

## Archdeaconry Discussions at Diocesan Synod – June 5, 2009

1. WHAT SHOULD OUR NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES BE? (see list below)
2. WHAT SHOULD DIOCESAN COUNCIL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION AS IT DEVELOPS AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN?
3. HOW CAN WE, IN OUR ARCHDEACONRY, HELP EACH OTHER? and WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO GET STARTED?

### **Possible Priorities Arising from the Reports and Motions**

(Note: it is recognized that each of the following areas is important and several overlap. They are listed this way to prompt our thinking and to help focus our discussion of what is important in the near term.)

#### 1. All Parishes Focus on Growth

Each parish conducts a thorough self-assessment. Follow-up initiatives emphasize spiritual, numerical and financial growth. Shared ministry possibilities are discussed.

#### 2. A New Congregational Development Fund

Establish a new diocesan Congregational Development Fund. Our healthier parishes support our struggling parishes – those willing to 'take risks' in their plans to grow.

#### 3. Major Stewardship Initiative

Launch a parish-based stewardship initiative that will help parishes develop and implement a year-round stewardship education program that includes teaching about proportional giving/tithing.

#### 4. Prepare Our Leaders For Change

Develop a dynamic leadership education program to prepare our clergy and lay leaders for the challenges of change as we seek to grow spiritually, numerically and financially.

#### 5. Renew Ourselves as Christians and Anglicans

Reclaim, renew and relearn what it means to be both Christian and Anglican, using dynamic parish-based teaching, with a special emphasis on the 'rule of life' (Page 555 of the BCP).

#### 6. Do More of God's Work in Our Communities

Renew our emphasis on parish-based mission, outreach and evangelism, especially by reaching into our own communities to help those in need.

#### 7. New Communication Strategies

Develop new communication strategies aimed at a broader sharing of information, gathering input prior to decision-making, 'speaking the truth in love' and increasing our support of one another. In this, steadily increase our use of technology as much as we can.

#### 8. Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **SUMMARY - ARCHDEACONRY REPORTS TO SYNOD – JUNE 6, 2009**

(Following discussions of the above questions/possible priorities on June 5, 2009)

### **Archdeaconry of Chatham**

- Our priorities are renewal as Christians and Anglicans, Leadership for Change and Stewardship/Congregational Development Fund
- Next priorities were God's mission in our communities, communications (with a special onus on recipients) and growth
- We have to be prepared to share our Christian faith joyously
- We need to ensure that, when people come to worship on Sundays, that they have a positive experience

### **Archdeaconry of Moncton**

- All identified priorities are important and inter-related
- Those favoured as priorities were: 'Renewal as Christians & Anglicans' and 'Empowering our leaders'
- We also need to shake off the bonds that restrict us – start afresh and help each other more
- We need to reach into our communities to live out our faith and God's call to us as Christians
- We need to have a clear vision of why we exist as a church, and why we are not living up to God's expectations of us
- We need to work together more often and more readily
- Messages for Diocesan Council: watch the costs, keep us informed, provide quality direction, research and use 'best practices' to guide us, keep a local focus on the proposed Congregational Development Fund
- Let's be kind and generous to each other!

### **Archdeaconry of Fredericton**

- All 7 are important and inter-related
- Use the Greater Chapters more, especially when the time comes for developing detailed plans
- Priority 1 – Renewed as Christian and Anglicans
- Priority 2 – Prepare Our Leaders
- Priority 3 – Communication
- Use Greater Chapter meetings and networks more often – this will lead to mutual accountability and a helpful, welcoming approach to our support of each other
- We must keep trying and not give up, even if we run into difficulties – it's the right thing to do
- As an archdeaconry at least once a year we need to share an 'archdeaconry action Sunday' when we all do something significant together

### **Archdeaconry of Saint John**

- The 'fire' of the Holy Spirit has caught us – we are ready for a new phase of our life together. We've started... we're already producing small, green shoots of new growth  
Our priorities are: Renewed as Christians and Anglicans, Preparing Our Leaders for Change and an Improved Communications system
- Advice to Council: it will be local and archdeaconry initiatives that will have the longest-lasting impact on the change process, 'one size does not fit all', trained/ skilled people are needed to achieve transformational change, increased cooperation within the Greater Chapters is essential, we must teach 'discipleship', rural and struggling parishes need to feel a sense of hope, the whole diocese needs to provide financial and other

support for struggling parishes, we must retain our focus on youth ministry, and let's develop/retain a shared approach to 'mission'

- Note: a series of archdeaconry events for this fall is already in the planning stages

### **Archdeaconry of Kingston-Kennebecasis**

- Our three most important priorities are: renewed as Christians and Anglicans, preparing our leaders for change and stewardship
- We also need to ensure good communication between parishes and archdeaconries, which means that the DIMS needs to be kept up to date by rectors
- We need to learn how to initiate and manage change, and our leaders need to be ready when the 'nay-sayers' question us
- Let's use a 'best practices' approach and use existing resources (no need to reinvent the wheel)
- Our archdeaconry is planning at least 3 non-meeting events this coming year
- "Are we all on the bandwagon?"

### **Archdeaconry of Woodstock**

- Our 3 priorities are 'Renewed as Christians and Anglicans', 'Doing God's Work in Our Communities' and 'Growth'
- To accomplish all of this we must share/help each other within our archdeaconry especially for programs - not just hold meetings
- We need to realize 'it's not about us'
- We also need to be accountable to someone for the changes we are to make, and communication is very important
- Prayer undergirds all of our efforts, and we need to be 'Easter morning Christians' (we may now be more like 'Holy Week Christians')
- Regarding growth, let's concentrate on lapsed Anglicans first, and promote the concept of 'every members has a ministry' (not just the priest and the vestry members)
- Overall, let's 'Just Do It!'
- Let's not forget youth ministry and ecumenical (shared) ministry

### **Archdeaconry of St Andrews**

- Transformational change must be 'bottom-up' change
- Members of the Greater Chapters (the archdeaconry) have to be change-agents
- Let's be task oriented and get on with it
- Let's develop a plan/process to change church culture - it has to be done first
- Our 4 priorities are: Preparing our leaders for change, new communication strategies, renewing ourselves as Christians and Anglicans (but really it is God who renews us!) and stewardship
- Let's remember that this is about renewing the Kingdom and encouraging people to have a personal relationship with Jesus - it's not about organizational change
- One size does not fit all - let's allow local/archdeaconry adaptations to diocesan directions
- We've already started, and we plan to meet again in September to focus on renewal and evangelism