



## From Harbour to Horizon: Charting Christ's Church 1976-2026 ... And Beyond

### Synod 2026: The Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

Article by Archdeacon Charlene Taylor  
Photographs by Fred Dinham

The clergy and lay/youth synod delegates gathered in St. John's on September 18 and 19, 2026, for the first in-person synod in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador since before the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a time of prayer, fellowship, and celebration of ministry, and also its 50th Anniversary as a diocese.

We were honoured to have had several special guests from the wider church join us for our synod:

- The Most Rev'd Shane Parker, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada
- The Most Rev'd Chris Harper, National Anglican Indigenous Bishop
- Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director

- of the Anglican Foundation of Canada
- Su McLeod, Director Supporter Relations, Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF)
  - Bishop John Watton, Diocese of Central Newfoundland
  - The Rev'd Mickton Phiri, Diocesan Administrator, Diocese of Western Newfoundland

Our theme, "From

Harbour to Horizon: Charting Christ's Church 1976-2026... and Beyond," continues our strategic plan, "Set Sail," and the Five Marks of Mission.

Canon Dave Morgan, Canon for Creation Care and Stewardship, reminded us of our responsibilities as Christians to safeguard what our Creator has entrusted to us.

Canon Debbie Pantin, Canon for Evangelism and Witness, engaged us in new ways of approaching evangelism in our lives and the lives of others.

Angela Morgan updated us on the tremendous ministry throughout the diocese through our Strategic Plan – "Set Sail."

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The Rev'd Rafiq Messih



Brenda Hunt-Stevenson



The bell



Sonia F. Williams

## 911 Remembered in Harbour Grace

To honour the 24 Canadians lost during the 9/11 attacks, the Rev'd Rafiq Messih, alongside parishioners Brenda Hunt-Stevenson and Sonia F. Williams, rang the 1936 New York City bell at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Harbour Grace, NL, 24 times.  
-submitted with photographs by Sonia Williams

ANGLICAN LIFE in Newfoundland and Labrador is the newspaper of the Anglican Church of Canada in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. A co-operative effort of the three Dioceses in Newfoundland and Labrador, it publishes ten issues each year with an independent editorial policy. Anglican Life is a section of the Anglican Journal

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### DEADLINES FOR FALL SUBMISSIONS:

December's print issue: 29 October  
Jan/Feb print issue: 30 November  
March print issue: 29 January

Please email your parish submissions to the Editor at:  
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Thank you!



The earlier that you submit your stories and photographs, the more likely they are to be included in the next issue of Anglican Life.





Archbishop Percy Coffin  
Western Newfoundland

# Empty Chairs

*There’s a grief that can’t be spoken; there’s a pain goes on and on  
Empty chairs and empty tables; now my friends are dead and gone  
Phantom faces at the window; phantom shadows on the floor  
Empty chairs and empty tables; where my friends will meet no more.*

- The Character of Marius Pontmercy, Les Misérables, 1985

Eight large cast iron/bronze seatless chairs rest at the base of the fortress overlooking Oslo Fjord. The chairs have no seats to symbolize the absence of the Jewish community who were forced to leave them behind. The deportation of the Jewish community from Oslo occurred between November 1942 and February 1943; 768 members of the Jewish community fell victim to this act. All the women and children were sent to gas chambers in Auschwitz when they arrived five days later. Men were sent to transit camps to await their doom. There were 28 survivors. While the act was a Norwegian tragedy it was a tragedy



Photo: Empty Chair Momument in Oslo, Norway; by Lensfield/Shutterstock

to Judaism and to humanity as well. An unconscionable human cost incurred by hate. Nations go to war for various reasons: to gain or protect territory, to obtain resources such as oil, water and access routes, to overtake governments and hostile regimes, to promote religious and philosophical ideals, to keep peace at home. While hate may not be the basis for war it will inevitably take its toll. Political philosopher Erich Fromm identifies the dual nature of hatred in conflict:

“Character conditioned hatred (irrational): stems from intense social, political or economic frustration. When populations feel powerless, anxious or economically insecure they become highly vulnerable to propaganda. Leaders exploit this vulnerability, redirecting collective anger toward a designated scapegoat to build a “basis” for war. Rational Hatred (defensive): a reactive defensive response to a direct violation of one’s life, freedom, country. In this context, hatred

is not the cause of the war but a psychological shield generated to survive and resist aggression. When there is just cause and legitimate authority with a hope for success, as a last resort, a country may go to war. (St. Augustine and St Thomas Aquinas played a significant role in formulating the “Just War Theory”.) The leaders of nations thus summon their people to take up the fight. We believe it is our duty at the 11th hour on the 11th of November

of every year to uphold the courage, honour the sacrifice, grieve the suffering and loss of our armed forces and civilians whose chairs are empty. Meanwhile the hatred and animosity that run amok, not on the battlefields, but in our stores, schools, arenas and homes deserve no seat of honour and needs to surrender to the Holy One who overcame hatred with love. Peace be with you, Archbishop Percy



## Important Facts About Meaningful Funerals

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Please remember that there will be no February issue of Anglican Life or The Anglican Journal in 2027. A combined issue for January/February will be published. There will be March issues published as usual. Thank you for your understanding.



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The Rev'd Cynthia Haines-Turner  
Columnist

# What Do The Reign of Christ, Alongside Hope, and Dolly Parton Have In Common?

This past summer, it was everywhere—on mainstream media and social media, in every form you might access them—the news that Dolly Parton had died. Along with the news of her death came the stories of her humanitarian work. Many who had admired and followed her during her lifetime, and I include myself among that number, knew about her integrity and her compassion, even if we would not have been able to enumerate all of the causes she supported.

Many were aware of her Imagination Library, where children who were enrolled in the program received a book a month from the time of their birth until they entered kindergarten. Some would have also known about her support of HIV/AIDS research and awareness and even her support of research for a COVID-19 vaccine. But few of us would have known the true extent of her philanthropic



A woman looks at a solar suitcase from Alongside Hope  
photo by E. Rowe

activities, including in the areas of Childhood Literacy and Education, Medical Research and Healthcare, Disaster Relief and Conservation. It's sufficient to say that she was a person who had a heart for vulnerable

people, for children, for those who were poor or overlooked or sick or, as in the case of HIV/AIDS, in her support of people who, at the height of the pandemic, were ostracized or vilified. She readily spoke of her faith and she lived that faith. She cared for what the gospel of Matthew calls “the least of these.”

“The least of these” are also the ones reached through the partnerships of Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF). In Alongside Hope, we support people who are victims of natural disasters, we partner with vulnerable communities seeking to engage in sustainable agricultural practices, and we support the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza—operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem—as they continue to provide care, even as supplies dwindle and hospital buildings are bombed. We have funded solar suitcases—a brilliant innovation that provides a reliable energy source for

women giving birth in the dark of night. Most recently, the Wild Ride campaign raised money to provide solar panels at St. Luke's Hospital in the West Bank. The hospital serves a population of about 455,000 people. Solar power will provide a reliable energy source for that hospital.

On the last Sunday of the liturgical year, we focus on God's vision for ourselves and our world, a vision of justice. This year, the gospel reading is from Matthew 25, where Jesus tells us that when we feed those who are hungry, give drink to those who are thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe those who are naked, care for those who are sick and those in prison, what he calls “the least of these who are members of my family,” we do it to him.

That love was visible in the life of Dolly Parton, it is visible in the ministry of Alongside Hope, and the Reign of Christ Sunday teaches us that it can be visible in our lives.

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ENL SYNOD

from page 1

The synod culminated with Archbishop Shane Parker’s blessing of our mobile bus ministry, Community Connector.

Bishop Sam Rose reminded us of where we have come from: from a new diocese in 1976 to an outward-looking diocese in 2026, focused on deepening relationships, transforming discipleship, renewing stewardship, and engaging partnerships.

