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Reports to the
86th (Ordinary) Session
of the Synod of the Diocese of Quebec

October 31 to November 3, 2024

Monastère des Augustines, Québec, QC

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Diocesan Executive Council (DEC)

On behalf of the DEC, I am pleased to report on some of the topics of discussion and deliberation. Since the 85th (Ordinary) Session of Synod in November of 2019, the DEC has met thirteen times. The Officers of Synod have met a number of times to approve applications that were forwarded to the Anglican Foundation of Canada for their consideration.

Our DEC face-to-face meetings and conference calls continue to be streamlined. Bishop Bruce has been using an agenda that has helped transform the meetings in a more conducive manner. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, diocesan services were maintained and adapted to the impact of the pandemic.

There have been a number of significant changes in regards to human resources. Matthew Townsend resigned as Communications Missioner on May 30, 2022, Marie-Sol Gaudreau as Director General on June 28, 2024 and Mike Boden as Treasurer on October 1, 2024. We are thankful for their work in the diocese, especially during some very difficult and challenging times. Stephen Tam (Diocese of Montreal) assisted us with the financial matters (thank you Bishop Mary!) and Ann Martell with subsequent issues related to human resources.

Church House completed its move in the spring/summer of 2024 from 31 rue des Jardins to 29 rue Des Jardins (formerly Bishopthorpe). The first floor is office space, a common space and a conference room. The second floor is administrative offices (Bishop, diocesan comptroller bookkeeper, Dean; Canon Theologian). The third floor will eventually be made available for out-of-town guests; a set of policy and procedures is to be established.

The DEC has been discussing, deliberating and acting on a number of dossiers. A number of reports from a variety of diocesan bodies, sub-committees, and representatives have been consistently presented to the DEC. They have all brought issues and concerns to the attention of DEC. Where necessary, the DEC has acted upon a number of requests and issues emanating from the reports. This work, done by so many people, is an essential part of our ministry within the diocese and the Anglican Church of Canada.

To name but a few, a few dossiers include:

- Safe Churches
- Sexual Misconduct Policy
- diocesan lay and new staff salary scales
- Policy on the Administration of Cemeteries
- Policy on the Anglican Foundation of Canada
- numerous sales of parish churches, lots and parsonages
- Cathedral Complex Project
- Camp Fort Haldimand
- Policy on Marriage
- Quebec Diocesan Policy on Sexual Misconduct
- Vulnerable sector checks
- Synod cash flow issues
- Quebec Lodge
- Applications to the Anglican Foundation of Canada
- Approval of Synod budgets and audited financial statements
- Discussion regarding diocesan structure and, consequently, becoming aware of the limits of our capacity
- Appointment of clergy

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- Insurance dossier
- Bill 25 (provincial legislation to safeguard personal and private information)
- St. Lawrence Valley Anglican Ministry and a Deanery Ministry Committee
- Establishment of a Diocesan Policy Committee
- Reports from the Constitution and Canons working group (see separate report)
- Dozens of reports from various diocesan committees and people

In terms of Synod budgets, the Treasurer and Executive Director have repeatedly expressed concern regarding cash flow. Parishes not remitting monthly Synod assessment have created anxious moments. This situation remains problematic.

Looking ahead, the DEC will be working with new people: Eloah Roberge (diocesan comptroller), Sylvain Laperriere (treasurer *pro tem*) and a significant number of new deanery representatives. We must look for ways to communicate DEC decisions and documents in an expedient and efficient manner and in engaging the members of the DEC since they not only represent the deaneries/region but provide an invaluable insight into what is happening in the diocese. We must continue to strengthen and build our foundational work and that will require reflection, strategy, communication, and decision-making for the short and long term.

A number of Canons have been rescinded while some are to be changed to a policy and made part of a Diocesan Handbook. The rationale is that policy is easier to modify than a Canon; some Canons simply are not supposed to be designated as a Canon. A committee has been struck and their work will begin following Synod 2024. The DEC will be responsible for due discussion and approval of the policies.

We propose that the following Canons be changed to a diocesan policy include:

- Canon 7: Duties of the Secretary of Synod
- Canon 9: The Joint Audit Committee
- Canon 22: Quebec Diocesan Gazette
- Canon 26: The Care and Administration of Cemeteries
- Canon 32: The Order of the Diocese of Quebec
- Canon 33: The Election, Appointment, Consecration and Resignation of Bishops
- Appendix A: Order of Proceedings at Meetings of Synod
- Appendix B: Rules and Orders at Meetings of Synod

The DEC will be bidding farewell to two deanery representatives who have served multiple terms: Ruth Sheeran (Vice-Chair) and Anne Chapman. We thank them for their faithful service, insights, leadership, and involvement in the multiple facets of the diocese. Thank you.

In closing and on behalf of the DEC, I would like to express heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the leadership provided by Bishop Bruce Myers as chair of the DEC along with the Officers of the DEC and Synod, the Vice-Chancellor, the Vicar General, the Synod Office staff and the ever-present collaboration of Church Society. We are grateful for the time and attention deanery representatives have given to a wide range of diocesan matters concerning its mission and ministry over the past five years.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Stephen Kohner
Secretary of Synod

**Constitution and Canons Working Group
(the “Committee”)**

Members: The Venerable Dr. Edward Simonton, Chair; Me Malcolm McLeod; Me Jacob Stone
Ms. Janet Harvey; Dr. Sean Otto; Canon Stephen Kohner, secretary

Diocesan Synod resolution DS-19-05 / DEC resolution 20-05

Mission: simplify the Constitution and Canons in order to make them more comprehensible and to bring them in line with our current diocesan practices.

After 70 meetings since October 20, 2020, the committee has reviewed, edited, and modified the diocesan Constitution and Canons (C&Cs). The Committee’s mission was to simplify the C&Cs in order to make them more comprehensible and to bring them in line with our current diocesan practices.

In carrying out our mission we have sought to:

- (i) use consistent and concise terms;
- (ii) use clear and simplified language so that one who is not familiar with Church practices can easily understand their meaning;
- (iii) provide more flexibility for those carrying out the mission of the Diocese;
- (iv) combine Canons that dealt with similar subject matter;
- (v) eliminate redundancies; and
- (vi) refer to other bodies of Church rules, procedures and policies where appropriate.

Below are some of the major points to note:

- Amendments to the Constitution are being proposed (not just the Canons). Constitutional amendments, however, will take two Sessions of Synod. Therefore, some aspects of the proposed Canonical changes will not be approved at this Synod (example: change of “Diocesan Executive Council” (DEC) to “Diocesan Council” (DC))
- Any term, other than a proper noun or title, that is capitalized now has a definition. Some definitions were changed to align with the definitions of General Synod
- The present 33 Canons plus 2 appendices are reduced to 18 Canons and 1 appendix
- A number of Canons have been rescinded while some are to be changed to a policy and made part of a Diocesan Handbook. It will be necessary to ensure that the pertinent Canon remains in effect until such time as a policy is approved by the DEC. The rationale is that policy is easier to modify than a Canon; some Canons simply are not supposed to be designated as a Canon. Some examples are:
 - Canon 7: Duties of the Secretary of Synod
 - Canon 9: The Joint Audit committee
 - Canon 22: The Quebec Diocesan Gazette
 - Canon 26: The Care and Administration of Cemeteries
 - Canon 32: The Order of the Diocese of Quebec
 - Appendix A: Order and Proceedings at a Meeting of Synod
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- Those that pertain directly to Acts Victoria (example: Canon 27 – Respecting Trinity Church, Ste-Foy), are removed since it represents a redundancy and the document is solely focused on the Canons of our Diocese. Acts Victoria remains in place and does not have to be quoted in part in our Canons (why are certain parts included and not others?)
- Punctuation, capitalization, numbering and formatting are all reviewed
- Canonical amendments are not in effect until the Schedule of Enactments and prorogation of Synod are done (at the very end of Synod)
- The presentation at Synod of the proposed amendments will not show the “markups” (it would be a very messy presentation); members will need to consult the 2019 version to make a comparison
- A copy-editor was hired to produce a “clean copy” for presentation
- The DEC met to receive the proposed amendments. Following that meeting, the document was be made available to all.
- A series of five (recorded) webinars were held in mid-September to mid-October for Synod delegates and interested others to participate in and view. Feedback from the webinars was considered and some will require an amendment to the proposed Canonical amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Kohner, Secretary
(on behalf of the C+C Working Group)
October 18, 2024

Diocesan Treasurer

At the 2019 Synod, it was projected that after 12 years of financial restructuring that the Diocese would be approaching break-even budgets. Unfortunately, in 2020, the Covid global pandemic shutdown, changed the course of the Diocesan finances and emergency procedures were put in place to give relief to parishes, by discounting fair share. Loss of fair share revenue was somewhat offset by government programs (CEWS) assisting organizations with loss of revenues. Also, with the economic shutdown, global markets declined rapidly which also reduced pooled funds distributions, a major source of Diocesan funding. Fortunately, pooled funds held up well and recovered by the end of the year. The strategic plan of selling property assets and building up pooled funds also stalled during the pandemic as it was not possible to divest assets in the difficult economic environment. Although the Diocesan administration was able to manoeuvre around the pandemic it was a major financial setback and it brought us back several years, just as the financial crisis did in 2008.

Following the pandemic, discussion returned as to how to divest of certain property assets. Although there are still several property assets to divest, the rural area assets for sale are proving to be very difficult to unload. Most of the larger, more valuable assets have already been sold. One exception is Trinity Church, which must be settled in order for Diocesan debt to be eliminated and for the Diocese to attain break-even budgets. On the operational side, the administration has worked diligently at creating synergies in regional deaneries by sharing resources. Rationalizing expenses is still a priority; however, you can only cut so much without hindering the operations of the Diocese. This balance must continue as efforts must also be made to find additional revenue sources. Synod has not been held for 5 years, nevertheless the Bishop and administration understand fully that this event adds financial stress to the budgets. It is also understood that the work of the Diocese must get done and this important event must take place in order to do so.

