

**ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN BOARD
DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA & PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

Do justice . . . Love kindness . . . Walk humbly with your God.

**To Anglican Women in our Parishes & Regions
June, 2020**

Purpose of the Anglican Church Women Diocesan Board

To encourage and support all women in the Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island to participate in a fellowship of worship, study, and offering, with the aim of deepening and strengthening their individual spiritual lives and of awakening a greater desire for God's mission and Christian service in the parish, community, diocese, nation, and the world.

Anglican Church Women Board Theme for 2020/21: *Do justice . . . Love kindness . . . Walk humbly with your God.*

Annual Project 2020/21: *Supporting Parents: Stories That Matter*

A different world

To say that we are living in a different world is to state the obvious! The usual women's gatherings that many of the regions in our diocese host in the fall will likely not be taking place in the fall of 2020. Even if they do, they will look very different.

I want to let the women of the diocese know that the Anglican Church Women Board is considering a **virtual option** for a Faith & Fellowship 'event' in order to 'officially' introduce the theme for 2020/21: ***Do justice . . . Love kindness . . . Walk humbly with your God*** and the Annual Project 2020/21: ***Supporting Parents: Stories That Matter***. The idea for this 'virtual event' is to provide a 'virtual gathering' that parishes/ regions can access at a time that works for them. Once we have details in place, we will provide the information on the Board's Facebook and the *NetNews* and have the Regional Reps let the parishes know about the event.

Challenge and Opportunity

We are being challenged in many ways, but the continuing reality of *Covid-19*, plus now the added element of a global awakening to the evidence of systemic racial injustice, provides an opportunity for the Board, and the women's groups in the parishes, to rethink their ministry and prayerfully discern what is really essential. I personally found it very validating to have the following recent encouragement from the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp in Cape Breton: *"My hope for the ACW is that you will ask this question: **what is essential at this time?** The answer may require stepping back from some activities or routines, not because they are not in and of themselves desirable or valuable, but in order to lean into that which is essential now, **because embracing the essential allows us to witness to God's love for a suffering humanity.**"*

In encouraging women of the diocese to reflect on what is essential, the Board is asking you to **use as a guide the 2020/21 theme**, chosen by the Board at a time when we were completely naïve about the reality of *Covid-19*. Moreover, we were not in the midst of the other global

**ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN BOARD
DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA & PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

reality – that of the world-wide striving for racial equality and justice. Yet, **it is hard to imagine a more appropriate theme for these times than to *do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.*** God is depending on us to be just, to practice equality, and to be a people of peace and equity. We are being asked to embrace kindness, to claim it as a way of life, to fall in love with it. Further, we are being asked to journey with God and . . . doing this ‘God walk’ requires our humility, our trust, and our effort.

Reaching out to all – women and men – for support

While the Anglican Church Women Board exists to encourage and support all women in the diocese, we do not ignore the men, as we feel we offer an “equal opportunity” with our ministry. Certainly, our theme and what it asks of us is an ‘equal opportunity’ for all.

A specific area of the Board’s ministry that everyone, women and men, can embrace is our Annual Project. We are excited to let you know that the Board presented to the Kings Kikima Grannies on June 11, 2020 a cheque in the amount of **\$17,000** for the **2019/20 Annual Project: *Education – a life changing gift!*** Five youth in Kikima, Kenya will start post-secondary studies in September 2020 because of the success of ***Education – a life changing gift!*** We give **thanks for all the contributions of whatever amount, and we are very happy to note that our individual contributors comprised both women and men!**

Now, we turn our attention to the Annual Project 2020/21, ***Supporting Parents: Stories That Matter.*** This is a project that responds very directly to a recommendation of Canada’s Truth & Reconciliation Commission Report regarding culturally relevant parenting support for Indigenous communities, given the damaging legacy of residential schools. With this project, the Board is delighted to be partnering with the Mothers’ Union to support their very successful parenting facilitator training program. We will be soliciting funds until at least the end of April 2021 so that the facilitator training program can be undertaken for Indigenous Communities in the Anglican Church of Canada’s Council of the North.

We are appealing to all in your parishes for the Annual Project 2020/21. Had we been able to have the usual regional meetings when members of the Diocesan Mothers’ Union would have been available to be key presenters, we would have had that avenue to get the word out. Instead, we are depending on you, as well as various media outlets (*NetNews, Facebook, Keeping in Touch Newsletter, The Diocesan Times*). Please let everyone know that ***Supporting Parents: Stories That Matter*** is an “equal opportunity” enterprise. After all, **promoting positive relationships, supporting healthy family life, however a family is configured, and advocating for a just society is the work of all, certainly not women alone.** Cheques are payable to the ACW Board, Annual Project in the memo line, and can be directed to the Board Treasurer, Marjorie Davis at 204 – 111 Pebblecreek Drive, Dartmouth, NS B2W 0L1, along with a **completed Remittance Form**. Individual donations of \$20 or more receive an income tax receipt. We thank you in advance for your support of the Anglican Church Women Board’s Annual Project 2020/21, ***Supporting Parents: Stories That Matter.***

Connie English & Cynthia Pilichos, Co-coordinators, Anglican Church Women Board

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God”. Corrie Ten Boom