

**LIVING GOD'S MISSION
ST. PETER'S, COBOURG
STRATEGIC MINISTRY PLAN FOR 2012-2015**

As in the previous Strategic Ministry Plan, this Plan needs to continue to develop in the context of our mission, vision and shared values, and of the Anglican Communion's Marks of Mission.

Vision

Lifelong Learning, Lifelong Growing, Lifelong Serving in the Body of Christ

Mission

As followers of Jesus Christ, we:

- glorify God through prayer and praise
- proclaim the Gospel by word and humble service
- love and support one another and newcomers to the faith
- in our daily Christian walk.

Values

Living out our Baptismal Covenant and the Marks of Mission

Shared leadership

Being bold in Christ

Fully utilizing the gifts God has given us

Responsible stewardship

Servant-leadership (leaders are not "bosses", but serve God, the church and others as they lead)

Honouring our tradition but embracing new expressions of the faith

Reconciliation

The Anglican Communion's Marks of Mission:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform the unjust structures of society

To advance reconciliation and peace among all people

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Strategic Priorities and Recommended Key Actions

Build deeper connections.

Become an even more welcoming faith community, involving ongoing support to newcomers and longstanding members, and engage more fully in the wider Christian community.

- Institute a well-defined process for identification, welcoming, accompanying, and follow-up of newcomers.
- Develop fulsome preparation and follow-up programs for baptismal families and couples seeking marriage.
- Experiment with the development of short-term small groups around specific themes or events (e.g. youth, newly retired, cooking, dinner gatherings, Christian music, liturgical drama, etc.).
- Explore a companion relationship with a Canadian indigenous Anglican parish.
- Consider short mission trips for a small group to Mzuzu and to the companion indigenous parish.
- Review the concept of a Shepherd's Centre as a possible ecumenical connection-builder focusing on seniors.
- Continue supporting programs for youth and young families and develop intergenerational connections.

Build deeper knowledge about Scripture and sharing our faith.

Make available better opportunities for learning about Christianity and our Anglican heritage, opportunities that are shared with other Anglicans and Christians from the area.

- Offer regular meaty education programs about the Christian faith and the Bible and other faiths (such as Education for Ministry, Living the Questions etc.).
- Offer and publicize a variety of resources including DVDs, handouts, workshops, web site information, etc. to provide education about Anglicanism and the Anglican Church.
- Link this educational focus with the topics of the next three initiatives.
- Plan and implement programs/resource allocations/approaches to assist people in life's transitions (e.g. grieving, pre-school, mid-life caring for parents, teen issues, divorce, etc.)
- Develop an effective way of engaging clergy and parishioners at St. Peter's and other regional churches in presenting these events, in publicizing these, and in ensuring increased attendance.

Build a community of trust.

Recognizing that there will always be difficulties in a church family, commit to a more trusting atmosphere of mutual support and respect.

- Provide skill development workshops/mentoring in conflict resolution, forgiveness, and reconciliation to sustain improvements.
- Delineate a parish process for conflict resolution.

Build leaders.

Provide current and potential leaders with skills and mentoring opportunities.

- Enhance the Leadership Development Committee to include planning for programs to develop new Christian leaders within St. Peter's.

- Develop an understanding of servant-leadership across the parish.

Build more effective and coordinated parish structures.

- Assess the effectiveness of current structures.
- Consider reframing Parish Council to be a lively engaging forum for church leaders.
- Consider the development of a worship advisory committee.
- Establish a small implementation team to lead and monitor this plan, reporting semi-annually to the Parish Council and suggesting adjustments when needed.
- Advocate for increased clergy staff.

Build financial support.

- Apply the parish portion of ***Our Faith-Our Hope*** campaign donations to implement this plan.
- Apply, where appropriate, through grant requests, to the ***Our Faith-Our Hope*** diocesan funds to support this plan's initiatives.

COMMITTING TO IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN AS RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE.