

Annual Vestry Report for 2017

February 25, 2018



The Church of Saint Peter & Saint Simon-the-Apostle

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The Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle

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Minutes of Vestry Meeting of February 26, 2017

1. Incumbent takes the Chair: Appointment/Announcement of Vestry Clerk and Scrutineers.

Fr. Geoffrey Sangwine took the Chair at 12:30pm, called the meeting to order, and appointed Winston Isaac as the Vestry Clerk. The appointment was moved by Vanessa Scott and Seconded by Brooke Sales-Lee. **The motion was carried.** The motion for the appointment of Scrutineers in the persons of Peggy Needham and Daphne Harris was carried.

Fr. Geoffrey thanked Laurie Sanderson for the hospitality of the meeting in providing refreshments.

2. Opening Prayers were led by Fr. Geoffrey Sangwine

Fr. Geoffrey explained the process regarding the managing of the reports to the extent that they have been provided in the printed Vestry Meeting document and that authors may decide to highlight aspects of their report but that they would be available to respond to questions.

3. Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting and Special Vestry Meetings

The Regular meeting minutes were moved by David McPherson and Seconded by Ted Robinson. **The motion was Carried.**

Discussion – there was no discussion.

4. Pastoral Letters from the Archbishop and Area Bishop - Comments from Fr.

Geoffrey noted changes in the Bishops – In September 2016, there was an election of the three new bishops in the persons of Bishop Riscylla Walsh-Shaw (Trent Durham), Bishop Jenny Andison (York-Credit Valley) and Bishop Kevin Robertson (York-Scarborough). Diane Marshall commented on the controversy of Bishop Kevin Robertson and what he has said he will do. She questioned if he will be part of the discussions here at St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle. Fr. Geoffrey noted that he will contact Bishop Robertson to give our support and that we may need to invite him to inform us of his views and plans. Fr. Geoffrey also noted that there will be synod in November 2017 with a possible focus on Strategic planning.

5. **Incumbent's (Priest-in-Charge) Report:** Fr Geoffrey referred Vestry to his printed report. He noted that his report would be echoed in the Newsletter; new time of excitement; time of transition – getting to know the two parishes; a new beginning; time to give and take; time for reaching out to the new community with love. He further noted some priorities – focus on stewardship of time, talents and gifts; focus on Christian education re Church school; funds coming for St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle with a focus on 'reaching out' for engaging the community; congregational development work; communication with focus on leadership. Fr. Geoffrey offered his thanks to everyone for the worship life – especially to Altar Guild; special thanks to current wardens (Paul Faulkner, Marie Samuels-Isaac, Mary Martin and Karen Hunter) – for the love and support shown.

There were no questions for Fr. Geoffrey.

6. **Churchwarden's Report** – Paul Faulkner spoke on behalf of the Warden and expressed that it was necessary to communicate with people who make things happen thus thanking them all. He highlighted some of the Challenges and Opportunities such as the loss of Office Administrator; amalgamation of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle. He concluded by saying that he and the Warden were looking forward to 2017.

There were no questions for Paul.

7. Karen Hunter spoke about the financial matters for the former parish of St. Peter. She offered thanks to David Corbett who was not in attendance due to death of father, David has been the treasurer for many years. His work has been particularly helpful in keeping St. Peter honest about its future. Karen noted that it was an unusual year – sale of residential property on Bleeker Street, Toronto. The parish kept 85 % of proceeds and was able to settle the debt with the Diocese. The parish became debt-free with \$225,000 left over to be used for opportunities for the future. Funds to be used, in part, for Ministry. Motion was moved by Karen Hunter and Seconded by Diane Marshall for the acceptance of the St. Peter financial report. There was question as to whether or not, the St. Peter's financial report was final. It was agreed that the report was final for all intents and purposes. **The vote was Carried (16).**

St. Simon-the-Apostle's Financials. Treasurer Johan van't Hof presented the financial affairs report: Highlights included the Balance Sheet – no debt – paid the Diocese \$260,000, Liquidity of \$250,000. On the audited financial statement: Designated donations have increased; parish outreach has increased; cost of building maintenance has increased as has the usage. A balanced budget has been submitted.

Questions: Malcolm Jackson had questions of information around the unrealized gains – what type of funds; rules for report, what are they – no need to rationalize; tells what the assets are and how they are reflected. Another question focused around if all items were

listed at historical costs. The answer was no. Further discussion ensued. It was noted that when a Church is sold, all proceeds go to the Diocese.

It was Moved by Paul Faulkner and Seconded by Vanessa Scott that the Financial Reports be accepted. **The motion was Carried.**

Budget 2017 – Paul Faulkner thanked Karen Hunter for the Narrative Budget; and also for the comparison of two previous parishes.

Balanced Budget – Paul Faulkner stated that there was a need for reflection on givings for Stewardship. He stated that there was need for another campaign re Energy Audit.

On the Income side of the statement, “Givings” is the big item; Rentals have been maximized by the efforts of Frank Hillis.

Questions:

Diane Marshall asked about the success of the pre-authorized Givings. It stated that some parishioners have enrolled and that Visa was used by some. It was noted that the donations of shares was another option for givings.

Colin Bird noted that he was confused by 4th column from Left - re errors that might have been possible. He wanted to know what would have been the effect if the amalgamation has been done earlier. He was asking for a reasonable guess.

Moved by Paul Faulkner and Seconded by Karen Hunter that the budget be accepted as circulated. **The motion was Carried.**

Fr Geoffrey thanked David Corbett and David McPherson for their financial assistance with the respective parishes. A gift was presented to David McPherson by Paul Faulkner. A gift was also presented to Karen Hunter by Paul Faulkner.

Colin Bird offered recognition to Frank Hillis re his contribution for income generation from marketing the space at the Church by outside users.

8. Envelope Secretary’s Report (p. 13). There were no questions. Thanks was expressed to Keith Johnson and Paul Mitchell.

9. Nominations: Election of Officers/Advisory Board & Appointments

See lists: Mary Martin explained the process that was followed.

Fr. Geoffrey reported that Vincent Wong stepping down as Lay Member to Synod. Winston Isaac will assume the role.

Other nominations – It was moved by Paul Faulkner and Seconded by Ted Robinson that Vanessa Scott be appointed as alternate to Synod. **The motion was Carried.**

Fr Geoffrey. Rector's Appointments

Paul Mitchell is stepping down

Recognition of Moveta Nanton re Deputy Warden

Motion was moved by Colin Bird and Seconded by Diane Birch that the Nominations and Appointments be accepted.

The motion was Carried.

10. Banking Resolutions

Paul Faulkner noted that David McPherson will be given authorization privileges for cheques as one of the signatories.

