

MAP Consultation

In his Charge at the 2010 Synod, Bishop Chapman stated that the ministries that he was calling us to embrace fall within the mandate of the Five Marks of Mission. To begin with, he called the Diocese to focus upon Marks of Mission #1 and 2: To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom and to teach, baptize and nurture new believers. However, to do this, he said that *“we must begin to think of ourselves not as a church that is dying but rather, a church that is poised for greater ministry, more vibrant mission and increased membership within the communities of faith. I spoke of this concern earlier in my Crosstalk article and I mention it again; it is time to change our focus.”* Bishop Chapman then went on to say: *“A refocused church and diocese will be a little unsettling. We will be called to witness and minister in new ways. For some places to grow, others will need to let go and die trusting in the fullness of Christ's resurrection. It is the way of God. Others will need to let go of old ways, so that new and more appropriate work can take shape that will further the mission of the church.”*

In response to this Charge, in early 2011, representatives of 7 of the Anglican churches in Ottawa West Deanery, including St. Mark's, met together to examine how best to serve the ministry and mission of the Church and to discuss their willingness to begin the process of area ministry planning on a deanery-wide level or in smaller groups. The meetings were facilitated by the Parish Growth and Renewal Committee (PGRC). Through the discussions and consultations that ensued, feelings were expressed that several of the parishes in the Deanery shared the same issues of ageing buildings and ageing congregations and that the possibilities for cooperative actions should be explored. The clergy of St. Mark's, St. Richard's and St. Michael and All Angels talked among themselves and decided to try some shared ministry and had a very successful joint Lenten program in the spring of 2012.

The PGRC could see that it was becoming too unwieldy for 7 churches to continue to meet so recommended that it would be more fruitful if the three congregations of St. Mark's, St. Richard's and St. Michael and All Angels explore their opportunities for shared ministry. It was also recommended that the Ministry Assessment Process (MAP), developed and successfully implemented in the Diocese of New Westminster over the past 10+ years, be used for the exploration.

In late September 2012, the Ven. Christopher Dunn, Archdeacon of Ottawa West, invited the clergy plus 2 representatives from each of the three parishes to meet with the Rev. Mavis Brownlee, a PGRC consultant who has had recent experience with MAP. The meeting took place on November 22, with Fr. Brian and Judy Darling attending from St. Mark's. From the discussions that night, it was decided that it was time to begin conversations involving the full congregations from all three churches. **Saturday February 2, 2013** was chosen as the date for a **Town Hall meeting**, to take place from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Richard's. This meeting is intended to be an opportunity for the three congregations to begin to propose and to explore the opportunities for jointly involving their people and their buildings in serving the ministry and mission of our church. It is important that leaders, such as parish council members from all three parishes, attend this meeting.

At the November 22 meeting, some of the initial questions to be addressed in the MAP process were briefly discussed. The notes that were made at that meeting are provided on the next page.

Tri Parish MAP Consultation Thursday November 22, 7:00 PM@ St. Michael and All Angels

What do I value about myself, my parish, the Anglican Church?

- Follow through
- Commitment
- Inclusivity/acceptance
- Compassionate
- Integrity
- Empowered and encouraged
- Freedom
- Generosity
- Opportunity and acceptance
- Grounded in faith
- Diversity/openness
- Diverse/age demographic
- Respecting of tradition

What are the core values of our parish?

St. Michael and All Angels-**Risk Takers/Welcoming**

St. Mark- **Faithfulness/ Caring/a holding of Tradition**

St. Richard- **Loving, Caring, Community**

Three Hopes for the future of Anglican Ministry in our area

- That there would be more outreach
- Be a relief of anxiety
- More ways to work together
- More team ministry
- Focus on ministry not buildings
- Get rid of buildings
- Work together to achieve critical mass
- More partnerships (eg. Lutherans)
- More interdenominational relations
- Leaving no one behind
- Financial health
- Move from scarcity to abundance
- Broader vision- beyond just Sunday services

Next steps- Planning meeting January 22 7PM@ St. Michael's

for Town Hall Feb. 2, 9am-12 @ St Richard's