



CAST  **THE NET**

**Synod
Survey
Highlights**

November, 2022



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada



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**EVALUATION OF
*GROWING IN CHRIST***





Mission


We build healthy, missional Anglican communities that engage faithfully with the world and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- **How well are we living up to it? 57%.**
 - **How appropriate going forward? 73%.**
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Mission


We build healthy, missional Anglican communities that engage faithfully with the world and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- **What else needs to be included?**
 - **Safety, diversity, equality, inclusion**
 - **Working with others**
 - **More explicit about environment and social justice**
 - **Something about sustainability**
 - **Servant focus**
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Vision

An Anglican community committed to proclaiming and embodying Jesus Christ through compassionate service, intelligent faith and Godly worship.

- **How well are we living up to it?**
 - **Compassionate service 68%**
 - **Intelligent faith 54%**
 - **Godly worship 68%**
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Vision

An Anglican community committed to proclaiming and embodying Jesus Christ through compassionate service, intelligent faith and Godly worship.

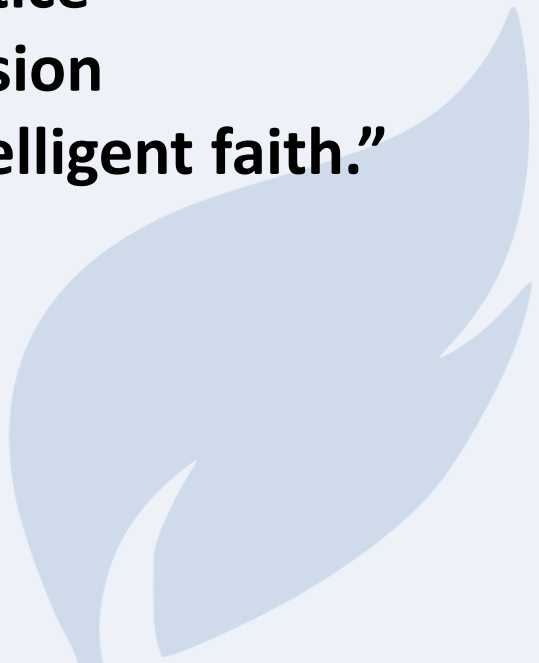
- **How important going forward?**
 - **Compassionate service 95%**
 - **Intelligent faith 89%**
 - **Godly worship 90%**





Vision

An Anglican community committed to proclaiming and embodying Jesus Christ through compassionate service, intelligent faith and Godly worship.

- **What else needs to be included?**
 - **Making new disciples**
 - **Living our faith in action**
 - **Strong, overt commitment to social justice**
 - **Explicit reference to diversity and inclusion**
 - **Many struggle with the concept of “intelligent faith.”**
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Values

Faith / Compassion / Collaboration / Accountability / Boldness

- **How well are we living up to them?**
 - **Faith 71%**
 - **Compassion 70%**
 - **Collaboration 58%**
 - **Accountability 61%**
 - **Boldness 52%**
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Values

Faith / Compassion / Collaboration / Accountability / Boldness

- **How important going forward?**
 - **Faith 95%**
 - **Compassion 95%**
 - **Collaboration 89%**
 - **Accountability 91%**
 - **Boldness 89%**
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Values

Faith / Compassion / Collaboration / Accountability / Boldness

- **What else needs to be included?**
 - **Diversity, equity, inclusion need to be explicitly named**
 - **Hope, charity, hospitality, forgiveness**
 - **Personal and institutional integrity / transparency**
 - **Mutuality, relationships**
 - **Someone suggested Galatians 5.22-23**



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CHANGES, FEARS, HOPES




Biggest Changes In Past 3 Years

- **Impact of pandemic:**
 - **Increased use of technology**
 - **New understanding of community, buildings**
 - **Permanent decline in attendance**
 - **We showed surprising resilience and nimbleness**
 - **There has been more collaboration**



More Changes


- **Role of diocese in responding to the crisis:**
 - **Supportive, more communication and support**
 - **Distant, unresponsive, overly centralized**
 - **Concerns about episcopal leadership changes**
 - **+Andrew's faithfulness and leadership**
 - **Pace and extent of change:**
 - **Restructuring, regionalization**
 - **Focus on reconciliation, climate, gender, etc.**
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Biggest Fears for the Diocese

- **We won't change enough, or quickly enough**
- **Too much change will alienate current adherents**
- **Lose focus on following Jesus in favour of other priorities**
- **Factional divisions that undermine unity of purpose**
- **Declining membership; people won't come back**
- **Church closures**