Paul Faulkner further addressed the need for two signatures on each cheque and suggested that one of the signatories must be a warden. Motion by Paul Faulkner and Seconded by Johan van't Hof that of the two signatories to a cheque one must be a warden. **The motion was Carried.**

Auditor appointments: Moved by Johan van't Hof and Seconded by David McPherson that the current auditors be re-appointed as the Auditors for the Parish of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle for the ensuing year. **The motion was Carried.**

Karen Hunter enquired as to the length of service for the current auditors and suggested that there may be a need to review the process or put out a call to other interested auditors.

11. Reports of Parish Events and Organizations

Thanks to report writers offered by Fr. Geoffrey.

Moved by Paul Mitchell and Seconded by Marian McPherson that the reports be accepted as circulated. **The motion was Carried.**

12. General Business

Mary Martin spoke about personal e-mail use: It was expressed that there was a need to seek permission of e-mail holders for the Office to use personal e-mails for circulating the Newsletter. It was her direction that each person needed to send a note to Office, thus giving approval to access personal e-mails.

Moveta Nanton offered a clarification re use of email. She suggested that the Office needed to send out an e-mail to each person with them having the option to response – 'yes' or 'no' in response line.

Malcolm Jackson disputed this process.

Brooke Sales-Lee suggested the use of Evite.

Dennis Gittens asked why was St. Simon-the-Apostle chosen as an appropriate partner for the amalgamation with St. Peter, Carlton Street. Mary Martin responded that there was a search. St. Simon-the-Apostle was the best synergy – congregation similar; great music; met with warmth; came together very well. Both congregations voted in the affirmative for the amalgamation.

Sheila Thomas– offered thanks to the Coffee Hour teams.

Fr. Geoffrey expressed the hope that everyone got the Newsletter. He offered thanks to Peggy Needham and Malcolm for spear-heading the production of the Newsletter.

Fr Geoffrey also thanked Sheila Thomas for her assistance in the office.

13. Social Justice Vestry Motion 2017: Diane Marshall addressed the issue. She expressed that it is a challenge for the Church and asked what does Reconciliation mean for the Church from here on in. She expressed that acknowledgment of where we are standing was a good first step. There we may need to do more in this line. Need to affirm the Reconciliation report and the 94 calls to action. This year's call to action (p, 22). Reference to involvement with Residential School. Primates statement on second page of the note (p.23).

Motion see handout/in the Vestry Report on page 22...by Diane Marshall, 2nd by Peggy Needham; Discussion: Johan – motion goes too far as it might mean that one has to get permission to build; questioned use of the word “consent”.

Brooke Sales Lee– mentioned sources of organizations; Carried. (not unanimous) – 5 against

14. Closing Prayer led by Fr. Geoffrey. He also remembered members who had died.

15. Adjournment: 1:50 pm

Winston Isaac

Vestry Clerk

Archbishop's Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2018
to be read or circulated on the Sunday of the parish's annual vestry meeting



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

To the Clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners
My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace in the name of Our Saviour Jesus Christ.

I am joined with the Area Bishops in bringing you greetings and assurance of our prayers as you gather in the annual Vestry Meeting to set parish priorities and budget and choose churchwardens and officers to lead your ministry together. I am so grateful for the commitment and contributions that these people make to the life of the Church and the mission of Christ in the community you serve. Thank you, especially, to those who are finishing their terms of office or moving into different responsibilities. My prayers are offered for those of you who are taking on new ministries today.

Today, as has been the custom for several years, I ask you to consider a Vestry motion advocating for affordable housing and dealing with homelessness. We, as a church, have a long and effective history of providing both temporary and emergency housing, long term housing projects and counselling and support for the under housed. These programs are vital for providing relief on a day-to-day basis for many who do not have access to affordable housing. However, any effort to address the long-term needs underlying this crisis requires more resources than churches and community agencies can provide alone. The church has an advocacy role as well as providing front-line service. The two go together; both make a difference. Whatever you decide to do today, I think it is important that we discuss in our meetings to conduct the “business” of our parishes, the issues that affect the well-being of our whole community.

A key priority in our diocesan strategic plan, *Growing in Christ*, is leadership development and formation. In my Charge to Synod, I asked every parish to participate in at least one intentional formation programme during the year. May I invite you to join me this Lent in *Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John*. Resources are available on-line and can be used by individuals and groups. I commend several other programmes – some developed in the Diocese – that will help you to be more intentional and confident in your Christian discipleship. Suggestions will be also available on-line.

I will retire at the end of this year. It has been an incredible honour to have served for some fifteen years as your bishop and over forty years in ordained ministry in this diocese. What a joy it has been to be invited into people's lives at the most profound level – at moments of deep joy or sorrow, at times of vocational discernment, at times of challenging crisis or productive stability. In all this, to witness the faith and compassion and engagement of Anglicans has strengthened my faith, expanded my horizons and confirmed my love of Christ and his Church. This June, Synod will choose a coadjutor bishop who will automatically succeed me on my retirement, becoming the 12th Bishop of Toronto. I posed some questions at Synod for people to consider in preparation for the election:

- From your own experience of bishop(s), what are two qualities you have admired in a bishop?
- What are two critical issues affecting the life and mission of this Diocese today?
- Considering that, what two qualities (maybe the same or different from #1) does the next bishop need to have to lead this Diocese in its mission into the next decade?

Please pray for the members of Synod that they may discern wisely and faithfully for this challenging and complex role of leading the largest and most diverse diocese in North America.

I hope to have the opportunity over this year to thank you for entrusting me with this awesome responsibility.

Yours faithfully,

The Most Rev'd Colin R. Johnson
Archbishop of Toronto

BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER TO VESTRIES 2017



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

January 2018 The Feast of the Confession of St. Peter

Dear friends in York-Scarborough,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 1:2)

I recently marked the first anniversary of my consecration as a bishop. In reflecting on the past twelve months, I am reminded of the tremendous privilege of serving as your area bishop. I am pleased to say that I have now visited most of the 58 parishes and missions in York-Scarborough. These visits have included being with you for Sunday morning worship, ordinations, confirmations, celebrations of new ministry, anniversaries, and meetings with parish leadership. Thank you for your warm welcome as I have travelled across the area. I have been grateful for your prayers and good wishes, and your desire to be co-workers together, for the glory of God and the extension of God's reign.

