

SECTION 1

1. MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MANUAL

2. DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT

3. DIOCESAN GOALS

MISSION STATEMENT FOR THIS MANUAL

The purpose of this manual, is to acquaint committee members with the Diocesan Structures of which they are now part and to assist them in becoming effective, efficient and fulfilled participants in carrying out the Mission Statement of the Diocese.

DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT

The Diocese is to respond to the love and holiness of God as a dynamic worshipping community of persons committed to Jesus Christ, serving and witnessing in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit:

The Diocese shall strive to develop qualities of a Christian community:

1. As a worshipping community, through Word and Sacrament to celebrate our oneness in Christ, to proclaim God's power, and to develop commitment to Christian values for living;
2. As a caring community, to focus attention on the quality of relationships among members; among neighbours; and outward to the world, creating the spirit of neighborliness and trust, and identifying and addressing our selves' to the developing of Christian lifestyles;
3. As an empowering community, to equip and enable persons to reach out, especially to youth and the unchurched, as a people of God, to provide the resources, nurture and skills necessary for ministry;
4. As a redeeming community, to exercise a ministry of reconciliation between God and Ourselves and between one another;
5. As a responsible community, to learn to be good stewards of all creation.

See Appendix: Anglicans Who We Are

DIOCESAN GOALS

SECTION 1: PROGRAMME & MINISTRY SUPPORT

Issue 1 - A lack of awareness within the Church of the vocation of the Whole People of God, and the particular sense of vocation associated with each of the variety of ordained and lay ministries.

Goal 1 - That there be a widespread understanding and commitment to the mission of the Church today, and of the variety of ministries that God is calling us to the fulfillment of that mission.

Issue 2 - (a) Clergy, because of the increasingly complex nature of society, have an increased need to develop improved counseling and related skills.

(b) Clergy feel a need for increased personal pastoral support and counsel.

Goal 2 - (a) That the pastoral skills of clergy are upgraded so that they are able to be effective in helping those who are frustrated or victimized by changing trends in today's society.

(b) that all clergy of the Diocese have a sense that their needs for pastoral support and counsel are met,

Issue 3 -Volunteers:

(a) There is n need to increase the number of persons volunteering for church related activities;

(b) Adequate preparation for volunteer work must be provided;

(c) Volunteers need support systems.

Goal 3 - That the value of volunteerism in the life of the Church be respected, affirmed and nurtured in the context of our understanding of ministry as a partnership we share as clergy and laity.

Issue 4 - The average age of active churchgoers is higher than the average age of the general population. This suggests the necessity of developing ministries that respond to the needs of young families and younger members of the congregation.

Goal 4 - That as a caring community, we endeavour to be responsible to the needs of all our members; that we work especially hard to be creative in our provision of pastoral care that meets the needs of young families and young people.

Issue 5 - The Church's lack of challenge to people, ordained and lay, "to live the Gospel".

Goal 5 - That all members of the parishes within the Diocese have a clear sense of trying to live out the Gospel in their daily lives. "To know Christ, and to make Him known".

DIOCESAN GOALS

SECTION 2: MINISTRY IN THE WORLD

- Issue 1 - The Third World: Economic and social problems, civil strife, appear to be increasingly afflicting Third World nations, resulting in starvation, disease and death for thousands of people.**
- Goal 1 - That in the parishes of the Diocese of Nova Scotia, there be a general awareness of concern for and response to the plight and potential of the people of the Third World.*
- Issue 2 - Acceptance of Differences:**
- (a) People of differing backgrounds, religions, races, ethnic groups have difficulty accepting those who are different. These feelings of non-acceptance fly in the face of the teachings contained in all the world's major religions.**
- (b) Specific programmes need to be developed for people with special needs and people of different cultures.**
- Goal 2 - (a) that we become a people who name and speak out against discriminatory actions in Church and society such as those based on religion, race, language, gender, sexuality or ethnic background.*
- (b) that there be a general awareness that people with special needs find appropriate resources as they participate in parish life in the Diocese of Nova Scotia.*
- Issue 3 - Changes in the nature of the traditional family unit have resulted in the need for a wider understanding of the social and economic situations facing people in these units.**
- Goal 3 - That congregations are knowledgeable of the variety of types of contemporary families, with an understanding of the social and economic pressures that they are encountering today.*
- Issue 4 - Many children live in abusive situations -physical, psychological or sexual. They are powerless to react because of their dependence and their physical weakness.**
- Goal 4 - That the Church be perceived as a place which stands in support of every child being of infinite worth in the eyes of God and entitled to healthy acceptance, inclusion, love and support.*
- Issue 5 - The Social environment that enables a wide variety of antisocial and harmful behaviour to flourish:**
- (a) Poverty resulting from adverse economic conditions;**
- (b) Violence against persons, property and institutions is increasing;**

DIOCESAN GOALS

(c) Prostitution. A significant number of young women and men either by their own choosing, or through coercion of one kind or another; find themselves selling their bodies for their own profit and that of others;

(d) Drug and Alcohol Abuse. There is widespread abuse of alcohol and drugs (prescription and illegal);

(e) Gambling statistics indicate widespread abuse and addiction to gambling.

Goal 5 - That the Diocese can readily express a competent social analysis and relevant Christian ethic which illuminates social issues such as but not exclusive to: poverty, violence, prostitution, substance abuse and gambling addiction.

DIOCESAN GOALS

SECTION 3: DIOCESAN ORGANIZATION

Issue 1 - A prevalence of attitudes contributing to poor parish-diocesan relationships; fraction and disunity with the Diocese; and ineffectiveness in our witness to the Gospel.

Goal 1 - That relationships between each pastoral unit and the Synod Office, among parishes in regions and among the regions as a whole are mutually challenging and affirming. Unity prevails.

Issue 2 - Confusion over Authority in the Church. There is evidence of a real need to review our understanding and acceptance of being a Church that is 'episcopally led and synodically governed'.

Goal 2 - That the Authority of the Church as exercised by the House of Bishops and by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Provincial House of Bishops, the Provincial Synod, the Diocesan Bishops and the Synod of Nova Scotia be clarified and respected.

Issue 3 - The need to broaden our awareness of the mission of the Church beyond the Diocese and increase our response to that mission.

Goal 3 - That our vision of the life and work of the Church at the national and international levels, both within our own denomination and ecumenically, be widened and support of the same increased.

Issue 4 - A review of the Membership and Organization of Synod.

Goal 4 - That the Synod be so organized as to more effectively fulfill its mission statement

Issue 5 - Confusion about roles and expectations among clergy and lay people, and the lack of sense among parishes of relatedness to each other and to the Diocese.

Goal 5 - That people and clergy work together as wholesome, vibrant pastoral units within regions and within the Diocese.

