Count program for another year (through June 2021), supporting our partners in Burundi, Rwanda (right), Mozambique and Tanzania to respond to this deadly virus. With limited hospital capacity their focus was on prevention, hygiene and communicating reliable and accurate health information. The Government of Canada funded this extension with a 6:1 match, granting PWRDF almost \$1.9 million. Our supporters donated more than \$300,000 to this program, enabling our partners to build on the gains that had been made in maternal, newborn and child health over the previous four years.

The government has fully funded this project for another year into 2022, again to ensure that COVID is kept at bay, and moms and babies stay healthy.

With the advent of the COVID vaccine came the realization that some countries do not have the same access to the vaccine that we are privileged to have in Canada. In April 2021, with the support of the Primate, PWRDF created a Vaccine Equity Fund encouraging Canadians to give when they get vaccinated, or to “pay it forward.” And we are amplifying the advocacy work of the Love My Neighbour campaign, which is urging the Canadian government to support vaccine equity around the world. More than \$54,000 has been donated so far. We have granted \$20,000 to Partners In Health Liberia to support a vaccine rollout in a region near the border of Côte d’Ivoire, where incoming refugees are straining an already stretched healthcare system. We have also granted \$20,000 to Partners In Health Lesotho, supporting vaccine rollouts in remote rural communities.

When India began to collapse under its third wave, PWRDF supporters again stood up. More than \$20,000 was donated to support the Church’s Auxiliary for Social Action, as they care for vulnerable people impacted so tragically by COVID 19.





**More than \$400,000 has been donated to support people all over the world dealing with COVID-19, that is reason to be hopeful.**

**Relief and development work continues**

PWRDF continues to respond to non-COVID emergencies, many of which are linked to climate change. When a fire destroyed Lytton Village and Lytton First Nation in June 2021, PWRDF transferred \$5,000 to the Territory of the People to support immediate needs. We also launched an appeal and have so far received more than \$31,000 from people across Canada wanting to help.

PWRDF also responded to the Beirut explosion, volcanic ash in St. Vincent in the Diocese of the Windward Islands, displaced people in the Tigray region of Ethiopia (left), and supported the Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza when the area was rocked by violence. As these stories made international headlines, Anglicans turned to PWRDF as a trusted relief and development charity. More than \$170,000 was donated towards these responses.

Sustainable development projects with our partners around the world continue. This year we have added two new projects in Lesotho, a new partner in Haiti and we have begun a major food distribution and livelihoods program in South Sudan with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

In April 2021, we launched A Light for Every Birth, a major initiative with our partners in Mozambique, EHALE, to install 50 solar suitcases in rural health clinics. In 2016, the Diocese of Toronto was a major supporter of a project to install 30 solar suitcases (right). These innovative devices are mounted inside the clinic and connected to a solar panel on the roof. They bring clean and inexpensive electricity to the clinic so that healthcare providers can see what they are doing, especially when delivering a baby at night. All 30 of the solar suitcases installed in 2016 are working beautifully. We are grateful to have received \$10,000 from FaithWorks toward this year's project. With further thanks to an anonymous donor, that gift was matched.

**Resources for you**





In 2021, PWRDF launched a three-year education focus called Creation Care: Climate Action. Never before has our island home been under such threat. Our partners live and work in some of the world's most vulnerable communities, where people are living with the devastating impact of climate change every day. We know that Canada is not immune. Year One of the education focus will look at food security, with five learning modules that connect the agricultural and liturgical seasons:

- April 2021 – Rogation/planting
- August 2021 – Season of Creation (including a liturgy, Celebrating Food & Faith Together written by the Rt. Rev. Ken Gray)
- October 2021 – Thanksgiving and harvest
- January 2022 – Sabbath/Jubilee/Rest/Planning for next season
- March 2022 – Waiting/preparing – Climate disasters and impact on food security

This year PWRDF's Youth Council developed a podcast. A just generation connects listeners to the stories of allies, educators and everyday folks who are challenging norms, working to bring equity and justice into the world. The monthly episodes have focused on gender equality in the Church, how international development works, gender and sexual health education in El Salvador, women's empowerment in Guatemala and an introduction to the Youth Council.

The Youth Council is also taking an active role in developing PWRDF's 2021 Advent Resource, which for the first time will also target a youth audience. The PWRDF Lenten and Advent resources enjoy a wide audience of almost 1,000 subscribers. They are emailed daily and can be used for bible study, youth groups and personal reflection. The resource will also be available to download for use as a congregational study or youth group series. We invite you to introduce the younger ones in your life and congregation to "PWRDeIF" and Advent Lives, a collection of stories, activities and crafts that link PWRDF's World of Gifts to the Advent season.

**Mapping the Ground We Stand On:**  
**a reconciliation workshop for Zoom**



When the pandemic arrived, our specially trained mapping exercise facilitators had to roll up their maps of Turtle Island. But the need for reconciliation work only grew. In 2021, we began the process of reworking our workshop for Zoom. Cheryl Marek, a facilitator in the Diocese of Toronto, has been helpful in leading this transformation, which complements the in-person workshop.

### **Staying Connected**

COVID-19 may have restricted our ability to visit our partners, but it did open up the opportunity for our partners and supporters to come to us via Zoom. Of the many webinars we have hosted this year, 11 provided a platform for our partners to engage with our supporters.

We have welcomed 15 partners from overseas, several bishops, priests and volunteers as guest reflectors to our bi-weekly Praying with PWRDF. The worship has enriched all of us in attendance, as we crossed and connected time zones together.

You can watch past Praying with PWRDF reflections and many of our webinars on our Youtube channel. Learn more about upcoming online events at [pwrdf.org/webinars](http://pwrdf.org/webinars).

### **In the Diocese**

PWRDF staff, including Executive Director Will Postma, have “virtually” visited many parishes throughout the Dioceses during the lockdown, thanks to technology. (Clockwise from top left, Will talks about the Solar Suitcase project at St. John’s, Orangeville, contributed a recorded sermon to St. Olave’s, Swansea and participated in a live stream service at All Saints Kingsway, Toronto.)

Thank you for your continued support and prayer. Our prayers are with you as you gather for this Diocesan Synod.



# One City Peterborough

One City Peterborough is committed to a vision where everyone belongs and together we flourish. For us this means creating a community where those who are often pushed to the margins through criminalization or homelessness are treated as the valuable members that they are, have their needs met and are given the opportunity to explore their gifts and talents.

