

The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada

Diocesan Report

Diocese : Fredericton

Year: 2009

DESCRIPTION OF THE DIOCESE

Clergy and Parishes

Number of "incorporated" parishes: 84 + Christ Church Cathedral
Current "open" incumbencies: 11 (6 would require part-time appointment)
Full-time clergy: 58
Vocational deacons: 5 (several at various stages of discernment process)
Parishes with shared clergy arrangements: 26
Parishes with part-time clergy arrangements: 36 (supply, part-time or shared)
Parishes in the Diocese are approximately: 40% rural 30% town/suburban 30% urban

Statistical

Number of churches (congregations): 160
Area of Diocese: 28,354 sq miles
Population (Province of NB April 2007): 677,200 (approx 35% French-speaking)
Anglican Census Population (2001): 69,250
Anglican Population reported by parishes (2008): 22,980
Clergy on leave / no parish: 10
Retired clergy: 52
Clergy in special ministries and chaplaincies: 2 (+2 part-time)
Postulants: 0 (3 students)

Diocesan Staff

Diocesan 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 Officer:	Mrs. Maureen Vail
Communications Officer:	Mrs. Ana Watts
Youth Action Director:	The Rev'd Canon George Porter, DPhil
Christian Ed / Camp Medley Director:	Mrs. Elizabeth Harding
Administration (Casual):	Mrs. Carolyn Turney

GOOD NEWS STORIES /HIGHLIGHTS /INITIATIVES

1. Synod 2009. Three significant task force reports: [Report on Rural and/or Struggling Parishes](#); [Budget Support Task Force Report](#); [Sharing Ministry Task Force Report](#) were "adopted" by the [130th Session of Synod in June 2009](#). The third coordinated four current initiatives: (i) [Bishop Edward Salmon teaching on stewardship](#) (ii) Rural and/or Struggling Parishes Report (iii) Budget Support Task Force (iv) [Shared Ministry Plan](#) and [General Synod Planning Study](#).

Direction given by [Synod resolutions](#): (i) implement a parish-based stewardship education initiative (ii) work toward transformational change as outlined by the Task Force on Rural and/or Struggling Parishes (iii) implement new approach to parish support of the diocesan budget and the principles of the Report of the Budget Support Task Force (iv) facilitate an evaluation of diocesan structures and processes, including governance and administrative efficiency.

A number one priority identified by archdeaconry discussion groups is the renewal of our identity as Anglicans.

- 2. Administration.** Accounting system converted to Simply Accounting software package. Network attached storage (server) installed to facilitate sharing of information and backup. [Diocesan Information System \(DIMS\)](#) for diocesan-wide information sharing and reporting upgraded to Release 1.1.
- 3. Up-coming events scheduled.** (i) Clergy Conference (August 2009) with Ed White from the Alban Institute on “Transforming Ministry.” (ii) Stewardship Conference (October 2009) with Bishop Edward Salmon.

CHALLENGES /ISSUES

- 1. Issues of sexuality.** Formal dialogue initiatives have not taken shape. Issues of sexuality still a major concern of many. Resolution of Synod 2009 advising caution to all Canadian dioceses regarding proceeding individually with the blessing of same-sex relationships and the need to allow time for dialogue by the whole church.
- 2. Stewardship.** Although Synod 2009 affirmed the need for stewardship education, leadership in this area continues to be the challenge for us. Current staff support can not give the leadership and attention to stewardship and financial development that is necessary. It is unrealistic to expect the emphasis to be carried only by volunteers. The proposed 10-10-10 ideal of stewardship at the personal, diocesan and national level will require an enormous and effective educational initiative at the grass roots to become a reality.
- 3. Part-time ministry.** Parishes able to financially support part-time ordained leadership continue to present challenges of personnel management. Expectations of the perceived minimum level of ordained ministry necessary for survival in parishes lacking financial resources remain high. Many parishes are not only sacramentally clergy dependant.

OPPORTUNITIES/SUGGESTIONS FOR SHARING WITH OTHER DIOCESES

- 1. Policy development.** Safe churches; clergy-owned housing; discernment leading to ordained ministry.
- 2. Administration.** Information and financial management systems.
- 3. Programme.** Professional training events for clergy and others; 10-10-10 model of stewardship (when firmly based on the first personal 10%) has been determined by many to have potential for building financial accountability into our relationships.

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

- 1. Over-coming autonomy.** The independent functioning of dioceses is similar to challenges faced when encouraging parishes to work together. Even with current communication technology, information overload seems to stand in the way of helpful sharing. It might be possible to intentionally create some (one?) opportunities of sharing on a practical level. Do we invest so much in the structure that there is little resource left for an example of practical sharing with one another?
- 2. Reporting.** Although delegate reports from province to diocese is assumed, it often doesn't happen. Could a joint report be prepared that delegates could modify to suit there own reporting requirements? Could a Provincial Synod/Council downloadable news piece with agreed upon key messages be shared following meetings?

Respectfully submitted,
The Ven. Geoffrey Hall
Secretary of Synod and Assistant to the Bishop of Fredericton
03 July 2009