

Diocesan Commission on Parish Renewal and Viability

Discussion Questions from Town Hall Meetings

Below are the discussion questions used in the Commission's series of town hall meetings around the diocese. If your parish has already participated in one of the town halls, you may wish to use the questions for further discussion/discernment within your parish or with other parishes. If your parish has not yet attended the town hall meeting to which it has been invited, why not discuss the questions internally before you come to the meeting?

SECTION A:

Considering the fact that we have several buildings within easy driving proximity of each other, a combined seating capacity of _____, and an Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) of _____, do we need all of these buildings?

Are there Sacred Cows and can they be closed?

SECTION B:

What is your purpose? (What does God want?)

Would your church be missed if it was not there? Who would miss it – the congregation? the neighbourhood?

Would you be willing to consider reconfiguration (e.g., merge, relocate)?

SECTION C:

Churches that are making a difference are those that have incorporated “change.” Are you willing to change in order to help change the world?

What are your church's most-needed changes and which would require the most sensitivity and caution?

What might need to die in your church so that something else will come to life? How willing is your church to take that risk?

SECTION D:

What does your church do inside that prepares congregants to serve outside?

Do you have any suggestions for working together?

What are the needs in your town (community) that only we can do together?

Are there unmet needs in your neighbourhood that no one else is filling and only your church can address?

SECTION E:

How up-to-date is your Parish List?

Who's on that list that you do not see? How much engagement?

What can be done to improve/enhance engagement?

What do you do to those who do not pick up their envelopes? Take them off the list? Reach out?

SECTION F:

Are you leveraging social media and technology or do you find it a distraction?

Do you have a website and is it kept up-to-date?

Are you prepared to invest in Social Media?