Diocesan financial success continues to depend on the performance of pooled funds returns and since the last Synod pooled funds has incurred annual compounding returns of 9.26%. The excellent returns are a testament to quality of the investments held within the portfolio and the risk management strategies implemented by the investment committee. With strong portfolio returns and market risk concerns, it was time to take a more conservative approach to pooled funds withdrawals. In 2023, Central Board, made a responsible yet difficult decision to reduce distributions from a 5.5% floating rate to a 5% floating rate. In order to harmonize the strategy of lowered payouts to better protect the capital, Central Board also reduced the annual management fee from 1.8% to 1.5% of pooled funds assets. Understanding that the decision to cut payouts would have a material negative impact on Diocesan budgets, it was also understood that protecting the capital of pooled funds takes priority over budgetary concerns. Although Parishes, Synod, Church Society, and Lord Bishop

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Corporation Sole budgets will all be impacted by this decision, should markets continue to perform well, the upside value will be added to the unitholders. In the case of more volatile markets and a global correction, this strategy will better protect the capital.

Cash flow continues to be the most challenging aspect of managing the Diocesan finances. Although the Diocese has paid down a tremendous amount of debt since 2008, Church Society continues to support the Diocese. The state of the accounts receivable is troubling, and all efforts must be made by parishes to assume their financial responsibilities and pay their fair share, stipend and insurance invoices. In 2024 Church Society was forced to sell \$300,000 of their pooled funds assets in order to cover its financial obligations. Selling pooled funds assets cannot be taken lightly and is the solution of last resort as this has a permanent negative impact on Diocesan revenues.

The administration is going through a human resource restructuring with the departure of Marie-Sol Gaudreau, and the stepping down of its Treasurer, which in my case, has been in the plans for a few years. The Diocese is lucky to have quickly turned around and hired Eloah Roberge as its comptroller and proposing that Sylvain Laperrière to take on the role of Treasurer. Together, this highly qualified team will, with a set of fresh eyes, will insert a renewed energy into the ongoing financial restructuring. As for my role, I will continue to support the Diocese in the capacity that is needed or asked of me. It has been a pleasure and an honour to have held this role since 2007, and I thank everyone in the Diocese for their support over the years.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Boden,
Outgoing Treasurer

Diocesan Registrar /Property Committee

In my duties as Registrar, I am involved in several areas of diocesan administration, covering matters such as parish and diocesan records, the Diocesan Archives, and property matters. Orphaned cemeteries, that is, those cemeteries that are no longer attached to a parish, are also my responsibility under the Constitution and Canons 2019. I am also a member of the Constitution and Canons Working Group, which has spent the time since the last meeting of Synod in 2019 rewriting the Diocese's Constitution and Canons. The following report will update Synod on each of these areas of activity.

CEMETERIES

Our orphaned cemeteries continue to be fairly active, with several burials each year, with St. Peter's in Sherbrooke being the most active. There are local committees in place that take care of maintenance and burial arrangements for several of the orphaned cemeteries, while others are directly managed by myself and the staff at Church House. With the departure of the Director General, some of our institutional capacity has declined, as she was very active in the management of cemetery assets and the arrangement of maintenance. Our local committees are generally staffed by volunteers, and as in other areas of Diocesan life, these volunteers are aging. For example, the two local people managing Kenogami cemetery (Jonquière) are now well into their eighties, and are looking to decrease their involvement.

Given the realities of the situation, I thought it wise to broaden our administrative support of these cemeteries through the creation of a Diocesan Cemetery Committee and the adoption of a Policy on the Administration of Cemeteries (previously distributed to members of Synod for their consideration). This was done as part of the larger work of the Constitution and Canons Committee, and I invite you to read their report and the proposed revisions. The policy, along with the creation of a committee, was approved at the meeting of the Diocesan Executive Council of 19 June 2024 to take effect at the prorogation of this Session of Synod.

The Diocesan Cemetery Committee is established, "for the purposes of supporting local committees in the administration of their cemeteries, to distribute information on best practices and legal requirements, to administer orphaned cemeteries throughout the Diocese, and to administer this policy." The idea is to provide mutual support across the Diocese, to pool resources, and to make the burden of administering cemeteries easier for all.

Anyone interested in sitting on this committee is warmly invited to communicate with the Registrar (sotto@quebec.anglican.ca), and members of Synod are invited to solicit interest in their respective parishes, as we seek membership from all deaneries and regions.

ARCHIVES

The Diocesan Archives are in the able hands of Jody Robinson, whose report I invite you to read for details about the activities of the archivist. I would like to applaud Jody for her work digitizing Church Society Reports and Diocesan Gazette, which should make these important resources available to a wider public. I would also note here my support for the initiative to reach out to parishes about recordkeeping and transfer of materials to the Archives, and will work with Jody to facilitate information sessions for parishes, the first of which is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 14 January 2025. This is especially important in light of space constraints in the archives, which although not critical at the moment, will need to be monitored, especially if there are further church closures which necessitate transfer of materials to the archives. One last note about the archives is that we are exploring the possibility of instituting fees for external users, which is a common practice for other archives.

PROPERTY

I chair the Property Committee for the Diocese since 21 November 2023, having taken over from the Director General. With the departure of the Diocesan Treasurer and the Director General, the Committee's membership is currently two: myself and the Vicar General. In this moment of transition in the Diocese, the time is ripe for reflection on the composition and function of the Property Committee.

Nevertheless, the Committee has continued to work diligently on property issues throughout the Diocese, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The sale of several churches in the Deanery of St. Francis is being overseen by the Vicar General, and the completion of the sale of properties in Lower Ireland, Sillery, and on Entry Island are all progressing under my oversight.

OTHER COMMITTEE WORK

After the last meeting of Synod in 2019, the Diocesan Executive Council was asked to examine and revise the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. It has been my pleasure to take part in this work with my fellow working group members, and to present with them the fruit of much labour for the consideration of this Synod. I look forward to continuing to work with them as member of the Diocesan Handbook Working Group.

OTHER WORK

Since August 2022, I have been in contact with Donat Savoie, who has been working with Makivik, the organisation which represents the Inuit of Nunavik in Northern Quebec. Mr. Savoie and his wife Jo Ann have been working on a large research project for Makivik entitled Nanilavut (Let's Find Them), which is working to locate the graves of Inuit who were brought south during the tuberculosis epidemic of the 1940s-1960s and who never made it home. With the great help of the Archivist, as well as the Director of Mount Hermon Cemetery, we were able to help them locate several people who are buried there, and were able to provide them with all of the documentation in our possession relating to these matters. In November of last year, myself and the Bishop met with Mr. Savoie, his wife, and representatives from Makivik and from Nunavut to discuss the organization of a ceremony to honour those buried at Mount Hermon. This event took place over two days, 21 and 22 June 2024, as relatives and survivors were able to visit the final resting place of their loved ones and inaugurate a monument to their memory. I continue to be in contact with Mr. Savoie as research continues into the location of other burials.

I welcome any comments or questions on any of these matters.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean A. Otto
Registrar

Canon Theologian

Overview

This report provides a synthesis of and reflection on my work as Canon Theologian for the Diocese of Quebec from 2019 to 2024. In sections 1 to 4, I highlight some of the programs and events I have assisted in developing in relation to the four portfolios of my work as laid out in my job description: theological and ethical advisory to the Bishop's office, discipleship formation, vocational discernment, and theological reflection. In section 5, I engage in a short reflection on this work, followed by a note on the work moving forward.

1. Theological Advisor to the Bishop and Diocesan Bodies

2019-2020: Establishing Advisory Initiatives and Government Policy Responses

After Synod in 2019, my advisory work continued with helping to shape the Diocese's theological response to Quebec's religious symbol ban, providing counsel for engaging with issues of religious freedom, and public witness.

2019-2020: Leadership in Crisis During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic required rapid adaptation. My role evolved into providing daily theological and ethical guidance to diocesan leadership, focusing on navigating public health restrictions while attempting to preserve the church's ministry. I participated in frequent advisory meetings.

2021: Theological Engagement with Social Justice

In 2021, my focus shifted to engaging with systemic racism and the need for reconciliation with Indigenous communities. I took up these themes through an educational series on white supremacy and decolonization both online through a book study and through a workshop in the Quebec Deanery.

2022: Navigating National Church Crises

A significant aspect of my 2022 advisory work involved the #ACCtoo movement and the national church's handling of sexual misconduct. I worked closely with diocesan leadership to formulate the Bishop's response, grounded in theological ethics, and contributed to national discussions on church ethics and journalism as a member of the Editorial Board of the Anglican Journal.

2019-2023: Diocesan Structural Changes and Leadership Development

Throughout this period, I continued facilitating annual senior staff retreats. These retreats allowed diocesan leaders to critically assess past initiatives and set priorities for the future. Notably, in the review of the 2019 year, through this process, the senior staff crafted a unified statement summarizing their operational principles: to foster a "vibrant, sustainable, and faithful Anglican Christian presence in Eastern and Central Quebec." At its best, this guiding principle is meant to serve as a touchstone for the leadership team to point back to the importance not only of sustaining our ministries over the long term, but to ensure we do so in reference to our virtues and values. (See the appendix for a list of these principles and priorities.)

In 2023, my advisory role focused on the Diocese's internal restructuring efforts. Working closely with the senior leadership team I facilitated a preliminary review of our operational structures in preparation for an external consultant. I continued to be a part of this consultation

process, including subsequent meetings to follow up on the external consultants recommendations and implementation strategies.

2. Discipleship Formation

2019-2021: Transitioning to Digital Formation

The pandemic in 2020 necessitated a shift to digital platforms, where I launched several online faith formation initiatives. This included online prayer like Gospel Based Discipleship, workshops and study groups including “Sourdough and Spirituality” and “How to Write a Rule of Life,” and book studies on *The Spirituality of Wine* and *The Death of Race: Building a New Christianity in a Racial World*, provided a few experimental and creative ways to engage parishioners during lockdown, combining theological reflection with everyday practices.

