

The Anglican Church Women Board,

Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

Embracing change in
New and Wondrous Ways

Let's Keep In Touch



JANUARY/FEBRUARY
2023 EDITION

Bridgewater, Nova Scotia
Centennial Trail Walking Bridge
Photo, Editing & Design by Connie English

Happy Epiphany

In a few short days we will begin the Epiphany season recognizing that the entire Epiphany season begins with the Epiphany of the Lord or the Feast of the Epiphany on the 6th of January, when we will celebrate the Magi (*also known as the three kings or wise men who followed the Bethlehem Star to find the baby Jesus*) to Ash Wednesday which is the 22nd of February 2023.

The Sundays after Epiphany, is a liturgical period, celebrated by many Christian churches immediately following the Christmas season.

The Season of Epiphany also brings us into a new year. As we welcome in 2023 and say farewell to 2022, may the coming year be filled with new possibilities, a time of renewal, healing, hope and peace.

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.



Happy New Year

WEEK of
PRAYER
for CHRISTIAN UNITY
2023

SEMAINE de
PRIERE
pour L'UNITÉ DES CHRÉTIENS
2023



Link to the resources:
[Week of Prayer For Christian Unity 2023.pdf](#)

"Do good; seek justice"

(Isaiah 1:17)

« Apprenez à faire le bien,
recherchez la justice »

(Esaie 1,17)

Elements of a Journey: The Anglican Church Women Diocesan Board evolving into a proposed successor, *Anglicans Powering Potential (APP)*

A re-imagined Board started in earnest in late 2021, helped by the choice of our theme for 2022/23, *New and Wondrous Ways*, from the last verse of the Anglican Church Women hymn, *The Love of Jesus Calls Us*. It was clear that the current status quo was not an option going forward, a reality that was brought into relief by Covid, accelerating some soul-searching that the Board had been dabbling with. The sense of urgency that Covid engendered gave us “permission” to question the way things are, to create space, therefore, for ideas that might have been unimaginable previously. Kudos go to the Board members for recognizing that the Board is at a crossroads and taking the leap, therefore, to engage in new possibilities, even when this meant that the Board, as we know it, would cease to exist at some near future point, a reality that gave rise to understandable concern on the part of a number of Board members.

The soul-searching journey was brought to a whole new level in early 2022 when the Board’s Co-coordinators, Cynthia and Connie, along with Treasurer, Marjorie, and Board Chaplain, Rev. Lori, had their first Zoom meeting with an external facilitator, Louisa Horne. Louisa is an environmentalist, doctoral student focusing on shifts in volunteerism, educator, practitioner, and consultant regarding organizational structures, transformational change, and leadership. She is very familiar in all these roles in the corporate and not-for-profit world, with direct and continuing experience in both, particularly with the volunteer world of service clubs and faith-based communities.

The first meeting with Louisa was for her to gain a sense of the current Anglican Church Women Board and its purpose in order to determine the defining questions she would use to guide the conversation with a whole Board session. Additional internally facilitated sessions, along with our time with Louisa, were dedicated to addressing the future of the Board to live into our theme of *Embracing Change in New and Wondrous Ways*.

A growing awareness was the realization that the encouragement and support of the Board to the women in the parishes, a key element of the Board’s current purpose, was, and is, being effectively offered by the parishes themselves and the diocese, especially through the office of the Diocesan Parish Vitality Coordinator. Any Anglican, or indeed, any person of whatever denomination or faith, can receive weekly updates of what is on offer, by subscribing to the weekly *Anglican NetNews*. Resources for any liturgical season and a whole host of other ways to develop spiritually are readily available.

What was especially significant was learning from Louisa that there **was reduced interest in gender-specific organizations!** This understanding helped the Board appreciate that it would benefit from evolving into a gender inclusive/gender expansive entity. Indeed, this will be the most obvious sign of transformation, that of a **gender inclusive/gender expansive future . . . *Anglicans Powering Potential (APP)***. With support from Bishop Sandra and the Diocesan Chancellor, it is anticipated that *Anglicans Powering Potential* will “officially” come into being at the May 2023 Diocesan Synod, the latter with its theme, *We Shall All Be Changed*. The Board is, indeed, living that theme!!

Please note, this name change is for the Anglican Church Women Diocesan Board only. Anglican Church Women (ACW) groups in the parishes stay with their current name – ACW, Ladies Guild, Willing Workers, whatever, or evolve in a way that makes sense for them. The title, Anglican Church Women, has always meant to encompass all baptized Anglican women, but that concept has had a difficult time being understood and accepted since it came into being over 50 years ago.

Whatever parish women’s groups decide to do (eg. stay with their current situation, expand membership to include men, redefine how they will function, disband), a Diocesan Board called Anglican Church Women Board is not needed for their parish ministry to continue and evolve – there is parish and diocesan support for that.

If you feel your organized women’s group by whatever name is at a crossroads, with questions about how best to move forward, we would encourage you to identify your strengths, as a group, and explore ways you can build on these strengths, using the theme, *New and Wondrous Ways*, as inspiration. That is a key element that the Board did in its soul searching: identifying key Board strengths was critical in designing the shape of the successor organization. We will share in successive issues of *Let’s Keep in Touch*, other key features of the journey we engaged in to shape the vision for *Anglicans Powering Potential (APP)*. However, feel free to e-mail acw.nsboard@gmail.com with specific questions you might have, because, like the Board, a number of Anglican Church Women groups will feel they have reached a crossroads and may need to embrace change for their ministry in *New and Wondrous Ways*.

As the Anglican Church Women Board, forges ahead into a new future by engaging and exploring new possibilities, embracing change, and enhancing capacity for creative ministry, the Board encourages parishes to take advantage of the **Board’s 2022/23 theme, *Embracing Change in New and Wondrous Ways***. In the spring of 2023, the Board will launch the **new successor entity of the Board** that will be a **more gender inclusive/gender expansive board** that is designed along the lines of a **mini foundation**, with the proposed name change of ***Anglicans Powering Potential (APP)***. The purpose of this new entity would be that of **enhancing capacity for creative ministry**. The new Board will build on 4 key strengths of the current Board: strong fiscal management & stewardship, fundraising ability, partnership-building capacity, and the 4th Mark of Mission that focuses on social transformation.



With the proposed name change, the Logo will change as well. The Logo above is an example of what ***Anglicans Powering Potential (APP)*** might look like.