

## REPORTS OF THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEES

### The Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings

#### Preamble

Members of the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings (BACCB) consider themselves privileged to volunteer their time and share their professional experience to support parishes with the upkeep, or minor alteration, of their existing buildings.

All parish building projects within the Diocese of Niagara 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 in order to avoid any issues that might impede its success.

#### 2019/2020 Activities

The Committee normally meets quarterly to review and discuss parish projects in progress, but the 2020 Spring and Summer meetings were necessarily by substitute phone-in and the Fall 2020 meeting was by ZOOM videoconference.

In the last year Committee members have been involved in the re-roofing of various churches in Burlington, Hamilton, Oakville, Guelph and Niagara Falls; in one case involving the environmentally positive re-use of polymer plastic. They have attended at more than a score of other churches in the diocese to provide advice and encouragement on such matters as parking lot improvement, interior refurbishment, upgraded washrooms, the structural integrity of church basements and the prevention of water damage.

It appears that COVID-19 may have caused the deferral of some parish initiatives and there may be concern that the delays will risk extra deterioration.

#### Futures

We protect and celebrate our churches because they are the crucibles in which faith is refined, in which hope is restored and where the call can be heard. They are the past generations' investment in the people of the present and the children of 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,  
Ian Chadwick, Chair

## REPORTS OF THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEES

### The Bishop's Decennial Inspection Committee

The BDIC mandate is to ensure that all Anglican Church properties within the Diocese are inspected on a rotating ten (10) year cycle. To accomplish this task we maintain Terms of Reference Inspection Requirements, schedule, monitor, assist to facilitate and track these inspections. 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 our Terms of Reference. We also review all Inspection Reports and Documents prepared by the inspection firms 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 terms items noted on their inspection reports.

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 2020, six (6) Decennial Inspections came due. One (1) has been put on hold. Three (3) past-due inspections were scheduled for 2020. At the request of the parish one (1) inspection scheduled for 2021 was undertaken and completed in 2020. As a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, letters were sent to all of the 2020 scheduled parishes permitting their inspections to be postponed until 2021. For 2021, eight (8) inspections are due.

I would like to thank the following members of our committee for their ongoing efforts and service to this important ministry in the diocese:

The Reverend Canon Kathy Morgan  
The Reverend Canon Ian Chadwick  
Canon David Ricketts  
Terry Charters  
Brian Culp  
Phil Hartog  
Christopher Walker

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Swing, Chair

## **REPORTS OF THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEES**

### **Bishop's Advisory Committee on Property Renewal**

This committee was established in 2019 to advise the Bishop of Niagara on matters pertaining to strategic and missional renewal of designated properties. Designated properties are normally those associated with disestablished parishes, however, the committee may also be asked to oversee the renewal of properties associated with existing parishes, particularly in the case of a proposed new church building 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, banking, project management, law and community engagement.

This year, The Bishop's Advisory Committee on Property Renewal met mostly on ZOOM and has been working towards solutions to some very challenging properties.

Our activities in 2020 include;

- Development of a Revenue Generation Strategy document to identify options to generate cash for diocesan operations during the disruption and recovery from the COVID-19 health crisis
- Strategic assessments of 5 diocesan properties
- Recommendations resulting in the sale of 3 diocesan properties
- Advice regarding ongoing discussions for the disposition of 4 other sites
- Investigating the functional requirements and new concepts for the continued use of the Cathedral Place building

In the coming year, we will continue to explore new opportunities for the available properties with the goals of the diocesan mission action plan in the forefront.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Terry Charters, Chair