2022-2024: Digital Discipleship: ChapeauVert

Working together with the Rev. Joshua Paetkau, and lay technology leader Christopher Waugh, we used platforms like Minecraft and Discord to create both real and virtual spaces for youth to discuss technology, ethics, and faith. We also taught some basic computer engineering with both hardware and coding. This initiative bridged some geographic divides, including the construction of a computer laboratory in both Quebec City and Baie-des-Chaleurs and participation of youth from both regions, as well as from Montreal.

3. Ecclesial Vocational Discernment

2019-2021: Laying Foundations for Regional Ministry in Quebec City

In 2019 the Bishop tasked me with helping to develop a more sustainable and vibrant regional ministry model in Quebec City. This began with a series of consultations with key leaders in the region, and the drafting of several reports to assess the feasibility of potential models of regional ministry. This work was done collaboratively with the Director General who contributed both a financial and a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis. It was also through and during this initial phase of research that my work time came to be split with St. Michael's, Sillery as an interim Priest-in-Charge, with the parish taking up one-third of my stipend.

2022-2024: Formalizing Regional Ministries and Securing Sustainability

By 2022-2023, the regional ministry model had been formalized by DEC, with shared ministry structures established between three Quebec City parishes. In July 2024, the first Deanery Ministry Committee meeting took place, and the focus of the work is now on developing a sustainable funding model for the regional ministry, in line with the overall restructuring taking place in the Diocesan offices. In 2024 I was also made the one-third-time Incumbent of St. Michael's, Sillery.

2022-2024: Diocesan Gazette Reorganization:

In 2022, I helped revitalize the Diocese's communications through a reorganization of the Diocesan Gazette, where I now serve as the content editor, the Bishop as the general editor, and with Camille Légaré as a layout designer, ensuring its continuation as a vital diocesan communication tool.

4. Theological Reflection and Doctoral Studies

2019-2024: Doctoral Research on White Supremacy and Land

In 2020, I resumed my doctoral research (after a necessary break due to the requirements of

the pandemic), which focused on white supremacy and its theological implications in Quebec. My dissertation was submitted in July 2024, and will likely be moving to defense December 2024.

2022-2024: Advancing Theological Engagement and Public Contributions

My theological research continued to develop in 2022-2023, focusing on contextual theology and the intersection of land, race, and identity in Quebec. I was invited to contribute an article to a book on Anglican mission and ministry, addressing issues such as the future of Anglicanism in Quebec in relation to our colonial history and a pressing ecological concern. Additionally, my participation as a member of the 2023 General Synod allowed me to engage in national theological discussions, particularly on systemic racism and the church's colonial past. Finally, I assisted in helping to plan an interreligious conference on Faith and Public Space, aimed at engaging the wider Quebec public on the relation between religious communities and urban development, as well as freedom of religion in a secular context. The conference (which took place in French) drew participation from across the province, as well as from the rest of Canada.

5. Some Reflections on the work

Reviewing the activities that have taken place over the last several years, a few themes of interest emerge that I would like to highlight. The first and clearest one is that the pandemic has had a significant and continued impact on the leadership's capacity to live out its defined goal to help foster a "vibrant, sustainable, and faithful Anglican Christian presence in Eastern and Central Quebec." I see this working out in ways both negatively and positively.

The early stages of the pandemic created a high degree of daily social instability and increased stress both on staff and on our institutional structures. While society may have moved on from social distancing, the effects of those times continue to linger. We need to be careful that the anxiety of those times do not carry forward into institutional practice for the long term, even as our structures continue to be challenged by the social and economic change wrought by the pandemic.

Looked at positively, the pandemic has also helped to move forward necessary institutional restructuring--without which sustainability and vibrancy would not be possible. Those reforms are working their way through both the diocesan offices as well as in at least two deaneries, in some cases, expedited by necessities born of the pandemic. God redeems all things.

I think it's worth noting that a significant proportion of my work since the last Synod has been engaging with institutional reforms of various kinds. While perhaps necessary, it has also taken away time that might be oriented towards more apostolic work: discipleship formation. Although that work is best done within a parish or congregational setting, due to the limited resources of most of our parishes and congregations, the principle of subsidiarity suggests that there might be a growing role for the diocese to offer formation in this regard. Moreover, due to the ongoing secularization of the Quebec context, this formation needs to take a more basic approach than my previous offerings--which assume a basic knowledge of Christian faith.

Moving forward

Moving forward, as the large projects of institutional reform continue and mature, I intend to deepen my work in the area of discipleship formation. The challenge will be to do so strategically. There are so many programs we might draw on here, it will be important not to rush into implementation, but rather to take the time necessary to investigate and test potential avenues, in order to decide what we can do well within our capacities.

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I intend to explore this practically by experimenting with hybrid (online and in person) faith formation groups, pitched at a more basic level, which I define as any course of study that helps newcomers to faith in Christ to be strengthened in that faith, becoming more rooted and grounded in God's love. This will begin in Advent with a series on the Baptismal Covenant, which can be used as both baptismal and confirmation preparation, as well as an opportunity for anyone who is interested in renewing their baptismal vows.

I will also be organizing an ongoing online series on Anglicanism called "Pillars and Pathways," drawing on the expertise of special guests, to take up a particular pillar of Anglicanism (a theologian, a practice, an idea or tradition), to introduce that resource, and to ask how that resource might be helpful in our faith today.

After these two projects, I will evaluate whether more online and hybrid options ought to be developed, or whether we need to take another approach, including potential in person itinerant models (Notably, the online studies have largely not had a significant attendance, whereas the in person ones have).

To put it mildly, the past five years have been a period of significant adaptation, reform, and reflection in the world as well as in our church. Just as few could predict the pandemic at our last Synod, we do not know where God is yet leading us as a church. But we do know one thing: God will be with us on the way. In the words of St. Paul, "I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that [we] may be strengthened in [our] inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in [our] hearts through faith, as [we] are being rooted and grounded in love." (Eph 3.16-17).

Appendix

Guiding Principles for the Diocesan Leadership (updated January 2020)

We strive to cultivate a vibrant and sustainable Anglican Christian presence in eastern and central Quebec.

Support the least, last, lost	Build effective partnerships	Nurture our people	Practice faithful stewardship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support minority communities, especially in rural and isolated areas of the diocese, especially remnant anglophone communities and the Naskapi ● Pursue public witness for justice and peace ● Reconciliation with the Naskapi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cooperate, share resources, and cultivate relationships with Anglican, ecumenical, and interfaith partners, and with other people of good will 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recruit and support the right people for key positions ● Provide high-quality tools and teaching to build up the Body ● Seek to recognize where God is already working through discernment of spiritual and personal gifts in ourselves, all the baptized, and the wider communities in which we minister ● Model healthy examples of Christian discipleship: self-care, recreation, meditation, prayer, and sabbath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do what we can do best, and do it well ● Use our money, material, and people to reflect our priorities

Submitted by Jeffrey Metcalfe
Canon Theologian

Diocesan Archivist

Archives Staffing:

Jody Robinson continues to serve as Diocesan Archivist part-time, working five hours per week. This amount of time is usually adequate to keep up with research inquiries, welcome in-person researchers, and accessioning newly received material. Since 2019, we have benefited from three short-term student employees through the Young Canada Works Program, who worked on archival processing and preservation projects.

On-going work:

-Much of the work done over the last three years has been to gain a better handle on the contents of the collection (largely in order to more effectively reply to inquiries), which was mostly without an inventory in summer of 2019. Additionally, we have completed processing projects for the archives of a few closed parishes.

-I have begun work on digitizing the Church Society Reports and the *Quebec Diocesan Gazette* and adding OCR to make them searchable when time permits. The work is progressing gradually but as these are some of the best sources of early information on individual parishes, it is time well spent.

-With the Anglican Diocese of Quebec facing the closure of parishes, there has been an increase in the amount of records transferred to the Diocesan Archives over the last two years. This increase of archives deposits should be noted as it affects the available space in the archives. Currently, there is currently 17.28 linear meters (l.m.) of available space in the archives. In the last twelve months, the archives received 7.33 l.m. of records. If this rate of growth continues, we could see a lack of space within the next 2-4 years.

Research inquiries:

The majority of our research inquiries fall into four categories:

- 1- requests for copies from the civil status registers from Quebec's Registrar of Civil Status
- 2- internal requests regarding property matters
- 3- parish members working on history projects
- 4- requests from the public (genealogists, researchers, etc.)

Possible Future Objectives:

- Once the digitization of the Quebec Diocesan Gazette and the Church Society Reports is completed, it would be interesting to explore ways to make them available to the public online.
- Provide information to the parishes and local clergy/lay clergy about the types of records wanted for the archives, perhaps through information sessions.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Robinson
October 1, 2024

Diocesan Historian

During the interval since the last Synod, I have replied to numerous enquiries received directly or forwarded to me about a variety of questions concerning Diocesan affairs: Church property, Church cemeteries, biographical details of individual Bishops and Clergy (recent or in the distant past) and even about the frequency of particular dedications of churches within the Diocese. I have had enquiries about particularly prominent lay people within the Diocese and requests for further sources of documentation about the careers and service elsewhere of particular Diocesan Clergy. I have even been requested to arrange for visits to particular cemeteries within the Diocese. All these questions I have dealt with as best I could either by letter (usually e-mail) or by telephone. Some were acknowledged, some not.

In one case, when approached by several members of the press on the subject of Residential Schools in the Diocese I was instructed to forward such enquiries directly to the Bishop and have scrupulously done so ever since.

In several instances I have been consulted by historical researchers attempting to obtain access to material held in archives here or elsewhere and to advise them on how best to proceed. This I have done gladly and in at least one case have received a copy of the resulting published article.

In the ongoing effort to preserve documents and other materials pertinent to the history of the Diocese—which I regard as part of my mandate—I am continually on the lookout for publications and primary materials relating to our Diocesan story. To this end I am in contact with the present Archivist who is not only willing but eager to receive and process them. Her interest in the rich collection of our Diocesan papers is very heartening and will be of great benefit to present-day and future scholars.

