

# Diocesan Commission on Parish Renewal and Viability

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

# CHURCH DECLINE

## MAINLINE CHURCHES

- Anglican
- Lutheran
- Presbyterian
- United

Roman Catholic

# Hillhurst United Church

## (Downtown Calgary)

	<u>YEAR 2004</u>	<u>YEAR 2015</u>
▪ Average Sunday Attendance	80-100	350-400
▪ <b>Sunday School</b>	<b>Less than 10</b>	<b>257 registered/ 100 attending</b>
▪ Demographics	Mostly Elderly	Variety of ages, family focus
▪ <b>Services</b>	<b>1 every Sunday</b>	<b>2 Plus</b>
▪ PAR givers	24	162
▪ <b>Monthly Offering</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>	<b>\$26,000</b>
▪ Annual Budget	\$120,000	\$857,000
▪ <b>Website</b>	<b>Minimal activity</b>	<b>2,613 hits per month</b>
▪ Social Media	None	1725 on Facebook, Twitter 495
▪ <b>Staffing</b>	<b>Traditional Model</b>	<b>28 Paid staff/100s of volunteers</b>
▪ Advertising	Traditional Newspaper	Media savvy, frequent stories

# Executive Motion

**“That the Bishop appoint a Diocesan Task Force to examine and propose a restructuring of the Diocese for Consideration at the next meeting of Diocesan Synod in the Fall of 2018...”**

- Investigate present and future ministry trends among parishes
- Parish Renewal
- New Models of Ministry
- Parish Viability (Sustainability)

# Why the Need for such a Commission at this Time? (Need to be Clear)

**EXCESS PROPERTY/CRITICAL MASS**

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**CULTURAL SHIFT/LIFESTYLES**

**NOT JUST ABOUT PARISH VIABILITY**

**EVERY PARISH MISSIONAL (Plan For Growth And Restructuring)**

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

**CHURCH GOVERNANCE/STRUCTURE**

**Develop a  
Sustainable and Strategic  
Ministry Plan (or Policy)  
for the Diocese  
Which Includes  
A Parish Assessment Tool**

# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Diocesan of NL from 1990 – 2015

Anglican Population in 1990 was 59,000.

By 2015 it had dropped to 29,000

– a difference of 30,000.]

Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) in 1990 was 9,300

By 2015 it had dropped to 3,900

– a difference of 5,400

# The Harris Report

## Population Projections for NL from 2016 - 2036

### **(Province of Newfoundland and Labrador)**

- Baseline Population for NL in 2016 was 519,880.
- Projected Estimates for 2036 (HS) is 479,907.
  - **A difference of 39,973.**

### **(North East Avalon)**

- Baseline Population for North East Avalon in 2016 was 208,500.
- Projected Estimates for 2036 (HS) is 240,300.
  - **A difference of 31,800.**



# Conversational Time

Considering the fact that we have several buildings in easy driving proximity of each other and a seating capacity of \_\_\_\_\_, and a ASA of \_\_\_\_\_, do we need all three buildings?

Are there Sacred Cows and can they be closed?

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)?

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?

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 our town (community) that only we can do together?

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

How up-to-date is your Parish List?

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

What can be do to improve/enhance engagement?

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

# Hillhurst United Church

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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?

**“For too long we have allowed our ecclesiology to shape our missiology.”**

- Mark Whittall

**God Does Not Set us Up to do Things We cannot do!**