

What should our new directions and our priorities be as a diocese for the year and years ahead; what is the Charge we are creating together?

Highlights of Your Responses

Change Management

- Learning how to facilitate change in our parishes; assistance to parishes to help with “change management”
- Making church more relevant for our parishioners and to those outside our doors in today’s rapidly changing world
- Resurrected lives will renew, grow, transform individuals and institutions
- Leadership development skills for laity and clergy
- Change from solo rector model to team ministry that includes lay readers, honoraries, lay liturgists, lay leaders, and clergy so that ministry responsibilities belong to parish and clergy
- Reimagining small church ministry to more effectively use clergy and serve parishes

Discipleship

- Emphasis on discipleship education; spiritual formation on an individual & collective level
- A renewed focus on catechesis; more parish-based theological & Christian education programs
- Help priests and parishes invite their people into a more full commitment to faith
- Talk about our faith stories in our work settings
- Talk about Christian values and how they shape our daily lives
- Let’s not be afraid to talk about following Jesus’ Way; about Jesus’ role in our lives
- Learn how to pray extemporaneously/become comfortable praying aloud
- Pray at the beginning and end of every gathering of church groups

Lay Ministry

- Developing and encouraging more lay ministry, empowering laity
- Support for lay leaders involved in children’s and youth ministry & pastoral care
- Gathering of lay people; feeding their talents, expertise, encouraging their ministries, and lifting them up in the church
- Encouragement and compassion for church workers through “thank you” and acknowledgement commissioning
- More locally based learning opportunities for leadership training
- Skills inventory and list of those who might share their skills with other parishes

Intergenerational Connecting

- Encourage family involvement by creating liturgies that speak to them, programming for families, childcare when parents want to be involved in adult programs, being welcoming of those who are not quiet in the pews
- Support family life with prayer practices, strategies for engaging faith at home
- Broaden and redefine our understanding of “family”
- New commitments to young adult ministries in the Diocese, to follow up and reap the fruit of the investments in children and youth ministry.

Justice and Outreach Ministries

- Continue to be the voice in the wilderness, the prophet speaking out for the marginalized
- Address poverty, addressing discrimination, human dignity & better use of resources
- New focus on palliative care
- Not so focused on awareness, more focused on doing; less talk, more action at regional, provincial, national, and international levels
- Continued and stronger emphasis, engagement, actions protecting our natural environment
- maintain and increase leadership in refugee support and resettlement
- Work towards healing and reconciliation and share the story of that process
- Increase opportunity to engage in local social and ecological initiatives

Managing Our Resources

- Finding creative ways to manage the gap between resources and demands
- Less emphasis on scarcity and more on abundance
- More resources for pastoral care and for local, parish based ministry
- Intentional discernment and decisions about use of our church buildings and worshipping in other community spaces
- Planning for the resource challenges
- Redefine parish and diocesan structures for a more agile and responsive church
- Plant new faith communities

Reimagining Liturgy

- We should continue to experiment with new forms of worship and liturgy to engage the wider community; “user friendly” church
- To be aware of, and act on, inclusivity in worship, be it related to age, gender, learning style, thus creating a worship space meaningful for all
- Ways to encourage clergy to use new liturgy & flexible worship spaces
- Mission focused liturgy liturgies that will energize and engage people towards a passionate spirituality

Coming Together

- Sharing amongst the congregations of Niagara enriches us all; clergy, worship, spaces, resources, youth programs, marriage prep, pastoral care
- Sharing ideas - what is working in other churches and what has not worked
- Amalgamate ministries to have strengthened supportive leadership - shared peer support
- More community discernment initiatives like in St. Catharines

Making God’s Work in Us More Visible

- Encourage the world around us wonder about our faith, want to learn more & make room for God in their lives
- Be seen making a difference
- Advertising campaigns that highlight the ways in which the Anglican Church in Niagara makes lives better
- Continuing to identify and implement local parish missions so that everyone in every community is touched by the local Anglican church