

141st Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton

Convening Circular

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In Memoriam

Donald Adams

1950–2024

Born in Campbellton, NB, Don left home in 1969 to begin a communications research career with the Canadian Armed Forces, serving until his retirement in 1996. Deeply dedicated to his faith, Don served on Diocesan Council and as a layreader in the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis, and later in the Parish of St. Stephen. He was a faithful presence in parish life — making apple pies and tourtières, cutting grass, painting walls, and helping in the Soup Kitchen. Don supported Diocesan Youth Camps, fundraising for Camp Medley and serving as chaplain to children at Camp Brookwood.

The Rev. Canon Neville Cheeseman

1939–2025

Born in Three Rivers, Quebec, Neville joined the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Bracebridge, Ontario, professing vows in 1959. After leaving the monastic community in 1983, he earned a Master of Divinity at the Atlantic School of Theology. Ordained Deacon in 1986 and Priest in 1987, he served at Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton, and later became Rector of the Parish of Fredericton Junction. He retired in 2004. Neville was appointed Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral in 2007 and served as Honorary Assistant at St. Margaret's Church. He also ministered as Chaplain at Pine Grove Nursing Home.

The Rev. Canon Wallace (Wally) Corey

1937–2025

Born in Salisbury, NB, Wally Corey trained and was commissioned as an officer in the Anglican Church Army (Threshold Ministries) in 1957, later studying at Wycliffe College. He was ordained deacon in 1971 and priest in 1974. He served congregations and outreach ministries across Canada before returning to the Diocese of Fredericton, where he ministered in numerous parishes including Greenwich and Petersville, Cambridge and Waterborough, Dalhousie, Saint John, Sussex, Moncton, and Sunny Brea. Wally also served as a Canadian Armed Forces Army Chaplain. In retirement, he continued to offer pastoral leadership to congregations in the Saint John area.

Lawrence Carpenter

1934–2025

Born at home in Belleville, NB (near Woodstock), Lawrence lived most of his life there. He worked for CP Rail and later for the Province of New Brunswick as a tax assessor. A devoted member of the Parish of Richmond, Lawrence served as layreader, parish treasurer, member of the diocesan Finance Committee, and trusted counsellor. His legacy is one of steadfast faith, stewardship, and service.

Nancy Cook

1937–2025

Born in Toronto, Nancy earned degrees in Home Economics and Agriculture (Economics). After moving to New Brunswick in 1962, she lectured at UNB and later worked with the NB Department of Agriculture. She later completed a Certificate in Gerontology and taught Aging and Sociology at St. Thomas University. Nancy was a faithful member of the Parish of Fredericton, serving in the choir, as a layreader, vestry member, churchwarden, and synod member. She contributed to diocesan boards and volunteered with St. Anne's Lodge, Farraline Place, and many community organizations.

The Rev. Eleanor Dryden

1935–2026

Eleanor loved reading, jigsaw puzzles, sewing, and knitting — creating hundreds of mittens for local schools and work socks for the Seafarer’s Mission. She was deeply active in church life, visiting shut-ins, leading a Bible study group for over thirty years, and participating in ACW meetings. Ordained a deacon in 2009, Eleanor continued serving faithfully into her nineties. In 2016, she received the Association for Episcopal Deacons’ Recognition of Diaconal Ministry in the Tradition of St. Stephen for her humble, wholehearted service.

Vivian Galley

1946–2026

Born on Campobello Island, Vivian worked for many years at the Campobello Lodge Nursing Home. She was a faithful servant of St Anne’s in Welshpool, where she served for decades on their vestry, along with various roles including treasurer and churchwarden.

The Rev. Karman Hunt

1947–2025

Born in Waterford, Nova Scotia, Karman worked for Cape Breton Coal and later Parks Canada. He was ordained deacon in 1998 and priest in 1999 in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, ministering alongside his wife, the Rev. Valerie Hunt. In later years he served as an honorary assistant in the Parish of Riverview.

George Lawrence

1947–2026

Born near Keswick Ridge, George lived a vibrant life filled with travel, friendship, and service. He and his wife Marilyn travelled across Canada, cruised Alaska, and spent winters in Florida. George was a loyal friend and dedicated volunteer. As a member of the Parish of Bright, he served as churchwarden and synod member.

Pauline Long

1937–2025

Pauline lived her faith through active service in the Parishes of Portland and Kingston as a vestry member, diocesan layreader, choir member, ACW member (local and diocesan), quilter, and a Loaves and Fishes meal program volunteer. She also served as a synod member. Her commitment extended into the community — volunteering with the St. John the Baptist School lunch program and the ELF Learn to Read Program. Pauline’s life was a testament to God’s love expressed through service, kindness, and tireless dedication.

Membership

Per section 3 of the Constitution, the Synod shall consist of:

- (a) the Diocesan Bishop – the Most Reverend David Edwards
- (b) the Coadjutor Bishop, if any, of the Diocese – N/A
- (c) the Suffragan Bishop, if any, of the Diocese – N/A
- (d) the Assistant Bishop, if any, of the Diocese – N/A
- (d.1) the Diocesan Administrator – N/A
- (e) the Dean – Vacant
- (f) members of the clergy – list follows
- (g) the Chancellor – Mr. David Bell
and the Vice-Chancellor – Dr. Kelly VanBuskirk, K.C.
- (h) the Diocesan President of the Anglican Church Women – Ms. Diane Todd
- (i) the Secretary of the Synod – Ms. Cheryl Jacobs
- (j) the Treasurer of the Synod – Mr. Philip Shepherdson
- (k) evangelists of Threshold Ministries licensed in the Diocese – list follows
- (l) the lay members of the Synod or their substitutes elected pursuant to the Constitution – list follows

Licensed Clergy
Diocese of Fredericton
As at 1 October 2026

Name	Community	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Priest
Allan, Stuart (Canon)	Kingston	1972-05-28	1973-05-31
Alston, David	Moncton	2016-06-26	n/a
Amos-Binks, Wendy	Riverview	2001-06-24	2001-11-25
Arbeau, Sharon	Kingston	2021-05-23	n/a
Barrett, David (Canon)	Saint John	1985-06-06	1986-06-29
Barry, Robert	Bay du Vin	1986-06-26	1987-06-11
Bedell, Francene (Canon)	Edmundston	1986-12-06	n/a
Black, Paulette	Saint John	2021-11-21	2022-11-20
Black, Roderick	Richibucto Road	1998-05-16	1999-03-21
Boehr, Jeremy	Saint John	2014-10-18	2015-03-21
Boomer, Harold	Woodstock	2018-09-23	2019-06-23
Caines, Michael	Saint John	2008-09-20	2009-03-28
Chandra, Jasmine	Saint John	2008-01-20	2009-03-28
Chandra, Terence	Saint John	2005-11-20	2006-06-29
Cheatley, Robert	St. Andrews	2020-11-01	2021-06-06
Chukwuemeka, Chukwuebuka	Miramichi	2007	2009
Cochran, Deborah	Bloomfield	2014-01-11	n/a
Collett, Wally	Quispamsis	1985-06-06	1986-06-29
Craig, Patricia (Canon)	St. Andrews	1990-06-11	1991-06-16
Crighton, James	St. Andrews	2017-10-01	2018-06-24
Cunningham, Rick	Saint John	2022-09-11	2026-09-12
Dupuis, Norm	Moncton	2015-09-27	n/a
Edwards, David (Most. Rev.)	Grafton	1995-09-24	1996-09-29
Fairweather, Ann	Rothsay	2015-09-27	2016-06-26
Fowler, Brenda	Smithtown	2016-06-26	n/a
Galbraith, John	Fredericton	2017-06-18	2018-06-24
Gillies, J. Peter	Saint John	1995-06-29	1996-03-24
Glencross, Bruce (Canon)	Clairville	1981-06-07	1982-05-30
Godsoe, Arnold	Fredericton	1991-05-26	1992-02-02
Golding Page, Julie	St. Stephen	2007-08-24	2008-02-26
Goodwin, Daniel (Dr.)	Baie Verte	2014-11-30	2015-06-28
Gwese, Paul	Clifton	2000-10-21	2001-12-08
Haire, Barbara	Salem	2014-11-30	n/a
Ham, Brent (Ven.)	Shediac Cape	1998-03-01	1999-03-21
Hamilton, Elaine (Canon)	Fredericton	1981-09-20	2000-11-26
Harnish, Stephen	Fredericton	2010-09-21	2011-03-18
Harvey, John	New Maryland	1987-06-11	1988-06-11
Hayes, Chris (Canon)	Fredericton	2003-01-18	2003-11-22
Hebb, Ross (Canon Dr.)	Islandview	1985-10-04	1987-06-11
Hockin, William (Rt. Rev.)	Fredericton	1962-05-20	1963-05-23
Horne, Andrew	Rothsay	2001-06-24	2002-05-19

Name	Community	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Priest
Howlett, R. Keith	Geary	1974-10-27	1976-01-25
Hunt, Valerie	Riverview	1997-10-23	1998-10-25
Irvine, James (Canon)	Fredericton	1970-12-18	1972-06-24
J. F. (Dr.)	Grande-Dique	2013-05-04	2026-09-12
Kelly, Ellen	Rothsay	2026-09-12	n/a
Ketch, Christopher	Browns Yard	2014-06-14	2015-06-28
Landry, Samuel	St. Andrews	2026-09-12	n/a
Langmaid, Mary Anne	St. George	1998-06-29	1999-03-21
Langmaid, Wilfred	Fredericton	1989-07-09	1990-06-24
Laskey, Cathy (Canon)	Quispamsis	2006-05-31	2006-11-29
Laskey, Gerald (Canon)	Blackville	1983-05-25	1984-06-11
Lownds, Jon (Canon)	Fredericton	1973-03-21	1974-08-06
MacPherson, Sandy (Canon)	Miramichi	2014-01-11	2016-09-18
Marsh, Rob (Ven.)	Quispamsis	2010-10-02	2011-03-26
Martin, Leo (Ven.)	Saint John	1994-06-24	1995-05-14
Matheson, John (Ven.)	St. Andrews	1980-06-15	1981-06-24
McKenna, Bruce (Canon)	New Maryland	1990-09-16	1991-06-16
McKenna, Tyler	Petitcodiac	2026-09-12	n/a
McLean, Robert (Canon)	Tracy	2003-11-30	2004-11-28
McMullen, Christopher (Dr.)	Apohaqui	1998-06-29	2000-01-06
McMullen, Daniel	Sussex	2016-06-26	2017-06-18
McMullin, Gregory (Canon)	Saint John	1986-09-29	1987-06-12
Mercer, David (Dr.)	Douglas	1971-07-25	1972-10-28
Montgomery, Robert	Rothsay	2018-06-24	2019-06-23
O'Brien, Craig	Sackville	1998-10-28	1999-10-14
Osborne, Keith	Fredericton	1991-06-23	1992-06-08
Osiowy, Neil	Doaktown	n/a	2004-05-21
Page, Steven	St. Stephen	2007-08-24	2008-02-26
Painter, Douglas	Kingston	2000-11-30	2001-04-25
Peer, David (Canon)	Fredericton	2016-06-26	2017-06-18
Phinney, Eric	Grand Bay-Westfield	1991-06-23	1992-06-08
Pillay, Julian	Riverview	n/a	2003-06-29
Pitman, Robert	St. Stephen	2025-09-28	2026-09-12
Quann, Edward	Miramichi	2012-11-03	n/a
Quann, Ted	Miramichi	2012-11-03	n/a
Ranson, Paul (Canon)	Sussex Corner	2005-06-10	2005-12-04
Rideout, Paul	Rothsay	2010-05-31	2010-11-19
Salloum, Robert	Moncton	2001-06-01	2001-12-15
Scribner, Steven	Kingston	2013-10-10	2014-06-15
Shepherdson, Maria	Richmond Corner	2007-06-30	2008-07-05
Simons, John (Canon Dr.)	Sackville	1969-05-11	1969-10-19
Smith, David (Canon)	Grand Manan	1988-06-11	1989-06-29
Snelgrove, Albert (Canon)	Fredericton	1982-06-06	1983-06-29
Staples, David (Canon)	Fredericton	1976-06-09	1977-05-22
Steeves, Richard (Canon)	Miramichi	1998-05-16	1999-03-21

Name	Community	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Priest
Steeves, Rose	Miramichi	2012-11-03	n/a
Stockall, Reginald (Ven.)	Moncton	1959-05-24	1960-05-26
Tapera, Christopher	Moncton	1988-12-08	1989-12-11
Tapley, Allen (Canon)	Dutch Valley	1995-06-24	1996-03-24
Thompson, Gordon	Glen Levit	1990-06-05	1991-06-16
Tremblay, John (Dr.)	Clifton Royal	1987-04-27	1988-06-11
Turner, David	Hampton	2010-05-02	2011-03-26
Twinamatsiko, Caleb (<i>Canon</i>)	Pennfield	1993-12-19	1995-12-17
VanBuskirk, Christopher (Canon)	Stanley	1989-07-09	1990-06-24
Wells, Elizabeth	Sackville	2014-01-11	n/a
Westin, John Paul (Dr.)	Sackville	1986-09-19	1987-06-24
Williams, Walter (Canon)	Woodstock	1978-05-09	1979-06-03
Wilmhoff, Virginia	Sackville	2023-09-28	2026-09-12

Licensed Lay Evangelists

Diocese of Fredericton

As at 1 October 2026

Blanchet, Cyrus (Captain), Threshold Ministries	Saint John
Branch, Shawn (Canon), Threshold Ministries	Fredericton
Hunt, Bonnie (Captain), Threshold Ministries	Saint John

Parish Lay Delegates and Substitutes to 141st Session of Diocesan Synod, 7 November 2026