Over the past year and a half this vision has been needed more than ever. The pandemic has magnified the already vast inequalities that exist in our community. As service providers and municipalities put in important safety measures and went more and more digital, those without access became even more vulnerable. All of a sudden water, washrooms, food, much needed safe space, laundry and shower services became out of reach to many in our community. Already isolated individuals were even further isolated. On top of this, the impacts of a bylaw criminalizing individuals who are forced to live outside began to be felt more and more as people are forced to hide or face fines and have their belongings confiscated.

We at One City believe this is unacceptable, and have committed, in whatever small ways we are able, to actively challenge this further marginalization. We have done this through our various programs. First is through our variety of housing such as Haley House, our 10 bedroom halfway-house committed to men who are coming out of federal prisons and are dying, aging or with mobility issues. These men were very vulnerable to COVID outbreaks in prisons across Ontario, and we were able to get them out and into a safe, home like environment where they are treated with respect, and able to practice their gifts. We also have the home we recently purchased that, when finished, will allow 8 more aging men to leave prison, and allow them to be supported in integrating into the community. Lastly, our 9 other homes that house 29 people coming out of homelessness and/or criminalization in a supported way.



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We do it through our employment program that has employed over 30 people who have or are experiencing homelessness, criminalization and/or social exclusion in outreach, cleaning and gardening roles.

We do it through our community development programs such as our free drop in arts and drumming programs, our free recording studio and our woodshop, all of which are focused on giving people the tools to express their story in the way that most speaks to them.

We do it through our outreach programs that provide survival gear to those who have no choice but to sleep outside.

We do it through our Circles of Support and Accountability program that works with individuals who have committed sexual violence with reintegrating safely into the community.

We do it through our advocacy, focusing on pushing our municipality to change its punitive and self-defeating bylaws that make it so that people very survival of people who are experiencing homelessness, if they are not able to access shelter, is deemed illegal through making it illegal to set up tents or sleep on public property.

These programs require funding, and we are incredibly grateful to FaithWorks and the Diocese of Toronto for their ongoing and generous support of One City Peterborough and our goal for a community where everyone belongs, and where love is what guides us rather than fear of our neighbour. Thank you and peace be with you.

Sincerely,

Christian Harvey, One City Peterborough.



# One Roof Community Centre

I am pleased to make this report on behalf of One Roof Community Centre, a ministry of the Church of St John the Evangelist, Peterborough, and a FaithWorks Ministry Partner.

## **Pre-Pandemic (July 2019-March 2020)**

Before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, we were open 7 hours daily with lunch and dinner served Monday through Friday and dinner served on Saturday and Sunday. In 2019 One Roof served 79,068 meals with a daily average of 217. The majority of those served were males between the ages of 32 and 55. Just under half of our guests that year were receiving social assistance (Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program) and many were experiencing some form of homelessness.

When assessing the main reasons guests came to One Roof, food was listed as number one, followed closely by community and friends. This affirmed our commitment to not only provide warm and nutritious meals but to do so in a welcoming space where people can feel connected. In 2019 One Roof Community Centre expanded the outreach programming we offered to our guests. Some of the initiatives included: laundry nights coordinated through Women in Action, access to harm reduction materials through a partnership with the Peterborough AIDS Reduction Network, increased dental clinics, the development of a Financial Empowerment Hub that supports community members in deepening their financial literacy skills, training of staff in overdose response and distribution of Naloxone, and supporting community members in applying for and securely storing personal ID and vital statistics records.

This ministry was able to operate in the pre-pandemic format due to the hard work of our staff and many volunteers. At the end of 2019, One Roof was supported by approximately 95 regular scheduled volunteers who worked 4,312 shifts over 12,636 hours. One Roof also benefitted from the dedication and generosity of an additional 320 volunteers from 60 different outside groups who regularly sponsored and prepared meals.



## **Response to the Pandemic (March 2020-June 2021)**

In mid-March, as our churches closed, we were confronted with the challenge of how to continue to provide vital support to our neighbours in need. Working closely with the City of Peterborough Social Services Division and Peterborough Public Health, we developed a plan to modify our service model in order to respond to the provincial lockdown and still be able to provide meals. Rather than serving two sit-down meals on weekdays and dinner on weekends, we moved to serving a take-away meal at 1:00 every afternoon. From March to July we were forced to close the drop-in centre, cutting off guests' access to washrooms, our water bottle refill station, an a warm/cool/safe place to gather for shelter and community. Our staff adapted to new responsibilities as our large volunteer corps virtually evaporated.

*Our mission is to nurture a community that challenges homelessness, food insecurity, and social exclusion in the City of Peterborough by responding to immediate needs, breaking down barriers amongst us, and advocating for systemic change.*

At the end of 2020, despite moving to one meal daily (serving 7 meals a week), we ended up serving over 80,000 meals: more than in 2019 when we served 12 meals a week. We observed that new faces were appearing in the line for meals. Conversations led us to learn that, as 2020 went on, people who were precariously employed and/or housed were at much greater risk of losing their jobs and/or homes than previously. We heard stories from people who had some savings but burned through their reserves due to the loss of employment, the inadequacy of emergency benefits from the federal government, and the increasing costs of rent, food, and utilities.

## **Pandemic Challenges**

The pandemic brought particular challenges to a program like ours that is built on a foundation of providing service to guests in as dignified a manner as possible. Formerly, guests entered One Roof and were seated a table adorned with a tablecloth, silverware, and a floral centrepiece. Volunteers

would serve a hot, nutritious meal to the table and would often sit with guests to chat and build friendships. We operated as a family restaurant rather than a soup kitchen. The space would be alive with the sounds of conversation and bustling servers. Throughout the day, when the hall was filled with people using the drop-in, folks would read, play cards and board games, assemble puzzles, paint, draw, chat, or take advantage of one of our skills development programs. With the mandate to close the space to everyone but staff, all of these things were lost. The lack of community building opportunities has been most powerfully felt.