One of the priorities I identified a year ago was getting to know the clergy and people in my episcopal area. I am pleased to say that I have now met with all the active clergy, including our deacons, and many lay leaders as well. I have heard your hopes and concerns, and have tried to offer words of encouragement and guidance in these rapidly changing times. In spite of the challenges around us and within, I see signs of life and growth everywhere I go. There are renewed efforts to engage our neighbours and share the good news of God in Christ. I see clergy and lay people recommitting themselves to study and Christian formation in order to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Anglicans are mobilizing and collaborating with people of other faiths and traditions to feed the hungry and give shelter to the homeless, often doing more with less. These are all signs of the Kingdom of God in our midst. We are also now being guided by our diocesan strategic plan, *Growing in Christ*, which I hope will set the stage for healthy and more dynamic ministries across the area. You may be interested to know that 25% of the parishes in the Diocese of Toronto are growing, and many of them are right here in York-Scarborough.

The past year was a time of change in the York-Scarborough episcopal office. We said farewell to Karen Isaacs, who had briefly served as my Administrative Assistant. Karen left last spring in order to respond to a call to ordained ministry. We then welcomed Sue Willoughby as the new Administrative Assistant, and she has been tremendous. Sue does a great job of managing my calendar and correspondence, and ensuring that I am able to stay on top of 58 very different and dynamic communities. Sue works closely with our exceptionally capable synod office staff, who are always just a phone call or email away!

I want to acknowledge the excellent work of our five Regional Deans: the Reverend Ian LaFleur (Eglinton), the Reverend Greg Carpenter (Scarborough), the Reverend Sherman Hesselgrave (St. James), the Reverend Shelley McVea (Toronto East) and the Reverend Heather Gwynne-Timothy (York Mills). Along with our area liturgical officers - the Reverend Geoffrey Sangwine and the Reverend Greg Carpenter - they are excellent resources for parishes, and provide me with invaluable advice.

Our area is also blessed with many youth ministers, who are ably led by our two York-Scarborough Youth Facilitators, Jillian Ruch and Ian Physick. In the fall of 2017, we made the decision to increase their time in that ministry, and we are already seeing the fruits of that decision. Just a few weeks ago, I attended the York-Scarborough Youth Leaders' Summit, where those involved in this important ministry were able to share ideas and strategies for ministry with our youth.

One of the joys of being a bishop in the Diocese of Toronto is our College of Bishops, with whom the joys and burdens of episcopal ministry are shared. I am grateful to work alongside wonderful colleagues: Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop Peter Fenty (York-Simcoe), Bishop Riscylla Walsh-Shaw (Trent Durham), Bishop Jenny Andison (York-Credit Valley), and Canon Mary Conliffe (Diocesan Executive Assistant).

As we look ahead to a new year, we face significant change. Archbishop Colin Johnson has announced his intention to retire at the end of this year. His leadership over the past few decades has left an indelible mark on our Diocese and on the wider Church. He has provided wise, steady and faithful leadership in a time of immense change, and we look forward to opportunities to express our thanks to Archbishop Colin and Ellen in the coming months. On June 9, we will elect a coadjutor bishop, who will become the new diocesan bishop at the beginning of 2019. Please keep this process and the candidates in your prayers.

In the coming months, a number of events will be of interest to the clergy and people of our area. Firstly, I am teaching a Lenten course called Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John, which comes to us from the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Boston, and was recommended by the Archbishop at our recent synod. The clergy of the Church of the Resurrection will join me in leading this study, which runs for five Monday evenings, beginning on February 26. On Saturday, March 3, I invite all of you to a York-Scarborough Visioning Day at St. Andrew, Scarborough, where we will share ideas and develop strategies for mission and growth in York-Scarborough. On April 30 and May 1, I will be gathering the area clergy together for an overnight retreat for the purposes of study and mutual support. We haven't done this in many years, and I look forward to restoring this annual time away.

Finally, I want to express my thanks to all of you, and especially those who exercise leadership in your own parishes. Whether you are stepping down from a particular ministry, or continuing on, or taking up a new role at this annual Vestry meeting, thank you for your commitment and faithfulness. You are a blessing to the Church in our Diocese.

I am writing this letter on the Feast of the Confession of St. Peter. As our Church celebrates Peter's claim that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16:16), may we have boldness in our own proclamation, so that others may come to the knowledge and love of God in Christ.

Yours faithfully,



The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson
Area Bishop of York-Scarborough
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto

PRESENTATION TO SYNOD 2017 AND RECTOR'S REPORT

Synod Presentation

Last fall I was invited to present one of the "missional moments" at the Diocesan Synod in November 2017. As our parish amalgamation is a recognised success the Bishop and Synod Agenda Committee thought it would be helpful for Synod to hear about it, especially since more amalgamations are taking place. With the help of parishioner and journalist Larry Krotz, we came up with a plan that would include a presentation from me with a slideshow of photos, a series of brief video interviews with three parishioners and a clip of our choir. Alain Sauvion came on board and put the video together for us and the presentation was well received. I am most grateful to Larry and Alan for all the time and expertise they gave; to Winston Isaac, Mary Martin and Sophie Knowles for their interviews and to Robin for the musical contributions. I am pleased to share my words with the parish in the context of this year's Vestry report.

"What on earth is God up to"? That is one question many are asking in the today's Church. The evidence shows that God is up to a whole lot!

On October 30, 2016, the Church of St Peter and St-Simon-the-Apostle was established as a new parish in the diocese. This was marked by a joyful liturgy for All Saints, with Bishop Patrick Yu as Celebrant and Preacher. It was the end of a challenging process and the beginning of a whole new one. With change there is uncertainty, but that did not dampen our hope that something new and good would emerge.

St Peter's has had a long ministry in the heart of downtown Toronto that has seen many changes over the decades. As a community hub it was also home to San Lorenzo parish that later moved to St Simon's – they still worship with us.

St Simon's also had a unique ministry in the heart of Toronto, known particularly for its choral music. In 1989, the parish opened its doors to the growing needs of the community by starting a men's shelter, the first Out of the Cold in Canada. With 80 beds, two meals a day, medical care and fellowship, the shelter operates 365 days per year.

Like many of the parishes in our diocese, ministry has had to adapt to changing attendance, aging buildings and complex community needs. In both parishes it was recognised that in spite of the good work being done, change needed to happen to invigorate mission. A formal process then began to move towards amalgamation.

I came from the generation that grew up with a TV show known as "The Brady Bunch". I had no idea that one day I would find myself living that in the life of the church! I stated my time as Priest in Charge at St Simon's on August 1st. From then the parish worked together towards official amalgamation on October 30th. Like any joining of two established families, this continues to take a great deal of care especially integrating people. Over those first months we worked together to move many of the furnishings from St Peter's, including historic memorials, font, and the central altar, now used each Sunday as a side altar for administering Holy Communion and anointing for healing.

At the heart of the amalgamation is the desire for us to be stronger as one new parish than we were as two struggling parishes. The main focus has been to get to know each other, to integrate our ministries and to build trust so that we can look forward to the mission before us. The St Peter's members had as their primary hope to stay together as a family – we've been working together for this goal, knowing that as followers of Jesus Christ, the heart of it all is worship.

