

**The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada  
Diocesan Report**

**Diocese : Fredericton**

**Year: 2006**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE DIOCESE**

**Clergy and Parishes**

Number of "incorporated" parishes: 87

Number of parishes "closed" with pending dissolution: 2

Current "open" incumbencies: 12 (2 can financially support full-time ministry)

Full-time clergy: 63

Parishes with shared clergy arrangements: 5 (10 parishes)

Parishes with part-time clergy arrangements: 32 (supply, part-time or shared)

Parishes in the Diocese are approximately: 40% rural 30% Town/suburban 30% urban

**Statistical**

Number of churches (congregations): 175

Area of Diocese: 28,354 sq miles

Population (Province of NB): 677,250

Anglican Census Population: 69,250

Anglican Population reported by parishes (2005): 24,152

Clergy on leave / no parish: 12

Retired clergy: 59

Clergy in special ministries and chaplaincies: 3

Postulants: 4

**Diocesan Staff**

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Bishop:                                   | The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Claude Miller      |
| Executive Assistant to the Bishop:        | The Ven. Geoffrey Hall               |
| Bishop's Secretary:                       | Mrs. Phyllis Cathcart                |
| Diocesan Treasurer:                       | Canon Fred Scott                     |
| Administrative Assistant:                 | TBA                                  |
| Administration (Casual):                  | Mrs. Carolyn Turney                  |
| Communications Officer:                   | Mrs. Ana Watts                       |
| Youth Action Director:                    | The Rev'd Canon George Porter, DPhil |
| Christian Education Director (Part-time): | Mrs. Elizabeth Harding               |

**GOOD NEWS STORIES /HIGHLIGHTS /INITIATIVES**

**1. Strategic Planning:** Five year "Shared Ministry Plan" framework accepted by Diocesan Council in June 2006 in conjunction with General Synod Letting Down the Nets pilot.

Summary:

MISSION - "To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the making of disciples."

VISION - "Called by God to be a diocese of healthy, mission-focused, welcoming and growing parishes."

OUR FOUNDATIONAL VALUES - Christ-centred and Spirit-filled; Biblically based; Shared leadership and shared responsibility for ministry; Within the worldwide Anglican Communion; Growth-oriented; Responsible stewardship; Partnership; Inter-generational ministry

PRIORITIES - 1. Develop new models for shared ministry; 2. Be one – heal our fractured relationships; 3. Equip our leaders for changing ministry; 4. Resource our plan and steward our resources

**2. Policy Training Workshops:** Successful series of training workshops (Fall 2005 / Spring 2006) on the Privacy and Sexual Misconduct and Procedure and Privacy policies. Four sessions with 63 clerics and 216 lay attendees. Future regional workshops on Sexual Misconduct Policy by volunteer trainers following preparation in October 2006.

**3. Camps Capital Campaign:** Renewal of Camps Brookwood and Medley. \$1.25 million target. Current progress: \$370,000.

**4. Camp Medley:** Cabins completed with construction on main building complex scheduled to begin Fall 2006.

**5. Vocational Diaconate:** Two vocational deacons ordained June 2006. Continuing to develop discernment guidelines for vocational deacons and determine educational processes and standards.

**6. Insurance Advisor.** 2006 appointment of Diocesan Insurance Advisor (shared with the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island).

## CHALLENGES /ISSUES

The one most significant challenge is the continued stresses regarding clergy deployment in a context where parish financial resources continue to dwindle. A large portion (+/- 30%) of total parish corporations can no longer financially support full-time clerical ministry. There is a growing frustration among parishes and a fear of survival that makes positive diocesan initiatives and parochial cooperation increasingly difficult.

## OPPORTUNITIES/SUGGESTIONS FOR SHARING WITH OTHER DIOCESES

**1. Sexual misconduct education.** Opportunities exist to continue the educational process and develop materials for sexual misconduct educational initiatives.

**2. Vocational diaconate.** Assisting one another with educational standards, training and discernment for the vocational diaconate. Provincial or General Synod guidelines in this regard would be most helpful.

**3. Information management.** Diocesan Information Management System (DIMS) now used for contact and group membership management and submission of statistics on a parish/diocesan basis. Parish level entry and maintenance of this information is now standard. DIMS specifically addresses the challenge of multiple single contact records of individuals in multiple groups and the collection of statistical and sacramental statistics. The software has been built and could be modified for other national, provincial, or diocesan uses. The development group (TAS NB) is open to discussing possibilities for future application development, customization and sale.

**SOME WAYS YOUR DIOCESE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROVINCIAL STRUCTURE AND HOW THE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE CAN SUPPORT YOUR DIOCESE.**

- 1. Vocational Diaconate.** Determination of standards for the Vocational Diaconate.
- 2. Information Management.** Facilitation of implementing a wider use of the Information Management System now used by the Diocese of Fredericton.
- 3. Prayer Care.** Posting Provincial Prayer Care to the Provincial web site.

Respectfully submitted,

The Ven. Geoffrey Hall  
Secretary of Synod and Assistant to the Bishop  
31 July 2006