Parish Name	Delegate	Delegate	Delegate (16-35)	Substitute (16-35)	Substitute	Substitute
Andover	Carolyn Dixon	Kathleen McCarthy			Elizabeth Sullivan	
Bathurst	Myma Good-Hollett	Nancy Scott			Craig Hills	Christine Hirn
Bright	Paul Jewett	Eugene Price			Sharon McKeen	Mary Lou Price
Cambridge and Waterborough	Pam Christenson	Jim Larson			Sheila Knight	Neil Orchard
Campobello	Ruth Ann Barker	Janice Watters			Mildred Rice	
Canterbury, Benton and Kirkland						
Central Kings	Dianne Craft	Shawn Garnett			Krista Garnett	Carolyn Parent
Chatham	Kevin Horsman	Gina Quann	Madison Warren		Debbie Connell	William Gallant
Christ Church Cathedral	Tom Fetter	Rosa Macaulay	Alexandria Pope		Jamie Yeamans	Gregory Young Morris
Coldbrook - St. Mary	Lynne Corey	Randy Moore			Margaret Clark Ouellette	Robert Cormier
Denmark	Stewart Dunster	Caroline Staal			Carol Andersen	Beverly Johnston
Derby and Blackville	Elizabeth Curtis	Donna Curtis Roy			Donna Hambrook / Sally Underhill / Shirley Underhill	
Dorchester	Thelma Cormier				Wayne Feindel	
Douglas and Nashwaaksis	Carol Jones	Wayne Knorr	Chase McLean		Carol Mercer	Ben Mersereau
Fredericton	Gael Hogan	Nicholas Richard	Rochelle Young		Dorothy Wilson	
Fredericton Junction	Joanne Beck	Lori Knappe			James DeVenney	Arlene Landry
Fundy and the Lakes	Greg Hiltz	Victoria Whitenect			Jim Kendall	Nancy Maynard
Gagetown	Paul Mills	Jesse Webb			Sue McGibbon	Lynn Mills
Gondola Point	Janet Krantz	Donald Smith			Anne Lee	Susan Sleep
Grand Manan	Carolyn Barnhart	Robert Griffin			Adele Peacock	Melanie Sonnenberg
Hammond River	Patrick Hanratty	John Henderson			James Wilson	Jean Wilson
Hampton	Joanna DiProse	Laura Myers			Patricia Durham	
Kent	Jeff Symes	Lennie Symes			Fred Donaher / Loney Hudson / Vance Symes	
Kingston	Mary Clarke	Donna Murchison	Connor DeMerchant		Kathy Nutter	Rob Turgeon
Lancaster	Beverly Jones	Patti Skidmore	Laura Jones		Myles Leitch	Ann Stone
Ludlow and Blissfield	Beresford Price	Adam Robinson	Mariah Stewart		Karen Beek	William Witherell
Madawaska	Michele Ferland	Gloria Levesque			Gaetan Godbout	
Marysville	Allan Gillis				Leo Kolijn	
McAdam	Ann Marie Cairns	Margaret Laking			Donna Currie	Hazel Gass
Millidgeville	Christine Risk	Sheila VanWart			Jane Boehr	
Minto and Chipman	Catherine Campbell	Wanda Wilson			Brenda Barton	
Musquash	Fred Maker	Michael Shea			Catherine Shea	
New Bandon	Laura McNulty	Lesa Scott			Elaine Good	Lorna Murty
New Maryland	Greg Lutes	Cheryl Penney	Keegan Burns		Sandra Craft	
Newcastle-Nelson-Hardwicke	Donna Allan	Murray Allan				

Parish Name	Delegate	Delegate	Delegate (16-35)	Substitute (16-35)	Substitute	Substitute
Oromocto and Maugerville	Ruth Daley	Trish Mulholland			Elmer Mersereau	Joyce Mersereau
Pennfield	Kelly Burns	Paul Burns			Dawn Clark	James Clark
Portland	Trevor Holder	Jeana Jacob	Margaret Holder	Elizabeth Barrett	Michael Saunders	Andrew Winn
Prince William, Dummer, Queensbury, Southampton	Gloria Fletcher	Lisa Portelli-Robinson			Audrey Cemivz	Elaine Hood
Quispamsis	Lorraine Scott	Kevin Tupper			Ray Littlewood	Lana Van Beelen
Renforth	David Henderson	Norman McLeod			Alice McLeod	Ada Onuora
Restigouche	Mark Franklin	Patsy Parker				
Richmond	Cynthia Derksen	Marilyn Wilson	Jessica Smith		Patricia Margison	
Riverview	Catherine Fraser	Michelle Pillay	J. Christopher Pillay			
Rothsay	Macgregor Grant	Sherry Hounsell	Matthew Way		Rosemary Drummond	David Reevey
Sackville	Edna Boland	Andrew Grant			Heidi Carter	Patricia Thompson
Saint John	Judi Harvey-Issac	John Logan			Marie Goguen	Kyle Wells
Saint Stephen	James Higgins	Anne Nordstrom			Judy Fahey	Cecille Ruddock
Salisbury and Havelock	Minnie Estabrooks	Cheryl Young			Sharon Hopper	Sandra Vuillemot
Shediac	Brian Hodgson	Rachel Thorley	Moriah Matchette	Catvin Ham	John DeBruyn	Joyce Tilburt
St. Andrews	Jarred Beckerton	Erich Raab	Julian Rigby		Nancy Carson	Mark Chase
St. David and St. Patrick	Romey Heuff	Helen Hubley			Cathy O'Neill	Daniel O'Neill
St. George	Amanda Emino Mawhinney	Joni Richardson			Barbara McFarlane	
St. Margaret's	Ken Brien	Cathy Lutes			Peggy Boucher	Jason LeBlanc
St. Mark, Saint John	Daniel Marmen	Susan Wallace			Judy Mae Gallant	Ruby Ranson
St. Mark's (Sussex Corner)	Heather Carhart	Wendy Northrup			Janet Reicker	
St. Mary, York	Anne Brown	Holly Crockett			Patrick Stewart	
St. Peter, Fredericton	Wilfred Alliston	Robert Matthews			Ruth Buckingham	Brenda Smith
Stanley	Faye Humble	Carolyn VanBuskirk				
Sussex	Connie Armstrong	Robin Turner	Shelbi McLellan Flowers		Ethan Nyenhuis	Aimee Robichaud
the Nerepis and St. John	Elizabeth Chisholm Fillmore	Wanda Porter	Benaiah Sok	Joseph Duplisea	Anne Byers	David Wilson
the Six Saints	Sheila Colbourne	Brian Johnson	John Stam		Savitha Balakrishnan / Joshua Diwaha / Kelly VanBuskirk	
Upham	Bud Belyea	Karen Pollock			Elizabeth Bech	Maryann Kellar
Upper Kennebecasis	Louise Pitcher	Phyllis Price			Hilda Gillies	Noreen Johansen
Waterford	Barbara Fanjoy	Carolyn Floyd			Marshall Fanjoy	
Westmorland	Allison Chapman	Kevin Phinney			Darlene Hicks-Phinney	Gregory Martin
Wicklow, Wilmot, Peel and Aberdeen	Wilma Inman	Margaret Johnson	Justin Wiley	Christian McLean	Penny McCain	Barb Smith
Woodstock	Barbara Belyea	Jennifer Taylor			Colin Craig	Naomi Sharpe

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN REGISTRAR

This is the report of the official acts of the Bishop as communicated to the Registrar from 1 October 2024 until 30 September 2026.

RECEIVED INTO DIOCESE

26 November 2025	The Bishop received Letters Bene Decessit from the Bishop of Toronto on behalf of the Reverend Julie Golding Page and returned a notice of acceptance.
25 November 2025	The Bishop received Letters Bene Decessit from the Bishop of Toronto on behalf of the Reverend Steven Page and returned a notice of acceptance.
12 February 2026	The Bishop received Letters Bene Decessit from the Bishop of Algoma on behalf of the Right Reverend Dr. Stephen Andrews and returned a notice of acceptance.
17 March 2026	The Bishop received a Letter of Release from the Bishop of Tasmania, on behalf of the Reverend Dr. J. F. and returned a notice of acceptance.
9 April 2026	The Bishop received Letters Bene Decessit from the Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island on behalf of the Reverend Virginia Wilmhoff and returned a notice of acceptance.
16 April 2026	The Bishop received Letters Bene Decessit from the Bishop of Toronto on behalf of the Reverend Keith Joyce and returned a notice of acceptance.
9 July 2026	The Bishop received a Letter of Release from the Bishop of Aguata, Church of Nigeria, on behalf of The Reverend Chukwuebuka Peter Chukwuemeka, and returned a notice of acceptance.

CLERGY LICENSED

1 October 2024	The Reverend Canon Stuart Allan, renewed as Honorary Assistant in the Parish of Rothesay and Priest in the diocese (five-year, renewable).
2 October 2024	The Reverend Deborah Cochran, Deacon in the Diocese of Fredericton (five-year, renewable).
1 January 2025	The Reverend John Paul Westin, renewed as Priest in the Diocese of Fredericton (five-year, renewable).
28 September 2025	The Reverend Robert Pitman, Deacon in the Parish of Fundy and the Lakes.
1 October 2025	The Reverend Christopher Ketch, Priest and Rector in the shared ministry between the Parish of Kent and the Parish of Lancaster.
1 October 2025	The Reverend Dr. John Tremblay, renewed as Honorary Assistant in the Parish of Kingston and Priest in the diocese (five-year, renewable).
1 October 2025	The Reverend David Peer, renewed as Honorary Assistant in the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis and Priest in the diocese (five-year, renewable).

9 November 2025	The Reverend Canon Christopher VanBuskirk as Priest-in-charge of the Parish of Stanley, on a part-time basis.
15 January 2026	The Reverend Rick Cunningham, Deacon in the Parish of the Nerepis and St. John.
15 January 2026	The Reverend Rick Cunningham, Missioner for the Lower West, Saint John.
5 February 2026	The Reverend Julie Golding Page, Priest in the Diocese of Fredericton.
5 February 2026	The Reverend Steven Page, Priest in the Diocese of Fredericton.
24 February 2026	The Reverend Wendy Amos-Binks, Priest in the Diocese of Fredericton.
26 February 2026	The Reverend Dr. J. F., Deacon in the Parish of Shediac.
9 April 2026	The Reverend Viginia Wilmhoff, Deacon in the Parish of Rothesay.
1 June 2026	The Reverend Canon Christopher Hayes, Priest and Rector in the Parish of Fredericton.
1 June 2026	The Reverend Canon Elaine Hamilton, renewed as Honorary Assistant in the Parish of Fredericton and Priest in the diocese (five-year, renewable).
1 June 2026	The Right Reverend William Hockin, renewed as Honorary Assistant in the Parish of Fredericton and Bishop in the diocese (five-year, renewable).
7 July 2026	The Reverend Chukwuebuka Peter Chukwuemeka, Priest and Incumbent in the Parish of Newcastle-Nelson-Hardwicke.
1 August 2026	The Reverend Christopher Tapera, Priest and Incumbent in the Parish of the Six Saints.
1 August 2026	The Reverend Robert Pitman, Incumbent in the Parish of Saint Stephen and missioner for community engagement in St. Stephen.
12 September 2026	The Reverend Rick Cunningham, Priest in the Parish of the Nerepis and St. John.
12 September 2026	The Dr. J. F., Priest in the Parish of Shediac.
12 September 2026	The Reverend Robert Pitman, Priest and Incumbent in the Parish of Saint Stephen and missioner for community engagement in St. Stephen.
12 September 2026	The Reverend Viginia Wilmhoff, Priest in the Diocese of Fredericton.
12 September 2026	The Reverend Ellen Kelly, Assistant Curate in the Parish of the Nerepis and St. John.
12 September 2026	The Reverend Samuel Landry, Assistant Curate in the Parish of St. Andrews.
12 September 2026	The Reverend Tyler McKenna, Deacon-in-charge (incumbent) of the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock.

ORDINATIONS

28 September 2025	Robert Charles Matthew Pitman, to the order of Deacons, held in the Church of Christ the King, Saint John.
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12 September 2026 Richard Joseph Cunningham, Dr. J.F., Robert Charles Matthew Pitman and Virginia Lee Wilmhoff to the order of Priests, and Ellen Margaret Kelly, Samuel Richard Landry and Tyler Joseph McKenna to the order of Deacons, held in Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton.

RESIGNATIONS

28 October 2024 The Reverend Canon Wandlyn Snelgrove as Rector of the Parish of Fredericton, effective 31 January 2025, in order to retire from full-time ministry.

3 December 2024 The Reverend Thomas Nisbett as Rector of the Parish of Newcastle-Nelson-Hardwicke, effective 9 May 2025, in order to transfer to the Diocese of Bermuda.

28 January 2025 The Reverend David Peer as Synod Executive Officer effective 30 September 2025, in order to retire from full-time ministry.

5 August 2025 The Reverend Canon Christopher VanBuskirk as Rector of the Parish of the Six Saints, effective 31 October 2025, in order to retire from full-time ministry.

16 September 2025 The Reverend Isabel Cutler as Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral, effective immediately, in order to step back from formal ministry.

2 October 2025 The Reverend Canon Kevin Borthwick as Incumbent in the Parish of Campobello and the Parish of Saint Stephen, effective 31 December 2025, in order to retire from full-time ministry.

25 November 2025 The Reverend Robert LeBlanc as Rector of the Parish of Wicklow, Wilmot, Peel and Aberdeen, effective 28 February 2026, in order to retire from full-time ministry.

13 February 2026 The Reverend Canon Christopher Hayes as Rector in the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock and Regional Dean of Shediac, effective 1 June 2026, in order to move to the Parish of Fredericton.

17 February 2026 The Reverend Debra Edmondson as Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral, effective 30 June 2026, in order to step back from formal ministry.

2 April 2026 The Very Reverend Geoffrey Hall as Dean of Fredericton and incumbent at Christ Church Cathedral, effective 31 July 2026, in order to retire from full-time ministry.

16 April 2026 The Reverend Christopher Tapera as Rector of the Parish of Bathurst and incumbent in the Parish of Restigouche, effective 1 August 2026, in order to move to the Parish of the Six Saints.

9 June 2026 The Venerable Perry Cooper as Rector of the Parish of Chatham and Archdeacon of Chatham, effective 30 September 2026, in order to retire from full-time ministry.

23 June 2026 The Reverend Michael O'Hara as Rector of the Parish of Hammond River and the Parish of Quispamsis, effective 1 October 2026, in order to retire from full-time ministry.

- 25 August 2026 The Reverend Robert Salloum as Vicar of the Parish of the Six Saints, effective 31 October 2026, in order to move to the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis.
- 29 September 2026 The Reverend Canon Gerald Laskey as Rector of the Parish of Derby and Blackville, effective 31 October 2026, in order to retire from full-time ministry.

LETTERS BENE DECESSIT

- 28 November 2024 On behalf of the Reverend Bentley Steers, transferring him to the episcopal jurisdiction of the Bishop of Toronto, effective immediately.
- 1 May 2025 On behalf of the Reverend Thomas Nisbett, transferring him to the episcopal jurisdiction of the Bishop of Bermuda, effective 10 May 2025.

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHDEACONS, CANONS AND REGIONAL DEANS

- 3 October 2024 The Venerable Rob Marsh extended as Archdeacon of Kingston and the Kennebecasis for another year until 30 September 2025.
- 17 October 2024 The Venerable John Matheson extended as Archdeacon of St. Andrews for another year until 13 October 2025.
- 6 August 2025 The Reverend Canon Christopher Hayes extended as Regional Dean of the Deanery of Shediac for a period of three years ending 15 April 2028.
- 26 August 2025 The Venerable Leo Martin extended as Archdeacon of Saint John for another year until 31 August 2026.
- 3 October 2025 The Venerable Rob Marsh extended as Archdeacon of Kingston and the Kennebecasis for another year until 30 September 2026.
- 9 October 2025 The Venerable John Matheson extended as Archdeacon of St. Andrews for another year until 13 October 2026.
- 14 October 2025 The Reverend Maria Shepherdson as Canon of Christ Church Cathedral and member of the Advisory Chapter.
- 15 October 2025 The Reverend Maria Shepherdson as Archdeacon of Woodstock for a three-year term.
- 16 November 2025 The Reverend David Peer, Chancellor David Bell and Director of Mission and Ministry Shawn C. Branch as Canons of Christ Church Cathedral and members of the Advisory Chapter.
- 31 August 2026 The Venerable Leo Martin extended as Archdeacon of Saint John for another year until 31 August 2027.
- 3 September 2026 The Reverend Canon Fran Bedell reappointed Regional Dean of the Deanery of Woodstock for one year to 31 August 2027.
- 18 September 2026 The Venerable Brent Ham as interim Archdeacon of Chatham, effective 1 October 2026.

- 26 September 2026 The Venerable Rob Marsh extended as Archdeacon of Kingston and the Kennebecasis for another year until 30 September 2027.
- 26 September 2026 The Venerable John Matheson extended as Archdeacon of St. Andrews for another year until 13 October 2027.

BISHOP'S APPOINTMENTS and AUTHORIZATIONS

- 10 December 2024 The Reverend Laura McCue, retired and canonically resident in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, authorized to officiate at worship services in the diocese.
- 28 January 2025 The Reverend Captain Jacob Friesen, Canadian Armed Forces Chaplain with 5 CDSB Gagetown, authorized to officiate at worship services in the Diocese of Fredericton.
- 28 January 2025 The Reverend Debra Edmondson appointed Fredericton Hospital Chaplain, on a part-time basis, effective 1 February 2025.
- 25 February 2025 The Reverend Harley Clowater, retired, authorized to officiate at worship services in the Diocese of Fredericton.
- 12 June 2025 The Reverend Jennifer Bourque, of the Diocese of Montreal, to officiate in the Parish of Minto and Chipman on a temporary basis.
- 1 September 2025 Mr. Tyler McKenna, postulant, licensed as catechist in the Parishes of Sussex, Waterford and St. Mark's.
- 7 October 2025 The Reverend Marian Lucas-Jefferies, canonically resident in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, authorized to officiate at worship services in the Diocese of Fredericton, and particularly with the Parish of St. Margaret's, Fredericton.
- 31 October 2025 The Reverend Canon Wandlyn Snelgrove appointed interim Priest-in-charge of the Parish of Fredericton, effective 6 October 6 until 18 January 2026.
- 2 December 2025 The Reverend Robert Salloum appointed interim Priest-in-charge of the Parish of the Six Saints, effective immediately.
- 10 August 2026 The Reverend Canon Chris Hayes appointed Bishop's Commissary.
- 1 September 2026 The Reverend Dr. Chris McMullen extended as Incumbent (Priest-in-charge) in the Parish of Upper Kennebecasis.

DECONSECRATIONS

- 12 January 2025 Deconsecration of the Church of St. Mary, Dalhousie, Parish of Restigouche.
- 27 April 2025 Deconsecration of the Church of St. Philip, Moncton, Parish of the Six Saints.
- 1 June 2025 Deconsecration of the Church of St. Paul, Whitehead, Parish of Kingston.
- 19 October 2025 Deconsecration of the Church of St. Thomas, Moores Mills, Parish of Saint Stephen.

- 2 November 2025 Deconsecration of Christ Church, Maugerville, Parish of Oromocto and Maugerville.
- 9 November 2025 Deconsecration of the Church of St. Augustine of Canterbury, Chipman, Parish of Minto and Chipman.

FACULTY

- 9 June 2026 The Archbishop issued a retroactive faculty to the Parish of Stanley authorizing the 1997 installation of a Tabernacle in the Church of St Thomas, Stanley.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Lownds, Registrar

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF SYNOD REGARDING PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

At the request of the Diocesan Council or a Parish Corporation the Bishop of Fredericton may grant approval for the purchase or sale of property within the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Fredericton. All property sales and purchases require the consideration and recommendation of the Diocesan Property Committee under the authority of the Finance Committee, the approval of the Bishop and the Seal of the Secretary of the Synod. These entries refer to transaction documents to which the Seal of the Secretary has been affixed during the period September 2024 to August 2026

Date	Document/Transaction Description
November 1, 2024	Parish of Shediac – To a lease agreement, property located at 3 First Ave., Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PIDs 864538, 70702436 and 70702444.
November 5, 2024	Parish of Shediac – To a lease agreement, property located at 7 First Ave., Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 862573.
November 7, 2024	Parish of Shediac – To an assignment of a lease, property located at 43 First Ave., Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PIDs 862789 and 862599.
November 28, 2024	Parish of Shediac – To an amendment of lease, including addition of property to the lease, with Killam Properties, Inc., property located at Ohio Road, Shediac, Westmorland County, NB, PIDs 70459854 and a portion of 00882670 (new PID yet to be determined).
January 7, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a transfer of property, being Lot #17-A, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 70632104.
January 7, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a transfer of property, being Lot #17-B, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 70632112.

January 14, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a transfer of property to the Province of New Brunswick, located on Ohio Road, Shediac, Westmorland County, NB, PID 00882670.
January 28, 2025	Parish of St. Andrews – To a transfer of property to the Estate of Shirley Ross, being 23 Birch Cove View, Chamcook, Charlotte County, NB, PID 15046824.
March 27, 2025	Parish of Newcastle-Nelson-Hardwicke – To a transfer of property to Keki'namuanen Msit Wen Wlo'tmnen Nmaqami'kminu Inc., being a woodlot in Halcomb, Northumberland County, NB, PID 40140857.
March 27, 2025	Parish of Musquash – To a transfer of property, being the former rectory, at 2515 Route 175, Lepreau, Saint John County, NB, PID 1215458.
April 15, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To an assignment of a lease, property identified as Lots W-107 and W-108 in Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 00863233.
April 22, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To an assignment of a lease, property located at 628 Arnold Lane in Shediac, Westmorland County, NB, PID 1044759.
April 22, 2025	Parish of St. Andrews – To a transfer of property to the Nature Trust of New Brunswick, Inc., being portions of vacant lots (PIDs 01232875 and 01230820) on the Glebe Road, Chamcook, Charlotte County, NB, PIDs 15218621, 15218605, 15218613.
May 20, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a lease agreement property located at 71 Third Avenue in Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 1050152.
May 20, 2025	Parish of the Six Saints – To a transfer of property, being the former rectory, located at 56 Williams Street, Moncton, Westmorland County, NB, PID 00699728.
May 20, 2025	Parish of the Six Saints – To a transfer of property to Faith Christian Fellowship of Canada, Inc., being the former St. Philip's church building, located at 30 Lynch Street, Moncton, Westmorland County, NB, PID to be determined.
May 22, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a lease agreement, property located at 32 Chandler Shore Road in Shediac Cape, Westmorland County, NB, PID 996934.
May 22, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a transfer of property, known as Lots W-107 and W-108 in Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 863233.
May 27, 2025	Parish of St. Andrews – To a transfer of property, being a portion of a vacant lot, PID 1230820, in Chamcook, Charlotte County, NB, new PID to be determined.

June 19, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a transfer of property, property located at 64 Brydges St., Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 864157.
June 19, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a transfer of property to E.L. Construction Ltd., being two vacant lots on Railway Avenue, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PIDs 70305065 and 70708540.
June 19, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To an assignment of a lease , property located at 104 Fourth Avenue, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 01049873.
July 15, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To an assignment of a lease, property located at 27 Second Avenue, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 00863654.
July 29, 2025	Parish of Riverview – To a lease agreement with Young Explorers Learning Centre Inc., of space within St. John the Baptist Church, 28 Woolridge Street in Riverview, Albert County, NB, PID 5100110.
August 19, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To an assignment of a lease, property located at 44 First Avenue, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 00863159.
August 19, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To an assignment of a lease, property located at 624 Arnold Lane, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 00883389.
September 4, 2025	Parish of Fundy and the Lakes – To a transfer of property to, being a small lot on which sat the former St. George, in the former parish of St. Martins and Black River, Shanklin Rd, Bains Corner, Saint John County, NB, PID 00277301.
September 25, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a transfer of property, being 11 Third Avenue in Pointe-du-Chêne, in the County of Westmorland, NB, PID 00865519.
September 25, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a transfer of property, being 39 Third Avenue in Pointe-du-Chêne, in the County of Westmorland, NB, PID 00864470.
October 28, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a lease agreement, property located at 5 Second Avenue, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 70371182.
October 28, 2025	Parish of Sussex – To a lease agreement with Sussex Christian School, being a portion of the Trinity Church building at 853 Main Street, Sussex, in the County of Kings, NB, PID 00269340.
November 13, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To an assignment of lease, property located at 43 First Avenue, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB PIDs 00862789 & 00862599.

December 9, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a lease agreement, property located at 3 Glebe Avenue, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 01048578.
December 18, 2025	Parish of Shediac – To a transfer of property, property located at 28 First Avenue, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 70128582.
February 10, 2026	Parish of Shediac – To an assignment of a lease, property located at 24 Brydges Street, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 00863977
March 20, 2026	Parish of Shediac – To a lease agreement with The Hanington Teahouse & Cafe Inc. at 393 Route 134 (former rectory), Shediac Cape, Westmorland County, NB, PID 0884148
April 2, 2026	Parish of St. David and St. Patrick – To transfer of property located at 699 Boyd Road, Elmsville, Charlotte County, NB, PID 01249614.
April 23, 2026	Parish of St. Andrews – To transfer of property located at Birch Cove View, Chamcook, Charlotte County, NB, part of PID 1230820
April 28, 2026	Parish of Lancaster – To two lease renewals with Go-Go Group, of space in the Church of the Good Shepherd building, Manawagonish Rd, Saint John, NB PID 00863977
April 28, 2026	Parish of Shediac – To a transfer of property located at Stead Street, Shediac, Westmorland County, NB, PID 1044619.
April 28, 2026	Parish of Shediac – To a lease agreement, property located at 51 First Avenue, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 70398698.
June 23, 2026	Parish of Shediac - To a transfer of property located at 24 Brydges Street, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 00863977.
July 9, 2026	Diocesan Synod of Fredericton - To a transfer of property to Neqotkuk Business Development Corporation Inc., property is a field and woodlot adjacent to the former St. Helen's in the former Parish of the Tobique, Tobique Valley, Victoria County, NB, PID 65028185
September 10, 2026	Parish of St. Andrews - To a transfer of property located at 49 Birch Cove View, Chamcook, Charlotte County, NB, PID 15046873
September 15, 2026	Parish of Shediac - To a lease agreement, property located at 16 Fourth Avenue, Pointe-du-Chêne, Westmorland County, NB, PID 1053776.
September 29, 2026	Bishop of Fredericton - To a transfer of property, being the land containing the former rectory of the Parish of St. Margaret's, 17 Kimble Court, Fredericton, York County, NB PID 75577395.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF SYNOD

Mandated Responsibilities:

The Treasurer, appointed by Diocesan Council and under Section 10(2) of the Constitution, is required to:

- a) receive all money belonging to or collected under the authority of the Synod, and disburse the same as the Synod shall direct,
- b) keep careful accounts of all money belonging to or collected and disbursed under the authority of the Synod and present those accounts to the Synod at each regular meeting of the Synod and to the Diocesan Council as it may require, and
- c) transfer all property, books, records, documents and papers relating to its concerns that may be in the possession or control of the Treasurer to the successor or other person as the Synod may direct.

The Synod Treasurer provides financial information on a regular basis to the Finance Committee and to the Diocesan Council. The financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2025 are included in the Appendices of the Synod Convening Circular.

Diocesan Finances:

The year ending December 2024 - Before unrealized gains (of \$3.5m), the net operating income was reported as a surplus of \$513k. This is \$682k better than budget and is driven by investment income of \$2.6m being \$900k higher than budget and was achieved from realized capital gains of \$1.2m. It meant the Trusts' real cash return was 6.36% (higher than budget of 4%). Due to the good investment performance, a bonus payment of 1.5% was declared and paid out to parishes, the Cathedral, the Diocese, and others who had DCIF investments, that being on top of the guaranteed 3.25% they received.

Operating expenses were \$757k higher than budget, and of this \$325k relates to the Diocese accruing for the 1.5% bonus payment out to parishes, as well as paying out an additional bonus of \$262k to Diocesan Trusts and \$85k in interest to other Funds. Other major differences are \$28k more paid out in Mission Grants and \$55k refunded to parishes from a surplus in the Travel and Insurance funds.

The year ending December 2025 - The final position for the financial year was a positive operating surplus of \$537k compared to a budget deficit of \$217k. Most of the improvement in operating surplus is because of \$1m additional investment income in year. The operating surplus is before the impact of unrealised gains of \$3.2m due once again to the strong performance on the DCIF portfolio. The DCIF portfolio produced a strong 6.85% return for the year. The Finance Committee once again approved a bonus 1.5% interest investment distribution to Parochial investors and to the Diocese's funds for 2025 with those amounts paid out in January 2026.

The Diocese has continued making payments under guarantees relating to the Parish of St. George's obligations, does not expect recovery, and thus includes this as a bad debt provision. As part of a financial restructuring arrangement, \$244k of capital owed by the Parish of Nerepis and St. John was forgiven by Synod. The remaining balance of approximately \$104k has moved to a repayment loan from an interest only loan.

Diocesan Budget:

The 2025 (as does the 2024) Diocesan Budget focuses on the mission and ministry of the Diocese, in keeping with the Diocesan mission statement. Support is provided to four major areas of ministry: Ministries with Youth (5.3% of budgeted expenditure), Parish Development and Support (10.7%),

Mission and Ministry (12.8%) and Ministry Development and Education (5.2%). Incorporated throughout the various areas of ministry were grants, and contributions to support the Diocesan mission focus totaling \$730,950 in the 2025 year (2024 - \$947,260). The main changes were extra grants in 2024 to CYC of \$50k, \$40k to support the newly amalgamated The Six Saints Parish, \$70k more flowthrough donations, \$20k additional grant to the Cathedral and \$15k more Synod Mission grants allocated. Synod salaries represent 31%, the biggest single element of the budget, some of which are allocated to the ministries above.

Within operating revenue, 57% of the budget (actual was 60%) comes from investment income with 34% (actual was 24%) of the funding coming from shared ministry support. The Finance Committee has been deliberate in setting a prudent investment policy strategy with the fund managers PH&N to deliver a consistent investment return to insulate against the regular macro-economic market shocks we are seeing. By providing the backbone to the Synod's revenue, the aim was to put less pressure on the parishes and Cathedral's shared ministry budget.

To maintain services and the level of ministry provided, and not placing additional burden on the parishes, the 2026 budget was also established with an operating deficit of \$239k. These three years have been planned with operating deficits. However with both 2024 and 2025 delivering small surpluses, the Synod is optimistic that the 2026 final result will show an improvement over the operating deficit.

The expectation is the 2026 budget will be managed through a combination of reduced program costs, increased revenue and through reserves, if necessary. As we near the end of this fiscal year, the expectation is that investment income will exceed the budget as well and will help offset any additional costs with a view to producing a breakeven operating result.

Diocesan Shared Ministry Budget

The Diocesan shared ministry budget is achieving a 97% collection year on year. The current approach for parish support of the diocesan ministry budget, instituted in 2014, appears to be meeting many of its original objectives: an approach that is fair, equitable, and transparent; easily understood, communicated, and applied but flexible enough to recognize and accommodate extenuating circumstances. While some parishes are still challenged to afford to contribute, they are small in number. The Council approved the shared ministry budget for 2027 and approved a reduction in the bottom assessment threshold from 9% to 7% on the first \$50,000 of operating income. For many parishes that will be a saving of \$1,000 in 2027.

Diocesan Trusts and DCIF fund:

There were major new contributions to the diocesan funds in 2025 of \$2m from accumulated operating surpluses with \$500k of that amount allocated to the Camp Medley pool project. The trusts returned 6.85% net of fees and after disbursements grew to \$11.5m. Total DCIF funds under Diocese management increased to \$52.8m, up from \$40.6m in the year to December 2023 with unrealised capital growth amounting to \$6.7m over that two-year period. The Parochial investors share of DCIF fund is \$24.2m (46%), helped in part by steady returns and some significant contributions from the parishes of Fredericton, Sussex, Portland and The Six Saints within the net \$1.9m they added in 2025. Along with the Cathedral, their portion of the total Parochial funds stands at 40%. As the DCIF fund performed above expectations in the two years, it meant an additional bonus interest of 1.5% was able to be paid to the Parochial DCIF funds for both years.

Diocesan Support to the Parishes and Cathedral:

The Diocese remains committed to providing opportunities for parish and Cathedral leaders and congregations to gain insight, skills and knowledge that will help enhance their operations and meet the constantly evolving challenges. A number of education programs were rolled out in 2025 supporting both clergy and lay memberships. These included a clergy pre-retirement conference and education for parish officers along with regular bi-monthly Synod commons talks.

Diocesan Youth Camps:

The youth camps continue to be a major initiative of the Diocese in terms of providing leadership and financial resources. Recognizing the role that these facilities play in shaping the future of young people, the diocese is committed to providing leadership, capital and operational support. With that being said, the youth camps continue to be a major focus of financial discussion, in terms of existing operational obligations, funding and long-term viability. Both camps received grants to enable capital enhancements and improve the user experience. Both camps are loss-making and require the support of Synod.

Diocesan Financial Administration:

Financial and administrative systems and processes continue to be reviewed, not only for current operations but also the ability of the financial, physical and human resources to face the challenges of the future needs of the Diocese and support for the parishes and the Cathedral. This is critical as in recent years the Diocese has assumed and provided more financial and administrative support. Documentation of key processes is ongoing with continued efforts to streamline and make improvements as identified.

Challenges and Blessings:

It is strange to believe I am into my 3rd year in post of Synod Treasurer. I have been blessed with a small but very knowledgeable team who have helped shape the office priorities during 2025 and 2026. We have made good progress in identifying process improvements which has in turn improved the team's efficiency.

The challenges continue to be finding the right balance on the amount of demand from parishes that support the Synod's shared ministry without imposing too much of a burden upon them. The fact that we are routinely collecting in the high ninety percent suggests we have that about right. Our DCIF portfolio has performed strongly over the last two years meaning we continue to be able to achieve better than budgeted investment returns which in turn has allowed bonus interest payouts of 1.5% to parishes in both years. While recent investment returns have exceeded budget expectations, the Diocese remains mindful that future market conditions may not be as favourable and continues to manage expenditures accordingly.

I am blessed by the leadership and support of Bishop and the smooth transition to the new Executive Officer. As Synod Treasurer, I have the pleasure of working closely with them, the team at the Synod and alongside the current and past Chair of the Finance Committee, both who have much insightful knowledge and experience. To the many volunteer Parish treasurers, your work is valued and appreciated. Lastly, I am truly enjoying this opportunity that has been afforded to me and my ability to make a difference to the Synod.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Shepherdson, Treasurer of the Synod

Report of Diocesan Council - Membership and Attendance

	2024	2025				2026					
	7 Dec	6 Mar	31 May	27 Sep	29 Nov	26 Feb	30 May	26 Sep			
David Bell (Mr.)	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	7	of	8
Peggy Boucher (Mrs.)	A	A	A	A	A	A			0	of	6
Harold Boomer (the Rev.)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	8	of	8
Michael Briggs (Mr.)	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	6	of	8
Terence Chandra (the Rev.)	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	7	of	8
Perry Cooper (the Ven.)	P	P	P	R	P	P	R	R	5	of	8
Connor DeMerchant (Mr.)	P	P	A	P	R	P	A	P	5	of	8
Joanna DiProse (Ms.)	P	P	R	P	R	P	P	R	5	of	8
David Edwards (the Most Rev.) (Chair)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	8	of	8
Trevor Fotheringham (Mr.)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	7	of	8
Geoffrey Hall (the Very Rev.)	R	P	P	P	P	P	R		5	of	7
Brent Ham (the Ven.)	P	P	R	R	P	P	P	R	5	of	8
Margaret Holder (Ms.)		R	P	A	P	R	A	P	3	of	7
Bonnie Hunt (Capt.)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	7	of	8
Susan Jack (Ms.)	P	P	P						3	of	3
Cheryl Jacobs (Ms.)			P	P	P	P	P	P	6	of	6
James (Jim) Knight (Mr.)				P	P	P	P	P	5	of	5
Gerald (Gerry) Laskey (the Rev. Canon)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	7	of	8
Robert (Rob) Marsh (the Ven.)	R	P	A	P	A	P	R	P	4	of	8
Leo Martin (the Ven.)	P	P	P	P	R	P	R	P	6	of	8
John Matheson (the Ven.)	P	P	P	R	A	P	R	R	4	of	8
Chase McLean (Mr.)	P	P	P	R	P	P	A	P	6	of	8
Laura McNulty (Ms.)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	8	of	8
Robert Montgomery (the Rev.)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	7	of	8
Anthony (Tony) Munn (Mr.) (Vice-Chair)	R	P	P	R	P	P	R	P	5	of	8
Neil Osiowy (the Rev.)	R	R	P	R	P	P	P	P	5	of	8
David Peer (the Rev.)	P	P							2	of	2
Julian Pillay (the Rev.)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	8	of	8
Maria Shepherdson (the Ven.)					P	P	P	P	4	of	4
Philip Shepherdson (Mr.)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	8	of	8
Nancy Stephens (Ms.)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	8	of	8
Diane Todd (Mrs.)							P	R	1	of	2
Caleb Twinamatsiko (the Rev.)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	8	of	8
<i>P - Present</i>	21	26	24	21	24	28	20	19			
<i>R - Regrets</i>	6	2	2	6	3	1	7	10			
<i>A - Absent</i>	1	1	3	2	3	1	3	0			

RESOLUTIONS OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

December 2024 – September 2026

2024 December 7

- That Diocesan Council approve the minutes of the last meeting September 27th, 2024, as presented.
- That Diocesan Council close nominations for Lay Vice Chair and appoint Tony Munn.
- That Diocesan Council close nominations for the at-large positions and appoint the nominees (Joanna DiProse, Bonnie Hunt and Chase McLean).
- That Diocesan Council close nominations for lay delegates to Provincial Synod and appoint Jessica Smith.
- That Diocesan Council close nominations for lay members to the Executive Committee and appoint the nominees (David Bell, Philip Shepherdson, Laura McNulty, Tony Munn, Nancy Stephens, Joanna DiProse.).
- That Diocesan Council close nominations for cleric members to the Executive Committee and appoint the nominees (Brent Ham, Rob Montgomery, Julian Pillay, John Matheson, David Peer, and Gerald Laskey).
- That Diocesan Council receive the reports as circulated.
- That Diocesan Council change Regulation 7-2 (Part 8) as presented.
- That Diocesan Council approve the donation in 2024 from Wiggins retained interest of \$50,000 to Centre for Youth Care's Capital Campaign for supportive housing and \$10,000 to ICYM.
- That Diocesan Council approve a four-year funding commitment to ICYM for \$10,000/yr from the Wiggins Trust starting in 2025.
- That Diocesan Council approve the 2025 budget as presented.
- That Diocesan Council adopt the Charter on Racial Reconciliation for the Diocese of Fredericton.
- That Diocesan Council appoint Rob Montgomery, Terence Chandra, Julian Pillay, Caleb Twinamatsiko, and David Peer to an Ad Hoc Committee to bring recommendations back to Diocesan Council at the next meeting on how to respond to the Synod Report of the Task Force on Racial Justice.

2025 March 6

- That Diocesan Council approve the minutes of the last meeting December 7th, 2024, as amended.
- That Diocesan Council receive reports as presented.
- That Diocesan Council appoint Margaret Holder as Diocesan Council Youth Representative.
- That Diocesan Council appoint Caleb Twinamatsiko and Harold Boomer to the Human Resources Committee for a term of six years
- That Diocesan Council recommend to Atlantic School of Theology that Shawn Branch be appointed to the Senate.

- That Philip Shepherdson be appointed assistant secretary of the Diocesan Synod.
- That David Peer be appointed assistant treasurer of the Diocesan Synod.

2025 May 31

- That Diocesan Council approve the appointment of Cheryl Jacobs to Acting Secretary of Synod and Acting Assistant Treasurer of Synod in place of David Peer.
- That Diocesan Council approve the minutes of the last meeting held on March 6, 2025.
- That Diocesan Council receive all reports as presented.
- That Diocesan Council approve the revised Policy B-3 Misconduct as presented.
- That the revised Policy B-3 Misconduct come into force on a day to be designated by the Diocesan Council.
- That Diocesan Council approve revisions to Regulation 5-2 Parish Forms (Church Registers and Annual Returns).
- That Diocesan Council approve revisions to Regulation 5-3 Investor Transfers to DCIF.
- That Diocesan Council approve Regulation 5-5 Shared Ministry.
- That Diocesan Council approve the Threshold Ministries application to the Anglican Foundation of Canada.
- That Diocesan Council appoint the Ven. John Matheson, cleric, and Michael Briggs, Jeffrey Mills and Susan Jack, lay members, to the Finance Committee, each for a three-year term
- That Diocesan Council endorse the Companion Diocese Ho Anglican High School project.

2025 September 27

- That Diocesan Council approve the minutes of the last meeting, May 31, 2025.
- That Diocesan Council receive all reports as presented.
- That Regulation 4-4 (Diocesan Safe Church) be amended to read as presented and corrected.
- That the amended Regulation 4-4 (Safe Church) come into force on a day to be designated by the Diocesan Council.
- That Diocesan Council adopt the 2024 reviewed Financial Statements.
- That Diocesan Council approve reappointment of the independent examiners LeBlanc Scott to the Financial Statements for 2025.
- That the addition to Regulation 7-4 (Part 9: Special Leave) be approved as presented.
- That changes to Regulation 7-8 (Part 3: Sabbatical Leave) be approved as presented.
- That omnibus revisions to Regulations 7-1 to 7-9 be approved as presented.
- That Diocesan Council appoint the Rev. Julian Pillay to the Board of Governors of Atlantic School of Theology subject to ratification by the AST Board.
- That Diocesan Council approve the recommendation of the Companion Diocese Committee to begin fundraising in this diocese and elsewhere towards the Ho Vocational/Technical School project.

- That Diocesan Synod of Fredericton will accept donations from Canadian individuals and groups who wish to donate to the Ho Vocational/Technical School project and issue charitable tax receipts.
- That Diocesan Council approve the appointment of Cheryl Jacobs to Secretary of Synod and Assistant Treasurer of Synod effective October 1, 2025.
- That Diocesan the Council approve the signing of the contract with Goguen Architects to provide the construction plans for the Camp Medley pool project.

2025 November 29

- That Diocesan Council approve the minutes of the last meeting, September 27, 2025.
- That Diocesan Council set the date of Diocesan Synod as November 7, 2026.
- That Diocesan Council receive all reports as presented.
- That Diocesan Council approve a grant application to the Anglican Foundation of Canada by Camp Brookwood (\$15,000).
- That Diocesan Council approve the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton budget for 2026 as presented
- The Ven. Maria Shepherdson was appointed to the vacant cleric seat on the Council Executive Committee by acclamation.

2026 February 26

- That Diocesan Council approve the minutes of the 29 November 2025 meeting.
- That Diocesan Council receive all reports as presented.
- That the proposed amendments to the revised Safe Church Regulation (Regulation 4-4), other than the proposed amendment to section 2.2, be approved.
- That the proposed amendments to the revised Misconduct Policy (Policy B-3) be approved.
- That the revised Safe Church Regulation (Regulation 4-4) replace Part 1: Diocesan Safe Church Regulation and come into force on 1 June 2026.
- That the revised Misconduct Policy (Policy B-3) come into force on 1 June 2026.
- That the Police Record Check Policy (Policy B-6) be approved per the proposed amendments and, additionally, to remove the pardon clause from section 7.
- That the Privacy Policy (Policy B-4) be approved as amended.

2026 May 30

- That Diocesan Council approve the minutes of the 26 February 2026 meeting.
- That Diocesan Council approve amendment to Policy B-6 Criminal Record Check, s.7, as presented.
- That Diocesan Council receive all reports as presented.
- That Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend s.3 of the Constitution as presented.

- That Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend s.21(1) of Canon Four (Diocesan Governance) as presented.
- That Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend s.16 of Canon Four (Diocesan Governance) as presented.
- That Regulation 5-5 Shared Ministry become Regulation 4-5 Shared Ministry.
- That Diocesan Council recommend that Synod amend s.2 of Canon Six (Parish Governance) as presented.
- That Diocesan Council adopt Policy A-10 as presented, to come into effect if and when the Synod adopts the proposed related amendment to Canon Six.
- That Diocesan Council approve the amendments to Policy A-4 Obtaining Financial Assistance and associated application form and project completion form, as presented.
- That Diocesan Council approve amendments to Policy A-6 Outstanding Parish Support, renaming to Policy A-6 Outstanding Synod Financial Support, as presented.
- That Diocesan Council revoke Policy A-1 Application to the Anglican Foundation.
- That Diocesan Council approve amendment to Policy A-9 Purchase of New Property and New Construction or Renovation, as presented.
- That Diocesan Council revoke Regulation 4-3 Diocesan Lay Employees Remuneration and Benefits, effective immediately.

2026 September 26

- That Diocesan Council approve the minutes of the 30 May 2026 meeting.
- That Diocesan Council receive all reports as presented.
- That Diocesan Council approve an amendment to Regulation 4-5 Shared Ministry s. 6(3)a to reduce the lower threshold calculation for the Shared Ministry Assessment formula from 9% to 7%.
- That Diocesan Council approve the Shared Ministry Assessment amount of \$1,237,639 for 2027.
- That Diocesan Council adopt the 2025 reviewed Financial Statements.
- That Diocesan Council approve reappointment of the independent examiners LeBlanc Scott CPA for the financial statements for 2026
- That Diocesan Council approve a change to Regulation 7-2 Remuneration and Compensation to update Part 8 Clergy Outfitting Grant (s. 20) from “A newly ordained transitional deacon...” to “A newly ordained transitional or vocational deacon...”.
- That Diocesan Council adopt Policy B-7 Program Safety as presented.
- That Diocesan Council adopt Policy B-8 Human Resources as presented.
- That Diocesan Council adopt Policy B-9 Facilities as presented.
- That Diocesan Council approve the appointments of Ashley Hill and Jodi Misheal as Diocesan Synod of Fredericton representatives to the University of King’s College Board of Governors, each for a two-year term (renewable), as recommended by that Board’s nominating committee.

CONSTITUTION & CANONS (STANDING) COMMITTEE/Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor

Chancellor and vice-chancellor are at-pleasure appointments by the diocesan bishop of the day. Their job description is to “advise and assist the Bishop and the Synod”. In practice this means mostly advising the bishop and the Diocesan Council and drafting legislation.

The most notable legislative accomplishment since Synod 2024 is a considerably revised Safe Church regulation and its related Misconduct policy. Both lengthy projects owe much to guidance from David Peer, the former Synod executive officer. He and treasurer Philip Shepherdson were also deeply involved in writing from scratch our overdue Shared Ministry legislation. A large number of other Safe Church-related policies are currently under active revision, the patient work of Cheryl Jacobs, the present Synod executive officer, and Ben Bourque, the Synod personnel officer.

As always, I offer sincere gratitude to Vice-Chancellor Kelly VanBuskirk and to retired chancellors Ronald Stevenson, Charles Ferris and Clyde Spinney for generous counsel whenever called on.

David Bell, Chancellor & Committee Chair

FINANCE (STANDING) COMMITTEE

Mandate

The Finance Committee is established by Canon 4, s. 18 to act in the specific matters that are set out in Canon 5 in the name of the Synod.

The Committee thus carries out functions including management of real and personal property, borrowing, trusts, and the Diocesan Consolidated Investment Fund (DCIF), approval of all real estate transactions, assisting in the preparation of the Diocesan budget, guiding and advising Anglican Corporations with financial challenges, and collaborating with the Human Resources Committee. The Committee may advise and direct the Treasurer of the Synod, and carries out other functions as may be directed by the Diocesan Council or by the Synod.

Members

David Bell (Chancellor), Michael Briggs, Archbishop David Edwards, Susan Jack (Vice-Chair), Cheryl Jacobs (Secretary of Synod), Jim Knight (Chair), The Ven. Robert Marsh, The Ven. John Matheson, Laura McNulty, Jeffrey Mills, Philip Shepherdson (Treasurer of Synod), Dean (vacant)

Highlights

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee served for a number of years as a sub-committee of the Finance Committee. As a result of our comfort level with our investment advisors and the skills and knowledge of members of the Finance Committee, the Investment Committee was officially dissolved, with thanks to the members who have served over the years, as of July 2026.

Property Committee

The Property Committee is a sub-committee established to assist the Finance Committee and the Bishop to fulfill the requirements of the Anglican Church Act, 2003 (Act) respecting the purchase,

design, construction, renovation, restoration, leasing, disposal or demolition of real property by Anglican Corporations. The Property Committee is guided by Canon Five, Canon Six, Regulation 4-1 (2(h), Policies A-3 and A-9, the Safe Church Regulations, and any other regulations or legislation as may from time to time be adopted by the Synod. It also considers Mark of Mission #5 and civil and ecclesiastical direction with regard to the sustainable management of real property across the diocese; and address issues associated with historic places designations.

The Property Committee recommended policy changes, assessed many applications, and brought numerous motions to the Finance Committee. The Property Committee provided regular updates of property issues to the Finance Committee and provided Anglican Corporations with their expertise.

Membership, where possible, may include one representative from each Archdeaconry to provide assistance with respect to property responsibilities of the Archdeacon (Reg. 4-1, 2(h)) while providing a presence across the Diocese to assist the Committee with its work.

Members of the Property Committee are The Rev. Harold Boomer, Mike Briggs, Susan Jack (Chair), Cheryl Jacobs (Secretary of Synod), Jim Knight (Chair of Finance), The Ven. Rob Marsh (Vice-Chair), The Rev. Michael O'Hara, The Rev. Steven Scribner, Philip Shepherdson (Synod Treasurer), Bill Tracy.

Grants Committee

The Grants Committee is a sub-committee established to provide advice to the Finance Committee with respect to applications made under the recently (May 2026) revised Policy A4. The committee considers and makes recommendations with respect to applications to the Anglican Foundation of Canada, for temporary Shared Ministry Budget (SMB) relief, and for Diocesan Synod grants.

Members of the Grants Committee are Shawn Branch, Archbishop David Edwards, Susan Jack (Chair), Cheryl Jacobs, Jim Knight, Philip Shepherdson.

Shared Ministry Budget

Any of the Anglican Corporations of our Diocese may at times experience financial pressures. This is exemplified by instances of deferred maintenance on buildings and by applications for assistance under Policy A4. The Finance Committee is sensitive to these pressures and wants to assist corporations where possible to be sustainable and vibrant conduits of ministry.

In 2025, the total revenue to the Diocese was just over \$6.4m. This was better than budget due to better than anticipated investment income (almost \$3.8m.) and prudent management of expenses.

The Shared Ministry Budget (SMB) for 2025 was just under \$1.2m. The SMB typically provides 25 – 35% of our total revenue. Our Diocese is thus very fortunate compared to others in Canada where parishes are called upon to provide a much greater portion of Diocesan revenue. The SMB support is critical to continued ministry across our Diocese. The annual calculation of SMB requests is based on a corporation's average income for the previous three years.

Year	Based on avg. of	First \$50K on revenue	Second \$50K of revenue	Over \$100K of revenue
2020	2016,2017,2018	10%	15%	20%
2021-2025		9%	14%	18%
2026	2022,2023,2024	9%	14%	18%

The SMB amounts from parishes and the Cathedral provide for the following:

National Church – Shared Ministry with National Office;

Support to parishes – Payroll, benefits, insurance, eOffering and investments administration as well as Safe Church and legal support, grants;

Clergy support – relocation, employee assistance and EAP, contingency, training and education opportunities, and Archdeacons' remuneration and expenses; and

Episcopal – Bishop's remuneration and expenses, support staff

Grants and Reimbursements/Cost Reduction to Parishes

The Finance Committee works with the Synod Office to improve processes with an eye to reducing financial and resource costs. The table below summarizes the Shared Ministry Relief and Diocesan Synod Grants provided to parishes for the last three years:

Year	Shared Ministry Relief	Diocesan Synod Grants
2023	\$32,581	\$85,000
2024	\$23,678	\$103,180
2025	\$27,660	\$62,720

Parishes have also benefitted from:

- A decrease in recovery of the cost of employee benefits (reduction of \$20-\$25/month);
- Diocesan payment from the Travel Pool for travel over 12,500 km per year;
- A rebate of insurance deductibles of \$343;
- A distribution of Travel Pool Fund surpluses of \$500 or \$250 to participating parishes;
- WorkSafe NB fees for all parish staff are now covered by the Synod.

Diocesan Consolidated Investment Fund (DCIF)

All Synod and most Parochial funds and trusts are invested in the DCIF. This fund is overseen by the Finance Committee and managed by PH&N Investment Services, a part of the RBC Global Asset Management Family. PH&N manage these funds under an Investment Policy agreement with the Synod. They report monthly to the Finance Committee. They provide detailed advice as requested, and by attending one or two Finance Committee meetings each year. The Finance Committee is pleased with the performance of our funds. PH&N use a diversified investment style where they invest for both growth and value via Canadian and global bonds and equities.

The Finance Committee is pleased to invest funds from any Anglican Corporations with the DCIF. The benefits are that there is never any risk to the capital of the funds, and there have been stable

interest payments even in years when financial markets were more volatile. This has been demonstrated by the DCIF being able to award bonus payouts (1.5%) in both 2024 and 2025.

In the table below are various annual financial metrics for the DCIF starting with 2021, the first full year managed by PH&N and then YTD for July 2026. Realized Return is the sum of interest, dividends and realized capital gains, net of management fees paid. The Money Weighted Return is often used for institutional portfolios like the DCIF where cash flows in and out as the calculation considers these cashflows. The Time Weighted Return is slightly different but is easier to calculate and is useful as it can be compared to other Time Weighted returns for various markets. The Weighted Index takes Time Weighted Returns for Canadian Equities, Global Equities and Global Fixed Income and weights them based on our Asset Allocation. This gives us a comparison of what a portfolio like the DCIF should be providing as a return.

<i>Financial Metric</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>YTD July 2026</i>
Market Value \$M	40.1	37.3	40.6	44.4	52.7	56.8
Realized Return %	6.10	4.50	4.59	6.36	6.85	1.13
Money Weighted Return %	15.00	-8.53	8.68	15.16	13.38	7.89
Time Weighted Return %	15.98	-8.19	9.16	15.68	13.81	8.16
Weighted Index %	11.63	-9.24	11.18	9.23		

The YTD July 2026 Realized Return is only 1.13% at this point as we receive most of our dividends in December of each year.

The committee works closely with PH&N to determine a sustainable rate of return and to predict the realized rate of return for all our investments. We originally had PH&N plan for an annual return of 4.5% of which 3.25% will be paid out from interest, dividends and net gains on sales in order to fund our budget but with synod Trusts earning the true realised return as indicated above. The other 1% or so is reinvested to ensure long-term fund sustainability. This will provide a more consistent rate of return on the DCIF portfolio and provide a more consistent payout to the Parishes while reducing risk to the Diocese. For 2026, we agreed with PH&N to increase the annual return from its original 4.25% to 4.6%. Interest on Parochial investments has been 3.25% since 2022.

Final Comments from the Chair

The Finance Committee schedules meetings monthly except during the summer, but adds extra meetings as necessary. Our Diocese is very fortunate for the dedication and the collective wisdom and knowledge of our members. I am also grateful for the patience afforded me as the new Chair.

In addition to regular meetings, members continuously work with the subcommittees and Synod staff to help provide guidance to parishes or others. Members are available virtually or by arranging face to face meetings to work through specific issues.

It is a pleasure working with the members of the Synod Office, especially the Treasurer of the Synod who also assisted in the preparation of this report. These staff are frequently the source of new ideas on how to reduce costs, improve services to our corporations, and improve our various revenue streams. The current period of global instability has brought unique financial and other

challenges to all of us. Be assured that committee members are always available to work with parishes and other corporations to provide assistance with financial and related challenges.

Respectfully submitted (with the assistance of the Treasurer of the Synod),

Jim Knight, Chair

HUMAN RESOURCES (STANDING) COMMITTEE

Current Membership: Mike Briggs (Chair), Brent Ham, Tony Munn, John Bailey, Nancy Stephens, David Edwards, Ben Bourque, Rod Black, Cheryl Jacobs, Caleb Twinamatsiko

The committee usually meets monthly except for the summer months.

Cost of Living Assessments and Increases

Recommendation for Cost Living for 2027 will be made to Finance prior to Synod in accordance with other NB COL increases. This increase will also be applied to Housing Allowance.

Mileage Allowance

Committee noted that mileage allowance had not changed in years. Reviewed the calculations in view of the increase in cost of fuel. Recommendation approved by Finance that Mileage Allowance be increased if cost of fuel rises above \$2 a litre for 2 consecutive months.

Travel Pool

Travel pool has a surplus, recommendation made to Finance to reimburse Parishes who contribute to the pool.

Honorariums and Taxes

Letter sent to Parishes advising that all Honorariums are taxable and Parishes should advise recipients and give amount paid in year.

Safe Church Update

David Peer and then Cheryl Jacobs, Ben Bourque and David Bell have reviewed the Safe Church framework. Recommendations have been made to Diocesan Council and approved, some work still being done but will be complete in 2027. Training videos are in process and will all be complete by early 2027. The chair thanks the above individuals for all their hard work and diligence on this mammoth task.

Clergy Leave

Revised policy was presented to Council and approved.

Vestment Allowance

Council approved recommendation that the vestments allowance include Vocational Deacons.

Retirement Presentation

Retirement conference was scheduled and took place in 2026. Feedback from participants will be taken into account for next conference.

Collaboration

The Chair works with the Chair of Finance when and where needed as responsibilities overlap at times.

Mike Briggs, Chair

NOMINATING (STANDING) COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is a standing committee of Diocesan Council with the purpose of facilitating the nominating process and assuring nominations for specific vacancies in diocesan representative roles, elections and appointments throughout the diocese as needed.

The Committee conducted business through electronic communication in 2026.

Over the past two years, the Committee has successfully submitted nominations to the Diocesan Council to fill vacancies on the Finance and Human Resource committees, and recommended diocesan representatives to fill various positions within the AST governance structure.

We continue to seek methods to expand communication of vacancies throughout the diocese and welcome suggestions to improve the openness of recruitment of nominees to serve on the various diocesan committees.

Current members are: Trevor Fotheringham (chair), Rick Haddad, Gerald Laskey, Paul Mills, Cheryl Jacobs (for Archbishop David).

Submitted on behalf of the Nominations Committee,
Trevor Fotheringham
Committee Chair

REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

It's been 12 years since I took the helm as communications officer at the Diocese, and this fall, I retired. It was a bittersweet decision, as I miss everyone very much.

The *New Brunswick Anglican* continues to win multiple awards for stories, columns, photos, design and best front page. This year, we reclaimed our status as the best Christian newspaper in the country, as judged by the Canadian Christian Communicators Association. We've won that designation in 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2026.

Readers have told me repeatedly how proud they are of our little paper.

Circulation: As of this month, our circulation is 1,699. That is the total number of subscribers, plus the bundles sent to parishes and others. Eighteen months ago, we had 1,805. Those numbers continue to slowly drop with our paper and every Anglican paper across the country.

For some perspective, here are the circulation numbers from across the country, as of November 2026. As you can see, the NB Anglican is in the middle of the pack.

- Anglican Journal - 33,309
- Anglican Life (NL) - 3,166
- The Anglican (Toronto) - 5,258
- Anglican Montreal - 1,362
- Diocesan Times (NS/PEI) - 2,288
- The Highway (Kootney) - 627
- Huron Church News - 2,859
- The Messenger (Edmonton & Athabaska) - 940
- Mustard Seed (Brandon) - 375
- Niagara Anglican - 3,269
- Northland (Moosonee) - 561
- Perspective (Ottawa) - 2,111
- Saskatchewan Anglican - 1,178
- Topic (New Westminster) - 1,549

As of September, the new communications manager is Jonathan DesRoches. We spent a month together as part of his training. When my last day came, Sept. 30, I felt completely at ease. Witnessing his talent — and his craft and care of the *NB Anglican* — affirmed for me that he was God-sent. Your newspaper is in very good hands.

As I said in my October column, these 12 years have been a joy for me. Thank you to all the parishes that have welcomed me, fed me, sent me their photos and events, and made the last years of my career the very best.

Gisele McKnight
Former editor, *NB Anglican*
Former communications officer

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CAMP MEDLEY

Greetings from Camp Medley 2026.

Campers: 395 over six weeks of camp

Family Camp & Day Destination: 86

School Groups: 1000 students (they come for a day in June)

Seniors Retreat: 29

Rental Groups: 44 groups using camp. This ranges from a person wanting to have a quiet retreat in one of the rooms, to groups of 200 people.

We are open year-round and we do our best to accommodate groups needs.

Summer staff: Very blessed with an amazing group of young people.

Volunteers: I am blessed by these people who give of their time and talents.

Synod staff: Work very hard behind the scenes.

To all the Staff, Volunteers, Synod Staff, Thank You!

Pool and Maintenance Building Projects

The Pool: We are approaching the point of being shovel ready.

The matching gift campaign, as of Sept 13th we have raised \$117,000 towards the \$375,000. We have till December 31, 2026 to reach our target. Thank you to all the individuals and church's who have helped us get this far.

Maintenance Building: Construction to start this fall to be completed in the spring.

Thank You for your support and prayers for this ministry!

John Galbraith
Director of Camp Medley

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MISSION AND MINISTRY

Over the past year, the work of the Director of Mission and Ministry has continued to focus on supporting clergy and lay leaders, encouraging congregational vitality, overseeing vocational discernment and ministry formation, and helping parishes respond to the changing realities of ministry across our diocese.

Vocations and Ministry Formation

A significant portion of my work continues to involve accompanying individuals who are discerning a call to ordained or licensed lay ministry. This includes coordinating discernment processes, supporting theological education and ministry placements, and working with candidates, supervisors, and theological institutions.

In September, we celebrated the ordination of three (transitional) deacons and four priests, marking an important milestone in their journeys of formation and ministry.

This fall also saw the introduction of the Ministry Foundations Program, a year-long program for newly ordained clergy, newly licensed missionaries, and clergy new to the diocese. The program combines practical ministry training, theological reflection, relationship-building, and orientation to diocesan life. We have also continued to develop mentoring arrangements and other supports for clergy entering new ministry appointments.

Clergy and Lay Leadership Development

Throughout the year, opportunities for continuing education, encouragement, and connection have included Clergy Days, our annual Clergy Conference, and gatherings for lay readers and other ministry leaders.

These events provide opportunities to deepen theological understanding, develop practical skills, and strengthen relationships across the diocese. Supporting clergy and lay leaders in the ongoing demands of ministry remains an important priority, particularly as many congregations navigate changing expectations and limited resources.

Parish Support and Missional Development

Much of my work involves direct consultation and support for parishes, clergy, wardens, and other lay leaders. This includes assistance with leadership transitions, congregational planning, governance, community engagement, and questions of long-term sustainability.

Through the Missional Imagination Network and other initiatives, we have continued to encourage congregations to explore how they might engage more intentionally with their communities. The network's annual online conference has provided opportunities for teaching, sharing experiences, and learning from missional practitioners across the wider Church. Planning is underway for the January 2027 gathering, *Beyond Survival: A Call to Missional Faithfulness*.

Camping Ministry

At the request of Archbishop David, I have also provided additional oversight and support to Camp Brookwood, including serving as line manager for the Camp Director. This work has focused on

strengthening the camp's operations, supporting its leadership, and exploring opportunities to improve the long-term viability and sustainability of this important ministry.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the coming year, priorities will include continuing to strengthen vocational discernment and ministry formation, developing practical approaches to equipping clergy and lay leaders, and supporting congregations as they respond to changing circumstances.

There will also be opportunities to explore additional partnerships and approaches to theological and practical ministry formation, particularly for those preparing for ministry while remaining rooted in their local communities.

I remain grateful for the opportunity to work alongside clergy, lay leaders, diocesan colleagues, and the many volunteers who contribute to the mission and ministry of our diocese.

Canon Shawn C. Branch
Director of Mission and Ministry

REPORT OF THE SAINT JOHN HOSPITALS ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY (Saint John Regional Hospital and Saint Joseph's Hospital)

As with the 2024 Saint John Hospitals Anglican Chaplaincy report, I begin this one with a story, this time it is one someone sent to me.

An elderly man hurried to an 8 am appointment he had with his doctor. He needed to finish quickly, as he had another appointment at 9 am. The doctor asked him about that next appointment.

"Every morning at 9 am I have breakfast with my wife at the hospital," the man answered. What's her condition, "the doctor asked.

The man told him, "For the last five years my wife has suffered from Alzheimer's, and she's been hospitalized all that time. She hasn't even recognized me for all those five years."

*If she doesn't even recognize you, the doctor asked, why do you visit her every day? And the man said, "Because I still know who *she* is."*

Over the past two years, I have come to experience more deeply, in my role as hospital chaplain, the existential crisis of loneliness endured by patients, their loved ones, health care workers, and support staff within our culture today. The elderly in our society, denomination, and province—whatever their cognitive, physical, or spiritual abilities—remain valued members of the Christian family and of society, not because of what they do, but because of who they are.

In August's Sunday lectionary readings from the Book of Exodus, we hear how the ground on which Moses stood was made holy by the living presence of God. Hospitals, nursing homes, and special care homes are also holy ground. As hospital chaplains, clergy, and church family members, we are graced to share the presence of Christ in these sacred spaces and to recognize the presence of Christ in one another.

Dementia Care

The Saint John Hospitals Chaplaincy was pleased to partner with the Parishes of: Fundy and the Lakes, Saint Stephen and Hammond River to offer Saturday workshops facilitated by Angela King, a dementia care and education specialist. The workshop offered a fresh, compassionate perspective on dementia support, shaped by Angela's background in clinical Spiritual Care and inspired by Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care® philosophy. The hope is that the remaining four Archdeaconry regions will be able to partner to host the workshop in their region. The Parish of Hammond River has already organized a Care Partner Series because of participating in the Fundy and the Lakes workshop and recognizing the need to support those who walk with those in cognitive decline.

Transitional Units

Within the Horizon structure, denominational chaplains have had greater access to their patients on the Transitional Units (i.e. those medically discharged and waiting for nursing home placement) compared to other units. The ministry of presence is huge on these two units at the Regional and as chaplain I have been able to work with my other Baptist chaplain colleague to offer special services and Christian story times on these units during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. I also began using Godly Play within these settings. I am grateful for the collaboration and support of Stephen Hancock (Activity Worker on 4AN and 4BN) as well as the work Tom Stauffer (Temporary Spiritual Care Practitioner) who was able to ask each patient/next of kin on 4AN and 4BN about their desire for religious care and thus refer as appropriate.

At Saint Joseph's Hospital, the full-time Spiritual Care Practitioner is supported to be able to ask the religion question and therefore the Anglican list is very accurate. The majority of the population of the patients at this hospital are transitional care with some in restorative care or assessment.

Unfortunately, I regularly encounter patients at Saint Joseph's who were transferred from the Regional where they were for a week or more. They have expressed that they would have appreciated the opportunity for the chaplain to visit during their stay at the Regional. Sadly, if they are not on the Anglican list, I do not know they are there and I therefore can't visit. To get on the list, ask the nurse to make a spiritual care consult and be clear that you are seeking the Anglican Chaplain. One can also give permission to their cleric to contact the chaplain directly and provide your unit and room number to me. And if one is technically inclined, one can self-refer using the poster QR code on the wall in each patient's room. The chaplains carry horizon cell phones for emergencies and thus reaching out to locating at each site can also assist in making the connection.

Please note that the religion question at Saint Joseph's is not asked of patients in for day surgery or short- term recovery following surgery. Patients/next of kin need to take the initiative to ensure they are added to the Anglican list and since the chaplain is not onsite every day at Saint Joseph's, direct contact is recommended if the stay is expected to be short term.

Multi-Faith Chapel and Sacramental Care

During the past year, the chaplain was granted permission to offer Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday from within the multi-faith chapel at the Saint John Regional as well as an Easter Sunday Eucharist and on the units. These both demonstrated the need for this kind of spiritual nurture as well as

religious and pastoral care. The hope is to be able to offer a regular Sunday Eucharist Service with the help of volunteers within the Saint John Health Zone.

The chaplain was also able to impose ashes individually to Anglicans on each of the floors at Saint Joseph's Hospital as well as Easter Communion.

The chaplain regularly offers reserved sacrament to those who request this as well as the anointing of the sick and dying. Only one baptism has been administered and a few funeral services or burials. The chaplain has been very successful in connecting some lapsed or orphaned Anglicans to Parish Communities. I'm grateful for the collaboration with local clergy who graciously support these patients and/or families find a parish family when called upon.

Community Clergy and Denominational Chaplain Badge Change

Community clergy and denominational chaplains are not considered part of Horizon's Circle of Care. Due to staff being confused by the photo id badge by thinking we are part of this Circle of Care and thus proceeding to breach patient privacy and confidentiality by speaking with us about the patient, the badges were changed. They now have only the words "Community Religious Care" printed on a white swipe card.

This has placed an unnecessary burden upon patients, and particularly those experiencing cognitive decline or confusion. With permission, I have been able to create a visually different photo id badge with my first name clearly visible to the patient thus removing that barrier. I have also been able to produce id badges for several clergy who are credentialed members of Horizon's Zone 2 area.

Patient Self-Referral System for Spiritual, Religious and Indigenous Cultural Care

Horizon Health Network implemented a self-referral process for patients to indicate that they desire to be on the list which is available to the Anglican hospital chaplain as well as any Horizon credentialed parish clergy and/or registered parish lay visitors who offer visitation. This is hoped to give the patient more opportunity to access religious care and does not rely on every patient being asked the question upon being admitted.

When you are admitted to the hospital, there will be a poster in your room with a QR Code which will allow you or a family member if help is needed, to indicate that you would like to have your name placed on the Anglican list. Anglican religious care can then be made available to you when someone is on-site to provide this. If assistance is needed for the self-referral, please ask your nurse. Each unit has a device available to access the QR if needed.

To ensure a timelier visit, it is encouraged that you continue to reach out to the rector and/or priest-in-charge and/or parish pastoral contact person so that they know you are in the Saint John Regional Hospital or Saint Joseph's Hospital and that you desire a visit. Lists are only accessible at the hospital within the secured access Spiritual Care office.

Please note that each time you are admitted, you must self-refer with the QR code or ask to be added to the Anglican list. Your name is removed from the list when you are discharged. Please note that those who are transferred from one hospital to another need to self-refer at each site as well. This information does not follow you even though it is part of one admission stay.

For decades, maintaining accurate patient denominational lists has been a challenge. One apparent turning point was an incident at Saint John Regional Hospital, where an Anglican patient asked several times to see the chaplain but was not referred; as a result, the patient's name never appeared on the Anglican list. The patient filed a complaint, and a year later, that complaint led to a self-referral process with a QR Code.

Access to Denominational Lists by Credential Members of Spiritual Care

The Patient Self-Referral System for Spiritual, Religious and Indigenous Cultural Care has made it possible for registered community clergy and lay visitors to regain access to denominational lists. I am grateful to my manager, The Rev. Kelly Hudson-Lewis, who previously served as a community cleric and understands both the need for religious care and its pastoral value, for her collaboration and leadership in this project. It is hoped that this will be a first step toward ensuring that patients and community clergy have greater access to one another, along with the support they need when religious care is desired.

Donations by Individuals and Parishes for Patients

I am grateful to the individuals and parishes who donated prayer blankets, palm crosses, and other gifts that I was able to share with patients during their stay. Last year, one group from the Kids Lead Summer Program at Stone Church chose to fundraise and purchase toys for the Pediatric Care Unit. It was a delight to accompany The Reverend Jasmine Chandra and the two girls as they presented the toys.

Continuing Education and Formation

Over the past two years, I have participated in several continuing education opportunities as chaplain. The awareness and knowledge I gained through the LEAP™ Core Pallium Canada course have been invaluable. This interprofessional palliative care course provided in-depth learning in the essential skills and competencies of a palliative care approach for health care professionals.

I also participated in the 2026 Hospice and Palliative Care Conference, the IDEA: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Conference through the School of Nursing, and the Atlantic Association of the Spiritual Exercises Apostolate Come and See Cohort. I am now participating in the three-year Spiritual Companion Formation Program. I am grateful for the AASEA community, the formation we share, and the rich prayer life and support that strengthen us as contemplatives in action. Much of my chaplaincy ministry is lived as spiritual companionship with those journeying through a hospital admission.

In 2025, I planned and facilitated the twelfth-anniversary session and celebration banquet for the Diocesan 12 12 12 Program. The gathering celebrated the experiences of participants and the ongoing peer mentoring, peer coaching, and best-practices support that members of the five cohorts continued to receive. Transitional support is continuing to be provided as the leadership for this ministry is re-envisioned.

In 2025, I also offered a Godly Play-style retreat for Godly Play practitioners, Sunday School and Christian formation leaders, and others who were interested. The retreat became an ecumenical gathering, drawing participants from all three Maritime provinces. I continue to serve regionally with the Godly Play Coordinating Circle and within the diocese.

Conclusion and Gratitude

As I conclude this report, I want to thank the patients and their loved ones who show such courage and openness in the vulnerability of a hospital stay. Being welcomed into your journey and coming alongside you spiritually is truly sacred space.

I am grateful to the many staff who support religious care and for the work they do. I am thankful for the leadership of Kelly+; for Lori Robertson, Linda Maher, and Angela King, clinical spiritual care practitioners; for the denominational chaplains who have served over the past two years, including The Rev. Mark Leary, The Rev. Andrew Morse, and The Rev. Paul Carline, Baptist, and The Rev. Aaron Knox and The Rev. Pierre Tchodo, Roman Catholic; for those who provide chaplaincy coverage during vacation and my annual silent retreat, including The Rev. Canon David Barrett, The Rev. Ann Fairweather, and The Ven. Leo Martin, who also serves as the Bishop's Designate for updates, communication, and professional and personal check-ins; for Lynne Corey who is serving as a patient experience advisor for religious care access; for my 12 12 12 (3) Cohort, who continues to support me in many ways; for clergy across the diocese who collaborate with me in the care of their parishioners while they are in hospital; for the parish corporations and cathedral corporation, through Synod, who ensure that a chaplain can serve; for The Most Rev. David Edwards, my bishop and chief pastor; and for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the grace to be a priest and hospital chaplain.

Bless you+

Submitted by:

The Reverend Canon Cathy Laskey, Priest and Chaplain

ALONGSIDE HOPE

Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world

(formerly Primate's World Relief and Development Fund- PWRDF)

The most significant happening since last Diocesan Synod, regarding Alongside Hope, is noted in this report's title. The Anglican Church of Canada's vehicle for sustainable relief and development has a new name. The former name, always shortened to the acronym PWRDF, was changed to Alongside Hope after a comprehensive process. The reasons for the change were several but two were because some thought the word "primate" referred to monkeys and another was because it reflected a top-down, old-style structure. The name Alongside Hope was adopted because it reflects walking side by side with partners, both being and bringing hope. This name also reflects the reciprocal nature of partnership. The core of this reciprocity became lived experience for me, when as part of an Alongside Hope delegation to Kenya, I became sick and had to be hospitalized. Alongside Hope's staff and partners in Nairobi took wonderful care of me. This deeply personal experience became for me what it means to walk alongside with hope.

The name of this organization has changed but the work remains the same. Here are some facts and figures for 2026. Alongside Hope is currently partnering in 28 countries, including Canada, on 53 projects. That means about 264,000 people have been positively and directly impacted, as the result of over 4.4 million dollars allocated. Lives are changed as the result of both emergency relief

and development projects. A current project is called “Light for Mozambique”, which is raising money to put solar suitcases into medical clinics, allowing for reliable and safe delivery of babies. Each “suitcase” costs \$6.500 and donations to this project, or any other, can be made online www.alongsidehope.org.

In the last two years I have spoken seven times at various events, such as guest speaker at Sunday services or other church events and meetings. One special highlight, from this past June, was the Diocese of Fredericton hosting a regional gathering of other Diocesan Representatives from the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, as well as representatives from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The second day of this event was open to Parish Representatives, from around the Diocese of Fredericton and included a “Mapping the Ground we Stand” on exercise. This weekend was well attended and received wonderful feedback.

There are numerous ways in which parishes and individuals can partner with Alongside Hope. First of all, if your parish does not currently have a Parish Representative, please contact me and we can speak about what this entails. Secondly, if you would like your parish to host an “Alongside Hope” Sunday, please contact me and we will arrange for that to happen. Thirdly, every donation we make, either as individuals or parishes, helps to fund the life-giving work of Alongside Hope. Once again, in 2025 Alongside Hope was named in the top 100 of Canadian charities.

In conclusion, thank you to everyone who already partners, in any capacity, in the work of Alongside Hope. Together, we are helping to bring a “truly just, healthy and peaceful world”.

Deborah Edwards, Diocesan Representative, Alongside Hope

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

I was elected President of the Anglican Church Women of Fredericton at the Annual Meeting in May 2026. Having served on the Diocesan Executive in a variety of roles for many years, I am honoured to continue serving our church in this new capacity

Each deanery holds an annual meeting in the fall and I plan to attend each one. I look forward to these gatherings to meet members, strengthen relationships, and support the important ministry taking place across our diocese.

Through their branches, members support a wide range of ministries and outreach initiatives, including Camps Medley and Brookwood, local food pantries and school lunch programs, the Divinity Scholarship Fund, Bishop McAllister College in Uganda, and the Council of the North. They also contribute to "Our Fair Share," a diocesan mission and outreach fund. Each year, the Diocesan Treasurer presents a budget for these funds at the Annual Meeting, where members vote on its allocation to support transition houses, inner-city ministries, and international mission partners.

We held our annual meeting on May 5 at St. Andrew’s Church in Petitcodiac, with over 60 members attending from across the diocese. The day featured worship, business sessions, reports, fellowship, and guest speakers under the theme "Unity in Christ."

Archbishop David Edwards spoke about Christian unity, love, and caring for all creation. Members honoured 21 deceased ACW members during the annual remembrance service.

Business included updates on Farraline Place, where efforts are underway to improve the seniors' residence and increase occupancy. Members approved renaming the Farraline Flooring Fund to the Farraline Refurbishing Fund and voted to add the Christ Church Cathedral Restoration Fund to the annual budget.

Guest speaker Robbie Griffin reported on the Diocese of Ho partnership in Ghana, highlighting the success of a mobile medical clinic and plans to build a vocational high school.

A new executive was installed, with Diane Todd elected president, Melanie Wade as vice-president, and Cathy Lutes and Carolyn Pellow continuing as treasurer and secretary.

The meeting concluded with updates from diocesan ministries, plans for upcoming events, and the offering was shared equally among Farraline Place, the Ho vocational school project, and Christ Church Cathedral restoration fund.

I represented our diocese at the National Anglican Church Women President's Conference in Grand Prairie, Alberta from September 24th to 27th. The theme was "We Are All God's Creation" It was a great opportunity to meet and share fellowship with members from British Columbia to Newfoundland.

Although our numbers are declining, we remain committed to serving our church and our community to the best of our ability. We continue to support one another and to faithfully carry out our mission with hope and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Todd
Diocesan ACW President

CAMP BROOKWOOD

Camp Brookwood's 2026 season provided opportunities for children and young people to grow in faith, build friendships, and enjoy the outdoors. Brad Brymer was hired as Camp Director, reporting to the Director of Mission & Ministry, and continuing to work on a casual basis during the shoulder seasons.

Summer Camps and Youth Retreat

The four summer camps had a total of 52 registrations:

- Water Blast, July 12–17: 18 registered, ages 10–12.
- Outdoor Oasis, July 19–24: 6 registered, ages 8–10.
- Nature Escape, July 26–31: 18 registered, ages 10–12.
- First Step Camp, August 2–4: 10 registered, ages 5–9.

The Youth Retreat, held September 25–26, welcomed 17 participants, ages 9–16.

Brookwood received five summer student grants and used four.

Director's Reflections:

It is an honour to serve as Camp Director at Brookwood.

Our training week gave staff and leaders-in-training (LITs) time to get to know one another and build a strong team. Throughout the summer, staff worked well together and willingly took on their responsibilities. We were grateful to Archdeacon Maria Shepherdson for leading our Safe Church training.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the summer was seeing campers respond to God's love and commit their lives to Christ. These moments were at the heart of our ministry.

Campers also enjoyed a variety of activities and visits. The local fire department gave a presentation, and two members recreated photographs from their own days as Brookwood campers. Carlow Cakery led a cupcake-decorating activity that was a particular favourite.

We welcomed several new campers, who told us they hoped to return. Feedback from campers and parents was positive. As some campers told their parents, "It was a blast, can't wait till next year!"

Thank you to the staff, LITs, volunteers, families, and community partners who helped make this a memorable summer at Brookwood.

Brad Brymer, Camp Director

LAYREADERS

Mandate

A layreader is a lay person authorized by the diocesan bishop to officiate at worship services or take a leadership role in certain parts of a service. Layreaders are licensed as in-training or parochial, and assigned to a particular parish, or as diocesan and able to serve in multiple parishes as needed.

Statistics

As of the writing of this report, there are 266 active layreaders in the diocese, including 63 diocesan, 160 parochial and 43 layreaders-in-training. Nine Layreader Emeritus certificates were issued since the last regular session of Synod in 2024.

Layreader Gatherings

Two Spring gatherings have been held since the last report to Synod:

- May 10, 2025: Praying Churches Grow led by the Rev. Canon Grayhame Bowcott, program director of The Licentiate in Theology Diploma Program at Huron College.
- May 2, 2026: Exploring Personal Prayer Practices led by Kurt Schmidt, diocesan missionary for Christian formation

Layreader Training Program

The diocesan Layreader Training Program provides foundational training for those preparing for layreader ministry, as well as continuing education opportunities for both parochial and diocesan

layreaders. Course topics include biblical foundations, Anglican worship and liturgy, church doctrine and history, leadership, spiritual formation, and sermon preparation.

The current training program is being reviewed and assessed to ensure it continues to meet the needs of layreaders and the changing realities of ministry across the diocese. In the meantime, independent study courses and resources remain available through the layreader section of the diocesan website. Layreaders are also encouraged to explore courses offered through Huron University's Licentiate in Theology (LTh) program as opportunities for further theological education and formation.

New Warden of Layreaders

We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Canon Bruce R. Glencross, CD1, as the newly appointed Warden of Layreaders for the Diocese of Fredericton.

Canon Bruce brings many years of parish ministry and leadership experience, having served in the Diocese of Montreal prior to his retirement in 2014. In this role, he will provide support and encouragement to layreaders across the diocese and assist with their ongoing training and formation.

We are grateful to Bruce for his willingness to undertake this ministry and look forward to working with him as we continue to strengthen and support layreader ministry throughout the diocese.

Canon Shawn C. Branch
Director of Mission and Ministry

MOTHERS' UNION

Mandate and Aims

The Diocese of Fredericton Mothers' Union is part of a worldwide movement of more than 4 million members in 84 countries. Our vision is a world where everyone prospers. We work towards this vision through prayer and action, helping to build confident individuals and resilient communities. We seek to promote justice, challenge prejudice, and advocate for positive change. Our current global mission focuses on addressing and reducing gender-based violence.

The Mothers' Union continually strives to:

- Encourage parents in their role of nurturing the Christian faith of their children.
- Maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship, and service.
- Promote social conditions that support stable family life and protect children.
- Support those experiencing adversity in their family lives.
- Promote and support marriage and family life.

Mothers' Union in New Brunswick

The Diocese of Fredericton Mothers' Union recorded 99 members in good standing across eight branches as of December 31, 2025. Membership renewals take place in September of each year. Sadly, the membership will record a decline in 2026 as the Riverview branch has closed. Membership struggles continue due to an ageing membership, and a shortage of new members, particularly those willing to take on leadership roles.

Each branch operates independently, responding to the needs of its congregation and the individuals and families within its community. Diocesan Council supports branches, organizes diocesan events, and maintains relationships and communication with the Mothers' Union Canadian Council and Mary Sumner House in London, England, the international headquarters.

Recent Highlights

Mothers' Union members believe that parishes and communities benefit from having an active Mothers' Union presence, providing opportunities for friendship, mutual support, prayer, learning, and fellowship. They actively support their congregations and communities in a variety of ways, putting the aims and global mission into action.

The 2025 annual spring rally took place at St. Mary York in Fredericton and also celebrated the installation of the incoming Canadian and Diocesan Councils. In that some Canadian Council members are spread across the country, it was possible to bring those members in via Zoom to be installed "virtually". Those present took part in two presentations, *Why Midday Prayers?* and *Ideas for Anti-Gender-Based Violence Programs in our Branches and Churches and recognizing the 16 days of Activism*. At the diocesan level, we have continued to educate our members and parishes about gender-based violence and the importance of taking action to address this.

Branches continue to be involved with outreach initiatives in their local churches and wider communities. Special mention goes to All Saints Marysville members who held a bowling tournament in 2025 with the money raised going to the Student Hunger Program at the Fredericton Community Kitchens. The fundraiser was topped up with redemption money as well as a gift from an anonymous donor and when this total was matched on Giving Tuesday the amount of the donation was \$8133.30. This is a shining example of His Holy Spirit working through us to help families in need.

To end 2025 year on a high note, a luncheon was held on November 30 to celebrate Kathleen Snow, new Worldwide Mothers' Union president. The worldwide theme for 2025-2027 is *Join Up Join In!* and we pray we see our membership increase during this time.

Several diocesan members travelled to London in March 2025 to attend the formal commissioning of Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow, at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York. The ceremony also included the commissioning of the new Worldwide Board of Trustees, and the pews were full of MU members from around the globe.

The 150th anniversary of Mothers Union has been celebrated in various ways throughout the world for 2026. Members of the Cathedral branch presented a short play on the origins of Mothers' Union at the 2026 spring rally which was held at St. Mary and St. Bartholomew church in Saint John. Founder, Mary Sumner, believed strong families began with strong mothers and change could begin within families and communities. Two sessions formed the agenda for the afternoon. The Rev. Jasmine Chandra spoke on the power and authority of women, even in eras and societies where women are seemingly powerless. The other session was a craft, led by Cyndi Norris — the creation of a bracelet to tell the story of the life of Jesus. Each bead was symbolic, from birth to death and resurrection.

As I write this report, Canadian President, Susan Watson and I, have just returned from Durban, South Africa and attended the 150th Anniversary Worldwide Gathering with over 2,000 delegates from around the globe. It was incredible hearing hundreds of voices raised in worship, renewing and making new friendships, sharing stories and prayers, laughter and tear – all being part of this worldwide movement and family. A special celebration service had also taken place June 10th at St. Paul's Cathedral in London of which 20+ members from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia attended.

Through these initiatives, the Mothers' Union continues to raise awareness, encourage compassionate action, and support efforts to build safer, stronger families and communities. Worship and prayer have always been at the heart of Mothers' Union and are what give members purpose and direction.

We encourage anyone interested in learning more about the Mothers' Union to connect with a local branch and discover how its members serve their church and community. Membership is welcome regardless of gender identify or family status! You must be baptized in the name of the Trinity and agree with the Aim and Objectives.

Mothers' Union has a Canadian website <https://canadianmothersunion.ca/> which is linked to the global website <https://www.mothersunion.org/>. Both of these websites provided a wealth of resource material, prayers and information. Mothers' Union is also linked on the Diocese of Fredericton website under ministries <https://nb.anglican.ca/ministries>.

Diocesan Council Members for 2025-2028 term are:

- President: Lilian Ketch
- Co-President (Spiritual): Shara Golden
- Past President: Joanne Ham
- Treasurer: Elaine Robichaud
- Secretary: Susan Colpitts-Judd
- Chaplain: Rev. Caleb Twinamatsiko
- Lone/Press Secretary: Susan Colpitts-Judd
- Historian: Pat Margison
- Link Secretary: Deanna Morrison
- ACW Liaison and Directory: Diane Radford

Respectfully submitted,
Lilian Ketch, President, Mother's Union

SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC

"Choir School", as we are affectionately known, has been a summer institution in this Diocese since 1958. The 2024 Synod Journal presented a capsule of our history of making music, fostering friendships, and building a faith community, mainly on the beautiful campus of Rothesay Netherwood School.

2025 and 2026 were Years 66 and 67 for Choir School. For 2025 we chose the theme “Inspiring Voices, Creating Memories”. As reported by Gisele McKnight in the NB Anglican, we had to pivot from a full-week plan to a four-day adult weekend. We had over 60 choristers aged 16 to 95, under the direction of Spencer Belyea, assisted by Dr. Joel Tranquilla and accompanied by Gibson MacMillan. For 2026 the numbers and the music staff were similar, except the Assistant Director was Michael Molloy. The final service in 2026 was moved from its traditional home of Trinity Church to Portland United Church due to renovations at Trinity. We thank Portland, and also St. David’s and St. Paul’s in Rothesay, who hosted our evening programs. We are also grateful to our ongoing chief funders: the Diocese of Fredericton and the Anglican Foundation.

The past two summers, we have continued our efforts to re-build the youth cohort that we lost in the COVID years. This has been assisted by a short series of visioning sessions in the fall of 2025, facilitated by Canon Shawn Branch, and also by increased funding from the Diocese for the 2026 School. By lowering the entry age to 14 for 2026, we attracted enough youth interest that they were able to present their own anthem at the closing Festal Evensong. We continue to hope for restoration of our accustomed full-week format, but these are steps in the right direction.

To quote from our 2026 banner headline, “At Choir School, every song tells a story and every friendship lasts a lifetime.” More information about Choir School can be found at www.choirschoolnb.com – watch there for news of our plans for Choir School 2027.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Taylor & Mary Louise Belyea
Choir School Co-Chairs 2023-2026.

REPORT ON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

An important part of our diocesan mission continues to be our partnerships with community organizations and ministries. Through the provision of facilities, financial support, and shared resources, these relationships enable us to respond to needs in our communities and support ministries beyond our parish structures.

Inner City Youth Ministry (ICYM)

The diocese continues its longstanding partnership with Inner City Youth Ministry, a ministry we helped establish to serve children, youth, and families in Saint John’s priority neighbourhoods. Under the leadership of Executive Director Captain Bonnie Hunt and Erin Rideout, as administrator, ICYM continues to adapt its programming to changing community needs, particularly in food security, literacy, and community engagement.

Please refer to the report of Captain Bonnie Hunt, Executive Director

www.icym.ca

Pennies and Sparrows

Our partnership with Pennies and Sparrows continues to support community-based ministry in Saint John’s central peninsula. Through relationship-building, practical support, and community engagement, this ministry seeks to strengthen connections and respond to neighbourhood needs.

We are grateful for the leadership of the Revs Jasmine and Terence Chandra, their staff, volunteers and those who support this work.

Please refer to the Chandra's Pennies and Sparrows ministry report.

www.penniesandsparrows.org

Beacon Cove Youth Shelter

We are now in the fifth year of our partnership with the Centre for Youth Care in operating Beacon Cove, a youth shelter and supportive housing program located in a diocesan-owned facility on Broad Street in Saint John.

Since opening in September 2022, Beacon Cove has served 117 young people, providing more than 12,000 nights of safe housing. The program has supported 32 transitions to housing, 32 family reunifications, and 18 high school graduations.

During the Primate's visit in September, Archbishop Shane Parker toured Beacon Cove alongside provincial Department of Social Development officials, who expressed their appreciation for the facilities, program, and partnership, suggesting that this collaborative model should be replicated elsewhere in New Brunswick.

www.beaconcove.ca

Outflow Ministry and Catapult Coffee & Studio

Our relationship with Outflow dates back to its earliest days, when it served hot dogs in uptown Saint John. Today, Outflow continues to respond to poverty and homelessness through emergency shelter, meals, and other community supports.

Catapult Coffee & Studio, a social enterprise operated by Outflow, is located in our diocesan-owned building on Princess Street. We remain grateful for this longstanding partnership and the opportunity to support Outflow's work as it responds to changing community needs.

www.outflowsj.com

Saint John Mission to Seafarers

The diocese continues its longstanding relationship with the Saint John Seafarers' Mission, which provides practical, emotional, and spiritual support to seafarers visiting the Port of Saint John. Through its welcoming centre, ship visits, and volunteer support, the Mission offers hospitality and assistance to those who often spend months away from their homes and families.

The Rev. Eric Phinney serves as Regional Director for Mission to Seafarers Canada, while Archbishop David Edwards serves as Liaison Bishop to the House of Bishops. We are grateful for the leadership in Saint John by Executive Director Tony Dickinson, with Port Chaplain, Pastor Doug Tatton, and the many volunteers who sustain this important ministry.

Many parishes throughout the diocese support the Mission through donations and by collecting supplies for visiting seafarers. Those interested in volunteering, contributing, or learning more about the Mission are encouraged to contact Executive Director Tony Dickinson.

www.sjseafarers.com

Blessed to Be a Blessing

These partnerships remind us that the resources entrusted to the Church are not simply for our own benefit. As God promises Abraham in Genesis 12:2, “I will bless you ... so that you will be a blessing.”

As Archbishop David has often reminded us, ‘we are blessed to be a blessing.’ Through these partnerships, we continue to share the blessings entrusted to our diocese in service to our communities.

Canon Shawn C. Branch
Director of Mission and Ministry

Inner City Youth Ministry

Saint John Inner City Youth Ministry was established in 1989 as a project of the Diocese of Fredericton and local parishes to provide more effective ministry to the residents of the South End of Saint John. ICYM has since established an ever-growing network of community partners.

Inner City has always been about going to where the need was and working there; when the needs changed, we changed.

Our mission is all about fostering meaningful relationships and growth among children, youth, and families. First, we focus on building strong, supportive relationships. This helps create a solid foundation for individuals to thrive, both socially and emotionally. Secondly, we emphasize the importance of holistic development. Our programs are designed to nurture not just the physical and emotional aspects, but also the spiritual well-being of our participants. Finally, our approach is inclusive and community-oriented, aiming to uplift everyone involved. By focusing on 3 key areas, we are committed to making a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

Food Security: providing healthy meals to students in vulnerable neighbourhoods, where food insecurity is a daily struggle. We do this by building cooking skills and a desire to try new foods. We have summer cooking classes for the whole family, and our Backpack and Meal Connection Program encourages families to try new foods and new cooking methods. Poverty rates, and specifically child poverty rates, are as high as 45% in the Saint John neighbourhoods; food insecurity has real and lasting impacts on the health, well-being and educational success of youth. Access to healthy, low-cost meals supports children's health and educational success.

Literacy: By building home libraries and a love of reading, we try to curb the summer slump in reading. Through our 9-week Backpack program, families can choose a book to take home and add to their libraries. We also partner with the public library to encourage use of existing resources, and they have story tents/reading clubs at our summer programs. We hope to restart our Reading Club program in local schools, where participating children take home a book each week for our 6-week program.

Relationships: Strengthening family relationships is a priority in all our programs. We work with both children and parents to give them skills for better communication and provide activities where they can come together and have fun. Through these Family Connection events, we have all created

relationships with other kids and families that are outside their normal circles. The most important part of our mission is to share the love of Christ and His desire for a relationship with each of us

Over the years, our programs continue to feed kids and build relationships, all while sharing God's love. As needs changed, we changed programming to meet those needs. Below is a recap of our ever-evolving programs.

Lunch Connection was our longest-running program, over 30 years providing lunches to hungry kids. Pre-COVID, we provided lunch at 3 schools 2-3 days a week. During the pandemic, we moved to a hub location for preparation and slowly added schools. At our peak, we had 14 schools and provided 690 lunches 3 days a week. This last year, the provincial government rolled out a new lunch program, so Lunch Connection has ended. Since 2020, when we started to keep track of the lunch numbers, we have provided over 250,000 lunches. This has only been possible because of the 70+ volunteers who came to help make the program a success.

Youth Connection is a youth group run in collaboration with Pennies and Sparrows and The Church of the Good Shepherd on Friday nights. We have youth join from all over the city. The evening typically starts with a meal, followed by a game or other activity, and concludes with a devotion.

Family Connection provides a fun, safe space for families to eat, play, and learn together. We meet once a month for supper, then activities for the family to do together. This program is for all ages, and we can have up to 50 people come in one night. In addition to meeting once a month, we also have Family Connection Activity Kits that families can borrow themed activity kits for up to two weeks for shared enjoyment! Themes range from Space and Art to STEM, Underwater Adventure, Nature, and Games. Each kit is packed with games, puzzles, books, and various activities.

Several years ago, we questioned if we were feeding the children in the school year, what happens in the summer? To meet that need, we began 2 new programs in the South End. First, our Lunch Connection Summer Edition is a free picnic program, open to all ages, held twice a week, continued to provide lunches to the community in the central peninsula. This summer, we served 1000 lunches. Our second program is our Backpack Program that serves 25-30 registered families. Each week throughout the summer, these families received a pack containing a new pictorial recipe along with the necessary ingredients, an age-appropriate book, and various activities and resources. Additionally, the Library collaborated every Friday to present a story tent, enriching the program experience. Last summer, we added Cooking Connection; families gathered as a group each week to learn new cooking techniques, and a new skill was learned each week. After practising our skills to make a meal, we all ate together. It was a fun time when both the kids and adults were introduced to new foods and skills. Each family also got a Backpack from the Backpack program to take home each week.

With the change in the lunch program, we looked at ways to continue to support families during the school year. Our answer was Meal Connection. This program is open to all with supported pricing available for families who require it. We believe meals can do more than meet a practical need. Cooking and eating together can build skills, strengthen relationships and create meaningful moments of connection. Our kits are designed to make those moments a little easier for families. Thanks to funding, we offer supported pricing for families who need help with the cost. Our goal is to make participation simple, welcoming and respectful. Each week, Meal Connection features 1 or

2 family meal kits, along with a few different snack pack options. The featured meal changes from week to week, so families can order whenever it works for them—there is no subscription or commitment. As Meal Connection grows, we hope to offer additional meal choices.

We express our sincere gratitude for your ongoing support of ICYM. Your contributions are essential, and we want to extend a heartfelt thank you! 2026 marked our 37th year of operation, and we are grateful for all that God has accomplished during this time. We kindly ask for your continued prayers for the ministry and seek guidance as we discern His will for our future endeavours.

Blessings,
Bonnie Hunt
Executive Director



PENNIES AND SPARROWS

*“I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
(Isaiah 49:6 NRSV).*

Pennies and Sparrows is about building a community that brings light to struggling in Saint John and beyond. It’s not something we could ever do alone. We partner with donors, and other organizations to run programs for the community, building relationships and providing care so that people may know and experience the love of Jesus.

As costs rise across the globe, so do the needs in our community. We make every effort to be able to help those who come to us. We run a community drop-in three times a week in partnership with the Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association. During drop-in we offer hair cuts, art, and games. We have nurses with Horizon health who come to care for our guests and have other non-profit organizations come in to help people with their housing needs. We also help individuals who come to us throughout the week. We’ve helped with damage deposits, energy payments, groceries, clothing, hygiene items, bus tickets, and even have mailed things to people who have moved away. There are often people who drift in to talk to us and unload and we’re always happy to provide a listening ear.

Youth Connections has been one of the highlights of our ministry. It has been wonderful to see this group grow in faith and friendship. While we make it a point to have great food and fun activities, one of the youth recently said to us that we didn’t have to put much effort towards planning things, because they would be happy just to hang out with each other.

Youth Connection runs in partnership with Saint John Inner City Youth Ministry and Stone Church. Since January Youth Connection has expanded to include the Church of the Good Shepherd on the West Side of Saint John. We now are joined by the Rev. Chris Ketch and alternate locations between the two churches. We are grateful to the volunteers at the church of the Good Shepherd who have been preparing meals for us.

Saint John Inner City Youth Ministry, Stone Church, The Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association also partnered with us this past summer on a weekly cooking class for parents and kids. Every family went home with a kit to keep cooking at home. There is hope that this program will expand into the school year.

We continue to run a seniors program that is always well attended. Our focus this year is on connecting seniors socially to make sure that they have friends to call on and things to do to stay active. We hope to launch a walking club in the near future.

We were honoured to receive the Mayann Francis Faith In Action Award at the recent Atlantic School of Theology convocation. We had the privilege of spending some time with the honourable Mayann Francis whose life and work is truly inspirational. The award is really for all those whose support and partnership has made this work possible - Thank you!

We are especially grateful for our team - Miriam Westin (Pennies and Sparrows), Jenifer Hallihan (Waterloo Village), Pam Stuart (Stone Church), Shayne Legere (Stone Church), Bonnie Hunt (ICYM) and Judy Mae Gallant (volunteer).

We are thankful for the support we have received from the Diocese of Fredericton, those who contribute financially to our ministry and those who pray for us.

The Rev. Jasmine and the Rev. Terence Chandra