The chief focus of my efforts as Diocesan Historian continues to be my “Gleanings” column in the *Diocesan Gazette* which, since the last Synod, has come out quarterly in accordance with the new frequency of publication.

To the best of my knowledge, the new thematic approach of the *Gazette* and its magazine format are welcomed by its readership. I have done my best to adapt the historical content of my articles to serve this policy—although I hasten to say I was in no way pressured to ‘change my ways.’ Although adapting my material has been much more challenging than merely dipping into back copies of the *Gazette* of 100 years ago, as I did before, searching for material to fit the themes chosen so far has sharpened my awareness of the richness of our Diocesan story and the importance of keeping it before the eyes of our members. The positive feedback I have received so far suggests that parishioners across the Diocese continue to be interested in and concerned about, their history.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Bishop, the Registrar the Archivist, members of the Diocesan Clergy and lay-members alike who have given me help or furnished material of interest during the intervening period since the last Synod. The preservation of our past needs the care, concern and vigilance of everyone.

Respectfully submitted,
MEB Reisner-Wright
Diocesan Historian

15 September 2024

Diocesan Missioner for Lay Ministries

Lay ministries are essential to the Christian mission of the Diocese of Quebec. For this reason, the current episcopate created a portfolio to oversee and support lay ministry throughout the Diocese. In my role as Canon for Lay Ministries, I carry out various ongoing tasks:

- Maintain the database of 50 lay readers, including keeping track of each lay reader's license status and continuing education participation.
- Consult with clergy regarding lay ministry matters, including licensing and support.
- Meet with those discerning to become lay readers.
- Provide pastoral and liturgical support for lay ministries across the diocese.
- Promote educational opportunities and facilitate access to diocesan funds.
- Produce and keep up-to-date various diocesan guidelines.
- Maintain regular communication with the Canon Theologian on issues of education and formation.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing education is required of every licensed lay reader in the diocese in order to maintain their license. While this is an ongoing part of my role, much has changed since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the pandemic, I was visiting various regions of the diocese to bring on-site training, often in the style of a weekend retreat. However, the prevalence of online communication platforms has normalized distance education. While the electronic approach may hinder the personal touch, it is far more cost-effective and efficient for a diocese of our resources and geographical size.

Since the last diocesan synod, lay readers across the Diocese have taken part in a wide range of courses with the help of diocesan or deanery funds. These courses, unless otherwise stated, have been provided through Montreal Diocesan Theological College:

- “Meeting the Messiah: The Gospel of Mark” (October, 2020)
- “Assumptions of Prayer” (workshop by Canon for Lay Ministries) (November 2020)
- “Anglican Origins” (February, 2021)
- “Wholeness and Holiness” (April, 2021)
- *Revive* (year-long course through the Diocese of Montreal) (September 2021)
- “Being Christian in a World That's Not: The Acts of the Apostles” (March 2022)
- “The Christian Gospel and Pop Culture” (October 2022)
- “Practical Preaching: From Preparation to Proclamation” (October 2022)
- “La prédication et l'identité chrétienne dans un monde en mutation” (November 2022)
- “Paul the Apostle” (February 2023)
- “Rekindling the Fire: A Preaching Workshop” (October 2023)
- “Meeting the Messiah: Reading the Gospel of Mark” (November 2023)
- “Perspectives on Medical Assistance in Dying” (February 2024)
- “God's Spokespeople: Introducing the Prophets of the Old Testament” (February 2024)
- “Reading the Bible in the Season of Creation” (September 2024)

LAY READER CURRICULUM & TRAINING

Most recently, I have been developing a curriculum to train lay readers in our diocese. While I originally set out to simply find curricula from other parts of the Anglican Church of Canada or Anglican Communion, I did not find a program that is accessible and practical for the needs of our vast diocese. To put it briefly, many manuals indicated the learning goals of lay readers but not the content that one needs to teach.

In response to this lack of training materials, I liaised with those who oversee lay formation throughout the Anglican Church of Canada, the Church of England, and the Scottish Episcopal Church to see how this training takes place in various contexts. The final goal of this project—undertaken in conversation with the Bishop, Vicar General, and Canon Theologian—is to have a fulsome lay reader curriculum in 2025 with regular, centralized, online training throughout the diocese.

LAY PASTORAL VISITORS

In addition to my ministry with lay readers, I have also started to compile a database of lay pastoral visitors throughout the diocese and to develop guidelines akin to those of lay readers. In my initial contact with clerics and lay leadership, it seems that this ministry is very rarely utilized. With many of our parishioners entering long-term care homes, it may be time to revive this ministry in various parts of the diocese.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL

Over the last year, I have connected regularly with the Lay Readers Association of the Diocese of Montreal. Our neighbouring diocese has a rich program of educational opportunities for laity, which are available to any and all lay readers in Quebec. These seminars are made increasingly available by distance, which is helpful for those of us far from metropolitan areas. I will be leading one of these online seminars in January 2025 for lay readers in both dioceses.

As always, I am here to support lay ministry in any way that helps “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). All are welcome—lay and ordained—to reach out to me in this capacity. And I invite all of us to pray, earnestly and thankfully, for our lay ministries throughout the diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev’d Canon Giuseppe Gagliano
Canon for Lay Ministries

Campus Ministry: Bishop's University and Champlain College

This report is intended to offer a broad outline of ministry at Bishop's University and Champlain College in the past five years. That said, it will be heavily weighted to the latter half of that time, with notable changes that occurred moving into the post-pandemic world.

Except for a very short period at the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Campus Chaplain, considered a first responder, was on campus daily alongside campus medical and counselling staff for face-to-face meetings, including counselling, crisis response, and support for international and refugee students who did not have the option to return home. During this period of lockdown and isolation, depression and suicide risk in the student body was high.

While the St. Mark's Chapel community worshipped online during the initial period required (sometimes with attendance in the multiple thousands, though I am well aware online number are not an accurate representation of attendance), our doors reopened for regular worship on the first day it was permitted, to the maximum number of worshippers possible with each fluctuation in guidelines. Despite my own discomfort, the change was widely supported by campus administration: due to regulations around public gatherings, St. Mark's Chapel became the only place on campus where the community was permitted to gather. The nave truly became a symbol of protection from the storm!

Where we find ourselves: tuition increase, Loi 14

It goes without saying that the 2023-2024 school year was under the cloud of significant tuition increases and changes to language requirements announced by the Quebec Government in October. While the current student population would ultimately be unaffected, there was significant grief and anger amongst staff and faculty, as well as alumni and those who had looked to Bishop's University for the future. During the fall semester, the Campus Chaplain supported many staff and faculty as they processed the uncertainty, and attended protests with the student body in Montreal. During this period, many other projects and initiatives were cancelled, as the school's mindset turned to one of survival.

In response to the community's activism, the tuition changes were exempted at Bishop's University, but the changes that remain in place suggest a difficult future in the for the next 2-5 years, as the campus changes to meet both language requirements and significant losses.

Tragedies on Campus

Unfortunately, our campus experienced a series of traumatic student deaths in 2022-2024, to say nothing of the number of community members and faculty members lost and celebrated in the Chapel since our last meeting (such as Harvey White, professor of religion, and Pam Eby, campus organist, both grieved in recent months).

Over the winter break leading into 2023, Bishop's University lost a student in residence. This led to a series of campus responses, and pastoral care was an important element of campus grief and healing—for the family and the student community, but also for educators and support staff. Two campus memorials were held, to accommodate those who were unable to attend directly following the event, and a tree planting ceremony took place at the end of

May 2024 to commemorate our campus' loss. That event directly led to the epilepsy community on campus being more open about their experience with life in uncertainty. I facilitated a connection with Epilepsy Estrie, ensuring that they were present at the memorial services, and a group of SRC and student leaders on campus built on that connection, hosting Epilepsy Estrie on campus yearly, as the campus recognizes Journée Lavande.

2023 also brought tragedy to the Champlain College community, as a well-known and respected Special Care Counselling student was lost in a motor vehicle accident on the way to campus. Again, pastoral care was needed, as staff and faculty from both campuses were at the scene of the accident, and members across both schools, as well as the neighbouring high school, were deeply affected. Soon after, the community filled the campus chapel for a memorial and open space to grieve. In the days that followed the event, the Campus Chaplain stepped in to cover classes for faculty in Special Care Counselling, addressing relevant issues around caregiver grief and mutual support. This particular tragedy required months of gatherings and individual pastoral counselling for both faculty and students. In March of 2023, the Champlain community grieved the death of yet another student in a motor vehicle accident, as well as the injury of other students onboard. Again, the community called on the Campus Chaplain for care.

Chapel life

St. Mark's Chapel continues to welcome student, faculty and staff, as well as members of the external campus community, each Sunday. Attendance has not fully recovered from the COVID experience, now averaging 48 on Sundays. However, the traditional campus services like Lessons and Carols have nearly returned to their previous numbers, at 265 between two services, and Christmas and Easter at just under 130. Our online broadcasts have continued since they began in 2019—while online participation is low compared to our numbers during the pandemic, we are aware that retired faculty/alumni/student parents, etc., continue to join us there. This has been especially important for weddings and funeral.

The Chapel regularly hosts other campus activities throughout the year: video and document installations during Reconciliation week, mock parliamentary debates for Political Studies, a series of student video projects, organ recitals, etc. Other traditional (and secular) ceremonies, like Remembrance Day, have been moved outdoors due to their attendance now exceeding chapel space.

In this cycle, we have celebrated a number of alumni/faculty funerals, as well as a number of student and alumni weddings. We have also celebrated a number of baptisms: sometimes, for the families of alumni, but also members of the student body. Most notably, a graduate student from Iran recently chose to answer the call of the spirit, and has joined our community for the remainder of her studies.