Another set of challenges that arose underscored the privilege most of us had in our response to the lockdown and related protocols. We were told to wash our hands to prevent the spread of the virus. We were ordered to stay home and stay safe. All of this is easy enough to do if you're middle class and have regular access to a washroom, a job that allows working from home, and a home that is safe. When washrooms were closed to the public, how were homeless people supposed to wash their hands? When you live in a shelter or in a tent, how do you isolate from others when you have to stand in a line to get a meal? Many of our guests have told us repeatedly that they have felt completely invisible during the pandemic. To pour salt in the wound, people who were staying at home after losing their job were collecting \$2,000 a month from CERB while people on social assistance were struggling to exist on anywhere from \$733 (OW, single) to \$1,750 (ODSP, couple).

### **Current Status**

Since July 2020, One Roof has been open for 4 hours every afternoon as a drop-in centre and operates as an emergency warming/cooling centre from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on extreme weather days. Many volunteers are still reluctant to return to the centre so our full schedule of programming has not returned, but as of Summer 2021, we are planning for the reengagement of our robust volunteer base and a return to in-house dining. Unfortunately, the ongoing effects of the pandemic have resulted in a growing need amongst community members and the number of meals we serve every day continues to increase.

It could have been all too easy to “grow weary of doing good” (Gal. 6:9) over the past year when COVID-19 presented a particular challenge to us but the dedication of our staff and a few key volunteers in collaboration with our partners at the City and Public Health enabled us to adapt rapidly to the changing situation. With increasing financial challenges being experienced by many members of society we are grateful more than ever for the generous support of donors to FaithWorks. Our ministry partnership with the Diocese of Toronto and FaithWorks, and the financial support that we receive, is vital to the continued success of One Roof Community Centre in providing meals and support to vulnerable community members as we seek to “love thy neighbour”. Thank you to each one who loves neighbours they have never met by generously giving to FaithWorks each year.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Brad Smith  
Rector, St John’s, Peterborough

## Orillia Christian Ministry “The Lighthouse”

The End of An Era and the Beginning of a New Era...

This past summer at The Lighthouse, we moved from our old home at 48 Peter Street S., Orillia, to our new location at 75 Queen St. E. At the Peter Street location, we served thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness and food insecurity over the years. We are thankful for our time in the small century home. However, it was time to move and expand to assist even more of the vulnerable population.

Because of COVID, we had also been sheltering individuals in local hotels for 18 months. At the end of August, we were able to begin to move participants in!



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We are thrilled to be fully operating (COVID style) out of our new Community Services and Supportive Housing.

Participants (men, women, youth) experiencing homelessness are able to access shelter and healthy meals, as well as housing support, clinic, job searches and more. We are also continuing to serve a bagged lunch through our outreach program daily (due to COVID we are not able to open fully to the public at this time).

Participants in the Supportive Housing have been moving in and getting settled. Housing staff have started to work alongside participants to assist them to one day move into permanent housing.

So many changes over the last while. Our staff and volunteers have been incredible and adaptable with the transition. Together with our participants we are getting our systems and protocols in place

Thank you to the community for your patience and incredible support throughout all our move and as we move into the future.

### **The Lighthouse Stats (January 2021 – September 2021)**

- **349** people sheltered (men, women, youth, families)
- **11,021** night shelter beds used
- **45,140** meals served
- **47%** people housed (permanent and temporary)

## **Samaritan House Community Ministries**

Dear Synod Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to share the work of our agency with Synod members. It is always a pleasure to share how God works and has directed our ministry especially among those in need within our community.

Samaritan House Community Ministries works hard to reach out to our neighbours in need. We strive to identify the needs of those in vulnerable situations and then to ensure their needs are met to the best of our capabilities. It is sometimes difficult and can take some time to determine



the specific needs of our clients. But through patience, acceptance and compassion we can work to identify a plan with them to work toward a brighter future. It is important that we love them through this process as it is often not even apparent to the clients themselves what they need to move forward with their lives.

The largest ministry within Samaritan House is our transitional housing. Here we meet women and children escaping or recovering from abuse through offering them safe temporary, but longer-term housing where they are able to start the recovery process. The trauma from abuse itself takes time to recover from so having this safe place allows for that. We then work on more specific areas to help them move forward with understanding abuse and breaking free from the cycle of abuse. Our staff will demonstrate the love of God through truly loving these women and supporting them through their trauma and giving them time to learn as well to understand how they can work toward being independent, self-sufficient women in the future. We will guide them through our programs and then move towards setting goals and working toward those goals whether it be finding permanent housing for themselves and their children and, or following the steps to secure employment, researching or applying to continue their education, or any other goals they may have.

To ensure the children's needs are met we as well not only have some children's programs, but we also have a Children's Sponsorship Program. With this program we will assist with items such as school supplies, assistive devices, dental or eye glass supports or simply membership support for social activities they would not otherwise be able to participate in such a soccer or baseball etc. We believe every child needs to be included, to build their social skills and to ensure physical fitness.

Our outreach includes a resource centre that offers free clothing and household items to anyone in the community in need. We assist the homeless, low-income families and those in need after events such as house fires or most recently the tornado that some of our Barrie residents experienced this summer. As well we offer some of our life skills programs to any community member who may want to join to learn from a variety of topics including budgeting, nutrition, landlord and tenant rights, how to be a good tenant, boundaries, safety etc. Samaritan House would not be able to offer these programs without the direction of God guiding us to fill the gaps between homeless and housed or without the help of our partners such as Faithworks



that financially support our programs and enable us to provide these services.

As we are all aware the events of the past year have brought many challenges to all. Covid-19 hit hard and fast and created added trauma to our clients and to be honest has been hard on our staff as well. With the Lord's grace we were provided strength, guidance, and love to meet the additional needs of the clients within our transitional homes as well as our staff and the great additional needs that this pandemic brought to our neighbours within the community. Samaritan House was able to continue operating although we had to make many adjustments. As mentioned, the additional needs in the community were great and not anticipated. With dedication and accommodations, we have been able to assist many that would not normally need assistance over this past year and make a difference in their lives.

Providing a nonjudgmental, loving response to the needs of our neighbours in times of trouble is where Samaritan House Community Ministries always strives to be. Through seeking direction and strength from God we are usually able to meet this goal and serve those most vulnerable around us.

With the Lord's blessings,

Kerry Ploughman  
Executive Director

## Toronto Urban Native Ministry

The Toronto Urban Native Ministry is a partnership between the Diocese of Toronto and national and regional bodies of the United Church of Canada. It has three staff members, the Rev'd Leigh Kern, Diocesan Right Relations Coordinator, Sandra Campbell, Indigenous Outreach Coordinator, and a United Church minister, the Rev'd Evan Swance-Smith. TUNM provides culturally relevant chaplaincy services to Indigenous people across the GTA, supporting both Christian spiritual practices and Traditional Indigenous spiritualities and world views.

