



Set Sail

CHARTING THE COURSE
FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH



ANGLICAN EAST NL

Introduction

At the November 2022 Synod of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, Bishop Samuel Rose kicked off a strategic planning process and outlined his vision for the Diocese. The resulting framework contains six high-level strategic goals that have been developed to realize that vision. These goals provide direction to the Diocese on priorities to the end of 2025. The approach provides a consistent, repeatable methodology to strategic planning within the Diocese that can continue beyond 2025.

Each of us has a role to play in realizing the full potential of Christ's Church in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. You can all contribute towards the outcomes envisioned by these goals. This is our work, together.

The focus for 2023 is introducing this strategy across the Diocese and empowering parishes to interpret and realize these goals for their own contexts. In 2024, parishes will be asked to prioritize the first two "ships" of the vision (Deepening Relationships and Transforming Discipleship) so that individuals can continue to grow and develop who they are as faithful Anglicans. With that foundation firmly rooted yet always evolving, goals for 2025 will address the actions of the last two "ships" of the vision (Renewing Stewardship and Engaging Partnerships).

By the end of 2025, the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador will endeavour to achieve the following goals as we ***Set Sail: Charting the Course for Christ's Church.***

The FOUR SHIPS:
Deepening Relationships
Transforming Discipleship
Renewing Stewardship
Engaging Partnerships

Deepening Relationships

Scripture: Matthew 22:37-39

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Background:

Research shows that a healthy missional church is one that places great emphasis on both sides of faith – personal and social. It is a church true to evangelism (personal soul care) and social engagement (justice), all supported by a loving caring community (hospitality). Evangelism, of course, remains unfinished if it does not achieve justice and transform cultures. A missional church is one that links personal faith to social concern. We see this concern for personal transformation in Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians 5:17: “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” 1 John 3:17-18 is the outcome of that transformation: “How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” When personal care and social care are fused, the church is truly the church and the people of God are truly the people of God. There in their midst is Jesus. (Excerpted from *Surviving or Thriving: The Future of the Church in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador*, the report of the Commission on Parish Renewal and Viability)

Goal #1

To invite every baptized person to renew their own personal faith through regular examination of the Baptismal Covenant.

Goal #2

To further develop our congregations as inclusive, supportive, and non-judgemental communities of faith as we continue to seek and serve Christ in all persons: those already identifying as part of our faith communities; those looking for connections with our faith communities; those against whom wrongs have been done in the name of our faith communities; and the broader community outside of our faith entirely.

Transforming Discipleship

Scripture: John 13:35

'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

Background:

As Anglicans, we are called to obey our Lord's commission: "Go, then to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." (Excerpted from the Diocesan Mission Statement)

This Call, then, is for all Anglicans in every aspect of their lives to learn and to learn again to love and serve in the way of Christ 'with the strength that God supplies'. (Excerpted from the 2022 Lambeth Call on Discipleship)

Goal #3

To enable every baptized person to explore and express their faith by entering and entering again into the fullness of their discipleship of Jesus, and lead others to do the same.

Renewing Stewardship

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10

'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.'

Background:

We are also a Church that is called to live our baptismal commitment to be stewards of God's creation, that protects, sustains and renews the life of the earth. At Lambeth, one of the most critical Calls affirmed by all the bishops was to take immediate and urgent action to save our climate, which is in crisis. This is not something we should do but must do if we want to be faithful to our baptismal promises and to try to save this fragile Earth, our island home, from destruction. (Excerpted from the Bishop's Charge to Synod, November 2022)

Goal #4

To renew our understanding of the true, holistic nature of our stewardship and responsibility to all of God's creation both individually and together as faith communities.

Goal #5

To examine our current environmental footprint in light of the ongoing climate emergency and take action to tangibly reduce the negative impact we as individuals and faith communities are having on God's creation.

Engaging Partnerships

Scripture: Philippians 1:4-7

'In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.'

Background:

This Diocese is a family. We are not independent congregations, but one family united in love and fellowship in the Gospel. It always pains me when I hear words and language from our congregations that suggest that "the Diocese" is "that crowd in St. John's." You are the Diocese. We are not competitors but companions. When working together in partnership, our parishes become sources of new life and energy... Let us engage with each other in renewed partnerships and work together to build up the Body of Christ... Our partnerships also need to include the wider neighbourhoods we live. Many of our churches have built partnerships with community groups over the years, especially in sharing our buildings, such as daycares and after-school programs. But other partnerships exist that help build community life and help bring dignity to every human being, such as providing community meals, food banks, winter clothes for refugees, and so much more. We should also consider partnering with other Christian denominations and faith traditions... By working together, we can seek to transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation. (Excerpted from the Bishop's Charge to Synod, November 2022)

Goal #6

Recognizing God in and through others, to partner together across and outside our faith communities to support and engage in shared work, witness, and ministry, and help bring dignity to every human being.

Theme Hymn - *I Feel the Winds of God Today*

Lyrics by Jesse Adams (public domain)

I feel the winds of God today
Today my sail I lift
Though heavy oft with drenching spray
And torn with many a rift
If hope would light the water's crest
And Christ my bark will use
I'll seek the seas at His behest
And brave another cruise

It is the wind of God that dries
My vain regretful tears
Until with braver thoughts shall rise
The purer brighter years
If cast on shores of selfish ease
Or pleasure I should be
Lord let me feel Your freshening breeze
And I'll set back to sea

If ever I forget Thy love
Or how that love was shown
Lift high the blood-red flag above
It bears Thy name alone
Great Pilot of my onward way
Thou will not let me drift
I feel the winds of God today
Today my sail I lift



For more information and resources, please visit:

<https://anglicanenl.net/set-sail-strategic-plan/>