

REPORT OF THE TRANSITIONAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

The past year has been the first full year in which the *Interim Ministry Program* and the *Diocesan Fresh Start Program* have functioned in a fully integrated manner. Both areas have a history of assisting congregations in the area of transition during the time of leadership changes. As the process has become unified, our response to parishes in an individualized manner has made our support of Parishes in Transition more effective. (A Parish in Transition is defined as any parish in the period between the announcement of the departure of an Incumbent to 12-18 months after the arrival of the new Incumbent.)

The *Interim Ministry* portion of Transitional Ministries continues to assist and advise the Diocesan Bishop and Executive Officer in the process of training, education and deployment of clergy employed in ministry during the intervening time between Incumbents. As well, this group has prepared a small group of volunteer transition consultants to assist parishes in planning and process during Interim times. The number of clergy who are involved in *Interim Ministry* is itself constantly in transition. At the present time, we have approximately fourteen clergy who are available for Interim assignments.

On behalf of the Diocese, the committee maintains an Institutional Membership in the Interim Ministry Network, an ecumenical organization including more than 35 Christian denominations on three continents.

Fresh Start, which is a program designed to facilitate times of transition for both clergy and congregations, continues to thrive in the Diocese of Niagara. Originally a program of the Episcopal Church in the United States, it is in the process of being “Canadianized”. Four Fresh Start volunteers were trained at the second Canadian training event in Niagara Falls, Ontario in April 2006: Ms Ruth-Anne Martin, Mr. Greg Murray, the Rev’d Sue Nicholls and the Venerable Marion Vincett. Sadly, we have seen two of our number depart this year, Jackie Pidduck and Russ Kelk. We thank both Jackie and Russ for their enthusiastic and dedicated service.

Fresh Start uses a model of education based on thematic modules which include leadership tools such as “critical incidents”, and “intentional conversations” between laity and clergy. All clergy and congregations experiencing transition are asked by our Bishop to participate in this program.

Increasingly in the past year, we have used both lay and clergy volunteers as consultants with parishes in transition. We thank those people for their generosity in sharing their time to the Glory of God in a Church which is constantly changing.

The Interim Ministry Committee per se has not met during this year of transition in Transition. However, there will be a reconstitution of this committee during the year 2007.

REPORT OF THE TRANSITIONAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (continue)

Interim Ministry Committee Members at the time of last meeting:

The Reverend Robin Graves
The Reverend Canon Elaine Hooker
The Reverend John Ripley
The Reverend Canon Bill Thomas
The Venerable Marion Vincent, ex-officio

Fresh Start Facilitators:

The Reverend Jean Archbell
Ms. Diane Hewat
The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hopkins
Ms Ruth-Anne Martin
Mr. Greg Murray
The Reverend Michael Mondloch
The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
The Reverend Sue Nicholls
The Reverend Canon Bill Thomas
The Venerable Marion Vincett

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
Director of Transitional Ministries

REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF OUTREACH

“To create, strengthen, and support responsible relationships which promote justice peace and the stewardship of creation.”

Highlights of the committee’s work since Synod 2005 are:

Outside Funding Opportunities Workshop

An Outside Funding Opportunities Workshop was held on May 13, 2006. There were 40 participants representing 10 parishes. One outcome of the day was the realization that parishes need to do a survey of local community needs before embarking on an Outreach projects. Money may well be available for various projects from such organizations as local community foundations or the Trillium Foundation, but it is always essential to forge links with the local community to access such funds.

Speakers' Bureau

A Diocesan Speaker’s Bureau has been compiled and is available on the diocesan website. This list includes resource people representing different programs and agencies who are willing to come to individual parishes and groups of parishes to talk about their work and how your parish can get involved. The Speakers' Bureau is up and running. Go to the Niagara Anglican site, www.niagara.anglican.ca, and the Speaker’s Bureau list can be found under Outreach. Each parish will make their own arrangements with the speaker involved and the list will be updated each year in June.

Survive & Thrive Outreach in the Name of Christ Endowment Fund

The *Survive & Thrive* Campaign established an Endowment Fund to assist parishes/ministries with Outreach projects in Niagara. This year the following grants were approved.

1. The Bridge - Youth at Risk Ministry \$1,000
2. St. Alban's, Glen William - Transitional Housing Project \$3,000
3. McMaster Chaplaincy – Hymn Festival \$300
4. Bethlehem Projects of Niagara \$3,000
5. All Saints, Hamilton – GLBT Parent Support Group \$1,750
6. Jamesville Neighbourhood Revitalization Project \$5,000
7. St. Peter's, Hamilton - Pete's Place Project \$5,000
8. Jamesville Community Centre - \$10,000

Social Justice

A Social Justice Coordinator was appointed by the Outreach Committee in April 2006. The position is in a start up phase, examining what the role of a coordinator can be given the position is a volunteer one. Staff at the diocese, members of the Outreach Committee, Terry De Forest, Cheryl Fricker and others in the diocese have generously provided their insights.