Throughout the pandemic, TUNM has provided frontline emergency relief to urban Indigenous people, in a particularly concrete expression of this year's



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Synod theme, “Love thy neighbour.” Out of our offices in the heart of downtown Toronto, Trinity Square, we have organized many different opportunities for community members to access support for their emotional, physical, spiritual, and mental wellbeing throughout the pandemic. Alongside Toronto Public Health and our partner agencies, such as Church of the Holy Trinity and Equitable Action for Change, we have organized barrier-free vaccination clinics for people without documentation, vaccinating over 1,000 people. Through our partnerships in Trinity Square we have also been operating Unity Kitchen, serving 125 people a day a delicious lunch alongside wrap around services, including traditional medicines, harm reduction supplies, clothing, shoes, survival supplies, and other necessities of life. A weekend food-and-beverage wagon bridged the gap in the meal-programme schedule, and enabled additional one-on-one connections with individuals. Our outreach services provided first aid and medical support, masks and PPE, clothing, sleeping bags, and tents to people in dire need. Staff have sought out new sources of funding to support the ongoing practical needs of the community. Another new initiative helped us provide cell phones, a very necessary resource for people living on the street and needing to connect with medical, legal, and social supports; this also enabled Indigenous community members to connect with Elders for spiritual, emotional, and psycho-social support, and with family. Staff worked tirelessly to connect people with culturally appropriate housing, medical, and legal resources, and advocated for health and hygiene support for encampment residents, as well as engaging directly with the harassment residents faced from police and City employees.

In addition to their intense frontline outreach work, and the significant logistical work it involves, TUNM’s staff have continued to provide Christian and Traditional Indigenous spiritual teaching, ceremony, and mentorship, both in-person in the community and online through weekly worship services and community drumming sessions. These online resources have reached hundreds of people and introduced them to the harmonious integration of Christian and Indigenous traditions which is central to TUNM’s



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vision. Throughout the pandemic we have provided in person and online spiritual care to incarcerated community members.

The recent confirmation of the extraordinary number of unmarked burials in the grounds of former Indian Residential Schools – something Indigenous people have known for generations – has had a powerful and painful impact on the community TUNM serves, and staff have been stretched to the limit as they minister to individuals who have been traumatized by the inheritance of genocide. As the numbers continue to rise, this challenge will continue.

TUNM has always been deeply grateful for the support of FaithWorks, and the generosity of FaithWorks funding during the pandemic has been essential to the continuation of our essential ministry against daunting obstacles and the development of new initiatives in response to emerging needs. We hope that donors to FaithWorks may understand this support as a way to participate in the process of building right relations between Indigenous people and the Anglican Church, and we invite you to visit [tunm.ca](http://tunm.ca) to connect with our staff and the community we serve.

## **Investment Committee (Canon 39)**

Under Canon 39, the Investment Committee is responsible for the management of the Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) and the Cemetery Fund. The Committee meets at least four times a year to review the results of the Funds and to set policy directions. The Investment Policy Statement can be found in the Parish Finance Manual.

Members of the Committee include:

- Mr. David MacNicol (Chair)
- The Rev. Warren Leibovitch
- Mr. Kennedy Marshall, ODT
- Mr. Stephen Rodaway, ODT
- Mr. Julian Scarfe
- Mr. Peter Stanley



As of July 15, 2021, the Investment Committee has given the management of the funds to five managers - Burgundy Asset Management, Letko Brosseau and Associates Inc., 1832 Asset Management L.P., Manulife Investment Management and Northleaf capital.

RBC Investor & Treasury Services is the custodian for the Burgundy and Letko investment funds.

1832 Asset Management L.P. is the investment manager for the Cemetery Fund and Scotia Trust is the trustee.

The fund managers' performance is measured against a moving five-year benchmark. The benchmarks used for each fund is shown in the table as follows:

Fund Manager	Benchmark
Letko Brosseau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FTSE Canada Universe Bond return Index</li> <li>• S&amp;P/TSX</li> <li>• MSCI EAFE</li> <li>• S&amp;P 500</li> </ul>
Manulife Investment Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FTSE Canada Universal Bond</li> </ul>
1832 Asset Management L.P. - CTF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S&amp;P /TSX</li> <li>• S&amp;P/500</li> <li>• MSCI EAFE</li> <li>• FTSE Canada 91 Day T-Bill Index</li> </ul>
1832 Asset Management L.P. - Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dex Universe Index</li> <li>• S&amp;P /TSX</li> <li>• S&amp;P 500</li> <li>• SC 31 days T-Bill index</li> </ul>
Burgundy Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FTSE Canada 91-days T-bill index</li> <li>• MSCI EAFE</li> <li>• S&amp;P 500</li> </ul>

Northleaf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annualized Canadian 3-month Treasury bill + 5%</li> </ul>
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## Postulancy Committee (Canon 34)

As mandated by Canon 34, the role of the Postulancy Committee is to “advise the Bishop on the selection of persons for ordained ministry, ... [and] recommend which Applicants should be accepted by the Bishop as Postulants, and which Postulants should be approved by the Bishop for ordination.”

As with every other aspect of the Church’s life, the Postulancy Committee had to adapt their work during the Covid-19 pandemic in order to fulfill their mandate. Despite the limitations that were placed upon our ministry of discernment and formation, the Postulancy Committee is excited and proud of the candidates that have been selected, formed and ordained for the Church during this challenging season.

In the normal course of events, enquirers for postulancy submit their written application in March, and those who are short-listed are invited to attend an “Interview Day” in May. In 2020, as the pandemic was unfolding, Interview Day was postponed, eventually held in a shortened and modified way, with strict social distancing protocols and mask-wearing, at the vacated Synod Office in September. In previous years, applicants had been asked to preach a short homily on a prescribed text to the College of Bishops at Interview Day, but an innovation in 2020 was the submission of video-recorded sermons in advance, which allowed the whole Committee to view them. This adaptation was so well-received that we will continue with this practice going forward. In May 2021, ongoing Covid-restrictions prevented an in-person gathering for Interview Day and, rather than postpone once again, both Committee and applicants felt comfortable using Zoom for an online Interview Day experience. Although we all regretted the lost opportunity to socialize casually, share a meal and celebrate the Eucharist together on both of these

occasions, there were advantages to the use of technology which will be considered as we plan for the future.

