

SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA - 2012

VISION THEME VIDEO – Liner Notes

“What does it look like for us to be following Christ passionately?”

Words and images can only begin to tell the story which is best told “in the flesh” by the disciples of Jesus engaged in God’s mission, living out a vision for ministry. Yet, we start with words and images as prompts to our following Christ passionately in our lives and parishes and across Niagara.



Track 1: Prophetic Social Justice Making Vision Group

“We believe that families trump borders.”

This is the conviction of those, in St. Paul’s, Westdale, in partnership with so many others, who laboured mightily

[and successfully!] to ensure that Lucene Charles would not be deported, separating her from her Canadian-born children.

“Justice Camp enlivened within us God’s call to pursue justice”

Building on the legacy of Justice Camps held across the country, including the Community Justice Camp 2010 held here in Niagara, social justice advocates were strengthened by renewed networks, learning and skills at Shalom Justice Camp 2012 in Peterborough.



Track 2: Life-changing Worship

“God of grace, we give you thanks and praise for all the ways you have touched our lives through Mike and his ministry here. Send your Holy Spirit now to surround Mike with your love as he leaves St. Christopher’s for the Church of the Resurrection. Give him confidence to proclaim the Gospel of love, compassion to serve a broken world, and courage to pursue your justice. Grant him joy in his new community of faith and fulfillment in his ministry there.”



The whole congregation at St. Christopher’s, Burlington expresses their blessing on and prayers for the Rev’d Mike Deed as he takes up new ministries at the Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton, in a transformational worship moment grounded in the lives of the gathered community.



Grace Church, Waterdown is *grooving and growing* with the addition of a contemporary band to the Sunday worship. And it's so popular that they're starting a second band!

Track 3: Continuous Culture of Innovation

"There is a growing awareness that the Church must commit to radically new agendas and fresh initiatives in order to connect the gospel with the widest possible spectrum of our society. Faith, commitment, sacrifice and boldness are needed - and an emerging generation of pioneering leaders focused on breaking new ground and growing Christian communities where none have flourished for many years, if ever." Dave Male



"A fresh expression of church is 'the attempt to go to where people are, listen carefully to the context, and through service form new communities of faith which have the potential to grow into church in their own right." Steven Croft

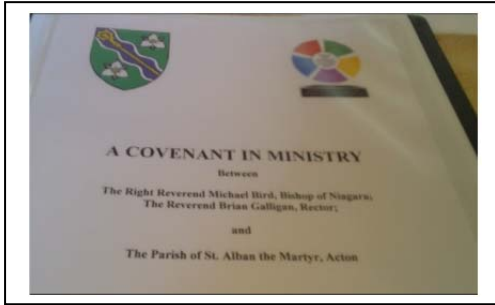
A strong commitment to innovation is being lived out in Niagara through the dozens of participants in the Vital Church Planting Conference and in the great example being set by the new Messy Church initiative at St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton. ["The Rock on Locke"]



Track 4: Outstanding Leadership for Ministry

“We foster ministry learning communities and honour outstanding leaders throughout the diocese.”

The Order of Niagara is awarded to extraordinary lay leaders whose life and ministry sets an example for all of us. Learning communities are being fostered amongst clergy and lay leaders. These communities are gathering to pursue excellence in a wide range of aspects of ministry.



“Ministry covenants express our mission aspirations, strengthening the partnership between bishop, clergy and people.”

Our partnerships in ministry are more vision-shaped as we develop intentional ministry covenants.

Track 5: Generous Culture of Stewardship

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously...



.. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.



...Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver...



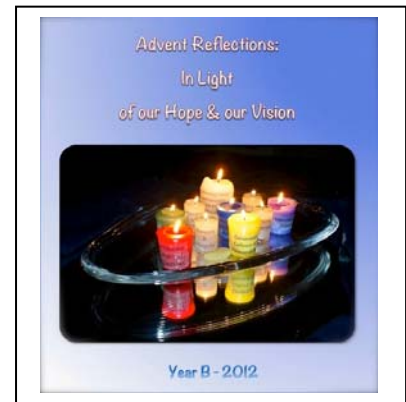
(*Some photos were cut from the video. They are bonus features of the Liner Notes!)

Track 6: Vision Values Group

....Our VISION initiatives emerge organically from our deeply held values - flourishing, blossoming and bearing fruit in our ministries & mission - both locally and throughout the Diocese.



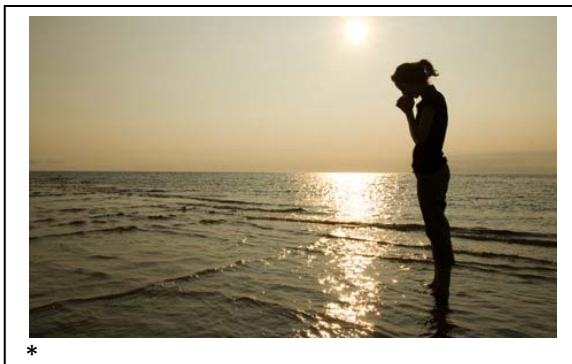
....In the light & reflection of our VISION, we take some time for quiet reflection, allowing our Advent scriptures and prayers to speak to our hearts & hopes.



Track 7: Journeys in Faith

As we follow Christ passionately, we will know him dwelling in our hearts through faith as we are being rooted and grounded in love.

We will nurture that love as we pray, as we study scripture, as we make connections between those practises and the world.



We'll listen carefully to how God has changed the lives of others, so that we can take steps on our journeys of faith to lean into the ways that God is transforming us--in community and as individuals. We will be filled with all the fullness of God.



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