More Fears

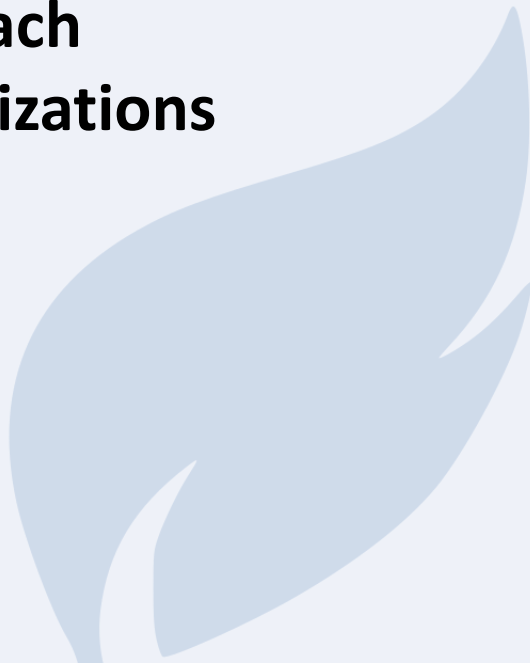
- **We'll become irrelevant, slowly fade away**
 - **Inward-looking, focus on survival rather than mission**
 - **More centralized, risk-averse, unresponsive bureaucracy**
 - **The plan will not result in intangible improvements**
 - **Leadership burnout**
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Biggest Hopes for the Diocese

- **Commitment to fight poverty, homelessness, injustice**
- **Collaborative, coherent, unified diocesan culture**
- **Support for parishes (financial and otherwise)**
- **Restructure for growth – more regional ministry**
- **A bold, transformative vision; die to be reborn**
- **Evangelism, preach the Gospel**
- **Bible based, rooted in prayer**
- **Openness, inclusion, diversity**



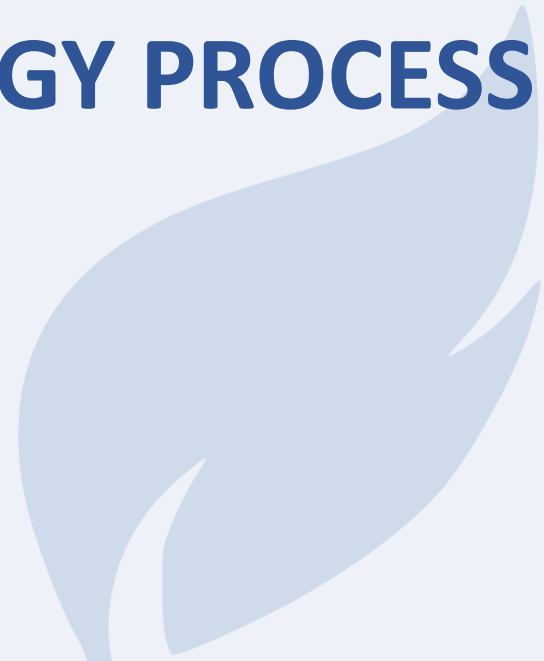
More Hopes

- **People come back to church**
 - **More young people**
 - **Diocese a model for vibrant church in our time**
 - **Leaner, more transparent administrative structure**
 - **Willing to give up our buildings**
 - **Maintain our worship traditions**
 - **Continue using technology to expand reach**
 - **Engage with communities, secular organizations**
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EXPECTATIONS FOR NEW VISIONING AND STRATEGY PROCESS



How Important Are These Subjects?

Spiritual formation (clergy/lay)	88%	Social and economic justice	84%
Personal spiritual development	88%	Building up congregations	84%
Involving young people	88%	Clergy wellness	84%
Preaching Gospel/discipleship	86%	Dismantling racism/colonialism	82%
Equity, diversity, inclusion	86%	Homelessness	82%
Reconciliation w Indigenous	86%		

How Important Are These Subjects?

(continued)

Healing divisions (church/world)	81%	Climate crisis	79%
Handling sexual misconduct	81%	Property management	78%
Broad range of worship styles	81%	Sexual and gender diversity	77%
Food sustainability	81%	Liturgical excellence	76%
Coping with decline	80%	Creation theology	71%
Fresh expressions of church	80%	Opioid epidemic	69%
Digital technology	79%	Restructuring diocese, parishes	66%

What Other Subjects Are Important?

- **Ecumenical initiatives and co-operative ventures**
- **Leadership development**
- **Education in the Christian and Anglican traditions**
- **Promoting collaboration**
- **Support and inclusion for the elderly and disabled**
- **Narrowing the income disparity gap**

How Important Are These Process Aspects?


Bold transformative vision	86%	Research future societal trends	76%
Hear voices from the margins	84%	Reflect wide range of views	75%
Broad consultation in diocese	81%	Explore radical options	73%
Consult non-church goers	81%	Consult other Anglicans	73%
Match aspirations to resources	80%	Consult other faith groups	72%
Consult in-depth w key players	78%	Seek broad consensus	71%
Consult community partners	77%	Sustainability of institution	62%

What Else Should We Keep in Mind?

- **Stay grounded in prayer and scripture**
- **Have a strong Communications plan**
- **Reach out to youth, non-churchgoers, new neighbourhoods**
- **Respect the past while moving forward**
- **Be fact-based**
- **Take time to prayerfully listen**
- **Avoid “consultation paralysis”**




Quotable Quotes

- **“I wanted to mark everything as extremely important.”**
 - **“We need a manageable number of priorities.”**
 - **“Encourage more consultation throughout the Diocese.”**
 - **“It’s time to act – the clock is ticking.”**
 - **”Dramatic and difficult choices have to be made.”**
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More Quotes

- **“Sustainable, active congregations.”**
 - **“People before property.”**
 - **“More diocese-oriented than parish-oriented.”**
 - **“I don’t really think much about the diocese.”**
 - **“Servant leadership.”**
 - **“Step out in faith.”**
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