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MAY 29 RECD

May 27, 2009

Vision 2019  
The Anglican Church of Canada  
80 Hayden St.  
Toronto, ON  
M4Y 3G2

Re: Vision 2019:

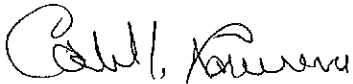
We have received the material with regard to Vision 2019, and are trying to make an appropriate response. However, the ambitious suggestions which have been set before us with regard to every parish participation, special focus, etc. are really beyond our capacity at the present time. What we do have, however, we share with you. I hope that this sharing may be focused around two areas, as follows:

1. Prior to our last triennial Diocesan Synod in June 2008, a wide ranging consultation was held in finalizing our Diocesan Goals for the next decade. As far as possible, the goals as approved at our Synod reflect the input of every Anglican in all of the scattered parish areas of this diocese, geographically the second largest in the Anglican Church of Canada. Copies of the material presented to Synod in the final report are enclosed. As part of our follow up, we are having printed special bookmarks in both English and in one of the two dialects of Cree used commonly on the opposite side. We enclose sample copies in both the Moose Cree and East Coast Cree dialects. We hope that this visioning process, which has taken a great deal of energy and commitment on the part of members of our diocese recently, will be helpful not only in formulating our own goals for the next decade, but as part of the Canada wide Vision 2019 exercise.
2. In anticipation of my own retirement early in January 2010, an Episcopal Search Committee, comprised of three senior clergy and three lay leaders representing all of the deaneries, cultures, and regions of the diocese, is at the beginning stages of another diocesan wide consultation process. The aim of this process is to develop a Diocesan Ministry Profile as a base for a Position Description for the person who will be chosen at an Electoral Synod to give episcopal leadership to this diocese into the decade following General Synod 2010.

While this consultation is presently only in the beginning stages, it will occupy a great deal of time and energy through the course of the next year. It will have reference to the Diocesan Goals mentioned in number 1 above, but will also be an opportunity to dream dreams and develop vision as new leadership is identified through the next stage of ministry and mission in this part of northern Canada. When this Diocesan Ministry Profile has been completed and then approved by our Executive Council in November, a copy will be forwarded to you.

I hope that this response and this reflection will be helpful to you, and is a fair response to the challenges and request of the Vision 2019 Program from the situation which we experience here.

Sincerely yours, in Christ,



Caleb J. Lawrence  
Archbishop of Moosonee

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Encl. Copy of Diocesan Goals Bookmarks  
Copy of the Diocesan Goals Task Force Report presented at Diocesan Synod 2008  
Copy of Diocesan Goals Summary included with the Agenda for each Executive Council Meeting







## Diocese of Moosonee

### Diocesan Goals and Priorities

**To encourage the ministry of all baptized Christians by:**

- Providing pastoral training, and
- Affirmation of leadership.

**To support the revitalized focus on ministry to youth and children by:**

- Participation in the "Eat-to Give" Programme
- Encouraging the participation of young people in special events and gatherings held throughout the diocese.

**To foster parish and diocesan development in strengthening spiritual growth by:**

- Encouraging Bible studies and developing educational resources and training in Christian formation
- Partnering with the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer
- Involvement in diocesan and parish healing gatherings and worship services.

**To strengthen financial responsibility by:**

- Furthering the understanding of diocesan policies and procedures
- Developing better communications between diocesan office and parishes
- Compiling a list of resources (print, human, pastoral and financial)

**To commit to walking in partnership for the implementation of the Indigenous Covenant.**

**Diocesan Goals Task Force Report**  
**Nov. 8, 2007**

***History:***

The Diocesan Goals Task Force was given the mandate to form goals at the diocesan level of the Diocese. At Synod 2005, the resulting motion from goals put forward to Synod did not pass because many parishes felt they had little or no participation in the process of formulating the proposed goals. Thus the new Executive Council struck a new task force with much the same mandate, but to make parishes more aware of the process and encourage more participation/feedback from them.

***Process for Parish input throughout the Diocese:***

An agenda for presentation at each Great Chapter meeting in 2007 was given to each Deanery, in which parish groups represented there would discuss a) who they are; b) who the diocese is; c) what their parish goals are; and d) what the diocesan goals need to be to allow them to meet their goals and to continue as worshipping, sharing, nurturing and serving congregations within their respective communities. This focus of forming goals that would enable them to grow and be nourished resulted in very good and often copious discussions, with concerns as well as a positive outlook for their future ministries in this diocese being voiced - and heard. After hearing the many responses to what people would like to see as Diocesan Goals, we revisited the goals put forward at Synod 2005 and discussed how they did or did not meet the suggestions put forward in the present meeting. From this, many of the original goals were reworded, more fully explained, or expanded upon and are thus the basis of the "new" goals.

