

**ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF CANADA**  
**Western Newfoundland Diocesan Report**

- The Diocese of Western Newfoundland is comprised of thirty two parishes stretching from the south coast of Labrador through western Newfoundland east to Springdale and south to Francois.
- An Anglican population of approximately 24,000
- Most parishes are multipoint with one full time clergy
- Diocesan staff composed of Bishop, Archdeacon, Treasurer and part-time Secretary with a small Book Room.
- 20 full time clergy with two cluster parishes ( two clergy serving four parishes – 10 congregations)
- 1 full time Hospital Chaplain with a part time relief chaplain
- 3 half/part time parish clergy
- 9 parishes awaiting appointment
- 350+ lay ministers
- Number of retired clergy plus two retired bishops

Good News Stories:

- The Diocese is continuing the process of Covenant in Ministry which provides parishes with the opportunity of assessing ministry needs when a new priest is appointed.
- We have two regions that are successfully working in a cluster ministry – two parishes retain their identity but share one priest.
- We have completed two courses of Fresh Start for new clergy in transition; very positive response.
- Two parishes have moved into Godly Play for their Christian Education for children and have trained facilitators. This has been a very positive step forward and is working well.
- All, except one parish, were able to pay their total fair share assessment to the Diocese in 2011.

Challenges:

- Large geographical distances between small congregations
- Extreme winter conditions in bleak areas
- Too few vocations
- Too many vacancies
- Too many buildings
- Very limited finances

### “Pruned the Vine”

- Released the Coordinator for Stewardship and Congregational development reflecting the financial reality of the Diocese
- Downsized the Book Room and sold off excess stock giving leeway to better serve the diocese – clergy and parishes
- Continuing to Cluster parishes to help alleviate clergy shortage
- Giving serious consideration to locally raised clergy to be deployed under the supervision and direction of seminary trained clergy
- Continuing the efforts to divest the Diocese of the vast number of church buildings which are no longer able to be maintained while still providing ministry
- Round table discussions at the Diocesan Synod around ‘re-imagining church’, to help awaken people to the reality of changed ministry needs, as well as the necessity of doing ministry differently
- Consultations with Queen’s Theological College concerning the training of postulants