As we journey beyond 2026, Bishop Sam’s Charge encouraged us with these words, “To sail well into this future, we shall need deep trust in the One Captain of us all, an openness to adapt when the wind changes, the unity of purpose that is larger than any one parish...Fifty years is a wonderful milestone. It is not the end of the voyage. They Harbour of fifty years ago is behind us. A wide, hopeful and challenging horizon still lies ahead. With the Baptismal Covenant as our guide, the Five Marks of Mission as our chart, our Canons and their crew helping to read the waters, and the wind of the Holy Spirit filling our sails, we shall move forward in confidence and joy in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”



Su McLeod, Director Supporter Relations, Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF)



Youth delegates to synod share a lunch with Bishop Sam Rose and Archbishop Shane Parker



The Community Connector bus



The Most Rev'd Chris Harper, National Anglican Indigenous Archbishop



On the Community Connector Bus. Left to right: Bishop Sam Rose, Archbishop Shane Parker, Canon Amanda Taylor, The Rev'd Fred Marshall, and Dr. Scott Brubacher (Anglican Foundation of Canada)



Do you have a story about the history of your church or parish? Would you like to share it with the readers of Anglican Life? Send your story in for publication: [anglicanlifeni@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanlifeni@gmail.com)



The Rev'd Jeffrey Blackwood  
Columnist

# Be Prepared

It always seems like when I'm writing my column, I'm somewhere different.

As I write this, I find myself on the MV Highlanders en route back to Newfoundland. Leading up to the voyage, I was in Miramichi, New Brunswick, helping my in-laws with the daunting task of moving back to Newfoundland. The entire trip has been full of the idea of being prepared: my father-in-law preparing for retirement, the whole family preparing for the return to Newfoundland, and everything that comes with it.

On the homefront, our family of three is preparing to welcome a fourth member in just a few short weeks. And the preparations that come with that seem to be facing us more and more as we get closer.

I'm a creature that likes to be prepared. I like to know what's coming—when I take a vacation, I like knowing what's planned, where we're staying, and so on.

By the time you're all



On the Newfoundland ferry  
photo by E. Rowe

reading this, we'll be only a couple of weeks away from Advent once again. Every year, we talk about Advent as a time of—you guessed it—preparation. Between preparing for Christmas, Advent often feels like it takes a back seat in the third row of the minivan.

Advent preparation is far too important to overlook, my friends. We are called to always be prepared for the return of the Saviour. The thing is, as humans, we've been preparing for two millennia for an event that (to the best of our knowledge, anyway) still hasn't happened. It therefore becomes easy to get frustrated with preparing. It would be infinitely easier to prepare if we were just given the date!

Yet Christ reminds us that neither the day nor the hour is ours to know. He tells us to keep watch and stay steadfast. We are to remain persistent in prayer and faithful in our calling to do as God calls us to do.

Which, at face value,

doesn't sound like a lot to do to prepare.

But it's far more than just that, my friends. It's about seeking out God in every nook, cranny, and crevice of society. It's about pushing the boundaries of our comfort zones to find God where we least expect Him. It's about reconciling with those whom we feel have deeply wronged us. It's about truly living as best we can following the best model for life there is.

The key there is to do the best that we can. Just as we prepare as best we can for a trip or a change of life (and trust me, there are times when being prepared is almost impossible!), we are called to do the best we can to be prepared for Christ's return.

Our best is different for all of us, and I can't tell you exactly what to do. But friends, do your best this Advent season to prepare your hearts for when Christ returns to us. And in turn, that will inspire others to prepare their hearts as well.



TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE  
CONSECRATED, LORD, TO THEE.





## Confirmation in Savage Cove

On Sunday September 20, 2026, St. Mark's Church in Savage Cove was filled to capacity with over 150 people for the confirmation of 17 confirmands by Bishop-in-Residence, Archbishop Percy Coffin. A beautiful and spirit-filled service was followed by a delicious pot luck meal and great fellowship.

- article and photograph by Canon Vernon Short

# Growing Where We’re Planted: How A Six-Year Partnership is Helping One Diocese Live More Deeply Into Its Vocation

Article by Michell Hauser  
Development and Communications Officer, Anglican Foundation of Canada  
Photographs from The Rev’d Fred Marshall on behalf of the Diocese of Eastern NL

Since 2020, the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) has provided more than \$70,000 in Community Ministries grants across the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. Those investments have helped the Diocese continue becoming the loving place God is calling it to be—finding new ways to serve its neighbours, strengthen its communities, and bear witness to the Gospel through practical acts of compassion.

The story begins with Home Again Furniture Bank, a community ministry the Diocese helped establish in 2015. Working with local agencies, Home Again furnishes homes for families, newcomers, seniors, and others rebuilding their lives after crisis. The ministry became the catalyst for AFC’s first Community Ministries grant to the Diocese in 2020, marking the start of a new chapter in the relationship between the Diocese and its national foundation.

As Home Again expanded, AFC continued to respond. In 2023, AFC supported *Making Dreams Possible*, helping provide approximately 130 beds for people who had been sleeping on floors, sofas, and air mattresses. Two years later, *Moving Furniture, Transforming Lives* helped offset rising transportation costs, ensuring donated furniture could continue reaching households across the region.

By 2025, Home Again had furnished 3,782 homes through partnerships with more than 40 community organizations.

From that beginning, AFC’s support broadened into a wider vision of local ministry. In 2023, AFC awarded a \$5,000 Community Ministries grant to *Sowing Seeds, Growing Community*, transforming twelve acres of underused diocesan land in Goulds into a community farm dedicated to food security and creation care.

The initiative drew support from local farmers and community partners, including Food First NL, the Kilbride–Ferryland Family Resource Centre, the Goulds Lions Club, the Goulds Recreation Association, St. Kevin’s Parish, and the Goulds Community Food Bank. Its purpose was not only to grow food, but also to demonstrate how church



Mary Lou Vokey (Volunteer Logistics Coordinator), The Rev’d Fred Marshall, and Bishop Sam Rose sitting in the Community Connector



Volunteers sorting through the many, many bags of clothing and toiletry items that are to be given out free of charge

land could be used to address local needs and encourage other congregations to consider similar ministries.

By fall 2024, the farm had harvested 1,900 pounds of potatoes and 400 pounds of turnips for local food banks, helping feed nearly 10,000 people.

As the partnership between AFC and the Diocese continued to grow, so did its vision for community ministry expand. Having invested in outreach that restored dignity and addressed food insecurity, the

Diocese also began investing intentionally in the next generation.

In 2024 and 2025, the Diocese partnered with AFC through *Say Yes! to Kids*, raising funds to strengthen ministry with children, youth, and young adults across Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. Supporting participation in CLAY, the Church Lads’ Brigade, and new opportunities for youth ministry, the campaign encouraged parishes to build on ministries already taking root

throughout the Diocese.

By 2025, the Diocese’s relationship with AFC had become about much more than funding individual projects. Each successive initiative revealed another dimension of the Diocese’s vocation. That vocation found its newest expression in the Community Connector, carrying the Church beyond its buildings and onto the streets of St. John’s.

Developed under the leadership of the Rev’d Canon Amanda Taylor and in collaboration with outreach agencies, advocacy groups, and government partners, the mobile wellness platform provides meals, housing support, basic health care, assistance with government documentation, clean needle supplies, personal hygiene items, and opportunities for community connection.

“The Community Connector is a safe and welcoming space for street-involved individuals to access holistic wellness and community connections,” says Taylor. “Its purpose is both immediate and enduring. We envision a society where no individual is left behind or overlooked.”

Taken together, these ministries represent much more than a series of successful projects. They tell the story of a Diocese that has grown in confidence, discovered new ways to serve its neighbours, strengthened its communities, and lived more fully into its vocation.

“The Anglican Foundation has been pivotal in the ministry of our Diocese,” says Bishop Sam Rose. “I am eternally grateful to the members of the Foundation for helping us do things we could not otherwise do.”

Dr. Scott Brubacher, AFC’s Executive Director, believes the story in Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador is emblematic of AFC’s evolving mission. “The Anglican Foundation exists to recognize faithful local leadership, encourage innovation, and connect generous Canadians with the ministries that are transforming communities. Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador reminds us of what can happen when these relationships are nurtured over time.”

# Creation and The Creator

Dr. David Morgan  
Canon for Creation Care and Stewardship, Diocese Eastern NL

Well, I must say, I’ve had a wonderful Season of Creation, and I hope you did too.

As many of you will recall, the theme for this year’s Season of Creation was “Living Water,” inspired by the prophet Ezekiel’s vision of a riverbank of plenty fed by waters flowing from the sanctuary. As part of my reflections on Ezekiel’s vision over the summer, I thought a lot about interconnectedness, the importance of relationships to well-being, and the positive impact we have when the Living Water flows through us into creation. I didn’t go into the Season with a specific intention, but I definitely found myself being more present in my relationships—both with people and with nature.

And this year’s Season came with something new: the Feast of the Creator.

In 2025, the Anglican Church of Canada adopted the “Feast of the Creator” as a Major Feast within the Season of Creation (celebrated on September 1, transferable to a Sunday within the Season of Creation). The Feast of the Creator doesn’t replace the Season of Creation; rather, it enriches the Season with a strong theological reflection on the origin of the created order in God. The Season focuses on the created order—everything visible and



Dr. Morgan speaking to the congregation at The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, St. John’s (photo from the cathedral’s livestream)



Creation window, Ely Cathedral (UK)  
Photo by Olan/Shutterstock

invisible all around us—whereas the Feast focuses on the work of God as Creator.

We are not alone in our celebration of this Feast. The adoption of the Feast of the Creator sees the Anglican Church of Canada join an emerging ecumenical consensus around such a Feast, which has been celebrated by the Orthodox Church on September 1 for over 1,000 years.

Indeed, the Feast is gaining momentum across the Anglican

Communion, with the most recent gathering of the Anglican Consultative Council—one of the four “instruments of Communion”—passing a resolution encouraging adoption by member churches of the Communion. And adopt it they have: the Feast has already been adopted (under slightly different names, such as the Feast of Creation) by the Church of England, The Episcopal Church (United States of America), and the

Anglican Church of South Africa, to name a few.

The Feast is gaining local momentum, too. Over the course of this year’s Season of Creation, I had the pleasure of celebrating it with two parishes: Bay Roberts / Coley’s Point and the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Although they celebrated it on different Sundays, these parishes (and possibly others across our three dioceses) came together with millions around the world to celebrate and explore the act of creation and God’s role as Creator.

And next year there will be even more Newfoundland & Labrador parishes joining the celebration. At its recent Synod, the Diocese of Eastern NL passed a motion recognizing the Anglican Church of Canada’s adoption of the Feast and encouraging its celebration across the diocese.

As someone who was involved in the preparation of the motion and background materials for Synod, I’d like to recognize Canon Tom Mugford, Archdeacon Christine Lynch, and Angela Woodward for their work in developing and presenting the motion. And, just as importantly, I’d like to recognize all the members of Synod for their thoughtful consideration of the motion, both during the

Synod and leading up to it. As we head for the horizon, the theological understandings gained through our celebration of the Feast will better equip us to care for creation and support others in their faith journeys.

If you didn’t have an opportunity to celebrate the Feast this year, fear not—next year will be here before you know it. I look forward to celebrating it together with you during the 2027 Season of Creation.

For more on the ecumenical efforts related to the Feast of the Creator / Feast of Creation, check out: [www.feastofcreation.com](http://www.feastofcreation.com)

For trial Feast of the Creator liturgical resources form the Anglican Church of Canada, visit: <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/trial-use-feast-of-the-creator-june-2026.pdf>

To join the AnglicanENL Creation Care & Stewardship e-mail list, visit: <http://eepurl.com/jxfG3-/>

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St. Paul’s Church in Harbour Grace recently completed its second community cleanup as part of its Ministry of Creation Care and Stewardship. Led by Rev’d. Rafiq Mesih, the initiative also welcomed guest Canon Dave Morgan (Canon for Creation Care and Stewardship in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador) to assist in tidying the town.  
*-article and photographs by Sonia Williams*





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# A Day To Remember in A Special Place

Article and photograph by  
The Rev'd Jeffrey Petten

When Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt said of the events of that day that it was “a day of infamy.” Others often remember where they were when U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. For those of us born in the 1980s, we remember where we were when the events of September 11, 2001 took place. I was 17 years old and in Grade 12 at Queen Elizabeth Regional High School in (Foxtrap) Conception Bay South. It was recess, and one classroom in the school had cable television. Those of us who heard during recess about the first plane attacking the World Trade Center crammed into that classroom and watched the second plane hit. Of course, after all that, there was not much concentration on schoolwork for the rest of the day. I remember when I got home from school, my mother was curled up on the sofa in the living room, watching television. It was the first time in my life I had ever seen the look of fear on my mother’s face. I thought to myself, “Oh boy, this is not good.”

Fast-forward 25 years: on September 1, 2026, that 17-year-old boy is now the parish



Left to right: Ms. Diane Hoskstra (wife of Ambassador Pete Hoskstra), The Rev'd Jeffrey Petten, Ms. Hilda Goodyear, US Ambassador Pete Hoskstra, Ms. Margret Jenniex, Ms. Eleanor Brown, The Rev'd James Beaton

priest in the place where the world saw kindness not only be a possibility, but also a reality. Little did I ever think back in 2001 that I would be the parish priest of Gander and take in the enormity of such an occasion in the life of the community. Hearing people talk about the goings-on of 25 years ago, I learned that there was a commemoration happening at the Steele Community Centre, but being new to the community, I did not know that I needed a ticket to get into the event. On the morning of September 11, 2026, I went to a local coffee shop for breakfast and saw a familiar face that I had seen on television leading up to the anniversary—a

representative of the 9/11 Pay It Forward organization—who not only paid for my breakfast, but also offered me a ticket to the commemoration event. That afternoon, I found myself sitting in the bleachers of the community centre, taking part in a historical moment. Having been the parish priest for only 11 days at that point, I had never felt as proud as I did in that moment to live in and be part of a community as its parish priest. But the events didn’t end after that.

Leading up to the anniversary, the American Consulate General in Halifax, NS, had been in contact with the parish to organize a breakfast with the American Ambassador

for representatives of groups, organizations, and volunteers who helped in the relief efforts following 9/11 in the community. This was held at Branch 8 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Gander on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Not only was the ACW of St. Martin’s Cathedral recognized, but it was also pointed out to the Consulate Office that Mint Brook Camp & Conference Centre had hosted the crew and passengers of US Airways Flight 27 from Paris to Philadelphia. Due to other commitments, Bishop John Watton asked me to attend on his behalf. Along with Margaret Jenniex, who at the time was Program Officer for the Diocese,

we represented Mint Brook. Hilda Goodyear and Eleanor Brown, who were active on the ground then and are still involved in parish life, represented the ACW of that day. In addition, The Rev. James Beaton, who at the time of 9/11 was part of the local 50+ group, was also at the breakfast.

These days, despite any hostility felt globally, these events showed that kindness, generosity, respect, and dignity are not far-fetched ideologies. These are attributes that show the best of humanity when humanity shows its worst. As Anglicans, yes, we do outreach, but we do not do it for the sake of bragging rights or flaunting. We do it because the Gospel calls us to do so. Yet to be in this moment, politics aside, it was certainly an honour to hear the stories of 25 years ago and know that, as one prayer puts it: *Goodness is stronger than evil.*

*Love is stronger than hate.*

*Light is stronger than darkness.*

*Truth is stronger than lies.*

(A Wee Worship Book, page 20)

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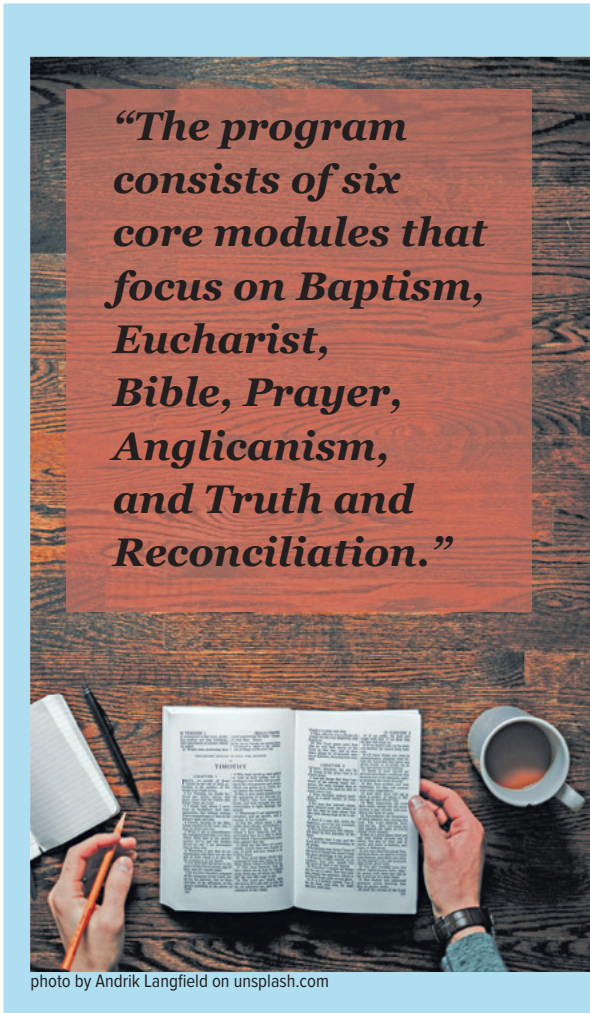
# Lay Minsitry Program

