

Parish Assessment A Template for Guidance

Why The Nicodemus Project has come about because of the strong message sent to all of us by Synod 2009, that we must allow God to transform our church into the strong, healthy and growing church He means it to be. The Nicodemus Project is a call to action over the next several years and a plan which we pray will produce the results so drastically needed.

In order to support our struggling parishes the Project encourages every parish to undertake, by June 2010, a self-assessment process that leads to an action plan aimed at making the necessary changes in order to become a more ‘healthy, mission-focused, welcoming and growing parish.’

Many clergy and parishes are comfortable with doing this themselves, but some are not. For those that feel they need some assistance with the process, facilitators have been trained to help and guide them through the self-assessment process. This document contains guidelines for facilitators to use in leading such a process.

How In order to have a facilitator assist a parish, parish leadership should review the list of facilitators and decide on two or three whom they believe would be a good ‘fit’ for their parish. Then they should contact **Archdeacon David Edwards**, who will advise them as to the availability of their choices and give them contact information. Please do not contact the facilitators directly until you have spoken with Archdeacon Edwards.

Facilitators with their home base:

- Jasmine Chandra - not available before fall
(Saint John)
- Debbie Collicott (Saint John)
- Patricia Drummond (Fredericton)
- David Edwards (Saint John)
- Peter Irish (Saint John)
- Jim Knight (Fredericton)
- Jim Morell (Fredericton) not available in April, 2010
- Chuck Steeves – not available until May
(Moncton)
- Chris Stevenson – not available until mid April
(Fredericton)

David Edwards (506) 634-1374 david.edwards at anglican.nb.ca

When Once the parish has spoken to Archdeacon Edwards it will contact the facilitator suggested and arrange **date(s)** that are mutually agreeable. Sessions should preferably be more than 1 day long e.g. an evening and a day, 2 days or several evenings. The date chosen should allow time for the gathering, in advance, of information as outlined below. Once a date has been selected and a commitment made, Archdeacon Edwards and the Territorial Archdeacon should be informed.

Who Vestry should decide **who will take part** in the process – e.g. Clergy and Vestry only, Clergy and Vestry and other selected people or anyone who wishes to attend.

What needs to be done Prior to the meeting time, **information should be gathered** and sent to the facilitator:

- Parish statistics (as sent annually to the Diocese) for the last three years, including financial information.
- Names and contact information for all key people in the parish with permission to interview them (probably by phone).
- What has been offered in recent years to encourage spiritual growth e.g. Bible studies, Alpha or other similar courses.
- A brief parish history.
- What community outreach/mission work has been done by the parish in the last three to five years? What was done?
- The geographical area from which the parish draws congregational members.
- What is the ‘culture’ of the parish as regards the service book used, the sharing of parish leadership between clergy and lay etc.?

Costs

Other than clergy in receipt of a travel allowance, facilitators should be paid mileage according to the normal diocesan guidelines i.e. .41 cents per km. They are also entitled to be reimbursed for meals and accommodation expenses if required, but no financial honorarium will be expected.

Follow up

The facilitator will follow up with the parish in several weeks to see how things are going.