

**The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada  
Diocesan Report**

**Diocese** WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND **Year** 2007

**Description of the Diocese** *(statistical data from the Anglican yearbook, demographics, uniqueness, etc)*

Parishes - 32 \*  
Congregations - 80  
Total Membership - 20,000 - 22,000  
Average Sunday attendance - 3,698  
Identifiable givers - 8,417

\*One-point parishes - 9  
2 -3 point parishes - 11  
Active parish clergy - 28  
Retired (including those living in the diocese those on disability) - 12  
On leave and living in the diocese - 1  
Vocational Deacons - 3

ACW membership 1,063  
Other women's group membership - 206  
Men's group membership - 144  
Mixed adult group membership (Bible Study and Prayer groups) - 194  
Youth Group membership - 372  
Sunday School membership 884

Baptisms - 346  
Confirmations - 215  
Weddings - 169  
Funerals - 348  
Reception from other denominations - 5  
(Stats not available but note that many weddings and baptisms are of people living outside the province)

## **Good News Stories /Highlights /Initiatives** *(brief description of three - five)*

### 1. Programme Committee activities:

- Diocesan Youth Conference to be held in October 2007. Judy Steers of Ask and Imagine fame will facilitate the conference.
- Evangelism Cttee to hosts Diocesan Mission in November (Harold Percy guest speaker)
- Seeking participants in National Youth gathering, London, Ont 2008
- Parish of Pasadena/Cormack nearing placement of first refugee family (Second placement under construction in Jackson's Cove)
- Conversations on Human Sexuality; Diocese committed to uphold Resolution 003 (General Synod 2007) "to develop a process to engage the dioceses and parishes of the ACC in a study of the perspective of human sexuality through the lens of scripture, reason, tradition and current scientific understanding."
- Stewardship; Diocese remains in conversation with the National Church on the Letting Down the nets Program. Geoff Jackson and Rob Waller will return to the diocese in October to conclude the diocesan profile. The shape of any financial program remains to be seen since LDTN is gone adrift.
- Anglican Life (Tri-Diocesan Newspaper) in the process of getting their own website with prospects of attaching diocesan information.
- Communications; Website revised and maintained by contractor

### 2. At the Diocesan Synod 2007 we adopted two documents:

Sexual Misconduct Protocol (introduced and expounded by Mr. Charles Ferris)

A Covenant in Ministry

- to provide reference points in new pastoral relationships
- to define expectations and commitments of the incumbent, parish and bishop
- to prevent misunderstandings
- to provide a channel for dialogue in setting ministry goals

### 3. Four graduates of Queen's College were ordained as deacons this Spring and will be priested this Fall.

**Challenges /Issues** *(brief commentary on the greatest challenge in your diocese)*

- The diocese continues to witness the effects of the cod moratorium of 1992. Rural parishes are beginning to witness the long-term effects. While statistically we show more baptisms than funerals one must bear in mind that many native Newfoundlanders and Labradorians come home for weddings and baptisms.
- The tenuous nature of fish-plant operating licenses make for an uncertain future for some outport communities.
- Evangelism as fractures emerge in the church and society.
- Education to enable wholesome dialogue on Biblical interpretation.
- Skills and resources to address contentious issues.
- Staffing parishes that cannot sustain full-time ministry particularly where “Social Studies” (History and Geography) prevent consolidation.

**Opportunities/Suggestions for sharing with other Dioceses** *(possible resources, policy development)*

1. Since the cessation of programming on the National Church level in 1994 the diocese has been left to its own devices for many aspects of programming. The time, energy and cost required to create programmes for the various elements of ministry are prohibitive.

Would the dioceses within the province consider sharing innovations and resources?

2. New models of ministry and training programmes have been explored, introduced and tested locally, nationally and globally. Some models have emerged which relate to Eastern Canada while others do not.

Do we have sufficient common ground to share our experiences on a provincial level?

**Some ways your Diocese can contribute to the Provincial Structure and how the Ecclesiastical Province can support your Diocese.**