

OTHER REPORTS

THE DIOCESAN ARCHIVIST

McMaster University continues to oversee the storage of non-current diocesan records dating back to 1875, including parish registers, service books, minute books, and other materials from more than 100 congregations. These records are on deposit only and remain the property of the diocese.

The care and upkeep of the diocesan archives are governed under Canon 2.6. The diocesan archives kept at Cathedral Place include:

- Synod journals from 1875 to present;
- copies of the Niagara Anglican from 1975 to present;
- personnel files of deceased or retired clergy;
- parish files, current or closed, including some parish histories and clergy biographies;
- some artifacts of our ministry;
- confirmation records; and
- some blueprints or drawings of past church building projects.

As public acts, records related to baptisms, marriages and burials are held in trust for the participants and for the whole Church and are thereby parishes and the diocese's responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the records.

A recent change to Canada's citizenship legislation is prompting individuals in the United States and around the world to explore their Canadian ancestry, resulting in an unexpected increase in requests to our diocesan archives. Now, individuals born abroad before December 15, 2025, may be eligible for Canadian citizenship if they can demonstrate that they have a Canadian grandparent or great-grandparent. To establish eligibility, applicants must obtain proof of citizenship, often requiring historical family records and documentation, including baptismal certificates.

As a result, archival institutions across Canada have experienced a significant rise in ancestry-related research requests since the legislation came into effect. Lorna Shaw is dutifully receiving and processing these all such archival requests for records that are held by the diocese. While she primarily supports requests related to disestablished parishes, current parishes can also reach out to her for assistance in fielding requests for archival records. She can be reached via email to lorna.shaw@niagaraanglican.ca.

Information related to the storage and retention of church records is available on the diocesan website.

Respectfully submitted,

The Venerable Bill Mous
Executive Officer & Secretary of Synod

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CLIMATE JUSTICE NIAGARA COMMITTEE

Climate Justice Niagara's (CJN) role is to equip both clergy and lay people throughout the diocese to live more deeply into the Fifth Mark of Mission: *"to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth."* Aligned with the environmental justice emphasized in the diocesan Mission Action Plan, CJN assists parishes, homes, and communities to respond to the climate crisis—both locally and globally—through prayer, education, action and advocacy.

In the past year, a few highlights of CJN's ministry have been:

- Worked with twelve (12) parishes in tracking their annual energy use and developing five-year energy reduction plans.
 - Five-year graphs were created for these parishes to show Greenhouse Gas (GHG emissions) over a 5-year period.
- Partnered in the creation of Zero Emission Churches (zeroemissionchurches.ca) to equip congregations and diocesan leaders with the information they need to convert their buildings into zero emitters of greenhouse gases.
- Promoted the planting of pollinator, rain, water and children's gardens on church properties, awarding certificates to individual parishes to recognize their contributions.
- Developed a resource guide for the Season of Creation to support parishes in hosting events and incorporating Season of Creation themes into their liturgies.
- Provided support to parish Climate Justice Facilitators and convened an in-person meeting on September 20, 2026, to facilitate information sharing and to build networks of support.
- On April 22, 2026, hosted an Earth Day online webinar featuring the Reverend Canon Michael Van Dusen.
- Made monthly contributions to the Niagara Anglican newspaper.

Over the next year, CJN will continue to connect people to environmental justice as an initiative of the diocesan Mission Action Plan. The group will promote the parish accreditation program and support churches in receiving bronze, silver and gold certification and will continue our participation in Zero Emission Churches, providing support to parishes in implementing energy reduction plans. We will recruit new members to the CJN steering committee, particularly from less represented areas of the diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Bruce Mackenzie
Chair, Climate Justice Niagara Committee

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THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING JUSTICE NIAGARA WORKING GROUP

Our committee has continued throughout the year to fulfill our mandate which is to educate the parishes, clergy and other lay workers about the prevalence of Human Trafficking within our Diocese. Within the Niagara Diocese, are some of the highest areas of trafficking, as we are close to the US border, and major highways (the 400 series and the QEW). Vulnerable young women and girls, as well as some boys are being groomed and coerced into sex work and moved around the province and the country; a disproportionate number within this group are indigenous young people.

The work that we do is based on our mandate of prayer, education and advocacy. To this end the committee has met four times this year. Each of our meetings is 'bookended' with prayer. We have continued to update the brochure and resources that we have produced, and to continue our education by inviting those within the diocese, as well as others who are interested in attending the Human Trafficking Forum which we have presented for these last few years. This year's event will take place on October 24 at St. John's Anglican Church in Port Dalhousie this year. Within the event itself, we continue to include speakers with lived experience of Human Trafficking. In this way we hope to open attendees hearts and minds towards individuals who are being trafficked, and to recognize when someone is vulnerable and may be in a dangerous situation.

