

Diocese of Huron 2010 Synod Report

“Out of Exile”
(the way home)

For more information about Synod:

See www.diohuron.org :

- **To hear** the Bishop’s Synod sermon
- **To read** the Synod “Popular Report”
- **To view** other materials from Synod presentations

Ask St. John’s Participants:

Clergy Member of Synod:
The Rev’d Canon Christopher Pratt

Lay Members of Synod:
Maureen Lichti, Marilyn Malton, Jim Mighty, and Bette Moore

Observers:
Dr. Ken Hull and The Rev’d Grace Schaefer

And **read this report** . . .

Inside this issue:

PWRDF/Huron Hunger Fund	2
EnviroAction	2
Congregational Coaching Team	2
Social Justice Committee	3
Strategic Planning Committee	3
Diocesan Finances	3
Choluteca Bridge and the Church	4

diocese of huron synod 2010 focus— being a mission-shaped church



Presentations by *Fresh Expressions of Church Team Leaders*



- Church shaped by and for mission; this is different from a “church-shaped mission”.
- The world is constantly changing; what is our current context for mission?
- We need to see what God is doing and join in.
- One way the church is changing is through Fresh Expressions of Church.
- www.freshexpressions.ca

PWRDF/Huron Hunger Fund

- The Primates World Relief and development fund was started 50 years ago in order to aid miners in Nova Scotia.
- Since then through its Huron arm, the Huron Hunger Fund, it has developed into one of the primary sources of aid to countries throughout the world including communities here in Canada.
- It offers help in time of disasters such as in the Haiti earthquake where Anglicans throughout Canada contributed over \$2.5 million to aid that country.
- It also helps to bring refugees to Canada. As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, it plans to

bring 50 refugee families to Canada. To date 11 families have been brought in by this Diocese including one family in our Waterloo Region.



- dioceseofhuronenviroaction-committee.blogspot.com for latest news.

- St. John's was recognized with a GOLD Green Parish Designation and an Environmental Achievement Award for our green roof, solar panel and other innovations.

Congratulations to members of the St. John's Green Passion Team for their leadership!

Congregational Coaching Team

- Bishop Bennett appointed two new leaders of congregational development at the Synod service—Archdeacon, Congregational Development (Jawn Kolohon) and Lay Canon, Congregational Development (Marilyn Malton).
- Congregational Coaching Team supports congregations to be mission-shaped.



**Diocese of Huron
Congregational Coaching Team
www.congregationalcoach.com**

Social Justice Committee



For the mandate of this committee and many helpful links, see www.diohuron.org—what we do— social justice and outreach.

Vision Statement - Social Justice Huron is a voice speaking with others, to educate, empower and bring about change ourselves, our Church, our society and our world.

Three new members have been appointed to the Diocesan Social Justice committee and coincidentally a Social Justice discussion was held at the last meeting of the Parish Council to focus on the opportunities for mission at St. John the Evangelist.. Watch for a series of articles in On Eagles Wings and other information!

Motion re Outreach

Members of youth synod (in which Angela Doric participated) proposed

that each parish be encouraged to have a kiosk with information about outreach and service opportunities in the community. **Carried.**

Motion re Diocesan Synod

To hold synod every other year, for financial reasons. **Defeated.**

Strategic Planning Committee— Draft Strategic Plan and Re-Visioning

Strategic Priorities Presented at Synod:

1. **Creating an external focus on mission**—Responding to the Who is my Neighbour Report; Assessing and acting upon opportunities for mission, stewardship, and evangelism; Facilitating change with parishes, including a strengthened focus on congregational development.

2. **Human resources (vocational discernment and formation of clergy and laity)**—recruitment and training; right people in right places; skills for leading a people of mission (clergy and laity).

3. **Effective use of financial, physical and other resources**— financial planning strategy to make possible the implementation of the strategic priorities; facilitating change in multi-point parishes; reducing Diocese-wide barriers to change.

“I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving: To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it—but we must sail, and not drift nor lie at anchor.” *Oliver Wendel Holmes*

Finances of the Diocese

- The ability of the Diocese to carry out the work of its ministries depends on the inflow of revenue to fund them.
- The Diocese of Huron had in the past had enough revenue for these purposes.
- Over the past 3 years the situation has been changing as a declining church population together with large legal fees has resulted in expenses outstripping revenue.
- It is projected that at the end of 2010, the Diocese will have an accumulated loss of just under \$292,000, including a deficit of \$65,000 in 2010.
- The Diocese has done and is doing all within its powers to put itself in a surplus position in order to carry on Christ’s ministries.

The Choluteca Bridge, Honduras

A Metaphor for the Church?



- In the midst of several presentations about Fresh Expressions of Church we heard about the Choluteca Bridge in Honduras.
- In November 1998, Hurricane Mitch ravaged Honduras—thousands of people died or were injured. In addition, 150 bridges were damaged or destroyed. The most modern of all the bridges, the Choluteca Bridge, survived intact but the river moved right out from under it.
- The bridge was structurally solid but no longer fulfilled its purpose—to connect two pieces of land separated by an obstacle.
- Rather than wait for the river to move back, the people added a span so it would be a bridge over the river again.
- In a similar way, it was suggested, we have built solid churches that have lasted for generations, but the river, that is the culture, has moved.
- Spiritual hunger is still present in our culture, but people are not seeking out churches. If we are to fulfill our purpose, to share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed, we are challenged to move outside our buildings and structures to connect with our new context, all the while being clear about who we are and what we believe.