

The difference a day made:

Impacts of the October 1, 2011
“Fine-tuning” vision consultation

As shared with Synod of Niagara, November 19, 2011



Engaging the feedback received at the “Fine-tuning the Vision” consultation held on October 1st, each Vision Team has revised their goals, indicators and missional objectives.

These were shared with Synod Council at a specially convened meeting on November 10th.

Highlights of those revisions are now reported to Synod.

Life Changing Worship

- An annual liturgy training event for laity and clergy
- The development of guidelines around basic expectations for worship in conjunction with the Bishop

Life Changing Worship

- The development of processes and tools to help parishes explore best practices; obtain feedback from parishioners about their worship; and to develop their own life changing liturgies
- Recruit and utilize a diocesan worship planning team to create diocesan worship experiences that are experienced as transformative by participants

Prophetic Social Justice Making

- The proposal for the Niagara Social Justice committee better recognizes that leadership on social justice initiatives most often happens locally in parishes.
- Charity and justice approaches are valued, needed and complementary.

Prophetic Social Justice Making

- The diversity of parish & diocesan social justice initiatives is captured more fully, removing particular focus areas and the challenge to add new initiatives.
- “Globally” was added to the spheres in which we are involved in justice issues.

Generous Culture of Stewardship

Our goals, indicators and missional objectives were significantly expanded and changed to a more positive tone. Here are four examples:

- We replace talk of survival, viability and conflict about money with conversations about mission, potential, opportunity, and transparency.

Generous Culture of Stewardship

- Our focus at Diocesan Synod is about our vision and mission and our discernment of God's preferred future for Niagara.
- The “parish viability tool” is revised, renamed, and is known as an effective resource for parishes to self-evaluate, discern their calling, and make faithful decisions about the future.

Generous Culture of Stewardship

- Parishes seek new partnerships, cooperative purchasing, and community/ecumenical cooperation in the administration and care of their physical assets and operations.

Outstanding Leadership for Ministry

- The need to create **safe spaces** in which to try, fail, learn & grow is recognized.
- The priority and importance of **lay leadership development** is emphasized.

Outstanding Leadership for Ministry

- Ministry covenants may be more the fruit of **positive, affirming lay/clergy partnerships** than the seeds for this objective.
- **Nurturing & making disciples** are now central to our leadership goal.

Continuous Culture of Innovation

Primary goal should be to encourage parishes to be missionally-minded as they: re-imagine their ministry possibilities, consider how to launch Fresh Expressions of Church, and (at a diocesan level) plant new churches.

Continuous Culture of Innovation

To this end:

- Offer, promote and fund courses in Mission-Shaped Ministry and Re-imagining Church.
- Create and implement a comprehensive 10-year plan for church planting, reboots, and Fresh Expressions throughout the diocese.

Continuous Culture of Innovation

- Establish incubator churches to intentionally implement innovative ideas for the benefit of the church and for wider diocesan learning.
- Create, recruit, educate, and commission a new order of "Ministry Pioneers" whose mission is to establish/plant fresh expressions of church throughout the diocese.

Vision Values

A 6th Vision Working Group emerged in March 2010

Purpose:

to deepen our awareness of what we MEAN by:

- ‘Following Christ passionately, we pursue excellence, practice justice and grow’

(at the CENTRE of the Vision)

- ‘Honesty & Integrity + Valuing Diversity + Spiritual Discipline + Passion and Hard Work’

(as the FOUNDATION of the Vision)

Vision Values

Challenge:

- Trying to EXPLAIN our vision values and mission statement is very difficult.

Vision Values

Learning to date: It helps to use:

- Metaphors of *LIFE* – growing, nutrients, fertile ground, sprouting, bearing fruit, flourishing
- STORIES of daily life
 - signs that we are *valuing diversity*,
 - times that our actions reflect *integrity & honesty etc.*

Vision Values

Response:

- Creation of print & online resources
 - to help us all to *live out* the deep hopes being expressed in the Core Mission statement & our foundational Vision Values.