



Together in Mission

**Diocese of Qu'Appelle
Mission Action Plan
2013–15**

• Worship • Faith Groups • Outreach • Evangelism •

Rationale: What is our call to be church?

The great story of the scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, testifies to and unveils for us God's meaning and purpose for our existence as creatures. The whole of the Scriptures speak to this singular reality – In our diocesan MAP we have identified four passages in particular that are helpful as we seek to engage ourselves with God's mission in the world:

The Great Commandment reminds us that by God's design we are to “love the Lord your God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength” and “love our neighbour as our self” (Mk. 12:29-31; Mt. 22:34-40; Lk. 10:25-28).

The Great Commission reminds us that living out that love is, in part, bringing others into the knowledge and healing grace of the love that we have known through Jesus: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (In Mark, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation”), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:47-48).

The Great Transformation comes from Saint Paul, who says, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom.12:1-2). To be transformed in our thinking through prayer that we may discern what is the will of God.

The Great Purpose. The fourth passage speaks of unity and proclamation based on testimony (evangelism). We are to be “living stones”, to be “built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:4-5,9).

We are to be built together in order to proclaim God's love and saving grace to the world. The primary task we have as the Church in this diocese is to move from the mindset of maintenance to that of mission. To make the shift from a separated ecclesiology and missiology to be a church whose primary action is missional and not as something we do, along with fundraisers and services, but to the mindset that we are to be together in mission.

'A Church Without Walls'

(from the Church of Scotland)

This has been influential in the development of this mission action plan.

From church focus to Christ focus

- Following Jesus to see what church forms round him

From settled church to church as a movement

- Going where people are rather than waiting for people to come

From a culture of guilt to a culture of grace

- Freeing people to love and be loved while not counting the cost

From running congregations to building communities

- Working towards a relational reformation

From isolation to interdependence

- Encouraging churches to work together

From individualism to teamwork

- Seeing teamwork as essential to all ministry

From top down church to upside down church

- Putting the local church at the centre of the agenda

From centralized resources to development resources

- Releasing funds to encourage local vision

From faith as security to faith as risk

- Looking for new courage to break out of old routine

A primary role for those who work at the broader level of the diocese is to equip and enable the work of mission and ministry for both congregations and individual members of the Church.

Diocesan Mission Action Plan

There are important things to keep in mind as we move forward with a Mission Action Plan for the diocese, including:

1. Tasks and goals must be grounded in the purpose and mission of God, made known to us in Jesus Christ. The question is not “what do we want” but “what does God want of us.”
2. We are to be attentive to the reality that God is already at work in our congregations, in our personal lives and in the world. We will need to be attentive to what God is doing so that we may join in with that work already begun.
3. As a diocese we will need to keep in mind that all the members of all of our congregations and parishes are members of the diocese and collectively carry out its ministry; some more focused locally in the congregation, some more focused on the broader ministries of committees, task forces or the Synod Office, some a combination of the two, and all carrying it out into the world beyond our various doors.
4. A primary role of those who work at the broader level of the diocese is to equip and enable the work of ministry for both congregations and individual members of the Church. The four pillars (Worship – Faith groups – Outreach – Evangelism) that we have adopted in the diocese, are key areas which will shape the kind of enabling and equipping that we will do together.
5. It is important to keep in mind that we are not simply pursuing institutional survival, not bolstering membership to have enough givers and doers to keep things going: *“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the Gospel will save it” (Mk 8:35)*

Rather we are to be living stones, “built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Pt 2:4-5,9).

Explanation of the Vision for the diocese

A primary role for those who work at the broader level of the diocese will be to be mindful of the above missional statements and to equip and enable the work of mission and ministry for both congregations and individual members in the diocese.

So what will this look like for the Diocese of Qu’Appelle?

In the book “Reclaiming the Great Commission,” the now retired bishop of Texas, the Right Reverend Claude Payne, used the image of a wagon wheel to explain the missional shift required in their diocese.

The diocesan centre, the hub, is to provide the resources required for local congregations which, in Texas, were called Mission Outposts. True mission happens where the wheel hits the road, hence the change to an equipping, enabling and resourcing diocese.

Therefore the spokes of the wagon wheel become the communication and supply routes for these resources to travel from the resourcing centre.

The vision our bishop has is similar. The image (cover) is that of his gold pectoral cross. A cross which is similar to the quadraform version of St. Chad’s cross; the extended arms on the bishops cross signify an even greater emphasis of reaching out.

Unlike the wagon wheel, the pectoral cross has a ring around the amethyst, the diocesan hub or centre. The diocesan office does not have the staff to fully provide the resources required for all parish mission initiatives.

The circle around the amethyst represents a regional missional leadership or bishop's council, which gathers in a circle: to pray; to worship; to study; to share; to be strengthened; and to be sent out in their mission task.

The regional leadership team of lay and clergy will be chosen based on their skills, giftedness and proven leadership in mission and, as we see in the mission action plan, they will have a budget to enable mission in their areas.

The four arms that project out from the centre of the cross are, like the spokes on the wagon wheel, avenues of communication and resources going out to the parishes, to the places where mission happens.

