

PARISH ACTIVITY LOG DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

April 11, 2020

Dear Friends,

It was suggested by our colleagues at Anglican Church of Canada's General Synod Office that during this season of unusual and unprecedented ministry life that we ask parish leaders to keep a log and record online worship and other activities. For example, the **Vestry Book** for public services be updated with the usual date, time, type of service and number of attendees (as best as possible). Additionally, note the type of online connection (livestreamed or recorded; type of connection and platform used).

As an *additional* way to help track these worship times and other activities we are requesting that the following **guide** be filled out MONTHLY, as best as possible, for the following reasons:

- So there will be a record of how church communities stayed connected during this pandemic. This may be helpful for Parish Council members, parish leaders and for Diocesan documents like future Parochial Return Forms, grant applications, etc.
- It will be a fascinating record to aid historians when they look back and consider how ministry continued and (hopefully) thrived under such challenging conditions.
- This will be an effective tool to help parish leaders map and plan how the congregation is staying connected in various ways during the pandemic.
- Tracking our ministries helps us share the good news stories with others, especially when we are approaching people to financially support our parish. Being able to give specific examples of how our congregations are making a difference provides a solid answer to the question 'why' for existing and potential new givers.
- General Synod representation depends upon average attendance on four specific Sundays, including Easter and Pentecost in the two years prior to each GS gathering.

If possible, include the information you have, starting March 16th, when most of us began following provincial medical directives related to social distancing and reductions of public gatherings.

We recognize that for a fair number of our parishes online/virtual worship is not possible. Some communities do not support high-speed internet services. For some churches most of their parishioners do not use computers, tablets or smart phones, and thus are calling or sharing printed resources. Some parishes may be offering a combination of these. Additionally, besides offering outlets for worship – whether online or for private devotions – our congregations are being supported by other modes of communication. Phone ministry, snail mail, roadside signs, lawn and window displays, etc., are ways to reach out to parishioners and the wider community. Some parishes are actively supporting other organizations and non-profit initiatives through various outreach methods. Again, it is important to note these for the above reasons.

Fill out this guide as best as possible. Not all categories will apply to all parishes. Then forward your monthly logs to Janice Roby (jroby@nspeidiocese.ca) on the first day of each month. Got questions? Contact Executive Director, The Rev'd. Canon Gordon Redden (gredden@nspeidiocese.ca)