Because all parishes weren't represented at their respective Great Chapters, the Rev. Edna Murdy traveled to these parishes and held discussions on the presentation. Waswanipi (James Bay Deanery), Kapuskasing (Kenogami Deanery), Iroquois Falls/ Matheson and Val d'Or (Cochrane Deanery) were the parishes she visited, as well as leading the presentation at both the Cochrane and Kenogami Great Chapters. The Rev. Cn. Cliff Dee made the presentation at the James Bay Great Chapter.

After acceptance of this report and of the draft motion of Diocesan Goals for Synod 2008 by the Executive Council, copies will be mailed to every parish in the Diocese so the people will realize they have been heard, and their suggestions are important and included in the drafting of the goals. This will give all the congregations time to discuss the matter with their new Synod delegates so they will be well informed for discussion of the motion at Synod.

***Collation of Results:***

Who are we?

- reaching out to: each other within the parish, in the community at large, beyond the community
- ecumenical participation expanding in various ways in the different communities
- aging congregation
- few children and young people (in the southern end of the diocese)
- growing number of children (in many of the First Nation Parishes)
- a place the rest of the community turns to for information re baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals, and where they expect to come for these 'rites of passage'

### Who is the Diocese?

- “We don’t really know”
- a need for the diocesan office to be more visible to parishes (outreach to parishes)
- uncertainty about what the diocesan office can do or be for parishes
- is it willing to buy into the ‘grassroots up’ approach or is it top down administration?
- provide, (keep available) resources (both hard copy and people) to parishes
- provide training for our various ministries
- encourage parishes to try new ideas/projects, resulting in new growth
- provide moral and financial support in various areas (travel to training workshops, providing trainers in various ministries)
- a need for a better communication between diocesan office and the parishes
- education of who they are, what their role is not only in our diocese but in the wider church, what they do for us

### Parish Goals (Every parish has their own set. Those listed here are a compilation of the most often repeated goals):

- outreach
- workshops and training for all types of ministries in the parish
- look a new models of ministry and be willing to try something new
- forget and move on - leave behind the “blame game”
- reconciliation service
- approach disenchanted people
- Cree resources (in each dialect so everyone can benefit)
- increase both amount and types of music in services
- find a way to manage human resources as well as financial resources
- stay open, “keep on going”
- to understand baptismal ministry and its impacts
- to establish/nourish/expand children and youth ministry

### What is needed to realize these goals:

- Training! Training! Training!
- financial support to attend or to hold training workshops/conferences
- more ordained clergy
- access to new models of ministry, new ways of “doing liturgy”
- resources to assist in leading services, to provide pastoral care, to lead Bible studies and other Christian Education components, to understand how the Anglican church works
- translators in the various Cree dialects so all communities may access the resources and take part in discussions
- music resources
- be in constant communication with the diocesan office and other parishes to get the assistance and resources available
- separate spiritual from financial concerns
- more mission outreach
- an outlook in which we help ourselves and bring about change within our

parish/community and not always expect a solution to be dropped on us from elsewhere

### ***Introduction to Diocesan Goals***

The committee wishes to acknowledge, with deepest thanks, the contributions of the many individuals who were part of the process of consultation. We found it interesting, and affirming, that not one goal was rejected at any of our meetings. Suggestions were made to alter, expand, or improve a number of them, and we have attempted to follow those suggestions faithfully.

Overall, however, we feel there was consensus that the goals were relevant, and appropriate to our Diocese. It should be noted, most strongly, the no priority has been assigned to these, or is even suggested by their order. In our minds, each is as vital as all the others. Each is worthy of support on its own. Each is to be emphasized, for the effective operation and improvement of the Diocese.

Most importantly, we emphasize that these goals are a product of the people of the Diocese. They are not rules imposed from above; they are not dictates about which we must be afraid. They are statements of our wishes and desires, telling all who may listen what we expect from our Diocese. It is imperative that we all, especially those who may be going to the next Diocesan Synod, be aware of these goals, of their intent, and of the actions that we hope will follow their implementation.

### ***Diocesan Goals (the motion will be worded by the Resolutions Committee)***

To encourage the ministry of all baptized Christians by:

- providing pastoral training and
- affirmation for leadership

To support the revitalized focus on ministry to youth and children by:

- participation in the Eat to Give Program
- encouraging the participation of young people in special events and gatherings held throughout the diocese

To foster parish and diocesan development in strengthening spiritual growth by:

- encouraging Bible Studies and developing educational resources and training in Christian formation
- partnering with the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer
- involvement in diocesan and parish healing gatherings and worship services

To strengthen financial responsibility by:

- furthering the understanding of diocesan policies and procedures
- developing better communications between diocesan office and parishes
- compiling a list of resources (print, human, pastoral and financial)

To commit to walking in partnership for the implementation of the Indigenous Covenant.