One unique task around life in St. Mark's Chapel is that of regular inspections by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, ensuring that all furniture, symbols, etc. remain unchanged and in good condition. Damage to the outdoor sign over the school year required careful negotiation between the ministry and Buildings and Grounds. In the end, the sign was temporarily removed for repair, and we will await approval from the ministry following its reinstallation. Recently, Buildings and Grounds staff raised concerns about the

condition of the Chapel's main doors—this will require careful fundraising, and likely a connection with the alumni network.

Pastoral care and counselling

In line with my background in mental health chaplaincy and my current doctoral research, a significant amount of my time is dedicated to pastoral care and counselling. As part of a multi-disciplinary counselling team, the Campus Chaplain offers care and guided reflection to students dealing with stress, depression, and anxiety, grief, questions around vocation or self-worth, and relationship issues including abuse and divorce. At times, this has included supporting both students and staff/faculty following survival of a suicide attempt, including weekly visits in psychiatric care in hospital and guided re-entry.

In recent years, I have worked closely with both victims of sexual assault and those accused, and have recently begun working more intentionally alongside the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Sexual Violence Support Centre to support the experience and healing of those on campus who must navigate accusations, imposed boundaries, social exclusion, and legal risk.

Of course, my availability goes beyond the student body, but includes all members of the campus community. This has been important in recent years, especially given political pressures and their impacts on campus life, let alone the day-to-day realities of working alongside adult educators and caregivers: workplace tensions, spousal care, challenges in parenting, etc. Some of this work has been enabled and supported by careful partnership with Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion staff, as well as our campus' Indigenous elder. At other times, it has led to participation in community-wide healing projects, like a major research project, resources and classes on trauma awareness and trauma-informed community living. My work alongside this particular community of caregivers has become the basis of my doctoral research.

As well as one-on-one meetings, pastoral care and “ministry of presence” were extended to meet a variety of campus needs: on Christmas Eve, we have continued a tradition, established post-Covid, of feeding 75-120 international students (and other faculty and staff present) a holiday dinner; I have taken part in multi-staff planning regarding a campus gathering space dedicated to global peace; I have accompanied the outdoors club on trips and individual students on photography excursions; I have supported a Champlain SCC student in launching an addictions support group on campus; I have planned an ice fishing trip with Indigenous students. I schedule regular meetings to check in with new or vulnerable staff and faculty as they navigate the unique demands of life in this community.

Teaching

Regularly over the course of the school year, the Campus Chaplain is called to the role of educator. Some highlights:

- Twice yearly, offered classes on native and non-native pollinators in the Sustainable Agriculture program.
- Twice each year, offered classes of mycology (both foraging/safety, and preservation/preparation) in the Sustainable Agriculture program.
- Offered classes on refugee mental health in the College's SET program.

- Regularly offer overdose response and Naloxone administration training to college students and staff leaders, 3rd year SET students. In the coming year, have also added residence advisors and athletes/coaches.
- Faculty relief following student death, and regularly thereafter: classes offered on grief, countertransference and professional boundaries to College 2nd and 3rd year SCC students.
- Sessions on the history and use of labyrinths in spiritual practice, using the campus labyrinth.
- Invited to teach in classes on ecocriticism (English) and Marvel comics and mythology (English).
- For 4 consecutive years, taught MST511, Pastoral Care to 3rd MDiv students at Montreal School of Theology (the relationship with MST has ended do to staff changes at the college).
- Workshops offered on pastoral care and mental health caregiver care in the Diocese of Montreal.

Travel

Occasionally, work on campus requires travel, and in those cases, costs are covered by the university.

Two significant trips were part of the last school year: the first, sent by the university to offer support to an out-of-province student (NB) as they navigated a traumatic experience; the second, a trip to Acadia University to network with their Campus Chaplain, Marjorie Lewis, and to discuss possible shared initiatives and program sustainability.

Travel to Montreal has been sporadic: as well as teaching at Montreal School of Theology and offering workshops for the Diocese of Montreal, I have met with McGill and Concordia Chaplains on a number of topics, most namely campus responses to conflict in Israel/Palestine and spiritual care following news of tuition increases at our campuses.

Ecumenical/interfaith

The Campus Chaplain functions as the staff supervisor for on-campus religious clubs: primarily the Christian Students Association (formerly Encounter) and the Muslim Students Association. At this time, the Jewish student population have chosen not offer an SRC club, though I remain in communication with a local rabbi about its reestablishment.

While support and liaison with SRC/administration was offered to both groups regularly, the most successful interfaith measure on campus in recent years has been a series of Spirituality and Mindfulness Art Hives, where Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Indigenous and other students met in the campus Art Lab alongside psychology students, as well as the campus Mindfulness and Yoga club. Together, the students took on creative projects, expressing general concepts like “hope” and “peace.” The Campus Chaplain was present to offer pastoral support and mediation, and all found the events to be bridge-building opportunities.

The St. Mark’s Chapel community has continued its usual participation in World Day of Prayer and Day of Prayer for Christian Unity services, but in 2023, joined Lennoxville United at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian for Good Friday. The three congregations agreed to continue this tradition, meeting at St. Mark’s Chapel in 2024, with 90 present for the service.

Refugee support

The Bishop's and Champlain campuses continue to support refugees through World University Services Canada's Student Refugee Program. At WUSC's request just before the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has been changed to make better use of campus services rather than community supports. At this time, the Campus Chaplain serves on the SRP advisory committee, and is responsible for administration at Bishop's University: registration, residence, food support, technology and personal expenses, monthly allowances, liaison with faculty and medical staff, referrals to counselling, career advisors, etc. as needed.

Twice in recent years, I have supervised a student intern to help oversee the program—my current student has found the program to be transformative, but will end her studies in December of this year.

Some sponsored students' experience has been particularly difficult due to medical issues, hospitalization, etc. At present, our campus has three SRP students under its care: new college and university students, and for four months, a Bishop's student whose sponsorship entrance was delayed until January.

In 2023, the campus also hosted Montreal's Jesuit Refugee Services, who visited to offer a refugee simulation to members of both campuses. To my surprise, the group's leader was one of my former MDiv students from Montreal School of Theology! All these overlapping ministries came full circle, as I was able to introduce that leader to one of my current counselling students, who went on in the summer to complete a social justice internship with Montreal School of Theology.

Committee work

Given his connection to student and academia, the Campus Chaplain sits on the Catholic Apostolic Trust, the Anglican Foundation's national committee overseeing bursaries for (graduate) theological education in Canada. Meetings over the course of the past year have been successful, and an impressive list of candidates continues to seek education for leadership.

On campus, I am part of a number of committees: the Student Refugee Program's Advisory Committee, the TLC (Teaching and Learning Centre), the Students of Concern Committee, the Psychological Wellness Committee, the EPG (crisis response team). In addition, through my own concern and intervention, a small committee of caring professionals was created in winter 2024 to review pending changes to Medically Assistance in Death, especially as it relates to mental health. That committee will regroup in the coming years to monitor new resources, especially as they related to youth and suicidality, in preparation for Canada's 3-year review.

Environmental stewardship

As well as offering classes on mycology and pollinators, I have been invited to participate in BU's Sustainable Agriculture program regularly: identifying mushrooms growing in the crops, consulting about cultivated mushrooms, consulting and troubleshooting around the introduction of solitary, native bees to the sustainable raspberry greenhouse.

In spring of 2023, I was called on to reinstate Bishop's Bees, a club/program that has been abandoned before the COVID period. As well as planning and purchasing equipment and colonies for the campus, I taught sustainability staff and students the art of keeping honeybees, building hives, preparing syrup, making regular inspections and mite treatments, harvesting honey and winterization. Unfortunately, due to medical issues, the staff responsible for the program spent much of the year on leave, and the hives were ultimately my responsibility. As we moved into a second year of campus beekeeping, administration asked that I again take the lead on the project, and we are seeking a sustainable arrangement.

During the same period, a student who felt called to express her faith through environmental activism reached out about an independent study. I agreed to be on board as an advisor, and together we found a faculty supervisor for what became an evaluation of the environmental practices of the campus golf course, and whether they were aligned with the campus' commitments to environmental sustainability.

Continuing education

Since our last gathering, I have participated in a number of continuing education programs or professional certifications unique to my ministry context, though important to the Church as a whole:

- CIUSSE-CHUS, DEBA (Dépistage/Évaluation du Besoin d'Aide, achool/drogues/jeu/internet)
- JEVI, Postvention : Être prêt à agir à la suite d'un suicide
- Mental Health Commission of Canada, Standing Together: Men's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in the Post-Secondary Years
- Maple League of Universities, Dr. Elizabeth Wells: How to connect with students meaningfully while maintaining boundaries
- Learning Network and Knowledge Hub, The Incel Movement in Canada: Context and Practices of Intervention
- Dr. Angelo Fallu, psychiatre: Discussion avec l'expert - Cas jeune adulte TDAH et/ou comorbidités
- Formation Langevin: Secourisme en milieu de travail
- Lavoie Solutions: Dépressions et rétablissement - pour des solutions durables
- Lavoie Solutions: Troubles anxieux - pour des solutions durables
- Amanda Rocheleau, RSW: Compassion Fatigue Workshop, Protecting our Psychological Health: Strategies for Regulating Stress
- Mental Health Commission of Canada: The Inquiring Mind, Train the Trainer Certification
- Naloxone and Overdose Response Training, Montreal: Train the Trainer Certification
- CAMH: The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health: Immigrant and Refugee Mental Health for Mental Health Service Providers (6 weeks)
- Suicide Action Montreal: Best Practices in Suicide Intervention
- Trafalgar Addiction Research Centres: Addressing Trauma Impacting Veterans, Military Personnel, and their Families
- SFBTA, Dina Bednar: Intégration des pratiques brèves orientées vers les solutions et de la thérapie en une seule session
- Lavoie Solutions: Solution focused brief therapy : Level 2
- Wilfrid Laurier University: Clinical and Pastoral Supervision (36 hours)

- Mental Health Commission of Canada: Mental Health First Aid: Adults Who Interact with Youth
- French: as part of a new measure responding to Government regulations, I took part in online French classes with other staff and faculty, offered online through Université Laval.