We are blessed to have renewed energy, a vibrant parish life, new members and excitement for the future. Situated on Bloor Street with Rosedale to the north, St James town to the south and Cabbagetown to the east, with a range of housing, businesses small and large, hospitals, long-term care homes and so much more, we are a parish in one of, if not the most, diverse and densely populated communities in the country. We are asking: How as a new parish do we reach out with the hope of the Gospel? We are at a new beginning in our mission, and it is a challenging and exciting time for those of us who have been called to share this journey.



Report

As our first full year as a new parish, 2017 has been a time for us to settle in together. I am deeply grateful to the parishioners for your willingness to persevere, listen, learn and grow together. In spite of it being a transition year, a lot happened in the parish. Our main focus as a faith community is worship. Sunday attendance is very encouraging and the way in which people are becoming integrated is impressive. We celebrated eight baptisms in 2017, as well as a wedding. Our Wednesday group has grown from four or five to sometimes twenty or more with lunch and fellowship following the service. I am particularly encouraged by the way the parish has embraced the ministry of anointing and laying on of hands for healing -- all of this and much more are signs of abundant life in our parish.

Liturgy means the “work of the people”, thus it would not be what it is without the involvement of many. Thank you particularly to the Servers, Communion Ministers (those who administer the chalice), Sides-teams, Anointers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Readers and Intercessors for your ministry. There are also many people who work quietly and behind the scenes. In particular I thank Sheila Thomas for coming in weekly to help proof read, fold and staple bulletins, tidy up hymn books and more. Our Synod delegates, Peggy and Winston were an excellent representation for us at Synod this – thank you. Thanks are also due to Colin Bird and Spencer Higgins for work on the physical plant, and to David Macpherson for his accounting savvy.

Our community life thrived in 2017. One sign of this is the creation of our Newsletter Jubilate. Peggy Needham does a terrific job as editor and encourager. We are all grateful to Peggy and her team and to the many enthusiastic people who contribute articles. We also had many special events such as the Caribbean Night, All Saints Festival, BBQ, Spring Fair, The Bach St John Passion, Kid’s Christmas Musical and the Child’s Christmas in Wales Fundraiser for our refugee ministry. We also had study groups such as the Lenten Book Series, Sunday Coffee and Conversation and the Saturday morning series on Paul’s Letter to the Philippians shared with St Jude’s Wexford. Hospitality is an essential part of our life together and I would like to acknowledge our Sunday Coffee hour which is thriving due to the participation of many who work hard to provide quite a feast on many a Sunday!

I commend to you the reports of our parish groups for more details about our ministries.

In November we welcomed Canon Susan Bell who led us in retreat day on discipleship. The Church in general is in a very different place today and is facing many challenges. With that there is the need for us to go back to some basics and re-claim an understating of the Christian life as a life of discipleship. Thank you to the members of the parish, who participated, shared history and delved into the meaning of discipleship. We will continue this work in 2018 with the intention of developing a ministry Action Plan.

One of the challenges we have faced is the development of the lands at the corner of Parliament St. and Bloor St. In the long term, this has the potential to be a fertile ground for mission. In the short-term there are concerns about parking availability and potential damage to our historic building. Johan van’t Hof has done and continues to do amazing job as our advocate and I thank him for the time, energy and expertise he is bringing to that role.

I am also grateful to our tremendous team of Wardens who work hard to keep things running smoothly. For the first year of the amalgamation we had four Wardens (Paul Faulkner, Mary Martin, Karen Hunter, Marie Samuels Isaac) and two Deputy Wardens (Nadine Milne and Moveta Nanton). In 2018 we are reverting back to the traditional model of two Wardens and two Deputy Wardens. After much prayerful thought and discussion the Corporation recognises that we are still in transition and for one more year we would benefit having consistency. With Karen Hunter’s move to another parish, Moveta asking to remain a deputy, and Marie wanting to retire as Warden, the corporation and I made the decision to continue with Mary and Paul for one more year as the canonical wardens. We miss Karen’s wisdom and thank her for her ministry, wishing her every blessing in her new parish. Thank you to Nadine for her time as Deputy Warden and especially to Marie for her many years of faithful service. I am most grateful to Moveta for her willingness to continue as a Deputy and I am very pleased to appoint Christopher Ashby who is coming on board, and of course to Mary and Paul for their devotion to the parish and their wiliness to continue as Wardens one more year – their constancy is hugely important and much appreciated.

Looking ahead now to our ministry this year I commend to you two areas of focus for 2018:

Stewardship

It is time for us to have an intentional commitment to stewardship. In 2018 we are taking part in the “Growing Healthy Stewards” programme. This was created in the diocese for churches in the diocese and is proven way to help parishes become stronger and healthier. Thank you to Moveta Nanton for taking on the ministry of Stewardship Team Chair. Stewardship is more than fundraising; it is a way of life that involves our time, talent and treasure. I urge us to think very seriously about this crucial aspect of our life together.

One of our challenges as an amalgamated parish is communication. We don't tend to promote ourselves well, internally or externally, and we could make much more use of social media. Too often, it as is we are still functioning as two smaller parishes rather than one larger parish. Getting accustomed to this change is part of our transition and will take time, but I believe it is an important part of the stewardship of our human resources that needs more attention for us to be healthier.

Discipleship

As a community of faith we are followers – disciples – of Jesus, here and now. There is huge need and huge potential for ministry here in the heart of downtown Toronto. How can we be faithful neighbours? What are the needs and opportunities around us and how can we witness to Christ's love? St Simon's Shelter does an amazing job serving the homeless and needy; but, is there more we could do, for the shelter and others, perhaps through parish nursing or other outreach initiatives? I see our ministry to families with young children as an essential way to reach out and grow. To that end we hope to hire a Director of Family Ministries and grow our Church School. Thank you to Nadine for all the time and care you give to this ministry.

Our website is an important part of our mission and I know the slow progress has been a source of frustration. I am pleased that we now have a new, albeit simple site up and running which is being worked on by Chris our Web-designer.

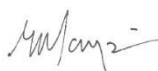
The Opportunities Committee is working hard to make connections with St James Town and the local community and our new Education Committee is being formed to encourage new ideas for outreach, learning and spiritual development.

In the fall of 2017 our parish Nominations Committee started their work in preparation for this Vestry. In our discussion we talked about parish governance and the interest in exploring some of the different models that are working in various parishes. We look forward to exploring that in more depth this year to see how this might help us moving forward.

Long-time parishioner and Server David Carrington has come forward with a sense of calling to the Vocational Diaconate. We will begin a discernment process that will require the formation of a small committee to work with the parish and David to move this forward. Please keep David and our discernment in your prayers.