We rejoice that God continues to call truly inspiring candidates for the priesthood in this Diocese. Although the total number of applications for postulancy were down the past two years, the Committee interviewed 13 candidates in 2020 and selected 9, and interviewed 11 candidates in 2021 and selected 6. (One candidate in each year subsequently withdrew after acceptance, for personal reasons.)

Our current cohort of 14 postulants range in age from 25 to 64. They reflect the diversity of the Diocese of Toronto in race, language, gender, sexual orientation, and theology. We are excited and proud to walk alongside Max Dionisio, Jess Dowling, Yohan Dumpala, Hannah Johnston, Ali McIntosh, Jillian Ruch, Carol Shih, Louise Simos, Doug Smith, Paige Souter, Abraham Thomas, Ben Tshin, Matthew Waterman and Michelle Yeung as they prepare for ordained ministry in the Church.

In addition to the selection of our postulants, several components of formation were adapted in response to the necessary pandemic restrictions. Regular meetings, worship, social events and even the annual “retreat” all took place over Zoom. ACPO weekends, Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and the psycho-sexual assessment at the Southdown Institute were all postponed, but for the most part were eventually adapted online. Some of the postulants’ “parish placements” were virtual, with the postulant never setting foot in the church buildings. We are keenly aware that our postulants have never even been in the same room together! We look forward to future in-person gatherings as restrictions ease.

In the coming year, the Postulancy Committee plans to put some energy towards the recruitment of potential applicants, and encouraging new vocations. We know that the post-pandemic Church is evolving and will require new skills, new vision and fresh energy from our postulants and ordinands. We ask the entire Diocese to pray for, look for, and encourage





potential priests who may be called to a ministry of word and sacrament in holy orders. It is a privilege and a responsibility for the Church, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to raise up the next generation of clergy leaders, and we are blessed in Toronto with a gifted and varied community of Christians from which to draw them.

The Postulancy Committee is staffed by the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Canon Mary Conliffe, assisted by Sue Willoughby, and is made up of the following members: the Rev. Canon Janet Read-Hockin and the Rev. Mark Regis, Co-Coordinator, Mr Bill Benson odt, the Rev. Julie Burn, Ms Anita Gittens odt, the Rev. Heather Gwynne-Timothy, Ms Elizabeth Hill odt, Ms Beth Kinghan odt, the Rev. Ian LaFleur, the Rev. Lisa Newland, the Rev. Canon Stephen Peake, the Rev. Canon Geoffrey Sangwine, the Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner, Ms Marge Watters Knebel odt, and the Rev. Kevin Wong. Since the last report to Synod, several long-standing members of the Committee have stepped down: the Very Rev. Stephen Vail (as Co-Coordinator), the Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison, the Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, the Rev. Canon Simon Li, the Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid, and the Rev. Canon Peter Walker (after an incredible 24 years of service). We are grateful for their many contributions to our work. The two Suffragan Bishops (the Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson and the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw) attend every gathering of the Postulancy Committee, while representatives from the theological colleges (typically Dean Christopher Brittain of Trinity College, and the Rev. Dr. Peter Robinson from Wycliffe College) attend two plenary meetings a year. The Diocesan Bishop personally Chairs those meetings where decisions are made.

It is a privilege to serve the Church in this role, and the Postulancy Committee requests your prayers.

## **Synod Motions**

### **Affordable Housing**

At the 159th Regular Session of Synod the following motion was passed:



REGULAR SESSION OF SYNOD 2021



Anglican Church of Canada

## **Motion #11 – Affordable Housing Plan**

*“MOVED by the Rev. Dr. Jason McKinney and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon David Harrison that this Synod request Diocesan Council (or its successor) to respond to the affordable housing crisis across the diocese by developing an Affordable Housing Plan. This Plan will:*

- i. determine the feasibility of building affordable housing on diocesan-owned lands;*
- ii. prioritize strategic partnerships with industry experts in the fields of planning, development, and affordable housing provision;*
- iii. establish specific achievable targets (e.g. 250 units by 2024)*

*The Plan should be completed by November 30, 2020 at which time a report to Synod and to the diocese will be made.”*

Work on this motion was delayed by the State of Emergency related to COVID however the Property Working Group is working towards a process to support affordable housing in the Diocese of Toronto.

The establishment of an achievable target that includes dates is difficult for the following reasons:

- Although the Diocese owns lands, they are not vacant pieces of land. Church properties come with worshipping communities. Designating church properties as being available for housing developments without consideration of our local worshipping communities would not be a successful strategy. Instead, what will more likely be successful is an approach that encourages parishes to assess their own situation and where appropriate, look to maximize the value of their ministry assets by considering alternate uses of their property
- The needs of each community and allowable uses of property will vary – housing will not always be the most appropriate use
- The discernment process for each parish and the time to bring a development plan to completion is significant. This makes a target date for providing a set number of housing units difficult and somewhat arbitrary

The Diocese presented a workshop in June to parishes that provided a theological perspective on land and an overall governance framework for development projects. Over the course of the summer (July/August) a series of four webinars were offered that covered a variety of topics that included looking at other faith based housing projects, planning for inclusion and diversity, ecologically sustainable development, financial sustainability, and looking at development through the eyes of a non-profit developer. A wrap up and reflection to these was held in September.

Parishes indicated that they are looking for greater clarity around process and more diocesan guidance/support to assist them as they consider whether redevelopment is the next step in their faith journey. The Diocese is working towards some resources to provide greater clarity around the current development framework and is exploring additional options for land development. This work is ongoing.

## Single-Use Plastics and Diocesan Environmental Plan

At Diocesan Synod in November 2019, two motions relating to creation care were passed: Motion #10, encouraging parishes and individual Anglicans to curtail their use of single-use plastic products, and Motion #15, urging the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care to develop a Diocesan Environmental Plan.

### **Bishop's Committee on Creation Care – An Introduction**

The Bishop's Committee on Creation Care (the Committee) was established in July 2020. Its current members are Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat and the Rev. Susan Spicer (co-chairs), Ms. Elin Goulden (staff liaison), the Rev. Canon Dr. Eric Beresford, Mr. Roberto Chiotti, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford, Ms. Hannah Johnston, the Rev. Dr. Alison Kemper, Ms. Chanelle McLeod, Dr. Jenny Salisbury, Ms. Paige Souter, Ms. Karen Turner, and Ms. Monica Woodley. Bishop Andrew Asbil attends the meetings regularly as an ex-officio member



of the Committee. We also gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Grant Jahnke, who co-chaired the Committee from July 2020 through March 2021.

