



# Diocese of Fredericton



*Followers of Jesus sharing hope and help in our communities and beyond.*

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## Report to the Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada

June 2024

### Description

The Diocese of Fredericton was established in 1845 and covers the civil province of New Brunswick. The diocese is divided into 7 archdeaconries, with just over 100 congregations within 72 parishes.

### 1. Statistics

	2022	2023
Parishes	72	72
Congregations	108	107
Active clergy	64	65
Retired clergy	65	69
Total on parish roles	9823	n/a
Average Sunday attendance	2373	n/a
Baptisms	87	n/a
Confirmations	39	63
Marriages	32	n/a
Funerals	451	n/a

In addition to the ordained clergy numbers listed, there are five lay persons, including licensed evangelists, in active paid ministry roles. There are 277 active licensed layreaders at this time. Besides the archbishop, there are 10.5 synod staff members, eight of which are lay persons: 6 administrative, 1.5 ministry-focused, 1 communications-focused, 1 f-t camp director, 1 f-t hospital chaplain.

## **2. Initiatives Producing Hope**

There have been several developments in the diocese which have made a significant difference. One is the setting aside of specific money in the budget for mission and other innovative ministry initiatives.

We have also seen significant moves towards shared ministries between parishes, with a particular focus on sharing resources for mission – people, finances, assets. These are often the result of local initiatives and have led to new vision in several parishes. In addition, five parishes in the Moncton region have recently amalgamated, though plan to continue offering ministry at all the previous parish points.

Another encouragement is the increase in the number of parishes, along with the synod itself, partnering and/or providing space to community groups to host outreach or social programs, for example providing banquets for local schools, supporting a school lunch program with sewing of reusable lunch bags and former church space for other outreach organizations.

There has also been a tremendous response across the board to matters concerning the unhoused, including the completion of a set of low-income units. Many of our churches have begun community closet ministries, offering free or low-cost clothing and household items to any who wish them, and there has been an increase in those offering meal, food pantry or laundry/shower ministries.

With higher levels of immigration to our area, many parishes are finding that people newly settling in New Brunswick are joining them. There have also been some new initiatives in the Fresh Expressions category, such as Dinner Church.

We are discerning a new training program for lay ministries and new ways of accessing or creating new models for training for ordained ministry. A recent vocations exploration day was very well attended.

As an update to our report in 2021, the Rotary and parish/diocese funded mobile medical clinic is operational in our Companion Diocese of Ho in Ghana, providing basic medical laboratory, pharmaceutical and spiritual care to hundreds in rural communities on an approximately monthly basis.

## **3. Ways to Gather and Support One Another Within our Province**

There is room for new shared initiatives in lay and clergy training across the dioceses of the Province. Many of us are duplicating training, e.g., formation, vocations, safe church, etc.

We can also look at sharing resources at the administrative level.