In 2018 the Diocese will elect a Coadjutor Bishop who will become Diocesan Bishop when Archbishop Colin retires at the end of December. We are grateful to +Colin for his long and faithful episcopal ministry and wish him well as he prepared for retirement. Please keep our diocese and especially our Synod delegates in your prayers.

St Peter's and St Simon's is a very special place – God is up to a whole lot here! Many people come through our doors and experience a sense of peace, beauty, stillness - a sense of the divine. It is in part the unique “arts and crafts” character of our physical space, but it is more importantly the people who are here in faith, offering prayers, reaching out and serving God week by week. I am grateful for the parish lay and ordained leadership, and my colleagues Robin and his team, The Reverend Jennifer Matthews who is now our Honorary Assistant, Shelly Pollard our Student, Frank Hillis our Verger, Daive our Custodian and Vanessa our Secretary who is a great support to me and many others. Above all I am grateful to you, the people of God in this congregation for your faithfulness, dedication and friendship in Christ. I am honored to be entrusted with the ministry of serving as your Incumbent Priest - it is a privilege. Please keep me in your prayers as you are in mine.



The Reverend Geoffrey Sangwine+
Incumbent, The Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle

**THE CHURCH OF ST.
PETER AND ST.
SIMON-THE-APOSTLE
NOMINATIONS LIST
FOR POSTING
JANUARY 28 2018**

MINISTRY POSITION

Clergy

Incumbent Priest	The Rev. Geoffrey Sangwine	xx	xx
Honorary Assistant	The Rev. Jennifer Mathews Shelley	xx	xx
Student Assistant	Pollard	xx	xx

MINISTRY POSITION

**ELECTED
POSITION**

**RECTOR'S
APPOINTMENT**

**WARDEN'S
APPOINTMENT**

Wardens

Rector's Warden		Paul Faulkner	
People's Warden	Mary Martin		
Deputy		Chris Ashby	
Deputy	Moveta Nanton		

Parish Life

Chair, Advisory Board	Fran Brown		
Altar Guild		Marie Samuels-Isaac	
Music Director		Robin Davis	
Honorary			
Assistant		Maurice White	
Honorary			
Assistant		Johan van t'Hof	

Community Developments			Spencer Higgins/Johan van t'Hof
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Envelope Secretary	Keith Johnson		
Assistant	Paul Mitchell		

Intercessors		Fen Nanton	
Lay Anointers		Audrey Hughes/ Diane Marshall	

Lay members to Synod	Peggy Needham/ Winston Isaac		
Alternate	Laurie Sanderson		

Lay Pastoral Care Visitors		Jennifer Mathews/ Marie Samuels-Isaac	
Librarian		Carol Peck	

Newsletter			Peggy Needham
Opportunities (Affirmed by Advisory)		Brooke Sales-Lee	

Property & Environment			Colin Bird/Spencer Higgins
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<u>MINISTRY POSITION</u>	<u>ELECTED POSITION</u>	<u>RECTOR'S APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>WARDEN'S APPOINTMENT</u>
Parish Hostess/Hospitality	Sheila Thomas		
Coffee Hour	Fran brown		
Funerals	Marie Samuels-Isaac		
Ticketed/Special Events	Laurie Sanderson		
Parochial Tribunal	Rector/Wardens (ex officio)		
	Colin Bird		
	Ted Robinson		
Readers		Winston Isaac	
Refugee Committee			Ted Robinson
Servers		Fen Nanton	
Shelter Board			David Carrington/ Paul Faulkner
Sides People			Vincent Wong
Social Justice/Outreach/ Advocacy		Diane Marshall	
Treasurer			Johan van t'Hof
Wednesday Morning Group		Marjory Philip/ Sheila Thomas	
Verger			Frank Hillis
Discipleship & Spiritual Development			
Christian Education		Geoffrey Sangwine/ Ian Corlett	
Church School		Nadine Milne	
Members at Large			
First member	Larry Krotz		
Second member	Vanessa Scott		

Please note: Additional or alternate nominations for the elected positions (highlighted) may made anytime before the election, including from the floor of the meeting immediately prior to the election, to members of the Nominations Committee.

Committee Members: Geoffrey Sangwine
 Mary Martin
 Colin Bird
 Laurie Sanderson

Wardens' Report

Dear Parishioners;

The Church benefited from an excellent group of Wardens again this year, who worked cooperatively and enthusiastically together. For the first year of amalgamation, we respected the Diocesan request to have a warden group that incorporated all of the wardens from the two merging parishes. The warden group projected for 2018 will refer back to a more familiar model of two wardens, one appointed and one elected, and two deputy wardens, again, one appointed and one elected.

It was another good audit. Thanks to Johan van't Hof and David McPherson for their work with the Auditor.

For the first time in quite a number of years we have a balanced budget. This has been achieved with a good dose of optimism, which, we believe, with a little effort from everyone, is warranted. The focus for balancing the budget this year will be a major stewardship campaign to affect a modest increase in givings. The stewardship campaign will be initially chaired by Moveta Nanton, whom we hope will be joined by a co-chair.

Johan van't Hof spear-headed the challenge presented by Tridel, along with Spencer Higgins and Paul Faulkner. The final outcome may not have been what we had hoped; however, along the way we made excellent contact with the City planning group and succeeded in delaying Tridel's construction schedule for a short time. Tridel is on notice that we are carefully monitoring their activity. One outcome of this challenge was a photographic detail accounting of the exterior of the church which could have a variety of uses including supporting any application for heritage grants for the church. Thanks Johan for your hard work and commitment to this project.

Ted Robinson chairs our refugee portfolio which he has done for a number of years... It has been very successful under his guidance. This year another Syrian refugee family, mother father and young child, was presented to the parish for support. Ted actively accepted this additional responsibility as we continue to sponsor the Mohammed's parent. Thanks Ted for all your efforts.

We would like to recognize the work of the many volunteers of St Peter's and St Simon-the-Apostle: Fran Brown, Laurie Sanderson, Marie Samuels-Isaac and Sheila Thomas, who co-ordinate Parish hospitality; and a big thank you to all who aided their efforts each Sunday and at the Patronal dinner; Fen Nanton of the Servers Guild; Vincent Wong who coordinates the sides people, Barbara Towe who organizes the flowers and Marie Samuel-Isaacs of the Altar Guild along with their group of volunteers, in enhancing our Sunday worship. Thanks to all of you.

We are pleased to have Maurice White and Johan van 't Hof continue to be part of our music program and David McPherson continues to assist the Treasurer, Johan van't Hof, with his duties as does Robert Sloan - thanks to the four of you for your continued commitment to St. Simon's. The addition of a summer choir during the time the full choir is away continues to be a great success and will continue again this summer. Thank you to Robin Davis, the choir volunteers and the paid leads for enhancing our Sunday worship.

