

PLANNING STUDY

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

1 Peter 4:10



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA



OUR DIOCESE OUR PARISHES

We've been around since 1875 discerning God's mission in every age and we're still listening and working with the Holy Spirit to be the face and hands of Christ. Ignited by the irresistible love of Jesus, the Diocese of Niagara serves the spiritual needs of Anglicans and our neighbours.

Our parishes and missions serve a vital purpose in our diocese as we all seek a deeper understanding of God's presence in the world today. Together, as Christians in the Anglican tradition, we listen and discern for God's mission through worship, hospitality, teaching and justice, wherever we are, all the while supporting each other. Our doors are always open and welcoming to all who are searching for their place, for faith, for a community.





OUR VISION

Our parishes are the beating heart of this diocese. We equip the local church so that it can foster God's mission locally and, together as the Body of Christ, equip the wider Church, in and beyond Niagara. The health, well-being, confidence and mission-driven life of the parishes is the goal of all we do as a diocese.

Together, we can and will transform lives in Christ's name.

Guided by Bishop Susan Bell's leadership, our diocese is focusing on renewal and mission. We seek to equip the Church for God's mission in both the greater global sense and in the smaller – yet no less vital – local sense. We also aim to invest in the future of our diocese with the formation of future leaders who are involved and engaged both with their parish and with the surrounding neighbourhood.

We envision a thriving Anglican Church with vibrant parishes and communities, dynamic ministries carrying out great works, and a renewed engagement with the church and each other. Through careful study and planning, diocesan leaders have identified the top priorities to strengthen our diocese – and its parishes and missions – and position us well for the future.

OUR PRIORITIES



PARISH RESOURCING | \$13 MILLION (65% OF ALL FUNDS RAISED)

Our diocese holds the vision for the Anglican Church of Canada in south central Ontario, and this shared vision is expressed locally by our parishes through their ministry. When our parishes thrive, the whole Church is stronger in its witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With this in mind, the majority of the funds raised will directly support parishes, animating local initiatives identified through the [Mission Action Plan \(MAP\) process](#). The initiatives that our parishes committed to undertaking are quite diverse and specific to the individual parishes, and they have already brought a renewed sense of energy, excitement and hope. We are moving forward with purpose, and God is guiding our steps. The funding also will be crucial as our parishes pursue bigger goals when we embark upon the next phase of the MAP process.



MAP Initiative Examples

All of the MAP ideas are ways of connecting with our geographical parishes in order to share God's love in word and action — with words of mercy and works of love.



Adult Faith Formation

- Starting more small groups to discuss and practice faith, as well as build fellowship and engagement
- Holding a parish retreat
- Experimenting with a family service geared toward the faith development of people of all ages




Parish Culture

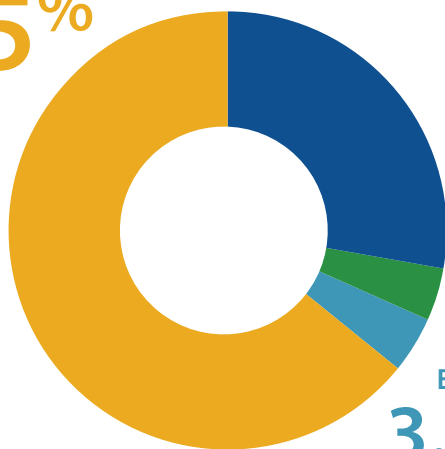
- Creating a child-friendly area in the worship space so families feel welcome and comfortable
- Developing a new parish welcoming process
- Establishing a social justice committee and taking steps to reduce the church's carbon footprint



Life in the Neighbourhood

- Hosting workshops to raise awareness and understanding about the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples
 - Creating a seniors' health and wellness initiative with workshops related to aging and faith
 - Partnering with other churches to address food insecurity
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PARISH
RESOURCING
65%



