

Report of the Vision Groups

Several Vision Groups have worked diligently over many years, equipping us as the wider diocesan community to engage our Vision for Ministry. Their work gives an example of how we are pursuing that Vision.

The **Vision Values** Group was created to draw attention to the Values noted in the Diocesan Vision as guiding principles for ministry throughout our diocese. The objective of the Group was to develop a resource/tool which promotes reflection and discernment of the Values in assessing initiatives and projects. That resource/tool is now available to any and all parishes and diocesan committees and the members see their work completed.

The **Generous Culture of Stewardship** Group received strongly positive feedback from the clergy and stewardship committees who have made use of the Henri Nouwen book, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, provided to each congregation earlier this summer.

The **Continuous Culture of Innovation** Group meets regularly mostly to plan events. The goal of our team is to provide resources and opportunities that enable churches to take both innovative risks, and to make visionary missional plans for the future of their ministry. On November 14, 2015 we welcome the Very Rev'd Kevin Martin (former Dean of Dallas & Church Planting Specialist) for our third annual ReChurch Conference: "Let's Grow: Envisioning a Bright Future For Your Church". Registration opened in September. The conference is being held at St. Thomas' St. Catharines. Register at www.rechurchnow.com. Last year at ReChurch we welcomed David Fitch who encouraged us to reclaim the ancient practices of the church for the sake of mission.

Journeys in Faith exists to provide resources and support to people across the diocese as they seek to nurture their faith lives. Sometimes that's about learning content; at others it's about helping people to reflect on what's going on in their lives, and how God is calling to them; at others, it's about recognising and celebrating the myriad ways God is at work in our midst. In 2015, our main highlight has been supporting the bishop's Lenten book—this past year, Rowan Williams' *Being Christian*—which was tremendously well-received and used by many parishes throughout the diocese. This program, now a mainstay of our work, will continue. This coming year, we're seeking to return to our *Glimpses of God* programming, and making it easier to access and engage. We hope to establish a pilot podcast in the near future!

Outstanding Leadership for Ministry Group members have helped oversee the awarding of Leadership Grants and with other ministries which have facilitated leadership support, development and training. Since June 2014 fifteen outstanding clergy and lay leaders have received grants totaling more than \$25,000 to enhance their knowledge, skills and abilities for: pastoral counselling, missional leadership, music & theology, spiritual direction, intercultural ministry, leadership development, preaching, worship renewal and diaconal ministry. 2015 also saw the first programme Leadership Grant, awarded to St. Christopher's, Burlington, for a Vacation Bible School Leader Development Programme. Maximizing grant impact, recipients are sharing their learnings with others. Bishop Melissa Skelton, Diocese of New Westminster, helped us consider what "Leadership is..." in a very well-received Clergy & Licensed Lay-Workers

Conference in June. Niagara Continuing Education (for recent ordinands) is being rebooted this fall. Niagara is working with Ontario church partners on a theological education promotional video for release shortly.

Our commitment to **Prophetic Social Justice-Making** finds us bearing witness to economic, environmental, indigenous and refugee justice issues. We have called upon the federal government to work constructively with the international community towards a legally-binding global climate agreement in Paris in 2015. We have rallied with doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers to ensure health care coverage is restored for refugees and refugee claimants. We have urged the province to adapt a living wage, while increasing woefully inadequate social assistance rates. We participated in the final Truth and Reconciliation event in Ottawa and rang bells to call attention to murdered and missing indigenous women in Canada. More recently, we have taken up Bishop Michael's challenge to welcome as many as 50 refugees to Canada amidst the global refugee crisis.

Life-Changing Worship exists to provide liturgical resources; word, song and materials engaging our senses to parishes, affiliated ministries and event organizers. In addition, the group offers support to parishes assessing the diversity and impact of their worship experiences. A second Indaba experience for clergy and licensed lay workers was hosted by the Bishop in the spring of 2015 focusing our experience of the locus of authority and the role of the church in the 21st century. Workshops for lay readers and intercessors are planned for the coming year.

Our pursuit of this Vision for Ministry is dependent on the many gifts God gives us, not least of which are leaders who enable us and animate our life together. Our deep thanks go to those Vision Group Chairs who have retired or moved into new ministries this past year: The Rev'd Canon Elizabeth Huether, Vision Values; The Venerable Lynne Marchant, Director of Stewardship; Ms. Carolyn Vanderlip, O.N., Social Justice-Making; The Rev'd Canon Dr. Cathie Crawford Browning, Outstanding Leadership. Welcome to the Rev'd Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall, now convening the Prophetic Social Justice Group and to Ms. Lisa Di Veto, who brings considerable experience and expertise to her new role as Consultant for Stewardship, Legacy Giving, Fund Development. Starting a one year contract on August 1, 2015, she is actively working with a number of parishes.

Respectfully submitted

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Derek Anderson, on behalf of Generous Culture of Stewardship

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Cathie Crawford Browning, Outstanding Leadership for Ministry

The Rev'd Canon Terry DeForest, Vision Advocate

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall & the Rev'd Bill Mous, Prophetic Social Justice-Making

The Rev'd Canon Rob Hurkmans, Continuous Culture of Innovation

The Rev'd Matthew Griffin, Journeys in Faith

Canon Christyn Perkons, Life-Changing Worship