Our other three paid staff: Frank Hillis our verger; Daiv Guillermo our custodian; and Vanessa in the office continue to work with enthusiasm, commitment and much effort in carrying out their daily activities - a big thank you to each of you. Frank continues to work at renting out our property to a variety of users. He also spends a great deal of his time overseeing the use of our property to ensure that it is well looked after by those who use the various rooms and places.

We look forward to the 2018 spring sale on Saturday, May 12th and are looking to one or two parishioners to help chair this event. There are many volunteers who have volunteered to assist.

When saying thanks sometimes names are missed but any affair the church has or at coffee hour on Sundays our thanks go to Ena Forde, Joy Quan Lee, Ferdinand and Ely Jacobe-Galingan, Marina Caytat, Elaine Knee-Chong, Betty Scantlebury, Suzetta Mafuna, Margie Huycke, May Lewis, Barbara Pearson, Marion McPherson, Heather Ballon, Diane Birch, Marina Caylap, Marjorie Philip, Deta Raffington, David Snoe, Carl Smith, Bernice Williams, Nadine Milne and the Wongs, Vincent, Celine and their children Cynthia and Amos

Thanks to Paul Mitchell and Keith Johnson for taking on the important task of the weekly count and inputting the appropriate data. They are ably assisted by our office administrator, Vanessa. Sheila Thomas assisted Paul or Keith as the need arose

The comradery, optimism and skill set demonstrated by Corporation again this year was of significant benefit to the parish. The warden group consisted of the Rector, Mary Martin, Karen Hunter, Marie Samuels Isaac, Paul Faulkner, Nadine Milne. Later in the year Moveta Nanton joined following Karen's decision to leave the parish. As the need arose, Ted Robinson and Winston Isaac joined the group bringing their sage advice and levity.

Thanks to Father Geoff for his guidance and leadership again this year. It is great to see the parish in growth mode.

Respectfully Submitted,



Paul Faulkner
Rector's Warden



Marie Samuels-Isaac
People's Warden



Mary Martin
Warden

Envelope Secretary's Report

The Church Of St. Peter and St. Simon-The-Apostle

2017 General Envelope Givings

AMOUNT	NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS	TOTAL AMOUNT
\$0 - \$500	113	\$14,547
\$501 - \$1000	23	\$16,372
\$1001- \$2000	33	\$45,516
\$2001 - \$3000	7	\$17,070
\$3001 - \$5,000	13	\$49,272
\$5,001 - \$6,000	1	\$5,020
Over \$6,001	5	\$59,888
TOTAL	195	\$207,685

Each week we come into the church office and count the weekly collection, deliver the deposit to the bank, play a couple of games of cribbage and eat lunch.

Respectively submitted
Keith Johnson and Paul Mitchell

Altar Guild Report 2017

During the year 2017 the Altar guild functioned with four rotating teams. Each team consists of three or four members and is on duty from the weekend to the following. The hope was that new members would be attracted to the service but this has not materialised. Barbara Towe in her role as convenor for the Sunday donation of flowers for the altar is doing an excellent job, Additionally both Duncan and Barbara have been generous in providing and delivering the flowers for the festive seasons.

Many thanks to all the parishioners who have contributed flowers throughout the year. Marjorie Philip has added a number of fair linen and table covers as well as constructive ideas which can be incorporated into the system.

My sincere thanks to all the member of the Altar Guild for the time and energy so generously given throughout the year. Special thanks to Joyce Brighty and Margie Huycke who continue to utilize their skills in flower arranging for the festive celebrations. Grateful thanks to Fen Nanton and Duncan Towe who have assumed responsibilities for decorating the Christmas trees. Fen has also assumed responsibility for assembling the crèche. Many thanks to Joy Quan-Lee doing the small linens and to May Lewis for her sewing repair to the linens and anything that was requested. Thanks also to Frank Hillis who always seem to be able to choose the perfect Christmas tree. Sincere thanks to Daiverson Guillermo whose cleaning skills have been put to the test with our activities.

It has been a great pleasure having Fr. Geoff Sangwine as our Spiritual Leader. His guidance and assistance have been greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted
Marie Samuels-Isaac

Music Report

Music at St Peter and St. Simon-the Apostle - 2017 Annual Report

2017 has been a busy and rewarding year for the Music ministry at our parish.

The choir is happy to welcome new members Alan MacDonald (bass Lead) Alison Jane (in our alto section and also as a talented organist and accompanist) and Stephanie Woodside (soprano). We wish Rachel Krehm well as she has decided to step down as soprano lead and take on some new challenges. Rachel's commitment and dedication to the choir and the parish has been significant and appreciated.

From a musical perspective much effort over the year was dedicated to two significant special music events. On April 2 the choir presented a concert performance with orchestra of the Bach St John Passion. The orchestra included members of the Canadian Sinfonietta and organist David Smith. On November 2 (Commemoration of All Souls) the choir presented Maurice Durufle's Requiem, again with the talented David Smith as organist.

Another significant highlight of this past year has been welcoming Fr. Geoffrey officially as our Incumbent priest.

In September we decided to try to pull together a production of the children's musical, Miracle on Bethlehem St. Thanks to the perseverance of the few children of the parish we were able to attract some willing children from Sa Lorenzo Ruiz and a couple of kids from the community who all came together and put on an incredible performance! They were accompanied by our little ensemble orchestra of mostly musicians from the parish.

Thank you to John Sheard (pianist), Ross Pearson (flautist) and Amos Wong (violinist) for sharing their gifts from time to time. Thanks to Maurice White, Johan van't Hof, Alison Jane and David Smith for assisting "on the bench" and Carol Peck and Ian Corlett for managing the administration of the choir music.

Looking forward, preparations are well under way for our major Choir Concert presentation on Sunday April 22 at 4:00 p.m. The concert will feature music from or associated with Germany (other than Bach). Contemporary Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's Berliner Messe (or Berlin Mass) is a hauntingly beautiful mass setting composed in 1990, scored for SATB soloists and organ. The romantic era composer Josef Rheinberger's set of 3 The choir will be joined by organist David Smith and a string trio. Tickets are \$25 regular and \$20 for Students, Seniors and unwaged and will be available in March following our 10:30 services and at the door.

Looking further ahead, plans are well underway for the choir to return to England in August 2019 with a tour including Gloucester and Chichester Cathedrals. There will be a number of fun activities and events over the next year and a half as we raise funds to support the tour.

