

# ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN BOARD

Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

Forging a new future by engaging and exploring new possibilities



Theme for 2022/23

*Embracing Change*

in

*New and Wondrous Ways*

*Change is in the air! Crossroads.....Transformation on the Horizon*

## The Anglican Church Women Board,

Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

## Let's Keep In Touch



MAY/JUNE 2022 EDITION

### The Love of Jesus Calls Us . . . in New and Wondrous Ways

The Anglican Church Women hymn, *The Love of Jesus Calls Us* (CP# 434), has provided inspiration for a number of annual themes for the Anglican Church Women: the title itself, *The Love of Jesus Calls Us . . . Companions on a Journey . . . To Challenge All that Limits, to Change to Learn to Grow . . . and That Love and Peace and Justice May Give God's Kingdom Birth*.

We have always felt that the title and words of *The Love of Jesus Calls Us*, by Herbert O'Driscoll, with the lovely tune, *Aurelia*, perfectly characterizes the ministry of Anglican women; however, it is a hymn not just for women, as the final verse makes clear: *The love of Jesus calls us, in swiftly changing days/to be God's co-creators in new and wondrous ways/that God, **with men and women**, may so transform the earth/that love and peace and justice may give God's kingdom birth*. There is a growing appreciation of women's ministry being a joint ministry with men, that it is a ministry free of gender constraints; indeed, it is a ministry with the capacity to be gender inclusive.

Moreover, this final verse of *The Love of Jesus Calls Us* refers to the *swiftly changing days* that require the joint ministry of women and men to be co-creators with God in **new and wondrous ways**. With that verse echoing in our heads and hearts, and knowing that we are facing significant changes in how we function, it is not surprising that the Anglican Church Women Board has chosen the phrase, **New and Wondrous Ways**, from *The Love of Jesus Calls Us*, as the 2022/2023 theme for Anglican Church Women.

It is noted in the Anglican Church Women column in the May 2022 issue of *The Diocesan Times* that we are at crossroads in the over 50-year history of Anglican Church Women as a Diocesan Board. The Board is stepping out into uncharted territory, with the love of Jesus calling us, tempering our anxiety of the unknown to allow space for **new and wondrous ways** of being.

We are *challenging all that limits* [in order] *to change, to learn, to grow*. We are looking at evolving into a **gender inclusive entity**, to be *companions on a journey* with all who are interested, with a **consequent name change**, and with a **distinctive purpose for potential wide appeal**. We will draw on the identified strengths of the Board as a **resource to enhance capacity for innovative ministry in the diocese and beyond**, to be a **possible catalyst for such ministry**. We are imagining a **social transformational focus** to this innovative ministry, aligned with both the last phrases of *The Love of Jesus Calls Us* and the 4<sup>th</sup> Mark of Mission: *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation*.

Along with our prayers for God's guidance and our love of Jesus, we appeal to you all for your support as the Anglican Church Women Board draws on the renewal and rebirth themes of the Easter season to inspire its own transformation. As we move into the season of Pentecost, with the amazing imagery of the Apostles empowered by the Holy Spirit, we see God's hand guiding the early Christian community through the trials and decisions that were presented to it . . . and we recognize the similarities to current realities in church land. We appreciate that Pentecost is the liturgical season that offers us the confidence to face challenges, to demonstrate the needed courage for imagining and creating a transformed future, just as it did for the Apostles of the New Testament. So, come along with us as we explore and engage in . . . **New and Wondrous Ways**.

## Mother's Day (May 8<sup>th</sup>) and Father's Day (June 19<sup>th</sup>)

As we pray for mothers and fathers, we recognize the diversity of family structure. Our world is made up of different and diverse blended families. The word "parenting" emphasizes and appreciates all who parent and are caregivers. Let us praise those men and women who have "mothered" and "fathered" us in their role as mentors, guides, caregivers and so much more.

*Loving God, we ask you to bless all mothers and fathers and we give you thanks for the wide spectrum of parenting as we pray, honour, and celebrate the diversity of families. We are mindful that for some, Mother's and Father's Day can be marked by loneliness and grief; give to each one the strength and support needed to restore their broken hearts and allow them to look to the future with hope.*

*On these special days we remember, give thanks and pray for all parents who are struggling with one issue or another. Strengthen each one when they are down and give them hope when they are discouraged.*

*But most of all, Lord, on Mother's and Father's Day, give to each one the graces they most need and desire. We pray, give thanks and ask this in the name of the loving Mother and Father to us all. Amen*

**To all the moms, dads, mentors, caregivers, blended families, multi-generational families and many others...**

***Celebrate the Diversity of Families  
Happy Mother's/Father's Day***

## Cheque presentation for our 2021/22 project, ***Marguerite Centre: A Future with Hope***



The **cheque presentation ceremony** will take place at the **10:00 am service on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> 2022 at St. George's Anglican Church, Head of St. Margaret's Bay (5427 St. Margaret's Bay Rd. – Parish of French Village)** when

***Marguerite Centre Executive Director, Lisa Mullin, will be the speaker.*** All are welcome, and, if attending in person, masks are required. There is additional seating space in the lower hall, which is equipped with a large screen. One can participate via Zoom. The link for participating virtually will be available on the parish website: <http://parishoffrenchvillage.ca/sunday-bulletins> close to the May 29<sup>th</sup> date. Any questions, e-mail [acw.nsboard@gmail.com](mailto:acw.nsboard@gmail.com)

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

The Anglican Church Women Diocesan Board is happy to extend the deadline date for contributions to the 2021/22 Annual Project, ***Marguerite Centre: A Future with Hope*** until May 27<sup>th</sup> 2022. All contributions of whatever amount are gratefully received (*cheque payable to Anglican Church Women Board with Annual Project written in the memo line*). Contributions of \$20 or more receive an income tax receipt. Thank you to all those who have contributed so far.

## ***New and Wondrous Ways for the Annual Project 2022/23!***

Speaking about ***new and wondrous ways***, we are looking at a new way to approach the Annual Project 2022/23 with its national focus. The reality of Covid and the impact it has had, and continues to have, with respect to bringing in funds in our usual ways, mean that we are looking at expanded possibilities, with guidance from the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC). So . . . we are happy to report that we will be launching the 2022/23 annual project through the ***Say Yes! to Kids 2022 – Growing a brighter future, today*** campaign (May and June 2022). Our Anglican Church Women Diocesan Board will be the first one in Canada to have its own ***Say Yes! to Kids*** Peer-to-Peer (P2P) fundraising team to "jump start" the project that will support National Youth Ministries under the umbrella of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)! We are working out the details of the 2022/23 project, but we know that the support in our diocese for PWRDF initiatives, especially those benefitting children and youth, will encourage generosity from individuals, parish groups, and parishes. So, let's ***Say Yes! to Kids*** as a ***new and wondrous way*** to initiate the

Board's Annual Project 2022/23!

Designed by Connie English