These add to other certifications I have acquired in recent years to meet the needs of our campus community: first aid, solution focused therapy, suicide risk assessment, overdose response and Naloxone administration (trainer certification), refugee mental health, TDAH comorbidités, amongst others.

PhD studies, Human Relationships: spiritual care and psychotherapy

My PhD studies at Luther University College/Wilfrid Laurier University focus on the lived experience of caregiving professionals in the Lennoxville minority Anglophone community, in the context of sweeping changes to laws that impact the community directly: those related to language, laïcité, and education. A phenomenological study, guided by the work of Emmanuel Levinas, asks, “how do caregiving professionals in Lennoxville’s minority Anglophone community experience encounters of ethical responsibility in their interactions with students, colleagues, and the community?” Noting my own experience of the same, and as trusted colleague to participants, I will consider the role of pastoral care within a vulnerable community of caregiving professionals.

After a delay due to complications during COVID, I defended my comprehensive exam during the summer of 2023, and prepared my research plan and ethics board application for approval this past summer. Unfortunately, my neuro Lyme infection has again delayed plans, and I hope to move into interviews and final research steps in Winter 2025.

Submitted by
The Rev. Jesse Dymond

Deanery of the North Shore

It is my pleasure to submit this report on behalf of the Deanery of the North Shore to Synod. The Deanery has been putting its budget to use in supporting the mission and ministry of the diocese in our parishes spread across thousands of kilometres. The Deanery Council has met through conference call intermittently since our last Synod of November 2019.

The Deanery was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Sunday time of worship provided by Bishop Bruce was proved to be an essential bridge in allowing people to be involved in a virtual manner.

The deanery continues to finance a number of initiatives; the deanery is grateful to Synod, Church Society, and the Lord Bishop Corporation Sole for their financial support through the various grants we receive. The bulk of our allocated budget goes to help with lay incumbent honoraria, fair share assistance, travel for the bishop, and community initiatives/partnerships.

The deanery continues its annual membership with the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC). The deanery has been the recipient of a number of grants over the years, in particular in 2023 with a \$10 000 grant to the parish in Baie-Comeau. A number of parishes organize fundraisers for PWRDF.

The Rev. Francie Keats, retired since year 2020, continues to provide ministry to a number of parishes on the Lower North Shore on a part-time basis. As a result, the deanery no longer has any part-time or full-time clergy. Bishop Bruce has made regular visits to the deanery and is visiting the deanery for 10 to 14 days at a time. This allows him additional time in each community to lead worship and meet with parishioners and community members. We are thankful for making time available for these visits.

Two lay incumbents continue to preside at baptisms, funerals, weddings and regular services in the parishes of Baie-Comeau and Sept-Îles. That being said, after 26 years of ministry, Linda Stubbart of All Saints', Sept-Îles has announced her retirement as lay incumbent effective January 1, 2025. We are thankful for her ministry, witness and leadership over the decades. She will continue, with the bishop's permission, to conduct funerals, baptisms and weddings.

Layreaders provide an essential support to a number of parishes, in particular at St. Clement's West. The few ACW's that continue to operate provide an essential role in fundraising and organizing various activities in their respective communities. The deanery's congregations also benefit from the partnerships from organizations that provide a wealth of services to community members. The North Shore Community Association and The Coasters are two that provide such services.

I want to thank the deanery council members and Synod Office staff who have participated in our endeavours. In addition, I want to thank Dale Keats and Jody Lessard for representing our deanery on the DEC.

We continue to experience challenges in regards to communication, providing pastoral support to our isolated communities, our ageing congregations, and congregational finances. Nevertheless, our faithful work continues thanks to the undying commitment of so many volunteers who support the work, ministry, and mission of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Stephen Kohner
Rural Dean
Deanery of the North Shore

Deanery of St. Francis

The Deanery of St. Francis was deeply impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. To mitigate the isolation, the deanery administration reacted quickly. Churches closed and the sense of community threatened so pastoral letters were sent and phone calls were regularly made. The Sunday morning time of worship provided by Bishop Bruce was very popular and many of our members Zoomed in.

When the churches were allowed to reopen, unfortunately, seven congregations voted to dissolve their corporations. The churches are St Anne in Richmond, St Augustine in Danville, St Peter in Cookshire, St Paul in Bury, St Stephen in Coaticook, St Barnabas in Milby and Church of the Advent in Sherbrooke. The process of disposing of these properties is slow but progress is being made. Although these congregations have decided to close, the members are still our parishioners; contact is maintained, and pastoral care continues. To sustain our community, members of the deanery are brought together for regular services, followed by brunch and a time of fellowship, at St George, Lennoxville.

Fr Bob Wilson, a recently retired priest and former rector of St Mark's Episcopal Church in Newport, Vermont, has joined the clerical team and takes services in the churches near the border. Deacon Sam Borsman was ordained a few years ago, and his primary responsibilities include taking services at the local care homes and pastoral visiting with our members who live there. Deacon Gabriel Kawenga, the Administrative Assistant, moved with his family to Winnipeg in 2019 and has been replaced by Spencer Nadeau. Spencer recently completed his MA at Acadia University, and we welcomed him back to the deanery to resume his administrative responsibilities.

A book discussion and soup supper usually take place during Lent, but this year will be a bit different as Father Edward will lead us through the catechism. Deacon Sam is offering a well-attended series of lectures on world religions and facilitates a weekly bible study based on the Sunday lectionary. The Montreal Diocesan College courses are popular as people can Zoom in to the lectures from their homes. Several confirmations have taken place with the necessary preparation sessions. Sunday schools recently began at St Barnabas, North Hatley and St George, Lennoxville.

The relationship with St Ephrem's Syrian Orthodox Church in Sherbrooke sadly languished during the pandemic but efforts are underway to reestablish our connection. A new partnership has been formed with the local Ukrainian community who use the facilities at St George in Lennoxville. Several events have taken place including ones involving members from both communities. St Barnabas in North Hatley has been working with St Elizabeth, the Roman Catholic church, and has engaged in several joint events.

Two churches are undergoing large renovation projects. St Matthias in Fitch Bay has been completely renovated and plans are developing for the Canon Gustin church hall. Concerts have taken place in the church, and the hall is frequently used for community events. St James, Hatley, an important historical site in our diocese, is currently undergoing an extensive restoration which will be completed over the next several years.

Although churches are closing and many of our members are living in care homes, the life of the deanery endures, and our community remains strong. The regular activities continue including weddings, baptisms, and funerals as well as rummage sales, the blessing of pets, teas and soup lunches. The Anglican Church is alive and well in the Townships.

Ruth Sheeran
Rural Dean
Deanery of St Francis

Deanery of Gaspé

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Synod of the Diocese of Quebec.

Following the 85th Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Quebec I was elected to the position of Rural Dean by the members of the Gaspé Deanery Council.

2019 saw the adoption of a governance model proposed by the Gaspé Deanery for Fort Haldimand Camp. The governance structure has a Board of Management chaired by the Rural Dean and composed of 8 members, four of whom are representatives of the Gaspé Deanery and four of whom are members of local subcommittees. The two local subcommittees are the Property Committee and the Program Committee.

The Property Committee looks after the general operations of the Camp, and is responsible for maintenance, rentals, renovations, and to report to the Board of Management. The Program Committee looks after the children's camp, including writing applications for summer projects, hiring a Camp Director, and reporting to the Board of Management. During the year of 2019 the Parishes of New Carlisle & Chaleur Bay and Fort Haldimand Camp were able to partner with CrossTalk Ministries to host two summer students. They provided a week of Vacation Bible School in the Parishes of New Carlisle and assisted with a week at the Fort Haldimand Camp as well. Two weeks of camp were held at Fort Haldimand Camp with a total of 35 participants.

The Rev. Cynthia Patterson made a suggestion that cards be printed up with a Bible verse on them that could be used for pastoral visitation. This suggestion was put on a hiatus during Covid, but was completed afterwards. The verse chosen was Matthew 11.28-29. In addition, the Gaspé Deanery Council continued to support the ministry of Lay Readers in the region through a small honorarium.

Due to Covid-19 the following year, 2020, was a very quiet year within the Gaspé Deanery. In 2021 the Deanery put forward a proposal for a multi-denominational church pilgrimage circuit of Gaspesian churches and related sites such as cemeteries to take place in the summer of 2022. This proposal was set forth by Jennifer Hayes, who worked hard to develop a project outline and apply for funding in a timely manner. The rationale for the project was as follows:

“All of our churches are challenged to varying degrees regarding how to generate social impact in each of their respective communities. This project would generate activity at each participating church beyond the traditional Sunday service. It would also send notice to regional and local stakeholders that our churches are willing and available partners in local projects and Development.”

The Parishes of Chaleur Bay and New Carlisle were decided on as the location for this project within the Deanery. The United Church was contacted as a partner in this project. We applied for funding for four students and received funding for one. Unfortunately, no applicants came forward, and we were unable to mount the project.

The main project for the Gaspé Deanery in 2023 was the reopening of Camp Fort Haldimand. The Camp was in a state of disrepair due to the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona

and heavy winter storms in December. Three years of inactivity and inability to host rentals on site had also left the camp's financial resources depleted, and we were faced with a lack of human power as well. A major campaign was launched to secure funding and to increase involvement and awareness of the Camp within the Gaspé Deanery at large and particularly in the communities immediately surrounding Gaspé.

The Gaspé Deanery Council approached the Anglican Foundation of Canada for a grant of \$13,000, which we received. This grant was matched in monetary donations as well as donations in kind and volunteer labour by local members, partners, and stakeholders.