Over the years, we are encouraged to see increasing awareness of this issue, as evidenced by campaigns such as 'Ask for Angela' which can enable a person who is being trafficked to reach out for help in the safest possible way. That being said, there continues to be a great need for awareness among the general public of the issues which can lead to a young person being trafficked. Our continued advocacy for awareness and the willingness to take action when a young person is in danger of being trafficked is as much needed as ever.

In the coming year, we hope to attract new members to our committee through presentations at the various clericus meetings, and continue to update our materials, especially in light of new technology within social media. Please prayerfully consider joining us in this work, we are always in need of new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Wendy Saunders
Chair, Human Trafficking Justice Niagara Working Group

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THE CATHEDRAL PLACE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Cathedral Place Property Management Committee (CPPMC) continues to oversee the care, maintenance, and management of the Cathedral Place property and buildings pursuant to the mandate of Canon 2.10(4). This past year has seen exciting and important work accomplished to enable Cathedral Place's work as a vehicle for mission and liturgy.

The project to replace the main doors of the Cathedral took longer than originally anticipated by both CPPMC and the contractor. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the City of Hamilton for the heritage refurbishment. Many were greatly relieved when the construction scaffolding finally came down. The results are impressive and important. In addition to the full heritage restoration of the doors, they are now easier to open, close, and secure. Restoration of the other doors is on CPPMC's long term work plan.

The doors combine with other improvements (such as emergency lighting) to improve the fire code compliance of the Cathedral proper. We had been restricted to holding only public worship in that space and now have greater flexibility for both diocesan and Cathedral non-worship events, as well as other meetings and gatherings generating rental revenue.

CPPMC is deeply grateful to Mr. Derek Smith, O.N., the Property Manager, for his guidance and leadership throughout the year. Cathedral Place contracted and received its 2026 decennial inspection report and has addressed all of the urgent issues noted therein.

As part of Christ's Church Cathedral celebrating the 150th anniversary of being made a cathedral, the cathedral congregation has undertaken a number of improvements to the narthex. These will help and ease their important hospitality work that they offer and are currently underway.

Finally, CPPMC extends its gratitude to the Synod for allocating funds over multiple years to assist our long-term work in addressing needed heritage restoration of Cathedral Place. This support allows us to continue to care for this resource for ministry that makes such an impact in the life of the city, the entire diocese, and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin
Chair, Cathedral Place Property Management Committee

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THE NIAGARA SCHOOL FOR MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Niagara School for Missional Leadership (NSML) is a Gospel-focused learning community within the Diocese of Niagara, equipping students to respond creatively and faithfully to God's mission. Founded as a key component of the diocesan Mission Action Plan, NSML is rooted in missional praxis, nurtured by the basic learning tools of practical experience, mentoring, theological reflection, and prayer.

In the last year, NSML has welcomed over 75 students in 7 courses and three certificate cohorts, with students joining from the dioceses of Niagara, Calgary, Nova Scotia & PEI, Huron, Edmonton, Islands & Inlets, Kootenay, and Indianapolis (Episcopal Church).

Highlights from the past year include:

- On September 1, 2026, NSML marked the fifth anniversary of its founding.
- Hannah Keller joined NSML as its coordinator and registrar, effective February 1, 2026; she previously served as the diocesan administrative assistant since April of 2023.
- The second annual Missional Imagination Conference took place online from January 29 to January 31, 2026, welcoming missional thinkers from across the Anglican Church of Canada and beyond.
 - Two members of the NSML Steering Committee—The Reverend Canon Dr. Ian Mobsby and Dr. Emily Hill—were members of the conference's organizing team, alongside missionaries from the diocese of Toronto, Fredericton, Nova Scotia & PEI, and Kootenay.
- A new course—*Resting in God, Moving in Love: Developing a Deeper & Missional Prayer Life*, taught by Canon Ian Mobsby and Monica Romig Green—was developed and launched for the Fall 2026 term.
- Bishop Susan Bell—in collaboration with NSML—hosted a women's retreat from October 16-17 at St. Mark's, Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- The launch of the Certificate in Mission Practice, a two-year formation program led by Canon Ian Mobsby, that equips leaders to develop fresh expressions of church, engage their local communities, and cultivate innovative approaches to ministry in increasingly secular contexts.
- Following a recruitment campaign that took place over the summer months, two (2) new members were added to the NSML Steering Committee: Dr. Thomas Littlewood and Che Marville.

As we look to the future, NSML seeks to embody the call to share the Good News "*from generation to generation*," by nurturing leaders to discern and participate in God's mission in a changing world. Through learning, formation, and shared ministry, NSML hopes to cultivate a living legacy of faith and education that is received, renewed, and carried forward for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Hannah Keller

Coordinator & Registrar, Niagara School for Missional Leadership

On behalf of the Steering Committee