## *Expanded Explanations of Goals*

### **To encourage the ministry of all baptized Christians by:**

- **providing pastoral training and**
- **affirmation for leadership**

Repeatedly we heard the plea for more training, especially for lay readers, but also for the many other ministries carried out in our parishes. There is a need, when we offer such training opportunities, that financial assistance be forthcoming so some who may be called but who have few financial resources (either personal or parochial) will be able to attend.

We also heard of a need for some kind of affirmation for leadership - both at the parish level and the resulting training and support from the whole diocese.

### **To support the revitalized focus on ministry to youth and children by:**

- **participation in the Eat to Give Program**
- **encouraging the participation of young people in special events and gatherings held throughout the diocese**

The reason for the inclusion of the Eat to Give Program in this motion is its necessity in funding a diocesan children and youth co-ordinator. Money is scarce, and given the high priority people (rightly) place on ministry to our young people, we need to be more creative in finding the funds to allow such ministry to grow. The Eat to Give Program allows all of us who eat to also finance such a ministry. It costs us- as individuals- nothing except the stamp to send in our registration forms. Once that is done, the Community Charity Services does all the paperwork so that the grocery stores give 5% of the money we have spent on groceries to CCS, who in turn, after taking 1.5% for their work, send 3.5% on to the Diocese of Moosonee for the express purpose of Diocesan Children and Youth Ministry. We, in turn, are issued "gift cards" for the amount we have decided to have taken from our bank accounts and have registered with CCS to do so. These cards arrive before the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, and we use them in place of debit or credit cards. They are a declining balance, so we use every cent on groceries.

Different events are held in parishes throughout the year and often invitations are extended to all the surrounding parishes - especially within deaneries or according to geographical proximity. Sometimes it is a matter of assistance financially to get the young people to the event, or else a matter of getting the information to the various parishes (communication). If a diocesan communication list of (email, phone numbers, postal) addresses was available to all members of the parishes, not locked in a drawer in the rector's desk, then opportunities would increase to involve the youth in events that expose them to diverse and interesting areas of spiritual growth.

### **To foster parish and diocesan development in strengthening spiritual growth by:**

- **encouraging Bible Studies and developing educational resources and training in Christian formation**
- **partnering with the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer**
- **involvement in diocesan and parish healing gatherings and worship services**

There was a very great concern that we only talk about financial stuff and forget the spiritual part of our lives and our relationships. This concern was expressed throughout the diocese, and this goal strives to address it. The first point is to hear and study the Word of God and many are seeking materials that will assist them in doing so. This also includes learning about Christian

formation through our "rites of passage", such as baptism, confirmation and marriage. A diocesan resource pool of preparation materials for these rites, plus courses such as Alpha would be a great help for parishes and their leaders in these ministries.

It was also mentioned that, in so much dialogue about what we need, we rarely mentioned the need for prayer, not only alone, but with others. Thus the inclusion of the second point, partnering with the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. The way this is done, and encouraged by our diocesan representative, the Rev. Margaret Dempster, is through parish representatives, parish enrolment in the AFP, and participating in annual AFP events. We have some events held in our own diocese and others happen across the country.

The third point encourages us to become involved in the many gatherings and services that are held throughout the diocese that would bring us into closer contact with each other, allow us to hear and see what others are doing, and let us realize how we can strengthen each other spiritually not only in prayer but by walking with each other through this journey of life in faith.

**To strengthen financial responsibility by:**

- **furthering the understanding of diocesan policies and procedures**
- **developing better communications between diocesan office and parishes**
- **compiling a list of resources (print, human, pastoral, and financial)**

Discussions in every parish and deanery included statements about not understanding who or what the diocesan office is. An educational focus, perhaps with someone going into the parishes, explaining the set-up of the Anglican Church, the function of the dioceses and their offices ( not only how they function in each diocese but also in the Canadian Church as well as the whole Anglican Communion), will go a long way in providing understanding.

Because many parishes do not have a 'parish email' address, they don't receive some of the information that is sent from the diocesan office. This is especially true for those parishes without an incumbent. There is also a need for more of the lay leadership in parishes to become more acquainted with the diocesan staff so they will be able to call for assistance and resources. And the third point, the resources themselves, is a much repeated theme in the discussions on diocesan goals. It isn't expected that the diocesan office would have every resource stored in Schumacher, but could compile a list of the various resources available in each parish that are available for loan to other parishes in the diocese - and make this list available to each and every parish. It is also hoped that there would be financial assistance in accessing the human resources for training purposes.

**To commit to walking in partnership for the implementation of the Indigenous Covenant.**

We have begun this journey in many ways, such as including more First Nations representation on the financial and property committee and the executive council, the ordaining of 8 deacons in two communities (one is now ordained priest), and participating in a healing gathering in 2006. We still have many opportunities to strengthen and nourish the relationship between our different cultures, especially in our spiritual life as we walk together on our journey through life in faith.

*Respectively submitted by: The Rev. Edna Murdy (chair);  
Mr. Richard Moore and Mrs. Bonnie Williams*