One area of focus has been on making connections with existing social justice networks. The coordinator has been able to meet with the Maylanne Maybee, Coordinator for Justice Education and Networks at the Anglican Church of Canada, to discuss how the national church can support the social justice work of the diocese and the parishes of Niagara. Regular meetings are planned with the national coordinator and the coordinator from the Diocese of Toronto.

The role of the coordinator in supporting parish outreach activities has begun. Informal consultations, networking and referrals have been provided to help in the development of a youth mentoring program at St. Peter’s, Hamilton. Some preliminary

REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF OUTREACH (continued)

steps have also been taken in developing a communications plan within the diocese on social justice issues. One goal is the inclusion of social justice material in each edition of the diocesan newspaper. Another is to make better use of the diocesan website as a communications tool.

Partners in Mission

Our current partnership with the Dioceses of Keewatin, Cuba and Uruguay are scheduled to come to an end within the next two (2) years.

Mr. John Page, Outreach Coordinator, Grace Church in Milton, approached the Diocesan Outreach Committee with the idea of creating a website to help raise awareness of the needs of the Episcopal Church in Cuba, our partner. This program, Coins for Cuba, is to assist the Diocese of Cuba, congregations, clergy and their church buildings. The program will also look at ways and means to support Cuban students in seminary and studying towards ordination in the Episcopal Church of Cuba.

Bill Mous continues to represent the Diocese of Niagara on the General Synod Partners in Mission committee. This committee oversees the Anglican Church of Canada's international relationships and programs such as the Companion Diocese program, Volunteers in Mission and Theological Students International Internship program. At the two meetings of the committee this year Bill, on behalf of Niagara, raised issues such as the effectiveness of the companion diocese program and reviewing the mandate of the Partners in Mission program given financial pressures facing the General Synod.

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The Primate's World Relief and Development fund is the Canadian Anglican Agency for development, relief, refugees and justice.

Many thanks to everyone In the Diocese of Niagara who support the important work of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. Through your efforts and the efforts of generous Anglicans throughout Canada PWRDF is able to continue to work to make a difference in our world.

In 2006 almost \$2 million dollars were realized in the HIV/AIDS Partnership for life initiative. Your dollars are now working to mitigate the suffering in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Dollars have also been allocated for educational use here in Canada and to our "Two-Spirited" People of the First Nations.

With your assistance PWRDF has been able to respond with emergency relief to address the critical needs of earthquake survivors on the Island of Java in Indonesia. They have responded to the crisis in Lebanon working with the Middle East Council of Churches, provided humanitarian aid to the 325,000 people affected by the ongoing violence in Darfur, and responded to drought and famine in Kenya, Zimbabwe and Swaziland.

Through the Primate's World Relief and Development Agency, we, as Canadian Anglicans become the active manifestation of God's healing grace in our broken world and we encourage everyone in the Diocese of Niagara to continue in your efforts to pray, act and give to this important ministry.

REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF OUTREACH (continued)

Refugees

Refugee sponsorship seems to have taken a lower profile in the Diocese this year, but we are encouraged by the recent interest of several parishes in offering sponsorships to refugee families in need of our help to begin a new life in Canada. Hamilton has been selected as a destination city for some of the 800 Karen (Burmese, mainly Christian) refugees who have recently begun arriving in Canada. We encourage Hamilton area parishes particularly to consider sponsoring one of these families, who have languished in refugee camps for many years. Financial assistance is available from the government, and parishes who have not sponsored before are also eligible to apply for a grant from the ACM Foundation Outreach Endowment Fund.

On a national and international level, we continue to have a voice as Carolyn Vanderlip is an elected member and Co-Chair of the NGO/Government Committee on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. For more information on how your parish can be involved in refugee sponsorship, please contact us!

Committee members this year have had different levels of experience, but have worked together in harmony to achieve our goals for the year. They have shown determination and imagination when needed, and were never afraid of hard work. Karen Nowicki is the glue that holds it all together. We still need a better communication system with the parishes to keep everyone informed of Outreach matters, but "From the fullness of his grace we have received one blessing after another".

Current committee members

Mrs. Judy Connor (chair)

Ms. Alicia Archbell

The Reverend Cheryl Fricker (Diocesan P.W.R.D.F. Coordinator till June 2006)

The Reverend Patricia Lucy (new member - Youth Missions)

Mr. Bill Mous (Outreach Representative on Synod Council, General Synod PIM Rep)

The Reverend Jean Ruttan-Yates

Mrs. Colleen Sym (new member - Diocesan Social Justice Coordinator)

The Reverend Lynne Thackwray

Mrs. Carolyn Vanderlip (Diocesan Refugee Coordinator)

Retired member: Bev Groombridge, Chair Partners in Mission Committee.

Many thanks to Bev for all her hard work on the committee, and for the time spent as the Partners in Mission Committee Chair. We will miss her.

Staff Support

Mrs. Karen Nowicki, Administrative Assistant (recording secretary)

The Venerable Marion Vincett, Director of Outreach

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Judy Connor, Chair