

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 and guidance on any capital projects for parishes within the Diocese of Niagara.

All parish capital projects within the Diocese of Niagara are governed under 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.

Activities

Since last year's Synod, the committee advised on over \$828,000 worth of capital projects throughout the diocese, including barrier-free upgrades, electrical upgrades, paving of lots, roof repairs and sound systems. This is an amazing amount of work done and the committee congratulates all the parishes who completed their projects.

The BACCB also recommended that the financial threshold for regulated capital projects be raised from \$15,000 to \$25,000. This corresponds to increases in interest rates, cost of living and taxes. The revised regulations pertaining to Canon 4.6 were approved by Synod Council on June 20, 2023, and went into effect.

Future

With hope and faith, we are able to use our churches 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, CBCO, CRBO
Chair

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THE BISHOP'S DECENNIAL INSPECTION COMMITTEE

The committee's mandate is to ensure that Anglican Church properties within the diocese are inspected on a rotating ten (10) year cycle. To accomplish this task, we maintain a Terms of Reference Inspection Requirements Document. We schedule, monitor, and assist to facilitate and track these inspections for each Parish in the Diocese. 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 the requirements of 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 in their inspection reports. We are also available on an as needed basis to visit parishes if requested to assist with any building 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 two (2) Decennial Inspections were completed due to ongoing COVID-19 constraints. In 2023 ten (10) Decennial Inspections were scheduled. Three (3) have been completed as of September, five (5) have requested and been granted extensions until 2024 – again due to limitations from COVID-19 – and eight (8) are in process. Including these five (5) extensions and those normally scheduled a total of seventeen (17) Decennial Inspections are due in 2024. There are seven (7) parishes that remain outstanding from recent previous years. The BDIC continues to be in discussions with these parishes to help schedule Decennial Inspections to fit their unique circumstances. Also, there are two (2) Parishes whose Decennial Inspections are on-hold due other extenuating circumstances. These will be added back to the schedule when their circumstances change.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Swing
Chair

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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.

In March of this year, All Saints Mission finally took occupancy of the main floor church space in the new Platinum condo building at the corner of King Street West and Queen Street South in Hamilton. The committee is proud to have been of assistance in this successful project.

In the coming year, we will continue to explore new opportunities, and provide recommendations as requested for ongoing property matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Terry Charters
Chair