While as a Bishop's Committee, the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care does not report to Synod but rather directly to the Diocesan Bishop, the work of the Committee has to some extent been shaped by the requirements of Motions #10 and #15 passed at Synod in 2019. Each member of the Committee is a member of one or more of the following working groups:

- Education Working Group (Stephen Drakeford, chair)
- Liturgy Working Group (Sylvia Keesmaat, chair)
- Pilgrimage Working Group (Karen Turner, chair)
- Communications Working Group (Chanelle McLeod, chair)
- Synod Motion Working Group (Stephen Drakeford, chair)

The Synod Motion Working Group is responsible for responding to Diocesan Council and Synod on the progress made on Motions #10 and #15 but much of that progress has been the work of the other Working Groups as well.

Through these Working Groups, the Committee has undertaken the following significant projects:

- Education
  - A Fast for the Earth: Lent 2021 resource
  - Earth Sunday Bulletin insert with reflection and action ideas
  - Community Garden Toolkit
  - First steps in developing a network of church gardens throughout the Diocese for food security, pollinator support, community-building, and meditation. This project will connect existing gardens and provide mentorship and support to parishes beginning or expanding a garden.
  - Poster - Best Practices for Reducing Plastics in Your Parish
  - Updating of the Green Congregation Guide (in progress)
- Liturgy

- "Worship in the Shelter of Creation: Creating Outdoor Sacred Space for Liturgies, Prayer and Contemplation"
- Resources for Season of Creation 2021
- Pilgrimage
  - Working on a project to connect Diocesan community and creation, to be launched Advent 2021, with the working title "Walking the Earth" (in progress)
- Communications
  - Promotion of resources created by the Committee
  - Regular articles in the Anglican every two months, including 2-page spread for Season of Creation in September 2021
  - Facebook page launched in June 2021
- Synod Motion
  - Regular Reports to Diocesan Council and Report to Synod 2021

As a Committee, we have further come to realize that we are talking about changing the culture of our church and developing a kind of discipleship that sees creation care as an integral part of our spirituality. This is not just the work of the Committee, but of everyone: laity, Christian educators, theologians, deacons, priests, and bishops throughout our Diocese.

### **Responding to Motions #10 and #15**

Of course, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought profound changes to our world that were not foreseen at Synod in November of 2019. In some ways, as with the increased use of disposable plastics, the pandemic has exacerbated our environmental problems; in others, such as curtailing travel, it has shown us new options and contributed to a flexibility our institutions didn't know they had. Both of these effects can be seen in our responses to the motions, which are addressed in turn below.

### **Motion #10 – Plastics**

*MOVED by the Rev. Canon David Harrison and SECONDED by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford that this diocesan Synod:*

- 1. Encourages parishes to curtail their purchase of single-use plastic products, with the intention of ending their use by 2023, taking into consideration the accessibility needs of their communities.*
- 2. Encourages individual Anglicans to reduce their reliance on single-use plastic products.*
- 3. Encourage the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care to develop and promote resources aimed at supporting local efforts toward plastics reduction. CARRIED.*

Plastics. As soon as you start thinking about them, you realize how ubiquitous they are. They're everywhere: bagged milk, detergent containers, electronics packaging, PPE, gloves... everywhere. And COVID-19 has made our dependency on plastics all the greater for obvious safety and hygienic reasons.

"Here in Canada, less than 10% of plastics are recycled, contributing to over 3 million tonnes of plastic being thrown into landfills or into the environment each year. Over a third of plastics produced in Canada are for single-use packaging or products – such as plastic bags, take-out containers, and bottle caps – which constitute one of the largest sources of plastics found in fresh water."

Some 30 million tonnes of plastic waste have found its way into the waters of the world – an amount that is set to triple within 20 years if alternatives are not found. The problem has been exacerbated by the pandemic. According to the CBC, "The International Solid Waste Association estimates that our single-use plastic use has increased by 250 to 300 percent during the pandemic."

And visible plastic waste is only the tip of the iceberg. Though the term "microplastics" was only coined in 2004, these microscopic particles – formed by the breakdown of everything from coffee cups to tires to polyester

clothing – can now be found everywhere on earth, even in the most remote locations. Most worryingly, they are in the food we eat and the water we drink, and even in our bodies, on which their long-term effects are as yet unknown. The threat is sufficiently clear that the UN has recently declared plastics to be “the second most ominous threat to the global environment, after climate change.”

The federal government has indicated that it will be banning certain single-use plastic items by the end of 2021, including plastic bags, cutlery, straws, stir sticks, six-pack rings, and hard-to-recycle food containers. These regulations will help to move parishes away from single-use plastics, yet there are other single-use items, from Styrofoam cups to glitter, which are not at present covered by the ban. While government action is essential for addressing a problem of this magnitude, there continues to be a role for parishes, not only in complying with the new regulations but in going beyond them, as well as in advocating for additional regulations, better recycling practices and non-plastic options.

The Committee has undertaken the following projects that respond to Motion #10:

- The resource “A Fast for the Earth: Lent 2021,” emphasized fasting from consumption of single-use/disposable plastics and recommended alternatives.
- The resource “Best Practices for Reducing Plastics in Your Parish” recommends alternatives to the single-use plastics most commonly used in parishes, including but not limited to those to be banned by the federal government.
- These recommendations will form part of the updated Green Congregation Guide (in progress) which will help parishes take greater steps to incorporate creation care into all their operations.

In this work the Committee has been informed by the work also being done in this area in the Dioceses of British Columbia, Huron, and Niagara, all of whom have passed similar motions at their Diocesan Synods.