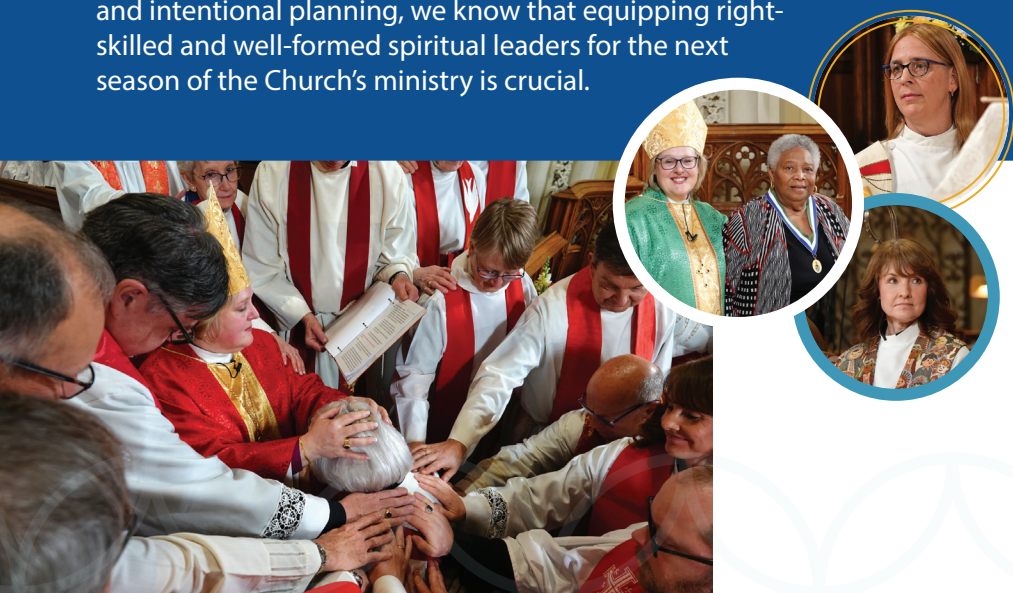
LEADERSHIP
FOR THE CHURCH
28%

FOSTERING
RECONCILIATION
3.5%

EQUIPPING SHARED
MINISTRIES
3.5%

LEADERSHIP FOR THE CHURCH | \$5.6 MILLION

As an act of faith in our future, a key goal of the campaign will focus on forming lay and ordained leaders for mission. We want to create an endowment to support curacies and the ministries of missionaries and church planters. In addition, some funds will be used to support the Niagara School for Missional Leadership. We want to invest in missional leadership development because, through careful and intentional planning, we know that equipping right-skilled and well-formed spiritual leaders for the next season of the Church's ministry is crucial.



FOSTERING RECONCILIATION | \$700,000

The Diocese of Niagara, along with the Anglican Church of Canada, is committed to acknowledging the Church's role in the colonial harm inflicted upon Indigenous peoples through the residential school system and other assimilation efforts. *The work of truth and reconciliation is ongoing and important, and our diocese will continue to encourage and advance that work.* Gifts to the Healing Fund and the Jubilee Initiative will support the efforts to foster reconciliation and support healing initiatives.



EQUIPPING SHARED MINISTRIES | \$700,000

We plan to make major one-time gifts to support the ministries of St. Matthew's House, the Canterbury Hills endowment and the upkeep of our cathedral. By investing in these projects, we're investing in our diocesan ministries as a whole – be it the outreach ministry started 60 years ago through St. Matthew's House, the children's camping ministry at Canterbury Hills, or the worship ministry of the cathedral. Each one of these ministries enhance our common life and hold a special place in the hearts of many in Niagara.





YOUR VOICE

To achieve our vision and address these priorities, we are considering a diocesan-wide \$20 million fundraising campaign. First, though, we need to hear from you. Please share your thoughts and opinions about these priorities in the Diocese of Niagara's planning study. Your feedback is integral to this important process.

Thank you for your prayers and your participation.



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NIAGARA

Cathedral Place

252 James Street North

Hamilton, ON L8R 2L3

905.527.1316 | NiagaraAnglican.ca