

The Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada Diocesan Report

Diocese : [Fredericton](#)

July 2012

1. Provide a brief description of the diocese (statistics and any particular characteristics)

Clergy and Parishes

Number of “incorporated” parishes: 82 + Christ Church Cathedral

Parishes with part-time clergy arrangements: 38 (supply, part-time or shared)

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

Number of buildings deconsecrated (last five years): 12

Statistical

Number of churches (congregations): 157

Area of Diocese: 28,354 sq miles

Population (Province of NB 2006 Census): 729,997 (51% urban)

Anglican Census Population (2001): 58,210

Anglican Population reported by parishes (2011): 14,677 [children - 2,304 adults - 12,373]

Identifiable givers: 4,393

Priests in full-time ministry: 60

Priests on leave / no parish: 4

Retired priests: 60

Priests in special diocesan ministries and chaplaincies: 6

(Vocational) deacons: 4 (non-stipendiary)

Postulants for priesthood: 3 (6 students)

Aspirants in discernment towards the (vocational) diaconate: 22

Diocesan Staff

Diocesan Bishop:

The Most Rev'd Claude Miller

Executive Assistant to the Bishop:

The Ven. Geoffrey Hall

Bishop's Secretary:

Mrs. Phyllis Cathcart

Diocesan Treasurer:

Mrs. Irene Adams

Administrative Officer:

Mrs. Maureen Vail

Communications Officer:

Mrs. Ana Watts

Youth Action Director:

The Rev'd Canon George Porter, DPhil

Camp Medley Director (Half-time):

Mrs. Elizabeth Harding

Administration (Part-time Casual):

Mrs. Carolyn Turney

2. What good news is taking place in your diocese?

A. [The Nicodemus Project](#). We continue to work through the Project resulting from [Synod 2009](#) action items including: 1) Re-learn Anglicanism; 2) Prepare our leaders; 3) Support our struggling parishes; 4) Assess ourselves; 5) Commitment to transformation. [Synod 2011](#) in the Fall reviewed

the progress of the Project thus far including a short [video presentation](#) on the “good news” of Project initiatives.

B. Financial Administration. The sudden death of Diocesan Treasurer Fred Scott in September of 2011 left the Diocese with administrative challenges, not the least of which was the search for his replacement. In June 2012 an individual well-suited for the task was appointed and we are now making good headway to regain our administrative footing.

C. Summer Youth Camps and Programs. Camping ministries in the Diocese continue to be a highlight as we minister to young people within our Diocese of various denominational. [Camp Medley](#), [Camp Brookwood](#), [St. Michael’s Conference](#) and [Diocesan Choir School](#) are among the on-going summer initiatives.

D. Stewardship. The Diocese was successful in creating the position of Parish Development Officer in the Fall of 2011, Archdeacon David Edwards appointed to the role for an initial three year term. Various stewardship-related events are planned for the Fall of 2012 including: 1) Clergy Day - 27 September and Diocesan Stewardship Day - 29 September with Archbishop Douglas Hambidge, 2) [Back to Church Sunday](#) - 30 September, 3) [Stewardship Sunday](#) - 14 October, 4) Funding our Vision (presentation and planning) - 27 October.

3. What challenges is the diocese facing?

In a very real way, the items listed in answer to “question 2” are also some of our greatest challenges. In addition to the difficulties and resistance encountered in those areas, we might name the following:

A. Church-going Population decline.

Although the population of NB would seem to be relatively stable, no real growth is being experienced. Church-going individuals/families of that population, however, continue to decline. New initiatives often do not result in immediate financial support as new membership require time to mature toward good stewardship habits. Trained for ministry in the context of growth or maintenance, our leadership is challenged and often unable to cope in an environment of decline.

B. Maintaining Anglican Presence.

In many areas of the Diocese the struggle is to maintain an official Anglican presence, often with a part-time or a sharing of ordained ministry resources. Many parishes can no longer fund full-time professional ministry. Those fortunate to have arranged liturgical/sacramental coverage are in fact left in a further weakened condition as retired clergy can no longer serve at little or no cost to the parish.

C. Resistance to Change.

Although the archdeaconry commissions have been given a “status quo is not an option” mandate, a deeply rooted expectation of maintaining it is present. The magnitude of change that will be required of us in the decades ahead is far beyond our imagination and ability to

vision. The fortitude and focus we value as a Church in struggle can be one of our greatest weaknesses as it manifests itself as resistance to change and inability to adapt.

4. In what ways has the diocese “pruned the vine,” cut away or cut back, or redirected resources, in order to promote more vigorous growth and more fruit in other areas of mission and ministry? How can your experience be of value to or an example for the rest of the Province?

Our archdeaconry commission work will prepare us for the potential of realigning our infrastructure and the practical deployment of ministry. It will be insufficient to make changes at the parish level without also reviewing diocesan staff positions and administrative realities, although that has not yet begun. The resistance to change challenge is front and centre. The hope will be that the pruning process can be planned while its possible to make choices.

Respectfully submitted,
The Ven. Geoffrey Hall
Secretary of Synod and Assistant to the Archbishop of Fredericton
30 July 2012