The four arms are highly symbolic and represent many things, such as:

The four foundational Scriptures for the Mission Action Plan (MAP)

The Great Commission
(Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:47-48)

The Great Commandment
(Mk. 12:29-31; Mt. 22:34-40; Lk. 10:25-28)

The Great Transformation
(Rom. 12:1-2)

The Great Purpose
(1 Peter 2:4-5, 9)

The four pillars for every parish

- Faith Groups
- Outreach
- Enriching worship
- Evangelism

The four main emphases of this MAP

- Regional Leadership
- Children & Youth
- Mission and Ministry Education and Communication
- Urban and Reserve First Nation ministry

The four regions of the diocese

- Swift Current Archdeaconry: Cypress and Kinrose deaneries
- Yorkton Archdeaconry: Anson, Touchwood and Pelly deaneries
- Wascana Archdeaconry: Wascana, Moose Jaw and Souris deaneries
- Regina: City of Regina

The four MAP initiatives

- Healthy parish leadership
- Stewardship
- Fresh Expressions/Church Plants
- Ecumenical partnership and Companion links

Four potential strategies to turn around decline

The former Dean of Dallas, Canon Kevin Martin, has outlined the following strategy to dramatically turn around the decline in the Episcopal Church, strategies which we see in this proposed phase of the Diocesan MAP:

The Four Strategies

- 1) *Develop younger lay and ordained leaders with an emphasis on reaching younger generations of un-churched people. A key tool is to create a Mission Training Center for these leaders. Hence the Qu'Appelle School for Mission and Ministry and the appointment of a half-time Youth Missioner.*
- 2) *Start new congregations using proven innovative methods to reach newer and younger communities for the Church. New church planting and fresh expressions of church continue to be the singularly most proven method for reaching the un-churched in North America. We already have examples of these from a church plant in Pense, to Pub Church, Café Church, Messy Church, Clothing Stores and Feed my Sheep initiatives.*
- 3) *Intentionally identify 10 to 20 per cent of congregations that demonstrate a readiness for revitalization and give them the leadership and tools to accomplish this. The key word is readiness. Our regional budget for congregational development will help provide a budget for this.*
- 4) *Enact a plan to reach different ethnic/indigenous populations. It is hoped that an Urban Aboriginal ministry will begin in Regina.*

Building on the foundation of Christ

Continuing the renovations

1. A Healthy Church (Ephesians 4:22-24)

A call to wellness in the Christian Life. 'Healthy' living and functioning within God's intention and purpose. Health is a result of balance. A healthy diocese has a balance of strategies, policies and structures to promote wellness in the body of Christ.

Our Vision is "every Anglican be rooted in scripture and prayer; regular in worship; outreaching in compassion and ready to share their faith".

Diocesan Council has discerned that, going forward, we should:

- a) create regional leadership to aid congregational development and parish MAP making – \$90,000
 - cultivate discipleship in every congregation
 - actively encourage Cursillo, Alpha and other discipleship programs; and the four pillars to assist healthy congregational life (lively and engaging worship, small group ministry, outreach and evangelism) Natural church development and Back to Church Sunday resources
- b) hire half-time diocesan youth missionary – could be shared with another parish(s) to make it full-time – \$60,000 for 2 years
- c) support self-determination of Urban First Nations, with the \$60,000 gifted from the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land.
- d) establish a diocesan/parish outreach and educational project, possibly Muyinga and/or First Nations – to learn about life, culture and spirituality. If invited, provide resources for their ministries.
- e) host Q 2014 – \$6,000
- f) provide mentorship for new leadership

From 2013-15, it is proposed that we allocate \$156,000 to promoting a Healthy Church.

2. An Equipping Church (Ephesians 4:7-16)

Leaders – lay and clergy - called to study and train for mission and ministry.

Diocesan Council has discerned that, going forward, we should:

- a) continue to provide an honorarium for part-time Qu'Appelle School for Mission and Ministry administrator – \$18,000
- b) continue to provide honoraria to teachers – \$3,000
- c) set up two more Christian education libraries – Yorkton and Swift Current

From 2013-15, it is proposed that we allocate \$21,000 to promoting an Equipping church.

3. An Enabling Church (1 Corinthians 12:1-8)

A call to develop missional Administrative Support structures and personnel to aid the mission and ministry of the diocese.

Diocesan Council has discerned that, going forward, we should:

- a) resource parishes for mission, providing stewardship education and support
- b) care for parish leaders – clergy and lay
- c) promote/support work of the bishop through archdiaconal/regional leadership
- d) use our MAP steering/implementation group to carry out initiatives
- e) develop communications team for Diocese – \$10,000
- f) change diocesan structures, committees and regional boundaries to aid the work of mission/ministry in the Diocese (legislation committee)

From 2013-15, it is proposed that we allocate \$10,000 to promoting an Enabling Church.

4. A Generous Church (2 Corinthians 9:6-12)

Diocesan Council has discerned that, going forward, we should:

- a) provide staff resources for stewardship and financial development
- b) encourage payment of fair share requests to ensure no short-fall occurs
- b) conduct a feasibility study for 'Together in Mission' stewardship initiative – \$10,000 (plus \$16,000 towards implementing the initiative itself, if found to be feasible)
- c) task our finance committee to report to Synod 2015 regarding a 10-year sustainable financial plan

From 2013-15, it is proposed that we allocate \$26,000 to promoting a Generous Church.

5. An Outreaching, Ecumenical and Missionary Church (Luke 10:1-9)

Diocesan Council has discerned that, going forward, we should:

- a) encourage church planting /fresh expression initiatives
- b) invite “experts” to share mission insights with us
- c) Provide bursary for people to attend church plant/fresh expressions conferences – use remaining funds from sale of Holy Trinity, Regina
- d) further our companion links, in missional ways – work with ecumenical friends and encourage the same in parishes to strengthen our Christian presence across the diocese
- e) develop Diocesan outreach projects with First Nations here and diocese of Musinga – \$5,000

From 2013-15, it is proposed that we allocate \$5,000 to promoting an Outreaching, Ecumenical and Missionary Church.

The MAP prayers

Draw your Church together, O God,
into one great company of disciples,
together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life,
together serving him in the mission to the world, and
together witnessing to his love on every continent and island.

Eternal God, giver of life and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent
us into the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in
this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



The Diocese of Qu'Appelle
Building on the foundation of Christ

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The Anglican Church of Canada

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