As a parish choir, our main focus remains leading music for the over 60 choral services during the year. Please join me in expressing a sincere debt of gratitude to our choir members. Our singers devote not only 2 hours on Thursday evenings but also 45 minutes before Sunday morning services, and often extra time at home learning and preparing music. While this is a labour of love, your support and encouragement are so much appreciated by all choir members. Maurice White and Johan van't Hof cannot be thanked adequately with these words. Both have donated many services to the church, without any thought of compensation. While many church's want for far lesser experienced musicians we are indeed blessed, and our music is enabled and enriched by their gifts.

Thank you to the Wardens and Fr Geoff for their support of the choir and me personally. Their shared commitment to understanding music as a catalyst for growth, and making connections beyond our walls is greatly encouraging. In the same way, it is great to witness the passion many have for this wonderful parish and to feel part of a dedicated leadership team. To the parish, thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. While resources are limited we are committed to upholding the musical standards to the best of our ability while being good stewards and living within our means.

To conclude, if you have any questions, comments (positive and negative), suggestions, requests, etc. please let me know. If you'd like to sing with us or contribute musically in another way, please let me know as well.

I look forward to continuing the growth in our music ministry and the opportunity to serve the wonderful people of St Peter and Simon's in 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Davis, Music Director

Intercessors and Chalice Bearers Report

The Intercessors take time during the week to gather information on the cycles of prayer, the names of different parishioners for whom we pray weekly and the names of the infirm. The intercessors each bring a different perspective of how the prayers can reflect the needs of the parish and the wider world.

The Intercessors are:

David Carrington, Spencer Higgins, Ian Corlett, Winston Isaac, Diane Marshall, Peggy Needham, Rees Pepperell, Ted Robinson, Glenna Sims-Bonk, Kevin Sinclair.

The Chalice Bearers who administer the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during communion, we thank you for your commitment to this ministry. At this time the group is composed of:

Joyce Brighty, David Carrington, Paul Faulkner, Winston Isaac, Cynthia Roosevelt, Fen Nanton, Diane Marshall, Deta Raffington, Audrey Hughes, Peggy Needham.

Please pray for our group as we work together in the mission of this parish.

Respectfully submitted

Fen Nanton, M.C.

Hospitality (Coffee) Report 2018

In 2013 we re-designed the coffee hour function. As a result, we owe a “thank you” to the seventeen women and one man (6 teams) who, have provided the refreshments for coffee hour every Sunday. In 2017 six new parishioners joined the teams (giving us 7 teams). Going forward (thanks to Fran) we have three new people, two of whom are men.

Each week these parishioners have provided an assortment of cookies, homemade cakes, sandwiches, fruit, cheese and crackers, the cream and milk and, when required, juices.

I wish to say a special “thank you” to all team members, past and present, who have cheerfully stepped up to the plate to provide refreshments as we stop, mingle and talk after Church.

After nearly 18 years I am stepping down and Fran is taking over.

Respectfully submitted
Sheila Thomas

Advisory Board Report for 2017

In 2017, The Church of St Peter and St Simon-the-Apostle met five times, meeting on the second Wednesday of every other month, skipping the August meeting due to travel by members of the board. Primary themes of the meetings were around growing together as a parish and establishing norms and plans for the future. Where 2016 was a year of transition and amalgamation, 2017 saw our parish grow into a new, healthier, and stronger church community as we put down roots, sought common ground, and discovered each member of our community’s gifts.

Some key accomplishments of the past year were the construction of a new website, participation in local community events and festivals, the selection of a new logo, and the incumbency of Fr. Geoff. Ongoing concerns through the last year and into the future include the possible construction of a parking lot over the south lawn and the church’s relationship with the condo developers building towers to our immediate east, outreach to our community to the south in St James Town and Cabbagetown, stewardship and financial support for our programming and heritage building, and increasing our involvement in community health with a potential speaker series or parish nurse.

In November we met for a Parish Visioning Day with Canon Missioner Susan Bell from the Diocese. In this session members of both former parishes recalled their memories of church-life before amalgamation and drew on our commonalities and differences to begin forming an idea of who we are at St Peter and St Simon-the-Apostle. A key commonality was passion for social justice, specifically in the areas of poverty, indigeneity, and the environment. To further explore our common mission as a parish and as a church family, 2018 will see a small working group further working on our identity and missional focus. We will also be creating clearer structure for the sub-groups and committees of the Advisory Board.

Finally, in a world that has often been chaotic and a source of pain in the past year, I feel the need to thank our volunteers, clergy, and parishioners for allowing our diversity of experiences, theological and political leanings, ethnic and religious backgrounds, and personal preferences to serve as a strength in this small gathering of God’s children. Our common faith and willingness to love one another even in times of stress and anxiety is a credit to the people of St Peter and St Simon’s, and to our loving Creator God. May 2018 bring every blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Brooke Sales-Lee February 2018

Refugee Committee Report to Vestry February 2018

Much has happened in our ministry to refugees in 2017. From January to August we continued to support Mohammed Al-Bayati, the young man from Iraq who had arrived in Canada on Aug 16, 2016. Since early in 2017, he has been working full time in Brampton at the Amazon warehouse. Late in August 2017 he moved out of the apartment which had so generously been provided by the family of Rachel Khrem. Initially his plan was to live in Brampton close to his place of employment. However, his life took a new and exciting turn when he met, fell in love with, and eventually married Sara. She has two young daughters from a previous marriage. Now the family is living with Sara's parents in Scarborough.

Last year we also explored with AURA the possibility of sponsoring Mohammed's parents. His father Jomard is in Turkey as a refugee. His mother Bushra is still in Iraq. By the end of June AURA submitted an application to the Canadian Government on their behalf. In August we heard that their documents had been forwarded to Ankara, Turkey. So far so good: and now we wait – and pray! The best guess is that it will be several more months at least before they are called for an interview.

Early in September, we were contacted by Ian McBride from AURA, asking if we would consider taking on the support of a Syrian refugee family who had arrived in Toronto in July. The committee who had sponsored them had lost some members and was struggling to provide all the help needed. After obtaining support from the Corporation our committee accepted this new challenge, as of Nov 1st.. Several members of the original sponsorship group called Nightingale have joined with us. Our new family includes Wasim (father) Zelal (mother) and baby Meryem, who will be one year old on Feb 23rd. They are a delightful young family, living very close to us in St. Jamestown. Currently Wasim is attending ESL classes; we hope that Zelal will be able to start regular classes when Meryem is one year old. We are responsible to support them actively until at least mid-July 2018. By then we anticipate that Wasim may be working.

Another ongoing aspect of our committee's work is to support Rogers in his application to bring his wife and two daughters to Canada from East Africa. Here the main challenges are bureaucratic, despite the Canadian Government's declared intention to reunite families. Rogers is a member of our Parish, and is well established here since he arrived in Canada several years ago.

