

MISSION ACTION PLAN REPORT

As our diocese reflects on the faith and mission we carry from generation to generation, Mission Action Planning offers an important reminder: faithful ministry is not only about recognizing where God is doing something new, but also about tending that work so it can take root and endure.

When we began the MAP process in 2019, God invited us to courageously step into new things, even though their shape was not yet fully clear. We knew we needed to deepen faith, reimagine structures for mission, and act more intentionally for justice.

By MAP 2.0 in 2024, that calling had come into clearer focus: forming leaders for missional ministry, supporting faith formation, developing mixed ecology and contextual mission, strengthening parishes and missions for long-term sustainability, and equipping God's people for prayer, advocacy, partnership, and collective action for justice.

In 2026, the work has entered a different stage. Our priority has not been to launch new initiatives, but to strengthen and sustain what God has already called into being. We have focused on building the leadership, structures, relationships, and resources needed for this work to become deeply rooted and endure into the future. This year's report highlights several key examples of this work of strengthening and sustaining. These include:

- **Niagara School for Missional Leadership:** Five years after its founding, NSML has become an established and sustainable part of diocesan life. Since 2021, the school has offered 60 courses, welcomed approximately 504 enrollments, and served more than 265 individual students. With a strong steering committee, an established program of missional formation, and the dedicated coordination of Hannah Keller, NSML continues to grow its reach and is now collaborating with established theological colleges, including Huron University College, to augment theological education with focused formation in mission.
- **Faith Formation:** With The Rev. Monica Romig Green now well established in her role as Faith Formation Coordinator, parishes are benefiting from a growing and dependable body of resources and support for discipleship. New offerings include The Grandparents Club, regular online resources highlighting Anglican witnesses and accessible spiritual practices, and parish workshops on prayer, discernment, and spiritual gifts. A new baptismal resource is also in development, helping create stronger pathways for faith formation throughout life.
- **St. Brigid's Community:** After years of prayer, planning, and discernment, the vision for St. Brigid's is moving into reality, with the Reverend Canon Dr. Ian Mobsby helping to guide and coordinate its development. Funds have now been raised, and recruitment, communications, branding, and practical preparations are underway. The community will bring together approximately 30 young adults, ages 18–35, for prayer, formation, worship, and service, gathering at Christ's Church Cathedral beginning in 2027.
- **Children, Youth & Family Ministry:** In 2026, Kristen Jackson-Dockeray joined the diocesan team as Children, Youth & Family Missional Coordinator, bringing experience in teaching, special education, counselling, and supporting neurodivergent children and young people. She has begun a systematic assessment of ministry across the diocese and, in collaboration with the Rev. Monica Romig Green, has developed a new confirmation preparation resource for early 2027. This work is laying the foundation for a more coordinated and sustainable approach to missional engagement with children, youth, and families in Niagara.
- **Building Capacity for Mission:** The creation of the Parish Development and Community Missioner roles was an important part of reshaping diocesan structures for mission through our

first MAP. Four years later, that investment has developed into sustained missional capacity across the diocese. Eighty per cent of parishes have now completed at least one Mission Action Planning process, with half of those continuing to update their MAP or undertake the full MAP 2.0 process. Fifteen parishes have completed Mixed Ecology training, and many are now developing contextual forms of ministry alongside their inherited church communities. The Commissioned Lay Missioner training is also in its second year, with eight members of the first cohort continuing their formation and three new missionaries joining the second cohort. Together, these practices are becoming firmly embedded in the missional life of the diocese. The invitation now is to continue widening participation: encouraging more parishes to engage in each of these life-giving opportunities to grow missionally.

- **Strengthening Diocesan Missions:** With ongoing support from the Reverend Canon Dr. Ian Mobsby, Community Missioner, what began as a series of experimental missional initiatives is increasingly becoming an established part of diocesan life. Niagara now has four designated diocesan missions under Canon 4.9, with structures such as advisory boards, Mission Action Plans, ministry benchmarks, and long-term financial planning helping to strengthen their sustainability. Across these missions, rhythms of worship, formation, hospitality, community partnership, and contextual mission are taking root, while emerging initiatives such as Hamilton's Well continue to develop.
- **Justice and Social Action:** Justice and social action have long been a backbone of faith and ministry in Niagara, and that commitment remains deeply rooted in diocesan life. With the ongoing support and coordination of Deirdre Pike, Program Consultant, Justice and Outreach, this continued in 2026 through expanded anti-racism training, climate justice education and action, refugee sponsorship, 2SLGBTQI+ advocacy, truth and reconciliation work, and education and advocacy to address human trafficking. This sustained commitment to prayer, advocacy, partnership, and action for justice remains a deeply rooted expression of our faith and an integral part of Niagara's diocesan identity.

As has been true from the beginning, Mission Action Planning is a living process, intended to adapt and grow as the Holy Spirit leads the diocese, its parishes, and missions more deeply into God's call. The next stage of that journey will begin in 2027 with the development of MAP 3.0.

Its full shape is still to be discerned, but some priorities are already coming into view. Children, youth, and family ministry will be central to this next chapter, with renewed attention to nurturing faith across generations and deepening missional engagement with families. A renewed investment in stewardship will also strengthen the financial wellbeing of parishes and missions while encouraging a deeper culture of generosity as an expression of Christian discipleship.

MAP 3.0 will be shaped through both prayerful discernment and broad consultation, listening for the movement of the Holy Spirit while also listening carefully to the hopes, experiences, and wisdom of people in parishes and missions across Niagara. I look forward to connecting and talking with the wonderful and faithful people of this diocese as, together, we discern where God is calling us next.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Emily Hill
Parish Development Missioner