

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Christian Formation** is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. It is a continuous journey – always questioning, wondering and learning. We are constantly being formed as Christians and throughout our lives we seek opportunities to find spiritual fulfillment. (Christian Formation is more than Christian Education because education implies a finish – a person graduates and receives a diploma or certificate and moves on to the next stage of life.)

**Diaconate** - A special ministry of servanthood of deacons directly under the Bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, members of the diaconate are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick and the lonely. Deacons assist priests and bishops in the administration of sacraments. "Deacon" is derived from a Greek word meaning 'servant'.

**Disciple** is derived from a Greek word, which means pupil (of a teacher) or apprentice (to a master craftsman). The more common English word is student.

**Discipleship** is about having your character formed by the Spirit. It involves responding to God, living in fellowship with other Christians and having your entire personality - your instincts and everything - shaped by Jesus. It is a whole life response of Christians to Christ. Everything a Christian believes and does is an aspect of discipleship. The goal of discipleship is to grow ever more Christ-like in every aspect of life.

**Lay Readers** - The office of Lay Reader is intended to be an opportunity for ministry in the Spirit in which an individual can respond to the call to be helpful in building up the Body of Christ. It must be recognized, however, that this ministry is more than solely liturgical. It may involve other areas such as pastoral care, Christian education, social action and parish administration. All Lay Readers are appointed and licensed by the Bishop to serve in a parish under the direction and supervision of the Rector, such license being held at the pleasure of the Priest and the Bishop.

**Leadership** - Christian leadership is a dynamic relational process in which people, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, partner to achieve a common goal - it is serving others by leading and leading others by serving. L. Gregory Jones says Christian leadership is about the "telos" - our goal, our end, to cultivate thriving communities that bear witness to the in-breaking reign of God. Jean Vanier describes it as helping others grow and develop their gifts. (**'Managing'** is more about administering and making sure the day-to-day things are happening as they should. We manage things, we lead people.)

**Minister** - All the baptized members of the Church who are carrying out their ministry to worship God and to serve others. Some people have special ministries: wardens, church school teachers, choir members, assistants in worship. Certain ministries in the Church require that a person be ordained; in other words: all priests are ministers, but not all ministers are priests!

**Mission** - God's mission is about transformation - transforming individual lives, transforming communities and transforming the world. Rowan Williams says, "Mission is finding out what God is doing and joining in."

**Outreach** means those projects, activities and commitments that provide service to those in the community (and elsewhere in the world) who are vulnerable, marginalized or in need. It is founded on Christian social justice work.

**Parish** means a congregation, or two or more congregations that are, for the purpose of ministry, grouped together, served by a member of the clergy licensed by the Bishop in a territory or district allotted by the Bishop for that purpose.

**Pastoral Care** is the ministry of caring and giving between and among God's people, with a particular focus on healing, reconciling, guiding and sustaining. It may take a variety of forms including phone ministry, visits to homes and hospitals, etc. Pastoral care may also involve active listening, prayer, supportive counseling, home communion, and the ministry of presence.

**Priest** - A person ordained by a bishop for the ministry of Word and Sacrament. The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop the overseeing of the Church; to administer the sacraments; and to proclaim the Gospel. "Priest" is derived from a Greek word meaning 'elder' (a reference to wisdom, not age?).

**Rector** - A priest who has primary administrative, pastoral, and liturgical responsibilities in a parish or congregation. Similar to, and sometimes identical to "incumbent."

**Stewardship** is our grateful response to God's generosity. Scripture instructs us to be good stewards of all God has given us, and we are challenged to give generously of our time, talent, and treasure. Simply stated, stewardship is using the gifts God has given us, to do the work God is calling us to do.

*(RESOURCES are from The Episcopal Church, USA; Fresh Expressions UK; Diocese of Lincoln, UK; Diocese of Toronto; The Church of England; Canon 35, Diocese of NS & PEI; faithandleadership.com; St. Matthew's Anglican in the Glebe, Ottawa; NS & PEI Lay Readers Handbook.)*