On Tuesday March 7, 2023 an event entitled The Future of Fort Haldimand Camp was held at the York River Community Hall from 19:00 -20:30. This was a hybrid event including some participants over Zoom, as well as a full house at the Community Hall, notwithstanding the inclement weather. Presentations were made regarding the governance structure of the camp, challenges that it faces, and opportunities going forward. Martha Costello had printed Membership cards, and many new members were welcomed. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

An Annual General Meeting was held April 20 2023, 7pm at the York River Community Hall. Once again this was a hybrid meeting including both in person and virtual participants. Fort Haldimand Camp was able to run a week of Children's Camps in 2023, concluding with a 75th anniversary celebration of the Camp which included an outdoor Eucharist celebration with Bishop Bruce. Plans were made to expand the Children's Camp to a two week period including one day of overnight camp on each day for 2024. The camp did run a small deficit and the Deanery voted to allocate some additional funding from its budget.

In 2024 the Fort Haldimand Camp was part of the Anglican Foundation of Canada's Say Yes to Kids Campaign. The Anglican Foundation approached the Gaspé Deanery asking us to be a part of this initiative, and after discussion with the local members of the camp it was agreed upon. As mentioned earlier the camp ran two weeks of Children's camps. The camps were well attended.

On behalf of the Gaspé Deanery Council, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to all the members of the Quebec Diocesan Synod for your support, your prayers, and your partnership in the work taking place within the region of the Gaspé Deanery.

Blessings,

The Rev. Joshua Paetkau
Rural Dean
Gaspé Deanery Council

Doyenné du Saint-Laurent

Le Doyenné du Saint-Laurent existe depuis une vingtaine d'années. Le Doyenné n'est pas géographique mais plutôt linguistique. Actuellement, il offre des services dans quatre communautés chrétiennes : la paroisse de Tous les Saints (francophone), à Portneuf (mission francophone), à Trois-Rivières (bilingue), à Thetford Mines (bilingue). Quatre membres du clergé y exercent leur ministère, la révérende Carol Edgar, la révérende Adèle Finlayson, le révérend Michel Royer, le vénérable Pierre Voyer. Un ministre laïque, M. Sylvain Laperrière, apporte son soutien dans le ministère, à Portneuf.

Le vénérable Pierre Voyer, archidiacre du Saint-Laurent, est responsable de la paroisse de Tous les Saints qui fêtait cette année ses 35 ans comme ministère francophone à la Cathédrale. La paroisse offre des célébrations tous les dimanches, en plus de séances de formation aux paroissiens. Il dessert aussi la paroisse St. John the Divine de Thetford Mines qui offre des services dominicaux en moyenne une fois par mois, à l'exception de l'été.

Le révérend Michel Royer est assistant à la paroisse de Tous les Saints et doyen du Saint-Laurent. Il dessert aussi la communauté francophone à l'église St. John the Evangelist à Portneuf; celle-ci offre deux services en français par mois.

La révérende Carol Edgar et la révérende Adèle Finlayson exercent leur ministère dominical à Trois-Rivières, à raison de deux services par mois, en plus de leur ministère auprès des malades, et des paroisses anglophones de la région de Québec. Leur ministère pastoral comprend les visites des malades dans les hôpitaux de Québec, les maisons pour personnes âgées, auprès des prisonniers, des mini-retraites, la prédication et le service dominical selon les besoins dans les paroisses du Doyenné de Québec et du Saint-Laurent.

Pour les statistiques des trois dernières années :
Paroisse de Tous les Saints : 2 mariages, 3 funérailles;
Portneuf : une célébration de funérailles;
Thetford Mines : 3 baptêmes.

La Pandémie. Pendant la pandémie, Nous avons dû modifier la façon de rejoindre les paroissiens. Mais, comme toutes les paroisses du diocèse, nous avons souffert d'une diminution du nombre de nos paroissiens. Pour ce qui est de la paroisse de Tous les Saints, la communauté est restée unie grâce à une rencontre virtuelle, à 9h30 chaque dimanche où on ne nous permettait pas de célébrer en présentiel. Malgré tous nos efforts, quelques paroissiens ont cessé de participer à la vie de la communauté à la fin de la pandémie.

Les communautés chrétiennes du Doyenné du Saint-Laurent sont petites, mais chaleureuses; elles apprécient de pouvoir se réunir le dimanche et de recevoir les services d'un prêtre. Elles participent aussi à différentes activités dans leur grande communauté.

Des remerciements à tous les personnes qui exercent présentement un ministère dans le Doyenné du Saint-Laurent. Un remerciement particulier pour ceux qui ont pris la relève pendant mon absence pour maladie, en particulier, le révérend Michel Royer, la révérende Carol Edgar, M. Donald Crépeault et Mme Nadine Cyr.

Vénérable Pierre Voyer, Archidiacre du Doyenné du Saint-Laurent

Rapport de fin du ministère *Communauté multiculturelle anglicane du Québec* / End of Ministry Report for the *Communauté multiculturelle anglicane du Québec*

In this report, we seek to briefly describe the learnings from the Communauté multiculturelle anglicane du Québec (Anglican Multicultural Community of Quebec, the CMAQ) initiative, which operated between October 2020 and June 2022.

Following a presentation to the Synod of the Diocese of Quebec in November 2019 on the difficulty of incorporating Anglican immigrants who speak French, an ad hoc study group of four clergy and 2 lay people from both dioceses studied the situation. The report issued in June 2020 invited the bishops of Quebec and Montreal to offer "an enhanced and public mandate...to add to the work done in Quebec and copy it in Montreal".

With the pandemic in full swing at the time, meetings with prayer and sermons began on Zoom in October 2020. A Facebook page was set up. A website was created that listed all the Anglican communities operating in French or in a truly bilingual way, that valued the immigrant experience and that invited newcomers to come and build a community for themselves with us.

The core of the community was the existing Rwandan community that attended Holy Trinity Cathedral in Quebec City, with the participation of several existing Canadian Anglicans (usually, but not always, with personal or family immigration experience).

We adopted a morning prayer format taken from the American Book of Common Prayer (newly available in French), chose songs according to the tastes of the participants, and shared the preaching among the participants for these Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon meetings.

We soon established a support group for Bible study or discussion of the challenges of enculturation in Canada.

We never managed to exceed six participants at any of these meetings. A couple of people found us on the web, and we succeeded in our goal of helping them build personal support relationships, and in one case, to integrate into a physical community (Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal).

Among the obstacles we encountered were our leadership's limited Facebook network, our contacts' lack of enthusiasm for sharing our posts, and Facebook's change to no longer allow people to be targeted according to their religion.

Despite the richness of the experience and the significant support it offered to the small core of participants, we decided to stop at the end of June 2022. The CMAQ Facebook page and web ad were taken down in August 2023.

Among the lessons learned:

- This format encourages a better understanding of both Quebec and Canadian culture and the immigrant context, values and experience, which everyone appreciated.
- The exchanges brought people closer together and reduced stereotypes and prejudices.
- Without the support of Canadian participants, the experience would have been impossible.
- All the participants would have preferred to meet in person; at the same time, the opportunity to meet virtually enabled them to forge valuable relationships.
- When an Alpha course was offered, we succeeded in integrating participants from the second generation of immigrants from two different countries (Rwanda and Haiti), plus Canada.
- Immigrants bring an active faith and a very enriching outlook and life experience, but change jobs and cities often and need a lot of practical help.
- Second-generation immigrants are strongly influenced by Quebec culture and lack of faith (or at least need to develop their own religious expression).
- It seemed to us that there is relatively little interest within the church structure and among other pastors and parishioners to support a mission or evangelisation initiative; the general attitude seems to be rather "if a community forms and asks us to integrate them, we will welcome them" (as was the case, for example, with the Église de la Nativité).
- We discovered that there are more Anglican communities in French than we thought.
- Differences in education, culture and sources of information have often led to quite profound debates and questioning, but there is a good layer of good will for those (from all cultures) who have the curiosity to listen and share their convictions with respect.
- The cost of this experiment was very low and the contributions received covered all the expenses with a surplus of a few hundred dollars.

Submitted by

Mark Gibson and the Rev. Thomas Ntilivamunda
January 3, 2024



The AFC's mission is to support ministries of the Anglican Church throughout Canada, by enabling connection, fostering innovation, stewarding resources, and connecting generous donors to their philanthropic goals. It manages a number of projects administering approximately forty trusts and funds:

- bursaries for theological education Grants and loans for buildings
- Say Yes! To Kids
- Sacred Arts Trust
- building grants and loans
- Indigenous Ministries
- and much, much more...

The Foundation's role in the life of the church has gradually moved away from funding a sense of place to funding a sense of purpose. Our church's character, while as steadfast as ever, has become increasingly innovative in responding to the challenges facing communities from coast to coast to coast.

The diocesan representatives meet online four times a year and periodically for launches of special initiatives, new programs and the Annual General Meeting.

The Diocese of Quebec benefits disproportionately-well considering the number of people and parishes that are members. As an example, in 2023, there were 10 parishes and 21 individuals; the AFC granted \$22 000 to two diocesan projects. On October 20, a tailor-made diocesan report is to be issued. With this data, we can help ensure enhanced support to the AFC. **We can do better. We must do better.**

Since the last meeting of the Diocesan Synod in 2019, AFC has financially supported the following:

2019:

- St. Paul, St. Paul's River: building infrastructure (\$15 000)
- St. James the Apostle, Cacouna: building infrastructure (\$15 000)

2020:

- Deanery of St. Francis: Syrian Day Camp at Quebec Lodge (\$2227)
- St. Matthias, Fitch Bay: Heritage Fitch Bay (\$5 000)

2021:

- St. George's Anglican Church and Deanery of St. Francis: Day camp at Quebec Lodge

2022:

- St. James, Hatley: building infrastructure (\$100 000 loan)

2023:

- Gaspé Deanery, New Carlisle: Restoration for the Reopening of Camp Fort Haldimand (\$13 000)
- Church of St. Andrew & St. George, Baie-Comeau: Community Church to Community Space (\$10 000)

2024:

- Say Yes! To Kids (SYTK):
 - o Baie-Comeau: collaboration with École de musique Côte-Nord (\$2100)
 - o Quebec City Area: Les Anges Cordistes (\$3820)
 - o Camp Fort Haldimand (\$2265)
- Cathedral of the Holy Trinity: *Holy Trinity Choral Scholarships* (\$5000)
- St. James the Apostle, Cacouna: Building infrastructure (\$15 000)

Areas that need improvement/attention (to name but a few...)

