

**Strategic Plan Implementation Team
Report to Executive Committee, November 2013**

Implementation Team has recently met twice, in September in the Sault and In October via web conference.

Strategic Objective 1: Healthy Congregational Development

- Assessment process ongoing in all Deaneries; to be completed by end of this year, with the exception of written reports to congregations, which will be completed in early 2014. Jay will further report at November Executive meeting. Individual congregations are encouraged to pursue appropriate initiatives upon completion of their assessment process and some have already moved to rationalization outcomes.
- In response to Strategy 1.5, concerning the rationalization of buildings and resources, Jay has been meeting with a number of groups and individuals prior to developing a draft process. Draft was presented and reviewed through our recent web conference. Revised process will be presented at November Executive meeting. Implementation Team commended Jay's work in this area.

Strategic Objective 2: Authentic Evangelism

- Re.partnership with Wycliffe College Institute of Evangelism and future initiatives, Dawn Henderson to contact John Bowen, Director, re. potential activity in Muskoka..
- To date, evangelism initiatives in parishes mainly through programs like "Back to Church Sunday" and "Messy Church".

Strategic Objective 3: Child and Youth Ministry

- Participation in Youth Synod this summer down from previous year, but included variety excellent activities. Organizing groups need more effective communication and coordination next year.
- New Child and Youth Ministry Facilitator in Temiskaming and vacancy in Sudbury-Manitoulin. New Deanery Youth Coordinator in Algoma, vacancy in Temiskaming.
- Youth Ministry Committee membership currently under development. Recent appointments by Bishop.

Strategic Objective 4: Dynamic Communication

- Rev. Kelly Baetz and her committee have been involved in trial activities with Contact North concerning potential use of web conferencing in the Diocese. Part of our September meeting included an introductory demonstration on line with Contact North. Our team and the Communications Committee are both very encouraged with the potential for this technology across the Dioceses, for workshops and instructional activities as well as conferencing.
- Our October meeting was conducted through the web conference platform and the Team was pleased with the successful use of this technology. Kelly is working on a presentation for Executive.

- Communications Committee also distributed resource material to workshop participants at Synod, as promised.

Strategic Objective 5: Clergy and Lay Development

- New annual Clergy evaluation process progressing well. Involvement of congregational elements being explored in a variety of ways.
- Mentorship for new incumbents and vocation discernment counselling is happening on an individual basis through a number of avenues.
- Education/support for clergy families being discussed at Bishop's Council and needs further development.
- Clergy resources are available on line and new resources continue to be regularly brought to the attention of the Diocese

Strategic Objective 6: Effective Social Action Through Mission

- Diocesan Social Justice and Mission Committee in place and active having recently participated in a retreat workshop to develop themes and strategies for outreach.
- Committee continues to pursue resources for environmentally friendly practices for parishes. Church of the Ascension has successfully participated in a "Green Audit".
- Draft Environmental Policy for the Diocese close to completion. Final draft will be presented to Executive.
- Original Strategic Plan included need for discernment and training for Diaconate. Bishop reported that initiatives have been taken on at the National Church level.

Strategic Objective 7: Inspiring Anglican Worship

- David Buley continuing in a resource role. Still receiving parish requests for resource help with music in worship. More and more parishes experiencing worship life without an organist.
- Discussions continuing concerning best ways to identify varied needs and provide resources across the Diocese.

Future Directions:

The Team has begun discussions concerning transitions required at the conclusion of the initial Strategic Plan time period. At the end of the 5 year period in 2014, we will see a variety of outcomes, results and continuing needs. We believe there is a need to evaluate outcomes in term of God's plan for our Diocese. We must continue to look forward through our mission and visions for our Diocese to determine our future steps and initiatives. We will continue these discussions throughout the coming year.

As always, we should rise to prayer. As a beginning, we ask for your support in the months ahead through Deanery wide prayer initiatives in each Deanery.

Thank you, from your Strategic Plan Implementation Team