We have continued to receive donations of furniture, clothing, and money – and most importantly time spent getting to know and supporting all of our refugees. Thanks to all who have helped and continue to do so. Please remember in prayer our refugee families and all who work to support them.

Committee Members: Ted Robinson (chair), Laurie Sanderson, Barbara Pearson, Peggy Needham, Diane Marshall, Diane Birch, Sheila Thomas, Cathy Graham, Marie Samuels-Isaac, Paul Faulkner, Mary Martin, Malcolm Jackson, Fr. Geoff Sangwine, - and from outside our own Parish Terry Quinn, Sue Chenette, Lisa Kowalchuck, Klaus & Marjut Dunkirk.

Respectfully submitted,
Ted Robinson

PARISH RECORDS

Holy Baptism

Zara Emanuel
Eleonora Patricia Southwood Gilbert
Charles John Innes

Abraham Moses Kamara
Jonathan Elijah Kamara
Isatu Mariam Kamara
Korey Gregory Kilpatrick
Emma Anna Karen Reynolds

Holy Matrimony

"Those whom God has joined together, let no one separate."

Jason Edward Oakley and Katie Meredith Butler

Funerals

*"Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them"*

Carolyn Barrett
Ralph Peter Dennis
Isabel Evelyn Desrochers
Charles Kenneth Gorman
Mary E. Moore

Nizar Nasser
Albert Joseph Noradunkian
Derek Wilson Sabbage
Diane Margaret Scandrett
Grace Kathleen Scotchmer

PARISH STATISTICS

	2017	2016	2015
Average 8:30 Sunday Attendance	7	8	7
Average 10:30 Sunday Attendance	100	82	67
Average other Weekday (Wed. 11am, Tues. 6pm)	32		
Average Weekly Attendance all regular services	139	112	106
Average other special services (Evensongs, Carol service, includes Celebration of New Ministry)	114		
Christmas Eve & Christmas attendance	382	283	254
Easter Day attendance	267	203	287
(Weddings & Funerals are not included)			

Social Justice Vestry Motion 2018: Homelessness and Affordable Housing

All levels of government need to work together to build and sustain affordable housing. We, the vestry of [name of parish] in the Diocese of Toronto, urge the provincial government to:

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive plan to increase and maintain the available stock of affordable housing in Ontario.
2. Develop specific strategies to address the needs of communities and populations experiencing disproportionately high levels of inadequate housing, including members of Indigenous and racialized communities, newcomers to Canada, seniors, youth, survivors of domestic violence, and people living with mental illness or addictions.
3. Work with the federal government to maximize the impact of the National Housing Strategy on housing in Ontario.
4. Work with municipalities to ensure that emergency shelters are adequately funded to meet the needs of their communities.

You can read more:

<http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish-life/social-justice-and-advocacy/what-we-do/housing-and-homelessness/>

about housing need in our communities and our commitment as Christians to respond.



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Housing Vestry Motion Backgrounder

“My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”

– Isaiah 32:18

Homelessness and lack of affordable housing have emerged as major social problems in Canada over the last three decades.

Over this period, there has been a sharp decrease in public investment in affordable housing, with fewer units being built and existing units falling into disrepair. Together with reduced spending on social programs, the rise of precarious work, and rising housing costs, this has left more and more people unable to afford shelter, increasing poor health, marginalization, and social isolation for many of our most vulnerable citizens. This crisis affects communities large and small, urban, suburban, rural, and Indigenous. Across our Diocese, nearly half of renters pay more than 30% of their income on housing costs, and one in five pay more than 50% of their income on housing.¹

Housing people appropriately makes economic sense. Homelessness and inadequate housing cost Canadian taxpayers over \$7 billion annually, due to the increased expenses imposed upon the health care, social service, and justice systems.²

In Peterborough, for example, the cost of renting a bachelor apartment is 57% cheaper than that of supplying emergency shelter for one person.

.More importantly, homelessness and inadequate housing are associated with social and human costs including personal risk, increased stress, poor health, increased emergency hospitalization, increased rates of addiction and incarceration, lower academic performance of students, and social isolation. Providing safe, adequate, and affordable housing is the right thing to do.

As Christians, we cannot turn our backs on this urgent need.

The Bible recognizes the need of each person for dignity, shelter, and security. We are called to see the face of Jesus in those who are at the margins of our society, and to provide for their needs. (Matthew 25:31-45; 1 John 3:17-18). Anglicans throughout our Diocese have been working to address this crisis in a number of ways. We have helped to build affordable housing units in our communities. We support FaithWorks ministries that provide housing and housing supports for vulnerable people, help connect people with housing options, and highlight the humanity of those at risk. Parishes throughout our Diocese have hosted

Out of the Cold emergency shelters and drop-in programs with housing support workers available to guests. Many clergy provide pastoral support to parishioners and community members experiencing homelessness or precarious housing.

These programs are vital for providing relief on a day-to-day basis for many who do not have access to affordable housing. However, **any effort to address the long-term needs underlying this crisis requires more resources than churches and community agencies can provide alone.**

At the end of 2015, 171,360 households in Ontario were on active waiting lists for affordable housing, with average wait times of four years overall, and over twice as long in the GTA.

In the city of Toronto, homeless shelters operate at over 95% capacity, and even Out of the Cold programs have started having to turn people away. Smaller communities in our Diocese report even higher shelter occupancy, while in rural areas there may be no shelters at all. Public policy and funding measures are needed to make significant inroads on this issue.

While there will always be crises which cause people to lose their homes temporarily, **chronic homelessness, which is a relatively recent phenomenon, can be ended.** Several Canadian cities, including Medicine Hat and Hamilton, have seen significant progress toward this goal by using the “Housing First” approach, which seeks to move people out of homelessness quickly and prevent people from losing their homes in the first place. For Housing First to work, however, there must be an adequate supply of affordable housing units, repairs to maintain existing units, and ongoing health, social and income supports to keep people in their homes. In the short term, and for certain high-need populations, emergency shelters continue to be needed. The provincial government has issued a Long Term Housing Strategy, but this **must be backed by clear and measurable goals, and significant financial investment, if homelessness is to be ended.**



Agenda

1. Incumbent takes the Chair – Appointment/Announcement of Vestry Clerk & Scrutineers
2. Opening Prayer
3. Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting 2017
4. Pastoral Letters from the Bishops
5. Incumbent's Report
6. Nominations – Appointment/Election of Officers and Advisory Board
7. Churchwardens' Report
 - a) Financial Statements 2017
 - b) Motion to Appoint Auditor
 - c) Budget 2018
8. Envelope Secretary's Report
9. Banking Resolutions
10. Reports of Parish Events and Organisations
11. Social Justice Motion 2018
12. General Business
13. Closing Prayer
14. Adjournment