- The number of members from the Diocese of Quebec (pitifully low)
- Communicating the various programs and opportunities supported by the AFC
- Engaging congregations to participate in the numerous initiatives (SYTK)

The AFC is reflecting on its role as a “Strategic Foundation”, being an integral part of the Anglican eco-system. To that end, the AFC is engaged in reflections, discussions, and time being used to consider transforming itself, integrating a number of principles: community centred; going beyond granting; systems level social change; advocacy, wisdom, influence and impact; strategic partnerships; and being more active than passive. It is asking itself, “where do we need to make strategic decisions rather than adopting a project-based type of foundation?”

Following this Synod, the process for approving grant & loan applications will change:

1. At the beginning of each new mandate, the Diocesan Executive Council (DEC) will appoint an Anglican Foundation Subcommittee consisting of three individuals who together will be delegated the DEC’s authority to review, approve and/or decline applications to the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) submitted by congregations or other ministries within the Diocese of Quebec.
2. If a majority of the subcommittee’s members agree, any application it receives may instead be forwarded to the DEC for a decision, along with an explanation for why the subcommittee was unable to arrive at a decision.
3. Neither the Anglican Foundation Subcommittee nor the DEC will consider applications from congregations or ministries within the diocese that are not annual members of the AFC.

Please consider supporting the invaluable work of the AFC by donating and by becoming a member. Sign up for their e-newsletter and stay current about the work that impacts church communities in such a meaningful way. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.anglicanfoundation.org/> or contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Kohner
Diocesan Representative, AFC



The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development and humanitarian relief. By engaging Anglicans across Canada, PWRDF supports projects to improve the wellbeing of community members and break the cycle of poverty with a focus on health, empowering women and girls, food security and climate change, and Indigenous programs. PWRDF responds to natural disasters and conflicts with humanitarian relief to support affected families and communities.

I was appointed diocesan representative to PWRDF in September 2022 by Bishop Bruce. Our mandate is somewhat extensive and the main purpose is to help promote, facilitate, and communicate the ongoing programs offered by PWRDF.

Overall, there has been a tremendous support in the past few years as people from across Canada have been responding to various international crises. During the past fiscal year, revenues exceeded 11 million dollars. PWRDF has just approved their five-year 2024-2029 Strategic Plan. Strategic networks and partnering are proving an effective tool for program delivery.

Individual parishes are encouraged to hold fundraisers. There is a multitude of print and on-line resources available to parishes. A challenge continues to be dissemination of information to the diocesan membership. The World of Gifts insert widely circulated and has proven a very successful program to raise money through the purchase of various goods (chickens, goats, vaccines; wells; etc.)

I attended a meeting of diocesan reps in Toronto on October 26-28, 2023. I appreciated the time to meet and become much more aware of PWRDF's wealth of resources and programs. The reps now receive a monthly list of parishes who donate; this way, I can mail out timely "thank you" cards.

The diocesan reps meet online periodically to exchange information, be brought up to date on new and existing initiatives and to be consulted on a number of issues.

All parishes and individuals are encouraged to subscribe to PWRDF's newsletters and take advantage of the numerous online resources.

Should you require any information or assistance in accessing PWRDF/Alongside Hope resources, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stephen Kohner
Diocesan Rep
pwrdf.org



Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change
in Canada and around the world



Auprès de l'espoir

Anglicans et partenaires œuvrant pour le changement
au Canada et à travers le monde

A new name: Alongside Hope/Auprès de l'espoir

After almost two years of listening together and planning, PWRDF has chosen a new name. The new name, Alongside Hope/Auprès de l'espoir, was approved at a Special Members meeting held Tuesday, October 15, 4 p.m. ET, in accordance with our corporate bylaws.

Some background:

In 2022, we selected a Task Team of staff, board members and volunteers from across Canada. **Bishop Bruce Myers was one of the people who contributed to the many ideas, discussions, reflections, and decisions.** This team gathered on Zoom with the goal of identifying a compelling name – a name that better reflects our work, and one that would sustain our work into the future. In these and other discussions with stakeholders and staff, one dominant theme emerged: partnership.

PWRDF is all about partnerships. In fact, the former Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, used to say the “P” in PWRDF could have easily stood for partners.

We partner with local organizations who carry out the work that you support – life-giving work that improves food security, champions gender rights, provides training on conservation agriculture, and creates income opportunities.

We partner with membership organizations that allow us to be part of a larger network. These include the Anglican Alliance, the ACT Alliance, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, KAIROS, Cooperation Canada, among others.

We partner with funding agencies including Global Affairs Canada, businesses and a growing number of private and family foundations.

We partner with the Anglican Church of Canada, Anglican dioceses, spiritual ministries and ecclesiastical provinces, through their bishops and their PWRDF Representatives, who support our programs and invite us to spread the good news of PWRDF at synods and other meetings.

We partner with parish representatives, clergy and countless volunteers in the pews across the country, who share our stories and engage others in our ministry.

We partner with our generous donors, without whose support none of our partners' work would be possible.

This theme of partnership or accompaniment is woven throughout the Bible, but the task team was drawn to the story of the road to Emmaus. Days after Jesus died, the disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, still grieving their loss. As Luke writes, the resurrected Jesus came alongside them, but they did not know it was him. Jesus travelled

with them and then accepted their hospitality to dine with them. In the breaking of bread, their eyes were opened and they recognized him. When we walk alongside one another, Jesus accompanies us. We are strengthened and comforted and recognize Jesus when we share in his feast.

As we walk alongside each of our partners, supporting, listening and sharing with one another, we embrace and embody the hope of a better world. Thus, was born our new name:

Alongside Hope: Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world

Auprès de l'espoir : Anglicans et partenaires œuvrant pour le changement au Canada et à travers le monde

Alongside Hope conveys the concept of partnership in a simple and uplifting way.

- It is easy to understand and to pronounce.
- It requires no lengthy or clumsy acronym.
- It de-emphasizes the colonial, top-down approach of giving and emphasizes a more collaborative approach.
- It is a name that will carry us forward into the future.

You'll note our new name pairs well with our existing icon. This continuity will improve brand recognition as we transition to Alongside Hope over the coming year. Though you will be hearing people talk about Alongside Hope, the changes to our website and social media will not take effect until March 1, 2025. This will allow us time to complete tax receipts for 2024 under the PWRDF name.

We are excited and energized about the possibilities of Alongside Hope and look forward to your support. For more information, please visit pwrdf.org/our-new-name.

(source: Will Postma, Executive Director & Mark Hauck, Board President)

Conseil patrimoine religieux du Québec (CPRQ)

First a little history to set the context for the report. In 1993 Pierres vivantes/Living Stones was created as an interdenominational association to promote religious heritage. The following year the Quebec government gave 75 million dollars to carry out work on 42 Catholic churches, five Anglican churches, three United churches, and three synagogues all in Montreal. In 1995 the Québec Religious Heritage Foundation was created and has operated ever since assisting with the restoration and preservation of Quebec's religious heritage. The organization has since changed its name to the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec ("CPRQ")

In early 2000s the CPRQ conducted a survey of existing church building across the province and they were ranked from A to F for heritage value. Those building whose ranking is A, B, or C can apply for restoration funding from the CPRQ. The types of work the CPRQ may subsidize include: cladding of outer walls, foundations, roofing, bells and carillons, bell tower, stained glass, fire detection and extinguishing systems, protrusions, electrical components, other interior repairs in the case of water damage but only after the exterior and structure are repaired) such as decorative finishes and paintings, sculptures, objects of art, pipe organs.

The main source of funding for this work of the CPRQ is the Ministry of Culture and Communication (MCC) and in the period since the last synod the annual amount for restoration has been 15 million dollars.

Each of the regions of Québec has a local "table" which meets 2 to 3 times a year, they review applications from their region and prioritizes these, the CPRQ then creates a listing for the whole province in line with the amount of money available each year. These "tables" range in size from 5 to 15 members and include representatives of various religious denominations, architects, engineers, historians and municipal heritage officers.

I am a member of five of these "tables": Gaspésie-Iles de la Madeline; de la Mauricie-Centre du Québec; Capitale-nationale-Chaudière-Appalaches; Bas St Laurent; and Estrie. Stephen Kohner is a member of the table for the Côte-Nord and, until she left the diocese, Marie-Sol Gaudreau was a member and president of the Capitale-nationale-Chaudière-Appalaches table.

In addition to my role on the local tables, I am a member of the Board of the CPRQ, serving as the vice-president and with two other CPRQ members are part of the comité de coordination with an equal number from the MCC to oversee the agreement with the government.

Since the 2018-2019 financial year the CPRQ has granted Anglican churches in our diocese more than \$3,262.065. Those building that the government has "classified" such as the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity or St James, Hatley received grants of 80% of the restoration costs. Among others who have received grants since the last synod are St Andrew and St George in Baie Comeau, St James Cacouna both are granted 70% of the costs.

In the past 25 years there have been many church buildings in our diocese that have received important financial support from the CPRQ program, totally more than \$10 million. With the arrival of Covid and the decrease in church attendance across all denominations many of the smaller rural churches in Quebec are struggling to even stay open and there has been a decrease in applications for funding from our diocesan churches.

This is an excellent program to help churches restore their buildings so that they will continue to serve generations who follow us. If you need more information of help, please contact me. If you feel called to serve on a local table, please speak to me or the diocesan office so your name can be forwarded to the CPRQ. The CPRQ is actively searching for candidates to sit on the regional tables. Please submit a letter of interest and a curriculum vitae by e-mail to the following address: conseil@patrimoine-religieux.qc.ca

Respectively submitted,

James Sweeny
October 2024