

# REPORTS OF THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEES

## THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH BUILDINGS

Members of the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings (BACCB) are volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise in their related fields of engineering, architecture, construction management and regulated authorities that provide assistance on any capital projects for parishes within the Diocese of Niagara .

All parish capital projects within the Diocese of Niagara are governed by Canon 4.6 and its associated regulations.

Parishes are encouraged to contact the Secretary to Synod as soon as a project idea takes shape in order to avoid any issues that might impede its success.

### **2021/2022 Activities**

This past year we have seen a recovery from COVID-19. Restrictions were lifted to allow access to our places of worship. Parishes were reviewing their buildings and started to move forward with upgrades.

With that said, we did manage to complete approximately \$1,200,000.00 worth of capital projects throughout the diocese, including barrier-free upgrades, electrical upgrades, paving of lots, roof repairs and sound systems with many more items not listed. This is still an amazing amount of work done, the BACCB congratulates all the parishes who completed their projects.

The BACCB this past year met with the committee of the Climate Justice Niagara to discuss parish greenhouse gas reduction plans. Our discussions were educational and ideas for energy conservation were exchanged. In the future, both committees will continue to work together to help parishes to achieve the goals set out in last year's Synod.

### **Future**

With hope and faith we will be able to use our churches again and continue to provide a safe place to worship and provide community support. With this in mind, let's continue to renovate, rebuild, and upgrade our churches and properties for the future.

They are an ever-present symbol of accessibility to Christ. They are a sign of welcome to persons who feel either stranded, alone, anxious or angry. They are the on-the-street face of Anglicanism for they reflect the care and love they have been given to all who come near.

Respectfully submitted,

Andre Gravelle  
Chair

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## THE BISHOP'S DECENNIAL INSPECTION COMMITTEE

The mandate of the Bishop's Decennial Inspection Committee (BDIC) is to ensure that all Anglican Church properties within the diocese are inspected on a rotating ten (10) year cycle. To accomplish this task, we maintain terms of reference inspection requirements, schedule, monitor, assist to facilitate and track these inspections for each parish. All building physical structures, building fabric, building systems, building components grounds and cemeteries (if applicable) are reviewed.

The committee also reviews and maintains a list of competent professional inspection firms that are deemed qualified to undertake the required inspection work to meet our terms of reference. The BDIC reviews all inspection reports and documents prepared by the inspection firms prior to their issuance to each parish to ensure they meet the requirements of our terms of reference. We remain available to assist parishes (when requested) to develop their action plans for the completion of critical and longer-term items noted on their inspection reports. We are available on an as needed basis to visit parishes if requested to assist with any concerns they might have.

Committee members are equipped to perform reviews of existing vacant diocesan buildings related to structural and other building system conditions and can provide advice on other building related items.

In 2022 only one decennial inspection was completed due to on-going COVID-19 constraints. Several 2022 decennial inspections were granted an extension to 2023, again due to COVID-19. Including these extensions and those normally scheduled a total of 12 decennial inspections are due in 2023. There are 10 parishes that remain outstanding from recent previous years. We are in discussions with these parishes to schedule decennial inspections to fit their particular circumstances. Also, there are two parishes whose Decennial Inspections are on-hold due the extenuating circumstances. These will be added back to the schedule when their circumstances change.

I would like to thank the members of our committee for their ongoing efforts and service to this important ministry in the diocese

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Swing

Chair

# REPORTS OF THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEES

## THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY RENEWAL

Established in 2019, this committee advises the Bishop of Niagara on matters pertaining to strategic and missional renewal of designated properties. The committee may also be asked to oversee renewal of properties associated with existing parishes in the case of a proposed new church or major modification of an existing church building.

The committee is comprised of volunteers with specific expertise and knowledge in the areas of real estate, municipal planning, appraising, architecture, heritage resource management, law, and community engagement.

In the past year, the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Property Renewal continued to meet by ZOOM advancing the evaluation of ongoing initiatives. This includes disestablished sites with current or future development potential, parishes asking for advice on property uses, and strategic assessments of sites with historic or missional value to the diocese. Since the formation of the committee, we have considered matters pertaining to 19 different diocesan properties.

In the coming year, we will continue to explore new opportunities, and provide recommendations for the properties where our efforts are nearing a conclusion.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Terry Charters  
Chair