

Report of the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings 2016

Mandate, Purpose and Key Responsibilities

Specifically; the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings shall be appointed by the Bishop and shall continue at his pleasure

Likewise; the Committee shall, at the request of the Bishop, or at the request of a Parish through the Office of the Bishop, provide experienced, informed and impartial advice to parishes that have concerns about the condition, maintenance or preservation of their buildings; by assisting in a review of those concerns, in the identification of general problems, in the finding of competent consultants or contractors, and in the monitoring of any resulting work programme; all as may be necessary or requested, and report to the Bishop on all of this.

Also, to assist the Bishop by reviewing and commenting on the plans and drawings of any proposed new church buildings or major modification of an existing church building, and by reviewing, from time to time, the progress of any such construction: and undertake such other tasks as the Bishop may, from time to time, assign to the Committee.

A Concern

Key to delivery of this mandate is the way in which Canon 4.6** is acknowledged, adopted and respected by individual Parishes. Although every project with a value of \$15,000 or more falls within the purview of Canon 4.6, there have been examples of parishes either circumventing its requirements or of simply ignoring them.

The imperatives which underpin Canon 4.6 are transparency, economy and good governance. They depend on competitive comparisons and competitive prices for both design agreements and construction contracts.

In the past year we have become aware of Parishes in every corner of the Diocese that have proceeded without benefit of Canon 4.6, and we worry that potential savings may have been missed and that transparency may have been made opaque.

In this regard, the BACCB supports the Diocesan initiative to review the efficacy of Canon 4.6

*(**Canon 4.6 is the diocesan ecclesial law that governs where and how permission must be sought and obtained to erect, alter, or add to a church-owned building. All church buildings and land are either the property of the diocese or are held in trust on behalf of the diocese.)*

(over)

Nevertheless, in this same year, members of the BACCB have been invited to assist parishes in Cayuga (a major addition); Port Colborne (a settlement problem); Oakville (two rooves and a major renovation); Hamilton (two rooves, accessibility, and a ramp); Waterdown (a re-development); also Rockwood, Lowville, Winona, Fort Erie, Dunnville, Milton and Flamborough. Separately, members have provided on-going advice to major re-developments in Hamilton and Oakville.

The Committee is pleased to work in co-operation with both The Decennial Inspection Committee (DIC) and with the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC).

While we are all proud of our 19th and 20th century churches, making them energy efficient for the 21st century is an important, cost-effective, environmental initiative. Similarly, the issues of accessibility, safe-church needs and fire safety are all vital components of our Anglican mission; to improve the social environment of our property and buildings .

We have together inherited a great investment in the parish churches of this diocese, and it falls to all of us to maintain them in sensible recognition that the Spirit which created them is now working in new and different ways.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Chadwick,

Chair, BACCB.