Article by The Rev'd Dr. Robert Cooke  
Dean of Theology and Interim College Administrator, Queen's College

There is little doubt that the landscape of ministry in the church is changing quickly and dramatically. We have all heard the reports of declining numbers and shrinking resources, of closing buildings and disestablished parishes. There is a growing shift toward half-time, bi-vocational, and non-stipendiary ministry for clergy. It's enough to make us despair about the future of the church.

But what if we see this challenge as an opportunity, even a holy moment, where God is calling us to a new way of being church? Perhaps this is the time to broaden our understanding of ministry and those who are called to be ministers. Perhaps this is a time to share the work of ministry with more of the baptized rather than just those who are ordained. This may just be the time to recapture models of ministry that better reflect the New Testament understanding, one articulated by Saint Paul: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

Lay ministry is essential for the church today and into the future. Licensed Lay Ministry, those licensed by their bishop for ministry at the parish level, is an important formalization of the ministry of all the baptized in the church and the community. This formalization calls for training and equipping of those gifts of the Holy Spirit, so that Licensed Lay Ministers can minister knowledgeably,



and in the full breadth and practice of the Anglican Tradition. With all of this in mind, Queen's is pleased to have developed a new Lay Ministry training program. This new program is a partnership between Queen's College and the three Newfoundland and Labrador Dioceses that provides training for those called to Licensed Lay Ministry. It uses an online platform and allows students to work at their own pace. While the program is self-directed, it also encourages supportive learning through peer, parish, or clergy support so students do not feel they are learning in isolation. The program consists of six core modules that focus

on Baptism, Eucharist, Bible, Prayer, Anglicanism, and Truth and Reconciliation. Additional modules will focus on practical skills like worship planning, pastoral visitation, Eucharistic ministry, and other lay ministries. The program is designed to be user-friendly and adaptable, and to equip students for lay ministry and service in Christ's church in the world today. At present, this course is designed for current Licensed Lay Ministers or Eucharistic Assistants or those laity who might be interested in this ministry or wishing to explore more about their calling. As the course expands, we plan to provide education for other lay ministries, such as pastoral

lay visitors, Sunday School and Confirmation teachers, Vestry members, Wardens, Treasurers, and others. If you are interested in this program, please speak directly with your Parish Clergy or visit your diocesan website. Only those candidates recommended to the Bishop by their Clergy are eligible for enrollment in this program. You do not apply through Queen's College. There are currently over forty students registered in this program. This is something about which to be excited and hopeful. This is a direction that has the potential to transform ministry in the Anglican church in Newfoundland and Labrador.

- Outline for the Modules**  
**Lay Ministry Basics**  
Module 1 – Baptism, Discipleship, and Calling  
Module 2 – The Bible (Old and New Testaments)  
Module 3 – The Eucharist  
Module 4 – Prayer and Spirituality  
Module 5 – Anglicanism  
Module 6 – Truth and Reconciliation
- Ministry-Specific Modules**  
Module 7 – Worship (the Church Year and Lectionary)  
Module 8 – Worship (Office and Eucharist)
- Proposed modules that will be ready to launch in 2027**  
Module 9 – Proclamation and Preaching  
Module 10 – Eucharistic Ministry (Eucharistic Assistant and Home Communions)  
Module 11 – Pastoral Visiting  
Module 12 – Funerals  
Module 13 – Parish Administration and Finance

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Confirmation in Port Aux Basques



On Sunday, September 27, at St. James' Church in Port aux Basques, there was a service of Holy Confirmation with Archbishop Percy Coffin in attendance. Congratulations to all the candidates. - submitted with photographs by Lisa Brown

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