## **Motion #15 – Diocesan Environmental Plan**

*MOVED by the Rev. Canon David Harrison and SECONDED by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford that Synod requests the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care, working through a creation care lens and in the context of our developing relationship with Indigenous Peoples, to develop and propose environmental policies and resources for all diocesan operations that reflect the need to increase the use of renewable energy services and decrease our carbon footprint. In particular, Synod requests a review of and development of policies pertaining to:*

- 1. our spending practices;*
- 2. our travel policies;*
- 3. our land use and development;*
- 4. the creation of a fund to assist parishes to reduce their carbon footprint;*
- 5. the creation of a fund to assist clergy to purchase or lease zero emission vehicles;*
- 6. the curtailment of the purchase of single-use plastic products, with the intention of ending their use no later than the beginning of 2023, taking into consideration the accessibility needs of our communities;*
- 7. developing modules for clergy and lay formation on the connection between creation care and the Gospel; and*
- 8. promoting reduced consumption as part of a Christian Rule of Life.*

*Synod and the diocese shall be provided with a report on the work of the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care and the progress made on these issues by June 30, 2020 and every six months thereafter until the next Regular Session of Synod. CARRIED.*

The Synod Working Group classified each of these 8 areas as a short-term, intermediate, or long-term priority:

- Short-Term: Items #2 and #6
- Intermediate: Items #1, #3, #7 and #8
- Long-Term: Items #4 and #5.

This report to Synod offers recommendations for the short-term priority items, a framework for addressing the intermediate priority items, and



suggestions for how Synod and Diocesan bodies might address the long-term priorities.

Taking each element of Motion #15 in turn, here is what the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care has accomplished to date:

1. **Spending Practices** (Intermediate Priority): The chief expenditures of the Diocese are: salaries and benefits; ministry; travel, capital expenditures; and investments. Salaries, benefits, and ministry expenditures are not considered here as they do not have a direct environmental impact. Travel expenditures will be considered under item #2 below. Capital expenditures will be considered under items #3 and #4 below. This leaves investments.

Members of the Synod Motion Working Group met with the Diocesan Investment Committee in May 2021 to discuss Diocesan investment policy as it relates to environmental considerations.

The Diocesan Investment Policy Statement provides that the Consolidated Trust Fund of the Diocese “shall be invested in companies and other investments that practice, uphold, and promote socially responsible investing” and directs investment managers accordingly. The Investment Committee has a subcommittee devoted to monitoring the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors of its investments. This subcommittee is working toward getting fund managers to report twice annually (rather than annually) on ESG factors. They are also pursuing third-party evaluation of each fund manager and each investment within that manager's portfolio, for better monitoring of the environmental and social responsibility of the Diocese's investment holdings. The Synod Motion Working Group looks forward to continuing our conversation with the Investment Committee on its progress, and encourages the Investment Committee to develop and release a statement on environmentally and socially responsible investment with Synod, so

that others in the Diocese are aware of the initiatives being taken in this area as well. Recognizing that greening our investment portfolio is a major part of our commitment, as a Diocese, to creation care, we seek ongoing opportunities to support and collaborate with the Investment Committee in meeting this challenge.

2. **Travel Policies** (Short-Term Priority): This is an area in which Covid-19 has had a positive environmental impact, as meetings and events have shifted online due to lockdowns and travel restrictions. While we look forward to gathering face-to-face again, and recognize that some meetings are better served in person than online, there is much we have learned about gathering online. The experience of the past 18 months has shown us that much of our travel can be avoided, that we can run effective meetings, and that an inviting and hospitable online Christian community is possible. As we emerge from the pandemic, we look forward to adopting a new balance between in-person and online meetings.

The Committee urges all parties within the Diocese – Bishops, Diocesan staff, parish clergy, Diocesan and parish volunteers, and parishioners – to consider carefully what travel is truly essential. For Bishops, regular parish visits will likely resume when restrictions are lifted, as will gatherings such as Lambeth, General Synod, and National and Provincial House of Bishops meetings. However, we envision, and hope, that some of these gatherings might move to less frequent in-person meetings, interspersed with online gatherings.

Diocesan Council and other committees have been meeting online for the duration of the pandemic. For many members, the freedom from having to travel across the Diocese for a monthly meeting has been liberating. Post-pandemic, we recommend that the majority (50 – 90%) of these meetings continue to take place online. Similarly, we recommend that parish councils and committees continue to hold the majority of their meetings online. Even where in-person events are



held, there should be a “hybrid” option for people to participate remotely. This would help to accommodate those with geographical, scheduling, and health challenges. We also encourage organizers of meetings, retreats, etc. to choose venues that are accessible by public and active modes of transportation.

3. **Land Use and Development** (Intermediate Priority): Since Synod 2019, the Property Working Group (PWG) is seeking to develop a new framework for land use and development in the Diocese. The PWG has been informed by the Rev. Dr. Jason McKinney’s presentation “Reimagining Church Property: A Theological Basis for Church Redevelopment” which was presented to Diocesan Council in March, 2021. This theological framework seeks to understand land in the context of Scripture and tradition, as a gift of God, transferred as an inheritance from generation to generation, and shared as ‘a commons.’ Such an understanding acknowledges that we are caretakers or stewards, rather than owners, of land; recognizes that we are implicated in historic and ongoing injustices in our use of land, particularly toward Indigenous peoples, and calls us to act in respect to land in such a way as affirms the goodness of creation, helps redress injustice, considers sustainability for succeeding generations, and works collaboratively with others in the community for the common good.

Between June and September 2021, the Diocese held a series of events for parishes interested in redevelopment, which included a study of this theological framework. One of these events featured BCCC member Roberto Chiotti, a professional architect with expertise in sustainable design, who spoke about how to incorporate ecological values and best practices into property redevelopments.

In addition, the Community Garden Toolkit and Garden network project mentioned above (under Education Working Group) are aimed at helping congregations to work with their parish property for

the good of their local community as well as the community of living things (other native plants, pollinator species, birds, etc.) in the local ecosystem and watershed.

When Diocesan property is sold, the allocation of the proceeds is governed by the Diocesan Capital Redeployment Policy. The Diocesan share of the proceeds is placed in the Ministry Allocation Fund (MAF) to be allocated to a variety of purposes, including real estate purposes, congregational growth and ministry development, and other strategic needs. From time to time, a tithe of the net proceeds is given in support of “worthy initiatives and causes” outside the Diocesan budget. In recent years, tithes from the MAF have been allocated to Indigenous causes, such as the Anishawbe Health Foundation’s new health and cultural centre, and the creation of the Spirit Garden memorial outside Toronto City Hall to honour residential school survivors. It is recommended that commitments to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and reconciliation with creation become integral criteria in property and capital deployment decisions.

