

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 advise on any capital projects for parishes within the Diocese of Niagara. All parish capital projects within the diocese 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 to avoid any issues that might impede its success.

This past year we were able to complete approximately \$1.2 million worth of capital projects throughout the diocese, which included accessibility upgrades, electrical upgrades, kitchen renovations, roof repairs and more. This is an amazing amount of work done, the BACCB congratulates all the parishes who completed their projects. In the coming year, we will continue to explore new opportunities, and provide recommendations as requested for ongoing property matters.

With hope and faith, we can maintain our churches and continue to have 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 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,

Mr. André Gravelle
Chair, Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings

THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY RENEWAL

Established in 2019, the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Property Renewal (BACPR) 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 BACPR continued to meet by Zoom to advance 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 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, Bishop's Advisory Committee on Property Renewal

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THE BISHOP'S DECENNIAL INSPECTION COMMITTEE

The mandate of the Bishop's Decennial Inspection Committee (BDIC) is to ensure that Anglican church properties within the Diocese of Niagara are inspected on a rotating ten-year cycle. To accomplish this task, we maintain a Terms of Reference and Inspection Requirements Document. We schedule, monitor, assist in facilitating, and track these inspections for each parish in the diocese. The physical structures, building fabric, building systems, building components, grounds and cemeteries (if applicable) of buildings are all 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. In 2024, we issued a Request for Expression of Interest to review and vet possible new professional inspection firms to be added to our roster. Currently we have short listed four (4) firms and are in the process of inviting them to join our roster. In addition, we are in the process of updating our Terms of Reference. The BDIC reviews all inspection reports 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, upon request, 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 2023, six decennial inspections were completed, some of which were postponed due to pandemic constraints. In 2024, eleven decennial inspections were scheduled, and twelve decennial inspections are currently overdue. We are working closely with these parishes to ensure inspections can be completed as soon as they are able to undertake them. Seven inspections have been completed in 2024, and a total of twelve decennial inspections are due in 2025.

I would like to welcome Roy Timms as a new member of our committee, who brings a wealth of building design and construction knowledge to our team. I also want to thank the other members of our committee for their ongoing efforts and service to this important ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven Swing, O.N.
Chair, Bishop's Decennial Inspection Committee