

**The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada**  
**Diocesan Report**  
**Diocese : Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island**  
**Year: 2012**

**Description of the Diocese**

The Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island encompasses the two geographic provinces named. Established in 1787 (as the Diocese of Nova Scotia) and situated on Canada's east coast, ours is the oldest of seven dioceses forming the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada. The Rt. Rev'd. Sue Moxley was installed as diocesan bishop on November 23, 2008. Our Suffragan Bishop is the Rt. Rev'd Ronald Cutler, elected May 23, 2008 and ordained bishop on June 29, 2008.

The Diocese has two cathedrals: The Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, Nova Scotia to which the new Synod Offices will be adjacent, and St. Peter's Cathedral, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Our property redevelopment on the south side of All Saints Cathedral is working out well and providing significant funds for the interior restoration of that Cathedral. Our redevelopment on the north side of the Cathedral is currently on schedule and we expect to move into our new offices December 1, 2012 and to have residents moving into the assisted living complex (*Parkland at the Gardens*) in January 2013.

Statistics: (Based on 2011 reports)

97 parishes, within 10 regions, each having a Regional Dean and an Archdeacon.

Total members: 43,000

Rectors of parishes: 74

Priests in Charge: 19

Total retired clergy: 101 (9 non-canonically resident)

Retired bishops: 2

11 military chaplains; 1 health care chaplain; 2 full-time faculty and the President at the Atlantic School of Theology; 1 full-time University Chaplain and 2 part-time University Chaplains; 1 Prison Chaplain;

Non-Stipendiary: 28 priests; 11 Deacons

**Good News Stories**

**Strong Clergy**

The care and support shown through our college of clergy to each other and to parishioners is exemplary. Strong, compassionate leadership by clergy is an essential aspect of our diocese and their strength helps to sustain a healthy church.

**Youth Ministry**

We continue to have Youth Ministry going strong! Our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Susan Naylor, has worked with youth leaders to develop the new Youth and Family Ministries Vision, Strategy and Support Team, and the Task Groups to work at the tasks that have been identified as the priorities. Regional events (Bishops and Youth Day PEI), as well as the annual DYC weekend (held in PEI in 2011), have worked to develop strong youth leaders to continue to work in parishes to involve youth in a variety of ways, as well as youth leaders taking their places in schools and communities. The Teens Encounter Christ program has not held a weekend for two years, however the steering committee is being reformed this fall with the expectation that there will once again to a program in 2013. The Diocese continues to support national initiatives such

as Ask & Imagine, CLAY, and other leadership formation events, and to subsidize people to travel to these important formation events.

### **Property Redevelopment:**

Leaving the 50+ year old Synod office building and moving to temporary Synod Office space has helped to bring home the idea that we are a church in transition. We are part of a church that is changing. We let go a lot of old furniture. We have shed (and shredded) a lot of “old stuff” that was no longer needed. Our new offices in the new building will be “greener”, more effective and less expensive. The 8 floors of assisted living contained in the new building will also contribute to the well-being of seniors in the south end of Halifax. Since the development is based on a 75 year lease of diocesan land to the developer, it is also an investment for the future of the Diocese. It may be seen as an outward, visible sign of God’s continuing grace in our midst and of our faith in the future of our church.

Many parishes are also considering the buildings and property that they have. How do they serve the needs for mission and ministry in the parish? How might property and/or buildings be re-visited as an investment for the future?

### **Stewardship**

Our Diocese has been working with General Synod on the Together in Mission Financial Initiative. This has helped us to clarify our Diocesan vision and goals in order to consider what ministry and mission we would want to fund if we had more money!

### **Changing Structures**

The Diocese is changing its structure, eliminating some Canons and other “bureaucratic red tape” to provide more direction and an ability to respond more quickly to the changing needs across the diocese. The recently re-staffed Parish Relations Task Group has helped several parishes work toward greater transparency and efficiency in fiscal accountability at the parish level. We are reviewing our human resources at the parish and diocesan levels with the question, “How does this serve the mission and ministry of the parishes?”

The diocese also changed the regional boundaries for regional Clericus groups and for regional Councils. In most areas this has produced more sharing of ideas and resources without a lot of money and a great deal more talent! Part of this included giving the region the responsibility for electing 2 members (1 clergy, 1 lay) to Diocesan Council. This has greatly improved communication between the regions and the diocesan decision-making body.

### **Mutual Support**

We have many multi point parishes in our rural areas. It is inspiring to see that the churches in each area support each other whether in prayer or by attending each other’s functions.