4. **Creation of a Fund to Assist Parishes to Reduce Their Carbon Footprint** (Long-term Priority): One of the most significant actions that parishes can undertake as faithful stewards of creation is the reduction of their carbon footprint. It is also one of the most expensive actions, and many parishes will need assistance to undertake this work. At this time, with the financial repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic still to be seen, the Committee is holding off on recommendations for new funding. However, we anticipate that there may be other sources of funding available. This Committee is in the early stages of identifying various funding opportunities through which parishes can fund the reduction of their carbon footprint. The Committee anticipates bringing forward recommendations for the next Synod.

5. **Creation of a Fund to Assist Clergy to Purchase or Lease Zero-Emission Vehicles** (Long-term priority): This item was seen as a low priority for a number of reasons. Firstly, as with item #4, the Committee is reluctant to bring recommendations for new Diocesan budget items while the full financial impact of the pandemic is yet to be ascertained. Secondly, a former Diocesan program of clergy loans for purchase or lease of vehicles had to be cut due to bad debt. We also expect clergy to be reducing their work-related travel under item #2. However, we do anticipate that as part of reducing their carbon footprint, (item #4) parishes will consider installing at least one charging station in their parking lots, which could assist clergy in shifting to zero-emission vehicles. The Committee anticipates bringing some such recommendation forward to next Synod.
  
6. **Curtailed Single-Use Plastics** (Short-term Priority) See Motion #10 above.
  
7. **Clergy and Lay Formation on Creation Care and the Gospel** (Intermediate Priority): In our discussions, the Committee as a whole and the Synod Motion Working Group in particular felt that the work of clergy and lay formation on the connection between creation care and the Gospel went far beyond developing modules for Momentum, Fresh Start, and similar programs. As mentioned earlier, what is required is a transformation of our church culture and a deepened understanding of discipleship which sees creation care as integral to our Christian walk, and this is the work of everyone in the Diocese, not simply that of one Bishop's Committee. However, we recognize that this Committee has a key role to play in nurturing this transformation so that it becomes part of our Diocesan "DNA."

Some of what has already been done in this regard includes the resources produced by the Education, Liturgy and Pilgrimage Committees – the Fast for the Earth Lent resource, the Earth Sunday

bulletin, resources for outdoor worship and for Season of Creation. In addition, the work of the Communications committee in publicizing creation care activities throughout the Diocese will help inform Anglicans and encourage them to see creation care as integral to the Church's mission.

The Pilgrimage project (tentatively called "Walking the Earth"), to be launched in Advent 2021, will carry the work of formation even further. Through the practice of walking the land, Anglicans will be invited to learn its history and to listen to the stories of the plant, animal, and human communities that dwell in the places where we live, worship, and serve. As we come to know and love the places where we are located, and the human and non-human creatures who share them with us, our commitment to their flourishing grows. This project combines getting to know our localities with the ancient practice of pilgrimage, to deepen our understanding of our earth as sacred ground, the place where we, and all of creation, encounter God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

More formal opportunities for clergy and lay formation are already happening and being planned. One of our co-chairs is a member of the teaching staff at Trinity College. In addition, over the past year, despite Covid-19 restrictions, Committee members have given lectures, presentations, workshops, sermons and eco-retreats at parishes in the Diocese, or events sponsored or co-hosted by parishes in the Diocese. At least one workshop is planned for the virtual Diocesan Outreach Conference in October 2021.

After consultation, we have determined that the Momentum and Fresh Start programs are not the best vehicle for reaching Diocesan clergy. Instead, we are looking at creating workshops for future Diocesan and Area clergy conferences, Diocesan Synods, Area and Deanery events, in addition to making continued use of the educational opportunities mentioned above.



8. **Promoting Reduced Consumption as part of a Christian Rule of Life** (Intermediate Priority): The promotion of reduced consumption was a key element of our Lenten resource, A Fast for the Earth. Also, in some ways we consider this to be linked with the formation of clergy and lay people, as mentioned above under Item #7.

However, we are intrigued by the possibility of creating a “Rule of Life” that reflects reduced consumption and creation care. The Committee is considering writing one for its own members as part of the process of calling other members of the Diocese to incorporate this into their own personal Rule of Life.

**Conclusion:**

The work of developing an environmental plan that touches every aspect of Diocesan life is not something to be fully accomplished in two years between Synod meetings, much less two years that have been marked by a global pandemic. As we have said, this requires a change in our church culture and a deepening of our own walk as disciples of Jesus Christ. At the same time, we believe that the Bishop’s Committee on Creation Care has marked out not only the first steps of how our Diocese can live out our commitment to the care of creation, but outlined the next steps to be taken in this ongoing work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Synod Motion Working Group, Bishop’s Committee on Creation Care

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil (ex-officio)  
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford (chair)  
The Rev. Dr. Alison Kemper  
Ms. Paige Souter  
Ms. Elin Goulden (staff liaison)

## York Rectory Commissioners (Canon 46)

Under Canon 46, the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto delegates to a board of three commissioners, the power to apportion the surplus income derived from the endowment of the First York Rectory and the Etobicoke Glebe funds.

Members of the current Board of Commissioners are:

- Canon Clare Burns, LLB, LLM, Chancellor
- The Rev. Canon Stephen Fields
- Ms. Joy Packham

Funds	Jan - Jun 30,2021	Jan - Dec 2020
<u>York Rectory Fund</u>		
<u>Capital Account</u>		
Opening Balance	14,641,735	14,616,654
Change in Market value	1,501,732	25,080
Ending Balance	16,143,467	14,641,735
<u>Dividend Account</u>		
Opening Balance	1,027,520	726,852
Income Generated	296,775	600,159
Distribution to incumbents / Grants	(175,101)	(299,491)
Ending Balance	1,149,194	1,027,520
Projected Income	296,775	
Remaining Distribution	(175,101)	
Projected December 31 balance	1,270,868	



<u>Etobicoke Glebe Fund</u>		
<u>Capital Account</u>		
Opening Balance	284,395	283,908
Change in Market value	29,169	487
Ending Balance	313,564	284,395
<u>Dividend Account</u>		
Opening Balance	52,639	46,382
Income Generated	5,764	11,657
Distribution to incumbents / Grants	(3,600)	(5,400)
Ending Balance	54,803	52,639
Projected Income	5,764	
Remaining Distribution	(3,600)	
Projected December 31 balance	56,967	