### **Team Ministries**

The Non-Stipendiary Ministry Program in our diocese is almost twenty years old. Almost two years ago we started a review of the program and entered into a moratorium on accepting new inquirers. The report identified areas where the program needs to be strengthened and re-shaped in order to prepare ordained leaders to meet our current needs. The diocesan council is prepared to reopen the program this fall as long as the resources are in place for parishes to do the necessary discernment. NSOM is only one of the ways in which we are doing team ministry. In two situations we have neighbouring parishes sharing a ministry team, and we are exploring the potential for regional deployment of clergy. All of these developments require us to be intentional about how clergy work together and how we develop clergy and lay leaders in parishes.

## **Social Media**

“Like us” on Facebook! Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island  
Or try <http://www.nspeidiocese.ca/> for our new website launched August 2012.

## **Challenges/ Issues**

Population shifts continue around the diocese from rural and coastal areas to Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and into Charlottetown. With recent federal and provincial cut backs we are facing great challenges in PEI. Some rural congregations are dwindling in population and others in the cities are bursting at the seams. One new church building has been started in 2012 to meet population growth in the Bedford area of HRM.

Out migration of young people to other parts of Canada especially from Cape Breton continues in spite of the promise of the ship building contract.

A lot of old buildings, churches, halls, rectories, cost a lot of money to keep up. Getting people to consider closing some buildings when there is an oversaturation of them in certain areas, and getting people to drive to other church buildings, all continue to be challenges!

Living with change and transitions is stressful for many people, and to some it appears that the church is dying. How do we prepare for change processes that are happening now and for those yet to come? How do we support one another in our churches and lend that support to our communities who are also struggling with change?

We have enough postulants for ordination in training to keep up with retirements until 2014. Then there may be a large number of retirements. It seems this will be true for many dioceses. Are we as a Province planning for this?

We are trying to find better ways to meet the first two Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion: “To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom” and “To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers”. While we are not meant to promote ourselves, we are meant to promote the blessings of living in Kingdom of God and of living as followers of Jesus.

The needs of our communities are growing whether it is for housing, for help with mental illness, for help dealing with addictions (alcohol and drugs, especially prescription drugs), fighting against the increase in youth suicide or the plague of loneliness when young families move away and leave the elders behind. Parishioners need to accept for themselves and their parishes the Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion especially “to respond to human need by loving service; to seek to transform unjust structures of society, and to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.” As individuals and congregations we could make a difference!

## **Pruned the Vine**

We tore down the old offices, the Bishop’s Lodge and the other big, old houses. That was major pruning! The new building will bring new opportunities for ministry with the residents of the seniors’ part of the building, new opportunities for outreach to the universities and hospitals

where we will be located. It will also free up money from the diocesan budget thereby freeing up parishes to pay less allotment to the diocese and use the money for mission in the local area.

We have “pruned” the number of Synod Office staff from 14 to 11 with 2 part-time. This has led to finding more efficient and effective ways of working. All Synod office staff participated in a workshop on working efficiently with Outlook and as a result we all deal with email and scheduling more effectively. We have developed a better website that is more interactive, enabling parishes to input information and access their own information with a password. This frees up time in parishes and in the Synod office from administration and makes it available for ministry and mission.

We have “pruned” the allotment rate. We have kept our commitment to the parishes to systematically reduce the allotment rate from 22% toward 15%. We are now down to 19% and more parishes are able to pay their share in full. At the same time we developed a Narrative Budget for the Diocese so folks know where their money goes when they send in their allotment! This has helped to decrease the complaining about allotment! However, the smaller allotment rate has also dramatically decreased the funding for diocesan ministry and mission in ways that folks did not foresee, eliminating some resources many parishes still need. We are currently reviewing the question of whether further reductions in allotment rate would actually benefit the parishes in the long term.

Lower income to the diocese, because of the lower allotment rate, has led us into some interesting partnerships to reduce the cost to the diocese and improve the service to the communities involved. e.g. Shannex for the Senior’s Housing Project; King’s University for the full time University Chaplain; Eastern Synod ELCIC for the hospital chaplain; Department of Corrections for the Prison Chaplain.

Closing the Diocesan Bookroom has saved us money because, in recent years, the Bookroom always operated at a loss financially. However it has cost us a gathering place where folks could chat and socialize while picking up supplies and purchasing books. We are thinking about how that part of the Bookroom’s ministry can be revived in our new location.